

SSJCA REPRESENTATIVE CRICKET ADVISORY GUIDELINES

Introduction:

The SSJCA believes that junior cricket is a developmental journey aiming to give our junior players the physical and mental skill to compete at an appropriate level. Representative cricket is part of that journey. It may well be the pinnacle of many players Cricket pathway.

The selection process *must* be as transparent as possible, and approved by the SSJCA's Representative Cricket Manager. The selection panel will be made up of the appointed coach and one other independent selector. Where the coach is a parent, the selection panel will be 3 with 2 independent selectors being appointed. For players to be considered for selection they must attend both trials unless a leave of absence is granted by the Representative Cricket Manager.

Selection in representative teams is based on merit. Players will be selected as batsmen, bowlers, wicket keeper or all-rounders and, depending upon the game situation, will be asked to participate according to their principal skills and ability. By definition, not every player will get an equal go in Representative Cricket.

It is in the players and parents best interests if they accept this state of affairs. Support and co-operation of the team effort usually leads to greater opportunities for all.

The SSJCA believes that when playing representative cricket, the aim is to play to win, within the spirit and laws of the game. Players should grasp the opportunity to develop their skills against quality opposition.

Advice for Coaches:

- Coaches should follow the Coach's Code of Ethics promoted by Cricket Australia..
- Coaches should give all 12 players an opportunity to compete.
- Coaches should encourage proper conduct of all players. In particular, Coaches should adopt a zero tolerance stance on sledging and dissent towards Umpires.
- Coaches should not put undue pressure on the players to perform. Encouragement should be the key feature of a Coaches educational technique.
- At training, Coaches should ensure they are providing quality time to the whole squad, rather than the perceived "Match Winners". Training is an opportunity to evenly attend to all players needs. The "Match Winner" on any one day could be the last selected!
- Coaches should not permit cliques to develop within the team. This may occur naturally from time to time because some boys usually play for the same clubs. However it is the responsibility of the Coach to ensure that all players are included, and, are made to feel part of the team.

Advice for Players:

- All players are to abide by the Spirit of Cricket including demonstrating :-
 - Respect for your team Coach and Manager:
 - Respect for your team mates: and
 - Respect for your opponents.
- All players are to abide by the Umpire's decision.
- Players should attend to their own personal conduct, which should reflect an attitude and demeanor of an elite level cricketer.
- Players should take a pride in their appearance.

Advice for Captains:

- Captains should acknowledge and accept that they will work in close consultation with the Coach and adhere to the Coaches game plan.
- Captains should never abuse their Coach should a disagreement arise.
- Captains should never abuse or seek to humiliate the players in either team.
- Encouragement of all players is the key to successful Captaincy.

Advice for Parents:

- Parents should acknowledge and accept that selection of representative teams is based upon merit and that there is no such thing as all players receiving an equal share of batting or bowling. In a game situation the Coach must be permitted to make use of the skills available within the team as he considers appropriate to the situation.
- Parents should acknowledge and accept that batting and bowling orders and fielding positions are determined by the coach in consultation with the captain for the older age groups (14s, 15s and 16s). The Coach will have the final say.
- Parents should acknowledge and accept that all contact with the Coach regarding team decisions are in the first instance to be made through the Manager. If they believe that they have not received an adequate answer to their questions they should discuss the matter further with the Manager. If the issue is still unresolved they should contact the Representative Cricket Manager.
- To enable the building of team harmony, parents should acknowledge and accept that dressing rooms (when available) and gatherings of team members are off limits when team discussions are taking place.

Advice for Managers:

- The Manager's primary role is to act as an effective conduit between the Coach and parents to ensure the smooth running of the season and the Team.
- The Manager should ensure that players and parents are kept informed of game day arrangements, practice arrangements, and organise drinks and afternoon teas for home games.
- The Manager should work in close consultation with the Coach at all times to ensure the objectives of the team are given their greatest chance of success.