



AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY  
CRICKET CLUB

**Information on grade Year 8 for the 2017-18 season from our Grade Convenor**

This letter provides details about Year 8 cricket for the coming season. Firstly, some key dates:

- The season playing dates are:
  - Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October to Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December
  - Saturday 3<sup>th</sup> February to Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March.
- The trials dates are:
  - Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September
  - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September if required.

A key difference is that Year 8 runs as two distinct half-season competitions – one before Xmas and one after. Players initially register for the 1<sup>st</sup>-half of the season only, and can then choose whether or not to play for the Club after-Xmas depending on their College cricket commitments. Players that stay on with the Club will need to pay an additional subscription.

In the **1<sup>st</sup>-half** of the season, the grades are similar to Year 7:

- 8 Premier, 8A, and 8B
- The Premier grade plays on Saturday afternoons in a slightly longer game format (45 overs-a-side)
- 8A and 8B play on Saturday mornings (28 over-a-side)

To see more detail of the playing conditions for all 1<sup>st</sup>-half grades follow this link:

<http://aucklandcricket.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/YEAR-8-PREMIER-V2.pdf> - there might be some minor changes for 2017-18 – final playing conditions for the coming season will be published by Auckland Cricket in October.

To play in the Premier grade in the 1<sup>st</sup>-half, the players must be selected through a trial process. Trials may also be held for the 8A and 8B teams, dependent on numbers expressing an interest to play in the grade. Until the enrolment and trialling process is complete the Club will not know how many teams will be playing in each of the three grades.

**Trials will be held on the afternoons of Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September** at Colin Maiden Park - exact timing will be communicated once we know how many players wish to trial for the Premier grade. The desire of players wanting to be in a team with their friends will be considered but the overriding factors are the appropriate playing grade of a player, the player balance of teams, the number of players in the grade, and the overall strength of the grade.

Parents and players need to note that it is important for the player to be placed in the grade and a team in which the player will enjoy and improve their cricket, rather than just being in a team with a friend; therefore those players wanting to play in the Premier grade rather than 8A (or 8A rather than 8B), need to be up to playing at this level. There is nothing more off-putting to a player than having your bowling smashed each weekend, not getting any runs, and the feeling he is letting the side down and out of his depth. The first priority of the Club is to place players in grades that match their ability, which is the very reason why we trial players.



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Because the number of players rarely matches the exact numbers required in teams, there will be some players who are capable of playing Premier who may be placed in an 8A team. Conversely a player who might ordinarily play in 8A may be asked to play in the Premier grade. Some players' cricket and confidence will improve over the season by playing and dominating in 8A, whereas other players' cricket will prosper more from being challenged each week in the Premier grade.

**After Xmas** – the playing format for the 2<sup>nd</sup>-half is currently being reviewed by Auckland Cricket with College Sport. I will advise details as soon as confirmed.

**What happens now?** Register on-line for the 1<sup>st</sup>-half by following the links on-links on the home page of our website [www.aucc.co.nz](http://www.aucc.co.nz) and tell us there whether you would like to trial for a Premier team.

If you have any questions about Year 8 cricket, please feel free to contact me.

Kind Regards,

**Jonathan Hulme**

Year 8 Grade Convenor

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