

Dear Players and Parents joining AUCC grade Year 6 for 2016-17,

As enrolments for the new cricket season are open, I thought it opportune to give you some details about the format of Year 6 cricket because it is very different to Year 5. The key differences are:

- Players and teams are graded.
- There are three grades - Premier, 6A, and 6B.
- Players in a team increase from 8 to 11 in Prem and A, and to 10 in 6B
- It is played in a wider Auckland Cricket competition that includes clubs such as Cornwall, Ellerslie, Suburbs-New Lynn, Howick-Pakuranga, Waitakere - in addition to the Eastern Districts Cricket Association clubs: University, Parnell and Grafton.
- Premier and 6A competitions are separated into Major and Minor Championships, based on results, after initial grading rounds.

AUCC is likely to field teams in all three grades.

To play in the Premier grade, the players must be selected through a trial process. Trials may also be held for the 6A and 6B grades depending on numbers expressing an interest to play in each grade and player ability across the year group. Until the enrolment and trialling process is complete, the Club will not know how many teams will be playing in each of the grades. However, a guide of the composition of teams (based on numbers of last year's year 5 players) could be along the lines of 2 Premier teams, 2 or 3 6A teams and 1 or 2 6B team(s).

Please note: whilst we will try and keep together players of similar ability who are also friends, the priority is to match the players' ability within each grade. We know from experience that this leads to the most enjoyment and satisfaction from players and supporters alike.

Trials are scheduled for the morning of Sunday 11th September (and the following Sunday morning if required) at the Howick Pakuranga Indoor Centre in Lloyd Elsmore Park – exact times will be communicated when we know how many players wish to trial. The Convenor of Selectors is our Junior Coaching Coordinator – and I'm pleased to confirm that Dan Marsic will be in that chair again.

Premier Grade: This is the grade for the players of the highest ability; it will likely include last season's Sunday Rep team players and those who were on the fringe of Rep selection. Those players who believe they are capable of playing Premier grade and wish to trial should **select the "Premier Grade" option when registering in our ClubHub system.** Once the trials are completed, he may invite input from those who coached the Year 5 teams last season in deciding on final grading and the composition of teams. The desires of players wanting to be in a team together will be considered but the overriding factors will be the appropriate playing-level grade of the players, the balance of teams, the number of players in the grade, and the overall strength of the grade.

6A Grade: Players who want to play in the 6A grade **please select the "A Grade" option when registering.** If a trial process is adopted for 6A it will follow the overall procedure described above for the Premier grade. Players who the selectors believe are not of sufficient ability to enjoy the level of competition in this grade are likely to play in the 6B grade (numbers in each grade permitting).

6B Grade: This grade is intended to accommodate those cricketers who enjoy the game but whose skill level is not sufficiently advanced for competitive 11-a-side cricket, and for players new to the game. If players found Year 5 batting or bowling a struggle, they are encouraged to play in this grade. Players who want to play in this grade **please select the "B Grade" option when registering.** There is unlikely to be trialling for the 6B grade. In the 6B grade the batsmen bat in pairs for 5 overs and being dismissed results in runs being awarded to the opposition team, rather than the batsman

leaving the wicket. The format is similar to the format in the first half of the year 5 grade. This allows players to get guaranteed batting time and thereby an opportunity to improve their confidence and play so they can make the step up next season.

To check out the differences in the Playing Conditions for each grade, follow this link: <http://aucklandcricket.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/BoysHandbook-Year61.pdf> (there might be some minor changes for 2016-17).

Parents and players need to understand 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 6A need to be up to playing at this level. There is nothing more off-putting to a player than having his bowling smashed each weekend, not getting any runs, out of his depth and the feeling that he is letting the team down. The first priority of the Club is to place players in grades that match their ability, which is the very reason we trial the players.

Because the number of players rarely matches the exact numbers required in teams, there might be some players who are capable of playing Premier who may be placed in a 6A team. Conversely a player who might ordinarily play in 6A may be asked to play in the Premier grade. Because a player plays or chooses to play in the 6A grade, it does not mean that he will not be considered or selected to play in the Club Rep teams for our inter-club tournament fixtures on Sundays. Likewise, all players playing Premier cricket are not guaranteed to play Rep cricket. Note that in past years, there have been players in the Rep teams who played in 6A. Some players' cricket and confidence will improve over the season by playing and dominating in 6A, whereas other players' cricket may prosper more from being challenged each week in the Premier grade.

What happens now? Enrol on-line (follow the links at www.aucc.co.nz) and indicate the grade you would like to be considered for during the registration process. Teams will be finalised after the trials. The season playing dates for Year 6 are:

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

Finally, please note that Club Policy is that players should play in the grade which aligns to their school year in 2016. Any Y5 players wishing to play in this grade this season will need to apply to me and will be assessed by a senior member of the junior coaching team prior to the trails. One of the guidelines is that the player will need to be capable of playing in the Y6 Premier grade. If dispensation is granted, the player will be required to repeat Year 6 in the 2017-18 season - Year 6 players are not permitted to play in the Year 7 grade.

If you have any questions about Year 6 cricket, please feel free to contact me.

Regards,

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