



CHRISTCHURCH JUNIOR CRICKET ASSOCIATION

CJCA Year 8 2023 Review and Preview

The season just past has been a challenging one for many in Community Cricket – the introduction of the PlayHQ system certainly took a lot of administrative time and took time away from other tasks that generally we can do during the season.

The current Year 8 intake started the season as year 7's in our Festivals (2022) and for many in Saturday Cricket. Players were involved either in 30 over Saturday morning Cricket (6 ball over MAX) or Afternoon Year 7 Premier which allowed for up to Thirty - 8 ball overs - this resulted in games that on average lasted $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ an hour longer than the window that Saturday morning provides and also provided better playing conditions with no dew and no pressure from following games.

We finished the year with 27 teams playing Year 7 Saturday Cricket.

In January the CJCA had 3 teams participate in the "Canterbury Year 7/8 Festivals" held in Christchurch and Mandeville – to balance the teams in the Tiered sections a stronger year 7 team was chosen to go up against mainly year 8 teams and this team performed very strongly. The other two teams had 6 quality games and won both their longer format games on the final day.

This number of teams was down on what we normally see participating in January Festivals and we hope that more players will want to play in the offerings in January 2024 which have recently been scheduled.

In February/March we had our Summer Festival and there were 8 teams participating and these evenly selected teams had some great games on Grass at Burnside Park despite the weather adversely effecting the Festival.

The Year Ahead

Planning is well underway for the next 11 months. Pre-season Training registrations will open in June with the year 8 programme running at 5.30pm-7pm on Saturdays (TBC at the Sir Richard Hadlee Centre) and 12.30pm-2pm (at the Sporting Edge Centre, Matipo St). This Programme will commence 13th of August (Saturdays) and 19th August (Sundays) and run for 6 weeks.

Umpiring Course

The CJCA will again facilitate an **Umpiring Course** to aim to upskill those current Year 8 boys to "Level 1" certification. Last year we had 42 Boys complete the course which is currently planned for Sunday the 24th of September (TBC)(first Sunday of the School Holidays) with both morning and afternoon options – the course has in the past taken place at the Umpires Pavilion adjoining Hagley Oval. There is no cost to this course and those successfully completing the course will then be better placed to Self-Umpire in Youth Cricket at the start of the 2024 Youth season and also be able to umpire at CJCA Festivals once they exit our Association.

Spring Festival

Year 8 Spring Festival will be on the 29th of October, 5th and 12th of November so will be concluded before Show Weekend weather dependant. Registrations will open in August.

This Festival is planned to be at Burnside Park on grass and will feature 4 20/20 games and a longer format game on the 3rd day.

Registrations will close for the January Festivals during the Spring Festival – only brand new CJCA Festival players will need to be assessed so we can again look to balance teams these assessments are planned for Sunday the 15th of October.

January Festivals 2024

In January 2024 the CJCA Year 8 (2023) will participate in Canterbury Regional Festivals these will be 3 1/2 day Festivals held at either Christchurch (likely Burnside) or Mandeville (North Canterbury) between the **8th and the 11th of January 2024 (Monday to Thursday)** – players will have the option to choose to be considered for either or both of these options prior to teams being organised.

The Christchurch event is their higher “Tier” - the CJCA will select three 10 person teams after the completion of the Spring Festival – boys will have the option of being considered for just the “Tier 1 event” (Christchurch) or the “Tier 2 event” (Mandeville) **or either**. Last year there were three additional CJCA Year 8 teams in the secondary Festival.

*It is vital that given the CJCA will select teams that we still provide opportunities for those not selected in the three teams to play in the Christchurch Festival. This is just a “moment in time” selection and players are still developing. Prior to 2020 only two CJCA teams (20 players) were chosen for the previous “South Island Festival” **with others not having any Festival** - now we have three teams (30 players) in the higher tier and also provide an additional Festival in which more players can still experience a good cricket festival before they exit the CJCA system and move into Youth Cricket. **More Players, More Festivals – more opportunities.***

Parental support of players at this time is vital and the CJCA has noticed a general improvement in the way that all players regardless of which teams they are selected for deal with this.

The general camaraderie established through CJCA cricket since this intake began in February 2021 has meant a positive playing environment in which players develop relationships and positive sportsmanship - not only in CJCA cricket but in their Saturday and other cricket – this is one of the highlights that the CJCA wishes to develop in its participants.

The CJCA will appoint an **independent selector** to oversee the processes of the selection group which will be established leading into the Spring Festival. As this selection group would have seen the boys through 5 internal and 2 external (January) Festivals since these boys entered the CJCA “System” they have a good knowledge of performances at both CJCA level and on Saturday play. Ability, attitude and team balance (spinners/keepers etc) are major factors when these teams are chosen.

As the Tier 1 teams will **not travel** the CJCA is still keen to ensure a “team environment” so the team WILL STILL STAY TOGETHER AS A SQUAD – the CJCA is currently seeking a booking that will accommodate the three CJCA teams and supervising adults – the cost for this will be mainly user pays – current estimates are \$400 per player for all costs (Accommodation, Meals, **Playing Gear** and Fees) this includes the costs for the 6 supervising adults that will stay with the team. Costs for other teams entered in the Mandeville Festival will be considerably less than this fee.

It is hoped that Tier 1 teams will be announced soon after the completion of the Spring Festival and then other teams will be confirmed shortly after. It is hoped we can arrange warm up games for all of these teams against other districts or internally in early December.

End of the CJCA journey

Following the 2024 January Festivals current Year 8 boys will leave CJCA co-ordinated cricket and move into Youth Cricket which is facilitated by the Christchurch Metropolitan Cricket Association "Metro". Boys during term 3-4 will be getting their secondary schools organised and many schools have established Cricket programmes that will have Cricket Camps in late January as they organise their Year 9 teams – for those attending schools without such programmes options exist via both the North West and Sydenham Youth Cricket Clubs to play and be developed at an appropriate level.

I'd like to ask that regardless of which teams that boys are selected for that we continue to have parents willing to assist in the management of teams in January. I'd like to thank all the parents who have assisted in any capacity to date over the last 2 1/2 years – be it as a scorer, coach, manager it has all made for a cohort that has developed friendships between both children and adults and I hope the final ½ of a season that we have as a group will remain to be a positive one for all involved.

I especially wish to thank both Tim McClurg and Lynette Ellis – for Tim the completion of this intake will see him end a 6 year involvement with the CJCA as Tim had an older boy already go through the system. For Lynette we are very grateful she has stepped into the role of Chair of the CJCA as she has a younger boy which will hopefully provide some continuity in the governance of the CJCA and continue the Associations good work.

I hope your child has had a positive experience with Cricket as a Junior player and hope that should there have been any roadbumps over the journey that we have been able to smooth these and make your CJCA experience a positive one. We pride ourselves on our openness and hope that should be concerned about anything either at Club/School or Association level that you have the confidence to approach me.

Should anyone require further information about any aspects of Cricket be in Club/School Cricket or CJCA Cricket please get in touch – I'm planning to take some leave in May / June and will be attending the NZC Districts Conference 8-10 May at Lincoln.

Please email me gm@cjca.org.nz

Rob Wilkinson

General Manager - CJCA