

# KINCUMBER-AVOCA CRICKET CLUB



<b>Title</b>	<b>Male Youth Competition Policy</b>
<b>Revision Date</b>	25 Aug 2022
<b>Revision No.</b>	B
<b>Revision Status</b>	Revised to incorporate CCCA change of age.
<b>Description</b>	This policy sets out the selection process, playing and coaching philosophy for the Male Youth competition team.

# club policy

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## Introduction

The Male Youth Competition was founded by CCCA in season 2019/2020 to provide clubs with an opportunity for their best Junior players to play on Turf wickets on a Friday afternoon / evening.

For season 2022/2023, the CCCA have changed the competition from U16 to U17. Whilst KACC was not in favor of this discussion KACC shall select the side based on the KACC philosophy to identify and further develop boys to assist in their transition into the grade system. Selectors will consider the likelihood of the players playing grade cricket and their potential should they do so.

Kincumber-Avooca see the Male Youth Competition as a way to introduce talented cricketers into the grade system and as such the Male Youth Competition team should operate in a similar manner to grade cricket, with the exception that the club will select a team which will generally not change except where injury or illness prevents a player from playing. Except in exceptional circumstances, Male Youth Competition players will not be dropped for poor performance. It is expected that the Boys selected in the Male Youth league side shall make themselves available for grade during the season. Special circumstances will be taken into consideration regarding welfare & workload for some due to injury or representative cricket commitments.

The club wants to ensure that it retains its junior cricketers and brings as many as possible through to the senior ranks. The club also wants what is effectively the junior first grade side to be successful. Above all, we want all our players to enjoy playing the great game of cricket.

## Playing Philosophy

The club philosophy for the Male Youth Competition is similar to grade in that the team shall generally play to win rather than provide equal participation opportunities for all players. That is not to say that all players shouldn't receive opportunities to bat and bowl, rather that those opportunities may not occur each week. The coach will use their best endeavors to ensure that boys receive a fair go but it will be subject to the situation in each match.

Players (or parents) that expect equal opportunities to participate by both batting and bowling each week should consider not trialing for the Male Youth Competition team **or** use Saturday morning junior cricket for additional game time and opportunities to bat or bowl as the case may be.

## Trials

Trials for KACC's Male Youth Competition team shall be held soon after the conclusion of the preceding season. That is to say that trials shall be held prior to formal registrations opening for the following season. This will provide players and administrators certainty regarding the number of positions to be filled in the Saturday morning teams once registrations open.

The club should ensure that all players trialing for the team are aware of this policy prior to or during the trials.

### **Selectors**

Selectors shall be appointed by the committee in its absolute discretion.

### **Team Selection**

Selectors shall select a balanced team considering the attributes of players trialing for the team. Each player selected shall be chosen to fulfill a role within the team. Those roles can be generally described as:-

1. Batsman.
2. Bowler.
3. Wicket Keeper.
4. Batting all-rounder.
5. Bowling all-rounder.

It is noted that at under 16 level players have not fully developed and may not necessarily be identified as a batsman or a bowler. It is also the case that players selected as batsmen may develop into bowlers and vice versa. In any case, selectors will choose the best team available. Once the team has been selected a couple of additional players from the trials may be invited to join the squad for training purposes for their further development and preparation incase opportunities arise during the season.

Selectors shall consider the likelihood of the players playing grade cricket and their potential should they do so.

Selectors may have regard for the social impact of selections and if necessary, may consult with the committee in this regard.

### **Coaching**

The coach shall be appointed by the Committee in its absolute discretion.

The Committee shall call for expressions of interest to fulfill the coaching role and if possible announce the coach prior to the trials.

The coach shall have a current working with children check and have completed any child protection courses as required by the club's member protection policy.

It is the coach's responsibility to ensure that each player understands their role in the team, which may change as the season progresses, and the coach shall ensure that players receive opportunities to fulfill the role that they were selected to perform. Players must generally bat, bowl or wicket keep. Players should not consistently bat low in the order and not bowl.

KACC's direction to the Male Youth Competition coach is to set out to win each match. The coach may maintain a generally stable batting order, however it should not be rigid for the entire season. The coach may apply a consistent approach to the bowling attack however opportunities should be found from time to time to ensure that all players that would like to bowl receive an opportunity to bowl.

Coaches should be reluctant to pigeon hole children in certain roles and any player should be given an option/opportunity to perform in the role they were not necessarily selected for should they show suitable improvement and or interest in their non chosen role. Harnessing and encouraging this should be to the advantage of the players progressing as cricketers. Players should demonstrate this improvement initially in a training environment and then be given opportunities in games where suitable situations exist.

The coach should use times when the team is in a strong position in the match to provide opportunities to players to perform their non-core role in the team and use games where one would expect the team to be successful to provide bowlers and all rounders an opportunity to bat higher in the order.

The coach shall introduce Male Youth Competition players to the grade system as and when they are ready to make the transition.

### **Fill in Players**

If required where the team is short, the best replacement player available shall be offered the opportunity to play. This may be a player who is under 17 however has chosen to play only grade cricket, or it may be a player who wasn't initially selected for the team.

### **Summary**

While KACC would like to win the competition each year, this goal should not be achieved at the cost of player development or enjoyment. As noted above the purpose of the team shall be to further develop personally each of the boys and to assist with their transition into the grade system. If this can be achieved, it will not only ensure personal development but also further strengthen the KACC Club.

The goal of the committee, the selectors, the coach and parents should be to ensure that every boy that trials for Male Youth comp, whether successful or not, enjoys their cricket and goes on to play grade cricket as a Griffin.

This can only be achieved by establishing and maintaining a club and team culture that deepens each boys' love of the game.

The creation of this policy is just the first step, it's up to the adults to deliver it.