



CHRISTCHURCH JUNIOR CRICKET ASSOCIATION

CJCA Year 7 2026 Review and Preview

The current Year 7 intake started the season as year 6's in our Festivals (2025) and for many in Saturday Cricket. At Christmas the move the "grace period cricket" for all players rather than "Pairs Cricket" moved players towards more conventional cricket.

We finished the year with 32 teams playing Year 6 Saturday cricket (11 more than the previous year) as well as others playing in either the Year 5/6 Super 8 competitions (incredibly) or ahead of their age in older grades.

In January the CJCA had 5 teams participate in the "New Year 7 Festival" at Mandeville which provided a blend of both "Grace Period" and "Out you're Out" Cricket over the three days – many thanks to our volunteer coaches who assisted over those 3 days as the teams played matches against Canterbury Country, Buller, Marlborough and a team from Nelson.



This number of teams was more than we would normally see participating in January Festivals and we hope that players will want to play in the offerings in January 2027 which are a day longer than 2026. The Year 7 teams will play in the Tier 3 of the Canterbury Festivals between the 4th and 7th of January 2027 which will be AT HOME IN CHRISTCHURCH which makes things logistically quite straightforward.

SHOULD THE TIER 2 FESTIVAL REQUIRE AN ADDITIONAL TEAM OR PLAYERS TO REMOVE A BYE THE CJCA MAKE CONSTRUCT A STRONGER YEAR 7 TEAM TO PLAY IN THAT EVENT WHICH WILL BE HELD IN NELSON.

In February/March we had our Summer Festival and there were 8 teams participating – this is the number we normally have with 80 players so the same number of players as Spring and matched the number of volunteers to be able to do a good job of managing/scoring the games we hope this will continue to occur in Spring of 2027 (the next CJCA Festival opportunity). This Festival provided plenty of opportunities for players to develop their skills and get more used to the harsh realities of "out you're out" cricket which, once players get used to managing - will stand them in good stead going forward.

The Year Ahead



Planning is well underway for the next 11 months. Pre-season Training registrations will open in June with the year 7 programme running at 3.30pm-5pm on Saturdays and 10.30am to 12noon on Sundays both at the Sir Richard Hadlee Centre. This Programme will commence 8th (Saturday) & 9th (Sunday) of August and run for 6 weeks.

Spring Festival



Year 7 Spring Festival will be on the 18th of October and 1st & 8th of November so will 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 Warren Park 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

January Festivals



In January 2027 the CJCA Year 7 (2026) will participate in Canterbury Regional Festivals these will be a 3 1/2 day Festival held in Christchurch (most likely Burnside Park) between the 4th and the 7th of January 2026 (Monday to Thursday)

Year 8 2027

Following the 2027 January Festivals current Year 7 boys become Year 8 (2027) boys and their Summer Festival moves to playing on grass wickets most likely at Burnside Park – provisional dates are the 21st & 28th of February and the 7th of March. The challenge of playing on grass will be new for some but those who have previously participated in January Festivals and the odd time where clubs/schools play on grass on Saturdays they would have already played on the surface that will be used more once players move to Youth Cricket in 2028.

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.

Please email me gm@cjca.org.nz

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