



**PARK ORCHARDS CRICKET CLUB
JUNIOR CRICKET HANDBOOK**

Affiliated with the
Box Hill Reporter District Cricket Association & Eastern Cricket Association

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this manual is to provide all junior players, parents and officials with an understanding of the structure, operation and general culture of the junior club. It aims to provide guidelines for all players and parents with respect to required standards and conduct when representing the Club on and off the field. All players and parents are encouraged to read the following information thoroughly.

Congratulations on being a part of this club!

1. JUNIOR CLUB PROFILE

1-1 Club Mission Statement

We will:

- Provide an enjoyable, positive and safe environment where players are treated with respect, encouraged to participate and given the opportunity to extend their cricketing and social skills.
- Develop a strong junior section of the club to ensure ongoing club development and success and support the aspirations of players aiming to play at a higher level.
- Be perceived by our competitors as worthy opponents whenever we play.
- Strive to excel on and off the field, setting the benchmark in performance and fair play and to be recognised as a leading member of the sporting and general community in Park Orchards.
- Provide first class playing and social facilities for all players, families, visiting clubs and the community.

1-2 Affiliation

The Park Orchards Junior Cricket Club is affiliated with the Box Hill Reporter District Cricket Association (BHRDCA). Our Junior Club management is guided by the BHRDCA rules and regulations. Their website is bhrdca.cricketvictoria.com.au

1-3 Junior Sub-Committee

A Junior Sub-Committee has been formed as a part of the POCC's commitment to the development of a strong and well-managed junior club and the future development of junior players. These people are parent volunteers. We welcome new parents to join the Junior Sub-Committee in any capacity. Names and contact details of the Junior Sub-Committee members will be found on the website www.pocc.com.au

1-4 Communications

The Park Orchards Cricket Club will communicate with its members via a regular newsletter posted to the website – www.pocc.com.au and via e-mail.

1-5 Season Calendar

Cricket events (club social events, fundraising events, interclub cricket 20/20 matches, presentation events etc) will be advertised on the club website – www.pocc.com.au and communicated via email to the club members.

1-6 Working With Children Check (WWCC) Requirements

The Working with Children Check (WWCC) is a mandatory minimum background check of people who work or volunteer in child-related work. It applies to people who have regular direct contact with children where that contact is not directly supervised.

The POCC requires all committee members, team managers and coaches to have lodged a WWCC prior to the season commencing. The POCC Secretary will maintain a register of the people within the Club who have been approved under the legislation.

WWCC application forms and guides are available from participating Australia Post outlets. There is no cost for this check if contact with children is on a voluntary basis.

2. JUNIOR PLAYER INFORMATION

2-1 Season Information

The Junior Cricket season begins in early October.

Teams will be selected once the registration process is complete. The club will endeavour to place players into teams, particularly with younger aged players, where consideration is given to friendship groups and preferred days of play. Grading of teams will occur within older age groups and higher graded teams (see section 2-6)

At the beginning of the season, early October, POCC will host a season launch where players and families will be invited to a club social gathering when teams and respective coaches for the season will be introduced to the club as a whole. This is the first POCC social function of the season, a great way to meet with players and families. We encourage all club members to attend.

At the end of the season, late March, POCC will host a presentation event where players, teams and coaches are recognised for their efforts during the season. Achievement awards are given in recognition of outstanding batting, bowling and most valuable player. This event is the final club event for the season incorporating the junior and senior clubs. All club members, players and families are encouraged to attend.

Final communication of date, time and venue of these events will be sent to all junior members via email prior to the scheduled date and will be posted on the club website.

End of Season Awards to be presented for teams will be -

- U10/s – achievement award to all players
- U12/s – Bowling, Batting, Fielding and Coaches awards
- U12/s – Bowling, Batting, Fielding and Coaches awards
- U16/s – Bowling, Batting, Fielding and Coaches awards
- Lions Club Awards – Encouragement Award & Most Improved Award

2-2 Registration Process/Fees

Registration will take place at a nominated date, usually late July in the pre-season.

Registration dates will be advertised on the POCC web site, in local primary school newsletters and local papers. Existing club members will receive e-mail notification of registration dates.

The fee structure, form requirements and information on the registration process will be updated seasonally on the club website www.pocc.com.au.

Fees will vary depending on the number of players per family registered to play.

Our fee structure covers the cost of personal injury insurance, BHRDCA Registration, City Council ground and match fees, new balls per match, end of season presentations and trophies.

New players to the club must provide a copy of Birth Certificate or Proof of Age document.

Fees must be fully paid up before a player is considered for team selection.

2-3 Milo Program for Beginners

The grass roots of the POCC starts with the Milo program. We welcome these young players and their parents into the club and hope to see them become long term club members, enjoying the game of cricket and being a part of the POCC community.

