

Dear Players and Parents joining AUCC grade Year 5 for 2016-17,

As registrations for the new cricket season are now open, we thought it opportune to communicate the format of Year 5 cricket as it involves some significant changes from Year 4.

Players moving into Year 5 make the transition to hardball cricket – i.e. games are played with a “proper” cricket hardball. This means that the batsmen and wicket-keepers need to wear protective gear - helmets, pads, gloves and a box are mandatory for batsmen and wicket keepers. The club provides a full gear bag for both training and Saturday games – however it is recommended from a hygiene point of view that gear such as gloves and the box are individually purchased - as a minimum.

Our Equipment Sponsor, Players Sports, has put together a good-value hardball Starter Pack which includes a bat, gloves, pads, box - and a gear bag to carry it all in. Most of this gear can be used for several years of hardball cricket so is a good investment. A flyer for this starter pack can be found at: <http://www.playerssports.co.nz/cricket/product/5714/kookaburra-hardball-starter-pack>. The Players Sports retail shop is at 14 Melrose Street, Newmarket - or it can be ordered online.

The Club has set up an “Introduction to Hardball” training programme for those who would like some preparation before the season gets underway (*and who are not attending our Pre-season Academy*). This programme is designed to get the players familiar with the protective gear, running between the wickets with pads on, facing deliveries with a hard ball coming on to the wicket at faster pace, and catching the hard ball. The programme comprises 2 x 1.5-hour sessions with our own Club Coaches and there are 2 options to choose from:

- Fridays - Sept 9th and 16th, 4pm to 5:30pm - Grafton Indoor Centre, Victoria Park
- Saturdays – Sept 10th and 17th, 1:30pm to 3pm – Howick Pakuranga indoor Centre, Lloyd Elsmore Park

More details are available at http://aucc.co.nz/UFresource/Intro_to_Hardball_2016.pdf. We have set a limit of 20 players for each group and there will be 3 coaches attending which will ensure that all the players receive a high level of coaching. The price is \$50 to cover the cost of venue hire and coaches. To confirm a place, booking and payment can be made during the registration process, or after registration through the “Login” button on our website. If over-subscribed we will endeavour to set up further sessions in October.

There are some key rule changes from Year 4 to Year 5 Hardball cricket. The key differences pre-Xmas are:

- Games are 24 overs per innings
- Players bat in pairs for 6 overs per pair - 3 runs are deducted for every wicket lost
- Every player must bowl a minimum of 2 overs, players can bowl up to a maximum of 4 overs
- Games are played on artificial wickets

Post-Xmas, the rules change to start the transition to “proper” cricket when batsmen leave the wicket when dismissed:

- Games are 25 overs per innings
- Batsmen can only be dismissed after facing 6 fair deliveries
- Batsmen leave the wicket when dismissed (i.e. could bat the entire innings if not dismissed or retired)
- Batsmen must retire (not out) at the end of the over when they reach 25 runs

We will send out a reminder about the post-Xmas changes early in 2016 so coaches and parents can advise the players prior to the first game in the 2nd half (which will be on February 4th).

I know everyone will be looking forward to another great season of cricket. Teams will be finalised after enrolments close on 25th September and before the start of term 4. We will be looking for a few team Coaches and Managers - so any interested please contact me. It is a fun and rewarding way to spend time with your child and his friends.

The playing dates for the season are:

- 29th October to 17th December
- 4th February (Waitangi weekend) to 25th March.

Kind regards,

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AUCC Year 5 Grade Convenor

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