



**CHRISTCHURCH JUNIOR
CRICKET ASSOCIATION**

August 2026

Use of PODS (non-Pairs Cricket) – CJCA Directive

Purpose

To ensure players have a fair opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to each game in a range of cricket disciplines.

Background

Over recent seasons there have been instances where individuals have been prioritised into leading roles within matches meaning some members of teams are less involved in making a meaningful contribution to a team's performance.

In Pairs Cricket equality of participation is built into the format of the games but in non-Pairs Cricket we need to be mindful to establish fairness in terms of access to Opportunities within each Game.

Many Club and School teams in our CJCA competition and coaches/managers already do a great job to ensure each player gets an equal opportunity.

This directive provides our coaches and managers with a mechanism to ensure that all players will be able to make a meaningful contribution, by either batting or bowling, to a team's performance each week.

The pod system also provides equality for our players over the course of a cricket season, and the opportunity for batters and bowlers to play in different roles for their team.

Key Points

- **Roles within Matches:** At a junior level it is important that players have a broad understanding of the different roles within a match that they may be required to play during their Cricketing experience
- **Specialization-** It is not deemed important at Junior level that players specialise at such an early age in terms of a batting position, more in they develop an understanding of the game and how, within a game, that different approaches are required depending on the state of the game
- **Parental Confidence** – the adoption of the POD system will give confidence that their child is just not making up the numbers within a team and will have an Opportunity to develop over the course of the season.

Directive

Cricket clubs and schools are strongly encouraged adopt a POD system in terms of the rotation of players through various batting and bowling positions within each match as per below.



POD SYSTEM IN GRACE PERIOD JUNIOR CRICKET



GUARANTEED PARTICIPATION | MEANINGFUL INVOLVEMENT

1 WHAT ARE PODS?

-  A coach or manager will group the team into **3 PODS**.
-  **POD 1** bats in the **TOP** batting positions (1-3 or 1-4 depending on team size).
-  The remaining players are placed into **POD 2** and **POD 3**.

2 WHY THE POD SYSTEM?

-  Every player gets a **meaningful** opportunity to contribute.
-  The **FIRST HALF** of the innings should be bowled by players from **PODS 2 & 3**.
-  Recommended that the **BOTTOM POD BOWLS FIRST**.
-  Players **rotate** through every batting position over time.

3 POD ROTATION

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3
POD 1 BAT TOP BOWL AFTER 50% OF OVERS	POD 3 BAT TOP BOWL AFTER 50% OF OVERS	POD 2 BAT TOP BOWL AFTER 50% OF OVERS
POD 2 BAT MIDDLE BOWL AFTER POD 3	POD 1 BAT MIDDLE BOWL AFTER POD 2	POD 3 BAT MIDDLE BOWL AFTER POD 1
POD 3 BAT BOTTOM BOWL FIRST	POD 2 BAT BOTTOM BOWL FIRST	POD 1 BAT BOTTOM BOWL FIRST



AFTER WEEK 3
RESET PODS - MIX PLAYERS UP

4 BOWLING RESTRICTIONS (POD 1)



POD 1 players CANNOT BOWL until 50% of the innings has been completed.

EXAMPLES

 27 OVERS BOWL AFTER 14 OVERS (Year 7 & 8)	 30 OVERS BOWL AFTER 15 OVERS (Premier Grades)	 20/20 GAME BOWL AFTER 10 OVERS (T20)
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THIS APPLIES TO

 **YEAR 6 POST-XMAS** |  **YEAR 7 & 8** |  **GIRLS DIVISION 3** |  **PREMIER GRADES**

 **GUARANTEED PARTICIPATION | MAXIMUM INVOLVEMENT** 

Advice for hesitant/less confident cricketers

It is likely that some junior cricketers may be hesitant to especially open the batting – in this case those batters should be placed below the openers in their POD which will mean because of the Grace Period that they will not bat until at least the 3rd over.

These batters should be continually offered the opportunity to Open throughout the system when they are in the 1st Batting POD as their confidence may strengthen over time

Mixing up of PODS

Managers and Coaches are encouraged to mix the blend of players in each POD after a full rotation has been completed so that Boys get to bat with others rather than stick with a group of 3 or 4 boys or girls for the entire season.

This also allows for flexibility when it comes to players being away or not playing due to illness or injury.

Managers and Coaches who encounter teams and junior players obviously not using a POD system in non-Pairs Cricket that appear to be outside this directive, are asked to contact the CJCA gm@cjca.org.nz with details of the team and date of the match.

Wicket keeping

A variety of players should be encouraged to wicket keep during the course of the season. In games the recommendation is that the wicket keeping duties should be shared between two players i.e 10, 13/14 or 15 overs each depending which grade is being played. Change over of Keepers should be done in existing breaks within the game i.e. Drinks or Pair changes.

Should a player wish to keep an entire game this is possible however teams should be mindful that others may also wish to keep in develop their skills and team management should be fair in these opportunities.

What grades does this apply to

- Year 6 After Christmas
- All Year 7 & 8 Mixed grades
- Division 3 Girls

CJCA Executive

August 2026