The Milo program offers children aged 5 to 10 years the opportunity to kick start their cricket career. This is a structured 10-12-week program, which provides each participant with the opportunity to develop cricket skills, physical fitness, social skills, sportsmanship and an understanding of the game of cricket in a fun non-competitive environment through activities and games using appropriately modified cricket equipment.

Sessions are usually 1.5 hrs long and take place on Sunday mornings at Domeney Reserve, Park Orchards Cricket Club grounds. Hat, water bottle and sunscreen are essential.

Skills gained in Milo allow the progression to playing U10's cricket. POCC aims to retain each participant (kids and parents) in the transition from Milo to U10 non-competitive cricket through to U12 competitive cricket.

The program usually commences early November with registration usually taking place in mid October. Details of registration dates, costs, methods of payment and program dates will be posted on the website www.pocc.com.au later in the pre season and advertised in local school newsletters.

2-4 Team Structure

Teams are fielded in the following age groups: Under10, Under12, Under14 and Under16
Junior teams are configured each season depending on numbers of registered players. POCC recognises that some players will prefer to play with their friends and other players will have specific match day requirements due to other commitments. We will endeavour to incorporate as many of these individual requirements as possible into our team selection process.

Age eligibility cut off is taken as of the 1st September before the start of the season.

A player must be less than the age limit for his team prior to 1 September preceding the start of the season (ie. players who have turned 12 before 1st September will play in U14, those turning 12 after 1st September will play in U12 etc.). Players are permitted to play in older age groups with parental permission but will not be permitted to play in younger age groups.

U 10 "Tippety Cricket"

Non-Competitive cricket with modifications of rules to allow each player a fair go at batting and bowling. Focus is on skill development, player participation, prevention of injury and most of all, having fun. Players typically advance to U10 from Milo Cricket where they are able to apply skills gained in Milo Cricket into a match situation. Both teams get to bat and bowl each match day. Matches take place on Friday evenings.

U12, U14, U16 Competitive Cricket

Within each age group there are different grades (A, B, C etc) to cater for the different levels of skills and experience. Grades are allocated to the club by the BHDRCA and are dependant on prior seasons performances. C grade teams do not play finals. Match days are also allocated by the BHDRCA. Matches take place Friday evenings and Saturday mornings. Matches are played over 2 days over a 2 week period. Typically one team will bat on the first weekend and then swap for the following weekend. Time involved is approximately 3 hours per match day.

2-5 Player Participation - Team Grading - Club Policy

The policy of the club is that every junior player be given equal opportunity to experience all the aspects of the game of cricket as they continue to develop their cricketing skills and enjoyment of the game.

For junior teams POCC promotes equal participation in the early age groups and lower grades with policy designed to ensure that batting, bowling, and wicket keeping is rotated around each player as equally as possible. The club policy is playing to win whilst having fun and improving skills. Playing to win at all cost is not a club priority. POCC encourages all junior coaches to follow these principles.

At designated age groups grading of players will become important to ensure that players neither play at too high nor too low a level, so that they enjoy the game and improve their cricket and enable POCC to field competitive teams in the competition. Grading will be a priority for U16's at which level there are more likely to be players developing specialist skills and have more defined roles within the team. Grading will be strongly consider at U14's and be a lesser, but not ignored, priority at U12's. Coaches, past and present, will be consulted to assist with the grading process. The process will be reviewed each season as grading policy within POCC junior teams will be dependant on the grades that are allocated to the club by the BHRDCA seasonally.

The club realises the need to cater for players wishing to extend and pursue their cricket. Please refer to the Junior Development Handbook on the website www.pocc.com.au for further information about junior players progression to senior and representative cricket.

2-6 Cricket Gear Requirements /Team Kit

The club will provide each team with the necessary cricket equipment and first aid kits to be available for training and on match days. The equipment (pads, bats, gloves) will be in a team kit bag, managed by the team manager and coach, for those players who chose to use club equipment. The club provides each team kit with some helmets that can be shared, but it is suggested that each player provides their own. Each Player should purchase his own protector for health reasons. *Please name all personal clothing and equipment.*

Helmets and protectors are compulsory for all age groups and must be worn when batting or wicket keeping during training and on match days.

2-7 Training and Conduct

Training days and times will be announced before the start of the season and posted on the club website. Training will take place at POCC home ground Domeney Reserve. Occasionally alternative arrangements may be made for individual teams in which case specific notification will be given to players and parents. Net training sessions are scheduled for the entire club and are limited – please ensure you use this net time wisely.

Players are asked to arrive on time to specified training sessions. Each player will get time batting and bowling during training. Players are to use training sessions to practice and improve their skills and develop a team culture in preparation for competitive games.

