



HAWKESBURY DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION INC.

PO BOX 148 RICHMOND 2753

HDCA REPRESENTATIVE CRICKET ADVISORY GUIDELINES

(Rev 1.0 Aug 2011)

Introduction:

Representative teams are selected by the HDCA to provide the opportunity for players to further develop their physical and mental skills by playing against other talented cricketers from outside of the Hawkesbury area. This developmental journey has presented Hawkesbury players with opportunities to play at a much higher level with many success stories moving on to play at State and National level. For others, this may be the pinnacle of their cricket pathway. Players should grasp the opportunity to develop their skills against quality opposition.

The HDCA believes that when playing representative cricket, the aim is to play to win, within the spirit and laws of the game.

Representative Competition:

The New South Wales Districts Cricket Association (NSWDCA) conducts Inter-Association competitions amongst its affiliated associations, (of which the HDCA is a member) for junior boys, junior girls and seniors. Matches in various age groups and for boys, girls and seniors are played on Sunday's (as club matches are played Saturday's) and are generally scheduled through October/November with finals for the juniors being played early in December of each year. Games may be played anywhere between Newcastle and the ACT.

Representative Selection:

To be eligible for selection in a representative team, a player must be registered with an affiliated club within the HDCA. Junior players will be eligible for selection only in the youngest junior representative team for which their age permits. For example, if no U/10 representative team is formed, then club players of this age group are permitted to trial and be selected in the U/11 representative team should they be capable. A player's age must be under the age group at midnight on the 31st August of the current cricket season.

The selection process is designed to be as transparent as possible, and is approved by the HDCA's Management Committee. The Selection Panel will be made up of the appointed coach and at least one other independent selector. Where the coach is a parent, the Selection Panel will consist of at least 3 with 2 independent selectors being appointed. For players to be considered for selection they must attend a minimum number of Selection Trials unless other arrangements have been made by the selection panel.

Selection in representative teams is based on merit. Selection is an annual process and is based upon a number of elements such as club statistics, performance at trials and development squads, attitude, balance of the team and prior representative performance. Players will be selected as a batsmen, bowler, wicket keeper or all-rounder 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 to understand and accept this. Support and co-operation of the team effort usually leads to greater opportunities for all.



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Advice for Coaches:

- Coaches should follow the Coach's Code of Ethics promoted by Cricket Australia..
- Coaches should give all 12 nominated 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 and more specifically the NSWDCA Code of Conduct and Racial and Religious Vilification Code. This includes 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 and not show dissent.
- Players should attend to their own personal conduct, which should reflect the attitude and demeanour expected of an elite level cricketer.
- Players should take pride in their appearance and uniform. Players must wear official uniform (playing shirt, cap, etc.) applicable to that season. Cricket attire should at all times be maintained in a clean and respectable fashion
- Players unavailable to attend scheduled training sessions should show respect to their team officials by informing their team Manager or Coach of their absence prior to the session

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.



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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 Vice President - Juniors.
- 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.
- When playing a home game, families of players are to provide afternoon tea for the visiting team (as well as their own team, all officials and parents).

We are fortunate to have a dedicated group of coaches, managers, selectors and other volunteers who provide a great deal of time and support to the development of players. Please take every opportunity to show your support for these volunteers and the work they do.