

## Sale CC Junior Section Selection Policy

Through this policy, Sale CC aims to achieve two objectives:

- giving its junior players equal opportunities to represent the club in competitive fixtures and to participate in the matches for which they have been selected
- fielding competitive teams that contribute to well-contested games of cricket.

### *Selection*

Sale has opted to run a lot of teams relative to the size of its junior section. Therefore, selection is usually based upon which players are available. However, when selection decisions are made, mindful of the overall objectives, coaches and managers will take the following factors into account when selecting teams:

**Club membership** – players whose membership subscriptions have been paid will be given preference. At the discretion of the junior chairs, players whose subscriptions have not been paid by a specific date will not be considered for selection.

**Age** – preference will be given to players of the age group specified for the fixture. ‘Playing up’ an age group (ie for an older age group) is a valuable development activity for younger players – as well as essential to fielding a team on many occasions. It will be offered when there are insufficient players of the specified age group available. In the younger age-groups (under 9 & 10), there is also flexibility to enable ‘over-age’ players to play at an age group that better matches their level of experience. In line with national guidance, girls qualify for age group teams up to two school years younger.

**Attendance at training/commitment to self-development** – players who regularly attend training will be given preference over players who do not (except in cases where other cricket commitments – representative and school activities – prevent attendance and the absence has been communicated beforehand to the coach). Players who show higher levels of personal commitment to their own development as cricketers (e.g. spending personal time practising) will have that recognised in selection.

**Prompt confirmation by parents/guardians of availability** - selection is communicated by text/email/Teamer app. Players whose parents do not respond promptly to team selection communication will not be given priority. This is because of the wasted time and inconvenience to coaches, as well as other players, caused by parents failing to respond to match communications.

**Safety** – the club has an over-riding responsibility to provide a safe environment for playing cricket. A coach may decide to omit a player otherwise qualified for selection on the grounds of safety, either because the player’s level of experience may place them at risk in a match, or concerns about a player’s conduct that could place themselves or others at risk.

**The challenges of a specific fixture** – the coach will use their knowledge of the opposition in selecting from a squad of available players. Factors considered may include the strength of the opposition and the significance of the fixture (e.g. a cup match).

**A balanced team** – coaches may need to select from the squad of available players based upon having adequate strength in batting, bowling and wicket-keeping for the specific fixture.

### *Match participation*

Coaches will strive to fulfil both objectives (i.e. maximising participation and competitiveness) in a single match. This is very hard to achieve and, in any single match, will not usually be fulfilled. Coaches are responsible not just for giving their players a match, but also for giving the opposition a competitive fixture.

The rules of junior cricket promote the sharing of match experience: in under 9 and under 10 cricket, pairs bat for an equal number of overs; in most other junior matches batsmen must retire on attaining a set score (eg 25 in under 11 cricket); and individual bowlers are limited in the number of overs they bowl. The older the age group, the less restrictive these limits become.

The club strongly supports rules that promote participation and where they are not mandatory (e.g. friendly matches, Salford Youth CA), Sale will always opt to apply them.

Nevertheless, it is important to acknowledge that the nature of cricket means that there are many circumstances when players selected do not get an opportunity to participate equally – e.g. the opposition may be bowled out or reach their target before all players due to bowl get to bowl; a small number of batsmen may bat throughout an innings, or until a target score has been reached.

Coaches will attempt to level out opportunities between players across the season, in particular through their knowledge of the opposition, with the aim of providing players with the chance to perform in situations which will help them develop as cricketers.

Coaches may, in deciding match roles, choose to:

- Recognise specialisation in roles with players in older age-groups
- Reward with additional opportunities players who have shown a commitment to their development as cricketers
- Manipulate batting and bowling orders to match players of similar experience levels with the opposition
- Delegate decision-making in the field to the team captain – in fact this is required at under 14 and above. The delegation of on-field decisions should always come in the context of principles agreed by coach and captain and be monitored by the coach, and if necessary, challenged constructively on the field.
- Give priority to players of the age group for the fixture, over those 'playing up'.

If a parent or player is concerned that the player is not having adequate or fair opportunities to play, the parent should first make an enquiry of the team coach. If the situation is unresolved, the parent should bring their concern to the joint chairs.