



CHRISTCHURCH JUNIOR CRICKET ASSOCIATION

YEAR 8 plan to January 2022

Hi Team,

The purpose of this note is to recap the development of our year 8 cricketers over the last 2 years or so and, importantly, to set out the steps we will be taking in the Spring of this year and through to January 2022.

The culmination of this process is the selection of CJCA sides for cricket festivals in Alexandra (The Cup) January 10th – 14th 2022 and Christchurch (The Shield) January 10th – 13th 2022. **There will be cricket for all players in January if they are available.**

The week of cricket in Alexandra is the long-standing South Island Primary School's **Cup** festival. We will be sending our two strongest sides to contest that.

The week in Christchurch will be the second year of the South Island Primary School's **Shield** festival. The first shield tournament in January 2021 was highly successful as it attracted a very large number of teams. It gave all boys a great opportunity to have an intense week of cricket (in a similar format as the Cup) before heading away to their respective high schools.

Summary of 2021/22

Year 8 Summer Festival (February/March)– tiered teams playing both 20/20 and 40 over games.

Year 8 Interdistricts (March) - teams selected to play games against other Districts based on feedback from Coaches/Managers and performances during Summer – consideration given to the strength of opposition. *Not all Boys were able to be included as we are limited by the number of opponents we have.*

Year 8 Pre-season Training – August/September [LINK TO REGISTRATION](#)

Year 8 Spring Festival – as outlined in this document

South Island January 2022 Festivals – as outlined in this document.

Self-nominations will open during the Spring Festival

“Cup” 10-14 January 2022 – Alexandra and surrounds

“Shield” 10-13 January 2022 – Christchurch

Players will have the opportunity to nominate for EITHER or BOTH of these events

RECAP OF SUMMER CRICKET

As you will recall, in the CICA Summer Festival of this year, 2021, we had ten teams playing over several Sundays at Burnside Park and a small number of festival games thereafter against Canterbury Country, Mid Canterbury and South Canterbury.

Four of the 10 teams that played at Burnside were deemed at the time to include the stronger players in year 8 and we took substantial input from all the coaches of our CICA teams in making those selections. We were then able to see them in action for several weeks and get a good gauge on their strengths and areas to work on across all the facets of their game, especially playing on grass wickets.

Equally, we were able to have a close look at the remaining 6 teams and we clearly saw some very pleasing performances from the players in that group. This, in turn, was reflected in some of those players being selected for the Interdistricts games.

Year 8 – Spring Festival 2021

Not surprisingly with boys of this age, some will develop rapidly over the winter – both physically and in improving their cricketing skills. So, we are looking forward to seeing as many of our players in action at pre-season training as possible and especially looking closely at **ALL** players as CICA cricket resumes in October.

In prior years, net assessments have been used at the outset to help select sides for the CICA Sunday matches. Typically, lane assessors had a somewhat limited look at players in a net environment.

SHOULD THERE BE BRAND NEW PLAYERS TO CICA EVENTS ENROL A SEPARATE ASSESSMENT MAY BE ARRANGED SO WE CAN JUDGE THEIR CURRENT SKILL LEVEL FOR INCLUSION.

THERE WILL NOT BE ASSESSMENTS FOR YEAR 8 ON THE 17TH OF OCTOBER AS EVEN TEAMS WILL BE CONSTRUCTED FOR THE FIRST 3 DAYS OF THE SPRING FESTIVAL.

We have decided that nets do not provide nearly as good a gauge on cricketers as opposed to playing matches. So, we will not be having a net assessment this spring.

In considering all these factors, and what we have personally learnt to date CICA cricket this spring will take the following format.

- Sunday 31st October – T20 Games 1 & 2
- Sunday 7th November - T20 Games 3 & 4
- Sunday 14th November – 40 Over Game followed by Selection of 36 players for Final Game
- Sunday 21st November – **36 Players Only** selected to play a 40 Over Game.
- Tuesday 23rd November – **Squad of 22 players** selected for the SIPS Festival in Alexandra and announced via CICA.

All cricketers wishing to play CICA Year 8 cricket will play in evenly weighted teams across first three weeks.

The playing format will be four T20 matches on the first and second Sundays (all batsman in pods and bowlers having at least two overs per game) and one 40 over fixture on the third Sunday. The pod system means that all players will bat at the top, middle and bottom of the order.

This decision clearly gives us a very good look at the form of **ALL** players with **EQUAL** opportunities to bat and bowl. We will also now be able to look at early form across Saturday competitions, something we have not done in the past.

