

Dear Players and Parents joining AUCC grade Year 7 for 2016-17,

As registrations for the new cricket season are open, I thought it opportune to introduce you to Year 7 cricket and to point out some changes from last season. The key differences are:

- The Premier grade plays on Saturday afternoons in a longer game format (40 overs-a-side);
- 7A and 7B play on Saturday mornings (28 overs-a-side);
- Premier and 7A competitions are graded after the initial rounds, with teams then placed into top, middle or lower sections according to their results in the 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. A trial might also be held for the 7A and 7B grades, dependent on numbers expressing an interest to play in each 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:

- **Year 7 Premier Grade:** This is a competitive grade played from 12:30 to 6pm and consists of 40 overs per side – a significant increase from the 28 overs played in Year 6 Prem. This means a higher commitment in time and concentration by the players (and the many parents) involved. The need to have competitive teams is crucial as mismatches over a longer-format game can lead to considerable dissatisfaction. In past seasons, less Premier teams have been entered in Year 7 than in the previous Year 6 season.
- **Year 7A Grade:** This is a competitive grade suited to players of good cricketing ability and who have likely been playing for at least a couple of seasons. It may well include players capable of being in the Premier grade, but who are unable to commit to the longer, afternoon format.
- **Year 7B Grade:** This grade is suited to players new or reasonably new to the game, or players who, based on coaches reports (and, in part, statistics), struggled in Year 6. The emphasis will be on participation, enjoyment and improvement of skills.

To see more detail of the playing conditions for all grades follow this link:

<http://aucklandcricket.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/BoysHandbook-Year7.pdf> - there might be some minor changes for 2016-17 – final playing conditions for the coming season will be published by Auckland Cricket in October.

**Trials will be held on the afternoon of Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September** at the Howick Pakuranga indoor nets in Lloyd Elsmore Park - exact timing will be communicated when we know how many players wish to trial. The selection procedure will be overseen by our Junior Coaching Coordinator – and I'm pleased to confirm that Dan Marsic will be in that chair again for 16-17. Once the trials are completed input may be invited from those who coached in Year 6 last season in deciding on final grading and the composition of teams. The desires of players wanting to play together will be considered but the overriding factors will be 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 boys to be placed in the grade and team in which the player will enjoy and improve their cricket, rather than just being in a team with friends; therefore those players wanting to play in the Premier grade rather than 7A (or 7A rather than 7B) need to be up to playing at this level. There is nothing more off-putting to a player than having his bowling smashed every weekend, not getting any runs, and the feeling he is letting the side down because he is 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.

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 a 7A team. Conversely a player who might ordinarily play in 7A may be asked to play in the Premier grade. Because a player plays or chooses to play in the 7A grade, it does not mean that he will not be considered or selected to play in the Sunday Club Rep teams - likewise, all players playing Premier grade are not guaranteed to play Rep cricket. In past years, there have been players in the Rep teams that play in 7A. Some players' cricket and confidence will improve over the season by playing and dominating in 7A, 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](http://www.aucc.co.nz)) and indicate the grade you would like to be considered for by **selecting the "Premier", "A Grade" or "B Grade" option when registering in our ClubHub system.** Teams will be finalised after the trials.

The season playing dates are:

- Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October to Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December
- Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February (Waitangi weekend) to Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March. (*Note - there is the possibility that the Y7 Prems will play on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March instead of Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> when the BlackCaps take on South Africa in an ODI at Eden Park – ACA have yet to confirm.*)

If you have any questions about Year 7 cricket please feel free to contact me.

Kind Regards,

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Year 7 Grade Convenor

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