



Junior Competitions Code of Conduct

When considering the design of the competitions, our underlying philosophy in relation to junior cricket centres primarily around these 4 elements: *Participation v.s. Competition, Defining Success for Junior Cricket, Adapting to the Stages of a Child's Development and the Spirit of Cricket.*

PARTICIPATION VS. COMPETITION

Whilst everyone playing competitive sport aims to compete, winning games is not the primary goal of junior cricket. Bucks Cricket organises junior competitions to provide a framework to maximise participation for all junior cricketers. We want to see as many young people play cricket for as long as possible and to continue into a lifelong participation within the game at all levels. To do that children need to be provided with meaningful involvement in fixtures and a match experience that makes them want to keep playing cricket. Our competition rules provide flexibility to allow clubs to agree on changes to the rules to "get the game on".

The objective for each Club should be to develop its own player pool in a safe, inclusive and enjoyable environment. No matter the level that players start the season at, the focus should be on continual improvement and fostering a love of the game that endures into adulthood. Cricket is a fantastic game to help young people learn life skills, such as team-work, learning new skills, and managing success and failure with grace. If the players' abilities lead them to winning games, it should of course be celebrated. However, club officials should not lose sight of what success is in the bigger picture, and the positive role they can have on the health of cricket participation, not only within their Club, but within Buckinghamshire overall.

STAGES OF A CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT

Coaching and management approaches should flex depending on the age and stage of the cricketers. Early on in their cricket journey, players should try a bit of 'everything' (bat, bowl, field, captain, keep wicket, etc.) The purpose of results (team and individual) at this phase is to create learning opportunities.

As cricketers reach the latter teenage years, players' individual key strengths, roles become clearer and performances more relevant. We should support them to be well-rounded cricketer technically, tactically, physically, and mentally – and as teammates. Remind them why they started playing the game in the first place - and to relax, enjoy it and keep learning.

THE SPIRIT OF CRICKET

In the Junior Competitions, the responsibility for maintaining the Spirit of Cricket rests with the Team Managers and Coaches. The Spirit of Cricket applies just as much to spectators as well as players, captains, coaches, and officials. Bucks Cricket expects all clubs to educate their players and their parents in the Spirit of Cricket.

The Spirit of Cricket involves respect and sportsmanship towards your opponents, your own captain, team, all officials, coaches and team managers.

It is against the Spirit of Cricket to:

- Dispute an umpire's decision by word, action, gesture, or direct abusive language towards an opponent or Umpire.

- Indulge in cheating, sharp practice, appealing knowing the batsman is not out or advancing towards an Umpire aggressively when appealing.
- Seek to distract an opponent either verbally or by harassment (coaches and umpires are encouraged/urged to stamp out sledging).

PARTICIPATING CLUBS AGREE TO:

Take responsibility for the actions of their members and take adequate steps to ensure the good behaviour of their members and supporters towards players and umpires.

Where disputes arise between Clubs - Club Chairs, Junior Coordinators and Team Managers will take responsibility for ironing these out in a positive spirit with the opposing Club. Only if the Club's senior leadership are not able to resolve these differences, will a correspondence be sent to the Bucks Cricket Junior Competitions Organiser, who will pass it onto the Bucks Cricket disputes panel.

Tackling discrimination and promoting greater inclusion and diversity across the game is a priority as we strive to stamp out any form of discrimination and to make the game more inclusive and grow participation. We ask Clubs to play an active role in making Cricket a game for everyone and by noting that Bucks Cricket is fully signed up to the [ECB Anti-Discrimination code](#).

Speak to your Team Managers, Coaches and Junior Player Parents at the start of each season to set expectations for the season and create a two-way dialogue between the Club and its members on how to enhance the children's experience of cricket.

COACHES AND MANAGERS AGREE TO:

Create a positive playing environment:

1. Create a positive relationship with the opposition and communicate clearly prior to the game regarding setup and ensuring a positive experience is created for the participants
2. Adapt to what is needed at different ages/stages of a young cricketer's development
3. Provide fair opportunities for all players to realise their potential
4. Provide encouragement, support and guidance as appropriate
5. Ensure club umpires operate in an independent manner

PLAYERS AGREE TO:

- Remember playing cricket is fun – do not do it simply to please parents and coaches
- Abide by the Spirit, as well as the letter, of the laws of cricket
- Always accept the umpire's decision and not to show any dissent
- Play cricket in a competitive manner but maintain the highest standards of sportsmanship.
- Accept victory and defeat with dignity and grace.
- Not to use foul or abusive language on or off the field.
- Not to attempt to intimidate or deliberately distract opponents by acts of gamesmanship or aggressive behaviour.
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated.
- Co-operate with coaches, officials, team-mates, and opponents - remember without them there would be no game

PARENTS/GUARDIANS (FAMILIES) AGREE TO:

- Understand that the overall aim of junior cricket is for long-term development and continual improvement of its players and teams, without a fixation on short-term results
- Encourage and help the player to realise their potential, including abiding by this Code of Conduct

- Support the player without pressure, praise good work and refrain from criticising lapses.
- Foster an enjoyment of the game that will endure no matter what level they play at.
- Set a good example to the player and create a positive environment for everyone involved
- Communicate with the Club officials, keeping them informed about matters affecting the player
- Not go on to the field or to give advice about the game to their child at any stage of the match.
- Not enter the dressing room at any stage of the match except in exceptional circumstances, such as injury, when this may be waived at the discretion and invitation of a team official.
- Ensure their child remains with the team during the duration of the match to ensure greater team spirit and aid their child's cricket education.
- Not undermine the role of the manager/coach during or after matches, by giving different advice to that which your child has been given.