



CHRISTCHURCH JUNIOR CRICKET ASSOCIATION

CJCA Year 8 2026 Review and Preview

10th April 2026

The current Year 8 intake started the season as year 7's in our Festivals (2025) 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 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 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 22 teams playing Year 7 Saturday Cricket.

January 2026 Festivals

In January the CJCA had 4 teams participate in the Tier 3 of the "Canterbury Year 7/8 Festivals" held at Mandeville.

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.

The Year Ahead

Planning is well underway for the next 11 months.

Pre-season training will ALL BE AT THE SIR RICHARD HADLEE CENTRE.

Pre-season Training registrations will open in June with the year 8 programme running at 5.30pm-7pm on Saturdays and 12noon - 1.30pm.

This Programme will commence on the 8th of August (Saturdays) and 9th August (Sundays) and run for 6 weeks.

2026
PRE-SEASON
8TH & 9TH AUGUST -
13TH & 14TH SEPTEMBER

SATURDAY OR SUNDAY FOR 6 WEEKS
YEAR 6, 7 & 8 | \$225 PER CHILD

 SIR RICHARD HADLEE
SPORTS CENTRE

The poster features a red background with images of cricket players in action. The CJCA logo is in the top left, and the Sir Richard Hadlee Sports Centre logo is in the bottom left. The text is centered and right-aligned.

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 September (TBC) 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 2027 Youth season and also be able to umpire at CJCA Festivals once they exit our Association.



Spring Festival



Year 8 Spring Festival dates are 18th October and 1st and 8th November and aims to be concluded before Show Weekend weather dependant. Registrations will open in August.

Only NEW Year 7 players who have yet to play in a CJCA Festivals will need to be assessed – these assessment will be a hour session at the Sir Richard Hadlee Centre on **Monday the 12th of October between 5pm and 6pm.**

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 Friday the 9th of October.

January Festivals 2027



In January 2027 the CJCA Year 8 (2026) will participate in Canterbury Regional Festivals - these will be 3 1/2 day Festivals held at **Canterbury Country (Mandeville – Tier 1) or Nelson (Tier 2)** between the 4th and the 7th of January 2027 (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 Mandeville event is their higher “Tier” - the CJCA will select TWO 10 person teams after the completion of the Spring Festival – boys will have the option of being considered for just the “Tier 1 event” (Mandeville) or the “Tier 2 event” (Nelson) or either. Last year there were THREE additional CJCA Year 8 team in the Tier 2 Festival.

It is vital that given the CJCA will select teams that we still provide opportunities for those not selected in the TWO teams to play in the Mandeville 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 additional Festivals 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 August 2025 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.

Plan for January 2027

The CJCA is still keen to ensure a “team environment” **so ALL teams WILL STAY TOGETHER AS A SQUAD** – the CJCA will make an advance booking that will accommodate the two CJCA teams in both Mandeville and Nelson – the cost for this will be mainly user pays – current estimates are \$450 per player for all costs (Accommodation, Meals, Playing Gear and Fees) this includes the costs for the 4 supervising adults that will stay with the teams.

Costs for Nelson will be the same as we would require an extra night compared with the Mandeville teams who will go into the Team environment on the morning of the start of the Festival.

Likely Accommodation

Mandeville teams – College House @ University of Canterbury

Nelson teams @ Nelson Boys College

It is hoped that Tier 1 teams will be announced soon after the completion of the Spring Festival and then the other team/s 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 2027 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.

There is also the ability for other Clubs to continue Junior teams into Youth grades **please contact your club, if you want to find out if they are looking to offer youth cricket next year** – there is nothing to prevent this from happening and if this is an option it is important that any Clubs considering this contact Metro Cricket in order to facilitate this.

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 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 Dwayne McCormick for his involvement and his core group of coaches/managers who have assisted him over the past couple of years.

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 CICA 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 us.

Should anyone require further information about any aspects of Cricket be in Club/School Cricket or CICA Cricket please get in touch.

Please email me gm@cica.org.nz

Rob Wilkinson
General Manager - CICA