Whites are not required at training. Sun hats, sunscreen and an adequate sized water bottle are required for typically hot training afternoons.

2-8 Dress Requirements

On Match days all junior players are required to wear

- White polo shirts (official club shirts available for purchase)
- Standard white crickets pants
- Preferably white socks and predominantly white runners. Players must not have metal spikes or metal protrusions on their footwear.
- An official club cap (provided at the beginning of the season to new players or available for purchase) must be worn for sun protection.
- Suntan lotion is a must. The club does not provide suntan lotion.

It is anticipated that players will have official club attire to wear on match days.

In cooler weather it is advised that a cricket vest or jumper also be worn.

2-9 Match Day Conduct

Players are expected to arrive to the designated ground at least half an hour before the start of play.

If a player is unable to play on a specific day the coach and team manager should be given adequate prior notice so alternative arrangements for additional players can be made.

A no show with out explanation is unfair to the coach and to the team and is not acceptable.

POCC strongly promotes strict behaviour codes to encourage good sportsmanship in all players and good representation of the club on and off the field. Bad or abusive language and sledging will not be tolerated. Disrespect to umpires will not be tolerated.

All Players and parents should make themselves familiar with the POCC code for conduct and etiquette.

2-10 Junior Club Code of Conduct

The following are principles that are endorsed by the club. POCC expects all players to abide by these principles as they represent the POCC on and off the field.

Always remember 'The Spirit of the Game' involves RESPECT for:

Your opponents

Your own captain and team and coach

The role of the umpires

The game's traditional values

- Enjoy your cricket and being an important member of the POCC.
- Never criticise or ridicule your team mates, treat everyone in your team equally.
- Give 100% support to your team mates, both on and off the field.
- Listen to Coaches. Be willing to learn from them.
- Be on time for training and on match day.
- Behave sensibly at training and game day so everyone can enjoy their cricket.
- Show respect to your opposition to gain respect from them.
- Never use bad language at any time.
- Accept all umpires decisions at all times.
- If you are given out leave the field quickly without complaint.
- In times of disappointment make sure your behaviour and language are acceptable.
- When your team is batting sit together as a team and support your batsmen.
- Respect the Club's equipment and facilities at training and on Game Day.
- Help out with packing up equipment and team kits after practice and match days.

2-12 Junior Player Fixtures/ Ladders/ Statistics

Throughout the season results of each match will be recorded on the My Cricket website. You are able to access the information on this site to view ladders, fixtures and personal statistics mycricket.cricket.com.au

3. JUNIOR PLAYER PARENT INFORMATION

3-1 Parent Participation – Your kids need you!

How can I help out?

The club relies heavily on volunteers to ensure its operation. Parents are encouraged to support their children by volunteering their time to help spread the work load on match days, creating an enjoyable environment for players and supporters alike. Committee members and coaches are always available to assist if you want to know how you can help. Please don't assume that all the jobs are taken care of – more hands on deck lighten the load. Being involved has great rewards from meeting new friends to knowing that you have helped to run your child's sporting event smoothly and efficiently. A roster will be prepared and jobs will be allocated for match days. Remember that children are involved for their enjoyment and the focus is on effort and performance rather than winning and losing. Respect the decisions of officials and team coaches and teach children to do likewise.

3-2 Training Day Requirements

Teams will be allocated weekly training sessions and players are expected to attend. Please notify the coach or team manager if your child is unable to attend training. Encourage your child to train in a manner with the same intent and purpose that is required under match conditions.

Players need to bring cricket gear, personal protector, sunscreen, hat and drink to all sessions.

Parents are asked to be mindful of the coaches need to keep the players moving through the training schedule. If you are available to be an active parent helper please come forward as you are needed. Help enables the coaches to be free to address individual players coaching needs. With more parent participation in running the drills, more can be achieved each training session. If parents are not involved in assisting with training they are respectfully asked to stay away from the training area and reserve questions for the coach until the training session is over.

If you have to leave your child during training, please ensure that your child's coach / team manager has your contact details. Your child must be collected PROMPTLY at the end of the session.

The coach is not available for child minding!

3-3 Match Day Conduct

When your child is selected in a team, the child and the parents are representing everyone associated with the Park Orchards Cricket Club. As a courtesy to your coaches, team mates, other players and club associates, we urge you to act responsibly & to observe the "Spirit of the Game" code.

