

Dear Parents and Players joining AUCC grade Year 8 for 2016-17,

As enrolments for the new cricket season are now open, we thought it opportune to give you some information about Year 8 cricket and to point out some changes from Year 7. The main difference is that Year 8 runs as two distinct half-season competitions – one before Xmas and one after. For 2016-17, players register for the whole season and we strongly encourage players to continue to play Club cricket for the whole season whilst the changes to the school cricket options settle down. Any players who decide not to play club cricket in term 1 2017 will be entitled to a partial refund of subs paid – details are on our website: refer >>Membership Info >> Subscriptions.

In the **first 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 1st-half grades follow this link:

<http://aucklandcricket.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/BoysHandbook-Year8.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.

To play in the Premier grade in the 1st-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 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.

Trials will be held on the afternoon of Saturday 17th September at the Howick Pakuranga indoor nets in Lloyd Elsmore 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 you are letting the side down and are out of your 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 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 may prosper more from being challenged each week in the Premier grade.

After Xmas, games in **all** Year 8 divisions commence at 1:15pm on Saturday afternoons. The first playing day of the second-half is still to be confirmed by ACA but likely to be Waitangi weekend, **Saturday 4th Feb**. *It is also likely that games will be scheduled on Sunday 5th March instead of Saturday 4th due to the BlackCaps taking on South Africa at Eden Park that day.*

This 1:15pm start is to enable boys to play for their school in the mornings and for the Club in the afternoons should they so wish.

- The Premier grade plays 2-day matches over 2 consecutive weekends
- 8A and 8B play 1-day, 32 over matches.

What happens now? Register on-line as soon as registration opens (follow the links at www.aucc.co.nz) and select the grade you would like to be considered for - Premier, A Grade or B Grade. 1st-half teams will be finalised after the trials, and the playing dates are **Saturdays 29th October to 17th December**.

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

Kind Regards,

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