1. SELECTION OF TEAMS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF CRICKET (21st November)

Immediately following the first three Sundays, a selection process will take place to select the 36 players that we believe the 22 SIPST squad will be selected from as per the selection criteria. These 36 players will form 4 even sides and will play one further 40 over trial game amongst themselves.

2. SELECTION OF CUP SQUADS AND SHIELD TEAMS

Immediately following this a squad of 22 will be selected for the SIPS Festival in Alexandra and announced on the Tuesday 23rd November 2021.

Interdistricts and Shield teams will be selected not long after the 22-player squad has been announced, as soon as humanly practicable.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR SELECTION

As in picking all sport's teams, it is not a completely prescriptive exercise based only on most recent form and statistics. An element of judgement is also needed and so we are fortunate that we can call on the input of our coaching group who continue to give us their honest assessments of players in their teams.

However, we can set out the following considerations and themes that will contribute to selection. We don't pretend that these are completely exhaustive, but selection criteria will include the following:

- Historic knowledge of players and their performances in both T20 and 40 over formats across CJCA matches and prior tournaments, especially in the 2020/2021 season. We should add that we already have a lot of written feedback about each boy from the coaches as well as some statistics to help with this. We also saw a very large number of matches first hand.
- Current (Spring) form.
- Versatility of the player – are they able to play well under different match conditions?
- Player behaviour, attitude, willingness to learn, be a good teammate and, in some cases, their leadership/captaincy skills.

The most important point to consider is that layered across all of this is ensuring we have the best composition and balance across the two sides. We know and you know that we as a grade have more players that are more than capable cricketers than selection spots available and this years selection process is going to be extremely difficult but there will be cricket for all players in January.

We will also include factors such as:

- The balance of quick/medium paced bowlers versus spinners and within that, types of medium quick bowlers and spinners.
- Batsman who can score quickly when needed versus those who can lay a good foundation for the innings. We will be seeking to strike a balance both in terms of selection and in seeing whether boys can play both types of innings (note the comment on versatility above).
- We will need to also make a call on the number of specialist keepers per side and the availability of back-up keepers who can do a job but are not necessarily specialists.
- The quality of the boy's efforts and accuracy in ground fielding and catching will be a **substantial** factor also.

As an aside, we believe we will be able to do advance homework on the type of pitches at Molyneaux Park in Alexandra. We can imagine that the playing conditions at that time of year will probably be warm and dry!

SELECTION PROCESS & INDEPENDENT ADVICE

Once the desired composition of the side has been established, we, as convenors will get to work to name the sides.

We will take input from coaches as we have done in the past.

Further, we will be assisted by **an independent selector (possibly two)** who we will be looking to recruit shortly. This is an important decision to ensure a reasonably fresh set of eyes is cast across all the players under consideration during the Festival. Needless to say, this independent assistance will come from people with very strong cricketing credentials.

Due to winter sport cross over we realise that not all players will be available for pre-season training and want to assure players this will not have any negative impact on future team placements.

PLAYER BEHAVIOUR

We thought it was worth reminding everyone about expected standards of on-field behaviour. You will recall that last year we communicated our position quite clearly on this matter and our (and CJCA's) position is unchanged. Any substantiated reports of misconduct, sledging, personal slights, or similar, will be viewed seriously and will be a consideration as to whether those players are selected for any festival teams. We did note that standards of behaviour at the end of the season were good. So, we thank the boys for playing the game in the right spirit.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO A NEW SEASON

Alan and I are very much looking forward to an enjoyable and successful season of cricket for all the boys. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible you at pre-season training in August/September (enrolments are open on 11 June for that) and as the season gets started.

Alan and I take this opportunity to thank you as parents/coaches also for the support since we started our journey as convenors and our personal mission to make all our players experience a positive one, where they all have felt included and valued as players on an equal basis. Because of your continued support we were able to take a different direction to how CJCA cricket has looked in the past and we thank you for being so open to change.

We believe that the players have experienced all sorts of game time scenarios and have learnt to adapt to so many different styles, speeds, actions, and abilities making them not only stronger but **inclusive** cricket players who are supportive of all their teammates. And most importantly they will have had over our 3 years together made friends and connected with 100 players their own age.

Finally, we are very grateful for all the feedback we have had from parents over the last couple of years. It has been our great pleasure undertaking this role, we have seen some fantastic cricket and loved watching all the boys develop. We are very sure that we are going to send an exceptionally strong year group into their respective high schools and look forward to seeing them progress their games in the coming seasons.

As always, happy to take any questions from you. Otherwise, see you soon!

Kind Regards

Rach & Al Hemingway – **Year 8 Convenors**
Rob Wilkinson – **CJCA General Manager**