PCC Junior program - Parents and players handbook

CLUB CULTURE

At Parkdale Cricket Club (PCC) the emphasis for our Junior program is founded on participation, developing cricket and life skills while making friends – not just "winning".

In accordance with Cricket Australia Junior policy, (https://secure.ausport.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/238379/Cricket_Australia_Junior_Policy.pdf)

PCC has developed junior coaching philosophies and guidelines that support our volunteer coaches ensuring our players receive consistent coaching. The focus is on developing a sense of belonging and the core skills which ensure players at all levels enjoy their cricket and most importantly the club environment. The Club's Junior Committee is also committed to ensuring the cricket experience is a pleasant and positive one for players, families and friends alike.

PCC enforces that ALL junior players receive appropriate batting and bowling opportunities and are rotated through appropriate fielding positions, to ensure they have the opportunity to learn and practise their skills and to experience all aspects of the game. In addition, an important

aspect of player development is the preparation and support of players as they transition from junior to senior cricket. This latter task starts from U14s through to U18s.

PCC always facilitates and supports all player development pathways/options. These include transitions within our junior program, transitions to senior cricket, district club cricket and the various junior representative cricket opportunities available through governing bodies.

COACHING

PCC places high emphasis on player development. We seek to continuously improve our services offered, including through growing a culture of professionalism amongst the coaches, managers and players, including encouraging and supporting all team coaches to obtain at least Level 1 Coaching Certification.

PCC aspires to build relationships and partnerships with others who offer further opportunities for our players and coaches.

PCC understands the various stages of skill and social development that young people are experiencing. PCC provides guidelines and strategies on how to manage young cricketers effectively within junior cricket to nurture a skill development pathway that is developmentally appropriate.

PCC promotes the qualities and values required to optimise a safe and supportive environment that has the benefit of an enjoyable experience. This includes selecting challenging activities, praise for improvement and effort, with relevance to their age, level of maturity, fitness, skill acquisition and level of competition. Allowing young people to learn and be with their friends is the primary goal.

For example at the entry level (the under 8–12s or ROOKIES) teams and players are encouraged to play for enjoyment rather than to "win games". Statistics are only recorded for individual and team performances and are not collated in a competition table.

JUNIOR COMMITTEE

The governance and management of the junior program is to be coordinated and implemented through collaboration of the following networks:

PCC – Junior President/ Junior Secretary (Executive Committee)

Committee Secretary/communication officer - (general committee)

Junior Co-ordinator- (Executive committee)

Executive Committee

Club Communication and Contacts

Teams are encouraged to communicate via WhatApp once squads are finalised – it is the responsibility of the coach or team manager to co-ordinate this.

Parents should also be encouraged to join the Parkdale Club members Facebook page where updates re weather impact training and fixtures will be posted and club news is regularly shared.

Coaches' and Managers' Responsibilities

The coach's primary goal is to ensure that all children in your team have fun playing cricket. Winning is not an essential ingredient for having fun.

Teach players to follow the rules in the spirit of cricket

Be reasonable in your demand of the young player's time, energy and enthusiasm

Never ridicule a player for losing or making a mistake

Develop and encourage individual and team respect for the ability of their teammates, official's, opposition players and coaches

Avoid overplaying the talented players. Every player deserves equal time and encouragement as far as possible. We recognise that as we go through the higher age groups and grades (U12B upwards) some kids will naturally develop into kids who are better placed to bat higher or bowl earlier, however we should try to balance this where we can and engage kids in where they may best fit to support the team and their development.

Ensure that club equipment and facilities meet safety standards

Code of Conduct

Parents' Code

Remember, children are involved in organised sports for their enjoyment.

Encourage your child to play by the rules in the "spirit of cricket"

Encourage good sportsmanship and skill improvement

Young people learn best from example. Applaud good play of both your team and the opposing team.

Do not publicly question any official's, coaches or managers judgment or character. Parents are not to get involved in any disagreements or disputes, raise any concerns with club officials who will try to resolve.

Recognise the value and importance of the club volunteer coaches and managers. They give their time and resources to provide recreational activities for your child.

Parents are encouraged to participate in game planning and administration but please leave the tactics and execution to the coach and the players.

Parents are asked to raise any concerns or thoughts in writing and forward to the junior co-ordinator

The coach is to liase with Junior Coordinator in dealing with any parent Concerns.