- Ensure that your child is familiar with the Junior Club Code of Conduct (see 2-11). This is an important code that when followed will promote lifelong values of good sportsmanship.
- If your child is unable to play, please advise your child's coach as early as is possible so arrangements for additional players can be made. Equally, if you are going to be late to a game, let the coach know.
- If you will not be at the ground for the duration of the match, inform the team manager of your arrangements for your child.
- Please have your child arrive on time, at least half an hour before play is scheduled to begin.
- Encourage your child to be responsible, being appropriately dressed and having all the necessary gear required in his/her gear kit. Protector, hats and sunscreen and adequate fluids are essential. (Sunscreen is *not* provided by the club)
- Please make sure that the application of sunscreen has taken place.
- Assist the coach and team manager if necessary in setting up for the days play and during the match with scoring, umpiring and supervising players.
- Encourage and support your child and the team, win or lose, in a positive constructive manner.

- Avoid the “Ugly Sport Parent Syndrome”. These types of parents are not welcome at the POCC. Be aware players do get confused with parents yelling from the sidelines. Do not get involved in disputes or disagreements during play. Coaches and officials are there to handle problems.
- Please contribute to morning tea arrangements during home games.
- Encourage your child to take responsibility in packing their own kit bag at the end of the days play and helping with packing team gear and equipment.

Etiquette – Morning Tea

When playing at our home ground the home team will be required to provide morning tea for both teams. Team managers will manage this arrangement within their respective parent groups. Each team should co-ordinate amongst its members to provide a wide variety of foods. Ideally a good morning tea should consist of an array of sandwiches, fruit and cakes/loaves. The club will provide drinks for all.

3-4 Complaints

As a Junior Club our emphasis is one of player involvement and enjoyment. If you have an issue or complaint that you wish to pursue, please contact your child’s coach or team manager. If this is not acceptable, please contact the president or vice-president of the Park Orchards Cricket Club to raise the issue. Please refine the complaint to these Club Officials so the complaint can be dealt with appropriately. All club members are equally important and will be treated as such and your privacy will be respected.

3-5 POCC Fundraising / Social Events

The POCC Junior Club will occasionally have social events with the Senior Cricket members. All members are welcome as part of our ONE club policy. Junior and senior events will be registered on the website – www.pocc.com.au and will be communicated via email to the Junior Member database. Your support is most appreciated.

3-6 Sponsorship Opportunities

POCC is always seeking sponsors to support our club and offering promotion of your business/product. Please see the club website for more details.

4. JUNIOR TEAM COACHING INFORMATION

POCC strongly encourage the appointment of season coaches and assistant coaches to be drawn from the volunteer parent base within our junior teams. Past experience in playing cricket, a willingness to impart the love and skill of the game to juniors, and a desire to be a part of your child's sporting experience is all that is required. The POCC will support those appointed to coach in obtaining coaching certificates as required. *All coach and assistant coaches will be required to have a current working with children check. (See section 1-6)*

4-1 Coaching Appointment Process

- A selection panel appointed by the POCC committee will appoint junior coaching personnel via an interview process. The selection process will take place after receipt of a written coaching application form filled out by potential junior coaching applicants. Download forms off the club website www.pocc.com.au
- The date for receipt of application forms will be set and advised prior to season commencement once team selection has taken place.
- Once coaching personnel have been selected they will receive the POCC Junior Development Guidelines, BHRDCA guidelines for junior cricket and all relevant player, team management and club communication information, including Working with Children Check information.
- The appointed coaches will have full support of the club.

4-2 Coaching Profile

- Accountability for the planning of a learning environment and practices during the season.
- Responsibility for all technical and tactical implementation of policy during the season.
- To coach the players with due consideration for the mission and outcomes prescribed for the team.
- To encourage POCC Junior Codes of Conduct (see 2-11) amongst players where appropriate.
- To represent POCC Juniors both visibly and ethically as required.
- Assist the Team Manager in the supervision of team members and other specific tasks including a safe practise and play area.

4-3 Assistant Coach Profile

- Appointed by the team coach from the parent team parent base.
- To assist the team coach in all aspects under the coaching profile.
- To step up as interim team coach if coach is unavailable.
- To assist team manager when required.

5. JUNIOR TEAM MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Each team will be appointed a Team Manager. This person will be selected from the parents of the team. This is an important position, which assists in the running of the team throughout the season. Prior experience is not necessary. A willingness to help, to be an integral part of the club, and be a part of your child's team is all that is required. *A current working with children check will be required (see section 1-6)*

5-1 Team Manager Profile

- Liases with and assist the coach to ensure training and match days run smoothly.
- Maintain a parent helper roster for umpiring, scoring, food etc.
- Maintain communication with parents about match day and training day details.
- Maintain the scorebook and enter scores into My Cricket website.
- Ensure the team kit bag / first aid kit is available for training and match days.
- Have all player contact / medical details on hand at all times on training and match days.
- Ensure, along with the coach, that players observe POCC Code of Conduct in their behaviour at all times. (see section 2-3)

POCC will assist Team Managers by providing information sessions on all aspects of team management tasks in the pre season. A Team Manager's manual will be provided to assist this position.