

Dear Parents and Players of last season's Year 5 players,

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

- Players and teams are graded.
- There are three grades in Year 6 - Premier, 6A, and 6B.
- Team numbers increase from 8 to 11.
- It is played in a wider Auckland Cricket competition that includes clubs such as Cornwall, Ellerslie, Suburbs-New Lynn and Howick-Pakuranga, as well the Eastern Districts Cricket Association clubs, University, Parnell and Grafton.
- Premier and 6A competitions are graded after the initial rounds, with teams then placed into top, middle or lower sections according to their results.

AUCC is likely to field teams in all three (Premier, 6A, 6B) 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, 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 Premier, 6A or 6B 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 or 3 Premier teams, 3 or 4 6A teams and perhaps 1 or 2 6B team(s).

**Premier Grade:** Those players that believe they are capable of playing Premier grade and wish to be considered to play Premier grade **please put "Premier Grade" in the "friends I'd like to play with" section of the club-hub enrolment.** The Club will be running a trials process, and this likely to be held during the week-end of 17 September. Exact times and venue for these trials will be communicated later. The selection procedure will be overseen by me as the club's Junior Coaching Director, but as I have a son in the grade I will not be participating in the selection trials themselves. Once the trials are completed I will involve and invite input from coaches who coached in Year 5 last season, together with those who put their hands up to coach this coming year, 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 overall strength of the grade.

**6A Grade:** Players who want to play in the 6A grade **please put "6A Grade" in the "friends I'd like to play with" section of the club-hub enrolment.** If a trial process is adopted for 6A it will follow the overall procedure described above for the Premier grade. Players 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 new or reasonably new to the game, or those who enjoy the game but whose skill level is not advanced enough for competitive 11 a side cricket. If players haven't played, or found Year 5 batting a struggle, they are encouraged to play in this grade. Players who want to play in this grade **please put "6B Grade" in the "friends I'd like to play with" section of the club-hub enrolment.** There is no trialling for the 6B grade.

In the 6B grade rather than a player having to leave the wicket when he gets OUT, this grade has the batsmen bat in pairs for a prescribed amount of overs and getting OUT will result in either a loss of runs (or runs will be awarded to the opposition team), rather than leaving the wicket. The proposed format is similar to the incrediball format in years 2 to 4 (and 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. It involves teams of 10 players and batting in pairs for 5 overs (a 25 over game).

To check out the differences to the rules in each grade, follow this link, which although a little dated gives a good comparison. [http://www.aucklandcricket.co.nz/Uploads/Club\\_cricket\\_files/09-10\\_CEJL\\_Playing\\_Conditions\\_for\\_Year\\_6\\_-\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.aucklandcricket.co.nz/Uploads/Club_cricket_files/09-10_CEJL_Playing_Conditions_for_Year_6_-_FINAL.pdf)

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; those players wanting to play in the Premier grade rather than 6A, need to therefore first 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 you are out of your depth. The first priority of the Club is to place players in grades that match their ability, and 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 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 grade rep teams. Likewise, all players playing Premier cricket are not guaranteed to play rep cricket. Note that in past years, there have been players playing in the rep team that play 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 Premier grade.

**What happens now?** Enrol on line (follow the links at [www.aucc.co.nz](http://www.aucc.co.nz) ) Indicate the grade you would like to be considered for (Premier, 6A, or 6B) **in the "friends I'd like to play with" section.** Teams will be finalised after the trials which are in the third week-end of September, and the first game of the season is on 29 October (I wonder who will be the Rugby World Cup holder by then.....!).

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

Regards,

**Nigel Fletcher**

Acting Year 6 Convenor

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