If your concern is related to the Coordinator please raise to the Junior President.

Players' Code

At Parkdale CC the primary objective is to have fun playing cricket

Play by the rules and within the spirit of cricket

Be a good sport: signal boundaries, declare dropped catches, only appeal when you think it is out, don't sledge opposition players etc..

Respect your teammates, coaches, managers, opposition players and coaches, official's and all volunteers that support your game.

Whether you win or lose ALWAYS be gracious in defeat, humble in victory and judge yourself by the effort you put in, not by the result of your individual performance or result of the game.

WET WEATHER CANCELLATION PROCEDURE

PCC states it is the responsibility of the coach/team manager to assess the state of play. It is their responsibility to check the SECA/AGCC/ISEC websites or contact the appropriate persons, communicate directly with the opposition club and their own team and advise accordingly.

HEALTH AND WELFARE GUIDELINES

A common sense approach is expected by PCC when regarding health and welfare of our juniors.

Safety is paramount- All juniors must wear protective clothing at all times when batting. This includes a helmet, box, pads and gloves.

From U12 onwards, especially as the standard improves, Thigh pads are to be encouragedPCC expects that all players will bring at least a bottle of water and a piece of fruit/healthy snacks.

PCC expects that each parent provides their own sunscreen and hat at all matches in the summer seasons.

PCC requires all parents to follow any relevant COVID protocols in place during the season.

PCC JUNIOR CRICKET DEVELOPMENT & PATHWAY PLAN

Aims of the Junior Program

Success at junior level will not be measured on the number of junior premierships won. Instead success will be judged on how many players are able to progress through the clubs' junior teams whilst enjoying their cricket, participating fully in the team environment and developing their cricket to the maximum possible,

For Parkdale CC's future we will focus one enabling juniors being able to progress from junior cricket to senior cricket, supporting participation in representative development squads and junior
teams. This document is a working document that is not set for each season but will evolve with the skills and desire of the Junior Committee. The aim is to provide an environment that is safe, healthy and fun as well as challenging.

Junior & Master Blaster through to Rookies & U12 "traditional" cricket

To retain each participant (kids and their parents) in the transition from blasters to U12 Rookies through to U12 competitive cricket

To introduce top age participants to 'traditional' U12 competitive cricket including; hard balls, pads, gloves etc

To equip them with the skills to be successful and enjoy competitive cricket

U12 Transition into Under 14s

Once players move to Under 14s, more focus on cricket game skills and senior cricket preparation will take place.

This may mean that not all players are rotated completely evenly. Batters will be allowed to bat longer and bowlers will be allowed to bowl longer.They will still be a desire to give players appropriate levels of opportunity rotated through a season.

Training will take more of a senior cricket focus with many of the same drills as apply in the senior club being applied to the Under 14 group.

Juniors to Seniors Transition

To encourage U/14 and U/16 players, where judged by coaches and parents to be ready, to participate in senior XI games.

To closely monitor players in their first year of seniors and ensure they are selected in senior XI sides with at least one of their peers.

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

PCC focus at all times is on developing the skill, knowledge and character of our players. This is achieved through teaching the basics of cricket development and evaluated on the outcomes demonstrated below.

Demonstrated

Attitude:

To display respect to and a positive attitude toward coaches officials and other players

To encourage team mates to excel at training and on match days

To demonstrate positive body language at all times

To demonstrate good concentration and focus skills

Fielding:

To adopt a confident approach to all fielding situations

To provide positive encouragement for all fielding attempts

To demonstrate under pressure all types of catching, throwing and team plays.

Batting:

To understand your role in the team

To bat in partnerships

To demonstrate the ability to turn over the strike

To run confidently and with consideration between wickets

To outlast the bowlers' patience

Bowling:

To bowl a line of 10cm or "the corridor" just outside off stump

To bowl in partnerships creating pressure at both ends

To know your delivery before you commence run up

To bowl on a 'perfect length'
(depends on pitch / type of bowler / spin or fast & game plan)

General

- To display an understanding of and input into the game plan
- To demonstrate the ability to deliver your role within the game plan
- To demonstrate good communication skills with Coaches / team-mates
- To display inner confidence when undertaking all tasks and demonstrate you are physically well conditioned