



CHRISTCHURCH JUNIOR CRICKET ASSOCIATION

5th March 2026

WELCOME

Before the 2025/26 season finishes the CJCA thought it was an opportunity to let you know about the Christchurch Junior Cricket Associations Programmes that Boys in Year 6 at school (or home schooled) are now able to become involved in.

Our Association is a not-for-profit charity which aims to give children the foundation skills for lifelong enjoyment of cricket. **We look to amp up the opportunities for further development when children are about to enter their Year 6 cricketing season.**

Our programme involves a number of both **player development** and **playing opportunities** that have developed hundreds of boys and girls since the Association was set up in the 1960's.

Where it can start

The first programme you may be able to participate in is our **Pre-season Training Programme**. This highly regarded programme features 6 weeks of 90 minute sessions held indoors on either Saturdays or Sunday from the 8th & 9th of August until the 12th/13th of September.



This programme uses best practice skill acquisition coaching which aims to prepare players for their Year 6 Club season and CJCA Festivals. Squads of 12 are led by 2 paid coaches providing a low-ratio opportunity to develop skills and build confidence.

Spaces are limited to 48 in each Year group and are generally over-subscribed.

REGISTRATIONS FOR THIS PROGRAMME OPEN IN JUNE 2026 – Payment for the programme can be made at any time but should be paid by the **7th of August**.

Parents interested in assisting the paid coaches are welcome to help in sessions to learn more about what they can bring into their own coaching.

<https://www.cjca.org.nz/boys/winter-training/>

Parental involvement in Festivals



Without parental involvement in our **Festival Programme** we would not be able to run our Festivals. THIS IS ASSISTANCE ON THE DAY WITH TEAM MANAGEMENT, WARM UP AND SCORING.

We aim to have at least two parents per team to help these newly formed teams enjoy 3 days of Cricket initially in our Spring and subsequent Festivals.

Spring Festival for Year 6's will feature two 16/16 games of pairs cricket per day between teams formed after players complete an "Assessment" where we can assess where players are currently in terms of their development. Prior to this we will build a group of parents with the skills to run a Lane at the Sir Richard Hadlee Centre on Sunday the 5th of October

Please read some of the testimonials from recent CJCA parents on the next page

"I didn't realise - when I turned up on day one (in Year 6) - just what a rewarding and fun experience being a CJCA coach would be.

It doesn't come with all the normal coaching work such as mid week trainings etc. It's just about turning up on a few Sundays each year to support fantastic boys and girls in their junior cricket.

The festivals attract the most passionate young cricketers and cricketing families - so there's lots of help on hand and players are all motivated to enjoy the game. Over three years, I got to meet and work closely with a bunch of different kids. It's great when I run into them now and get to see how they're still growing in and outside of cricket. CJCA coaching is a one off experience - and it's amazing how quickly the time goes by!"

Darrin Herd

TESTIMONIALS FROM RECENT CJCA PARENTS

*"I had the privilege of coaching CJCA Sunday cricket for 4 years. **The role was made easy by a streamlined processes and largely involved engaging with a bunch of enthusiastic young cricketers,** helping guide them through their development through the years. Parent expectations were managed from the get go allowing for a positive culture with a healthy balance of participation and competition. The unexpected bonus was the comradery and friendships formed with the other coaches and managers. **All in all it was and enjoyable and rewarding experience."***

Richard Laing

Getting involved in my kids' sport has been one of my biggest highlights as a parent.

The CJCA experience gave me the opportunity to help out with loads of super keen & talented young cricketers & be part of their cricketing journey.

It was just fantastic to be part of this & to meet & get to know an awesome group of kids & parents.

If you're a parent with a cricket-mad child I'd highly recommend that you get yourself involved as a team manager - you won't regret it! ...

This gave him an experience where he formed fantastic friendships & played some really great cricket.

He's loved every minute of it & now has a large group of close cricketing mates from all over the city that he'll have for many, many years to come.

Don von Onselen

"As a parent who is normally around the grounds in the cricket season I offered to help out during the CJCA Festivals. It became apparent that everyone was out to try their best but the chance of meeting new friends probably out weighed everything

Everyone loves to succeed but to be made welcome and given an opportunity was something that the CJCA had as a high priority for the boys/girls.

As a coach we still see the boys many years later and are able to have a conversation, some laughs and check in on them with how things are going. For minimal organisation on your behalf as the CJCA had everything pretty sorted you get a day out at the cricket and players and parents you can talk to for many summers to come.

What more can you ask for."

Graeme Turner



ASSESSMENTS AND FESTIVAL LEAD IN

Each boy who enrolls will select a time for an hour assessment (between 12noon and 3pm) where they will get a numbered bib, and bat and bowl so we can create EVEN teams for the Festival which will start the following Sunday and run for 3 weeks.

Boys need to bring their own gear or borrow gear from Clubs – most Clubs will allow boys to borrow gear from Saturday team kit until they have their own.

Lane Assessors who generally will take teams in the Festivals then met and equally arrange the boys into groups ensuring that the volunteer parents, wicket keepers and boys of varying abilities are equally spread amongst teams – this creates some great matches and allows for the boys to interact with other boys from different clubs making new friends along the way.

YEAR CONVENOR/S

Each intake such as this requires a **Convenor or Convenors** to assist this intake through the 2 ½ season that make up the CJCA system – these Convenors look to build a group of like-minded parents to create a group of between 60-80 boys who want more cricket than just their Saturday cricket. The Convenors are asked to become members of the CJCA Executive a group that meets 9 times a year either in person or on Zoom to assist in the delivery of the CJCA's aims.

The Convenor role has worked best with two joint Convenors – so if you have a more administrative background or a more cricketing background that often works well.

PLEASE CONTACT **ROB WILKINSON** IF YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN THIS ROLE. Rob is the General Manager of the CJCA and provides significant support to our CJCA volunteers and is the sole Full Time employee of the Association.

gm@cjca.org.nz or 027 6644999



CJCA FESTIVALS

Spring Festival – October/November – 3 Sundays

January Festivals – January School Holidays 3 or 4 day Festivals

Summer Festival – February/March – 3 Sundays

These Festivals provide a great opportunity for Players regardless of what section they play on Saturday to play with other motivated boys who want to play more cricket.

These games are umpired by Youth boys who have all played so know the nerves of the boys.



Even teams are created for CJCA Sunday Festivals and for Year 6 boys play two 16/16 games so bat in Pairs for 4 overs. Everyone should bowl a couple of overs and boys will get to interact with boys from different clubs. In addition to the Cricket benefits the social benefits of learning be part of a new team compared with their Saturday teams is one of the Highlights. Parents are required to assist with scoring and managing the teams – all the set up on PlayHQ is done by the CJCA and the match gear – wickets, scoreboards, boundary markers, balls are all sorted!!

KEY DATES FOR 2026 THROUGH TO JANUARY 2027

- June – CJCA Pre-season programme registrations open
- 7th August – CJCA Pre-season payments due (payment plans can be arranged easily)
- 8th/9th August – Pre-season Programme commences – Parent Briefing and welcome at first session
- 7th October – CJCA Spring Festival Registrations close
- 11th October – CJCA Spring Assessments for Year 6's (9.30am to 12.30pm) – Sir Richard Hadlee Centre – Hagley Oval
- 18th October & 1st & 8th November – CJCA Spring Festival – Polo Grounds, Hagley Park 10am
- 30th October – registrations for January Festivals close
- 11th – 13th January 2027 – “New” Year 7 Festival – Mandeville North Canterbury

Any questions sing out!!!!!!

Rob Wilkinson

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