

Dear Parents and Players of Year 7 cricket – 2011/12,

As enrolments for the new cricket season are now open, I thought it opportune to introduce you to Year 7 cricket. The key points are:

- Players and teams are graded.
- There are three grades in Year 7 - Premier, 7A, and 7B.
- Premier and 7A competitions are graded after the initial rounds, with teams then placed into top, middle or lower sections according to their results but also depending on team numbers in each grade.
- AUCC is likely to field teams in all three (Premier, 7A, 7B) grades.

To play in the Premier grade and 7A, the players must be selected through a trial process. Until the enrolment and trialling process is complete, the Club will not know how many teams will be playing in Premier, 7A or 7B grades.

**Year 7 Premier Grade:** This is a highly competitive grade played on Saturday afternoons (12:30 – 6pm) and consists of 40 overs each innings – a significant increase from 28 overs. This means a greater commitment in time and concentration by the players (and many parents) involved. The need to have competitive teams is crucial as mismatches over a longer formatted game can lead to some dissatisfaction. In past seasons, less Premier teams from a grade have been entered in Year 7 than in Year 6. The number of Premier teams entered will be influenced by the coaches and selectors' assessment of the boys and their capabilities relative to the other club premier teams.

**Year 7 A-Grade:** This is a competitive grade suited to players of good cricketing ability and have likely been playing for a couple of seasons. It may well include players capable of being in the Premier grade, but are unable to commit to the longer, afternoon format. The number of A-grade teams entered will be influenced by the coaches and selectors' assessment of the boys and their capabilities relative to the other club A-Grade teams.

**Year 7 B-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.

Note: Both Year 7A and 7B grades play in the morning and have similar playing conditions. To see more detail of the playing conditions for each grade follow this link

[http://www.aucklandcricket.co.nz/Uploads/Club\\_cricket\\_files/CEJL\\_Playing\\_Conditions\\_for\\_Year\\_7\\_2010-11.pdf](http://www.aucklandcricket.co.nz/Uploads/Club_cricket_files/CEJL_Playing_Conditions_for_Year_7_2010-11.pdf)

(Note that there might be some minor changes for 2011-12 – final playing conditions for the coming season will be published by ACA in late September.)

Trials for both Premier grade and A-grade cricket teams will be held on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September from 2pm to 6pm at the Howick-Pakuranga indoor nets. **Those players wishing to trial need to register their interest with me in advance so a trial time can be allocated and advised.**

Please email me [bruce-deb.hawkes@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bruce-deb.hawkes@xtra.co.nz) with the following information by Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September.

- Players name
  - Yes, I wish to trial for a Premier team or
  - Yes, I wish to trial for an A-grade team or
  - I wish to be placed in a B-Grade team

If no advice is received by me, players will be placed in a B-grade team. B-grade players are not required to trial.

Allocation of trial times will be advised by me around 20<sup>th</sup> September. Players should expect to be required for between 1-2 hours.

The club's Junior Coaching Director will oversee the selection procedure. He will involve and invite input from coaches who coached in Year 6 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.

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 7A (or 7A rather than 7B), 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, 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 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 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 Premier grade.

#### **What happens now?**

1. Enrol on line (follow the links at [www.aucc.co.nz](http://www.aucc.co.nz) )
2. Send an email to me with the grade you wish to be considered for (see above).
3. Teams should be finalised the week following the trials.
4. The first game of the season is on 29<sup>th</sup> October.

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

Regards,

**Bruce Hawkes**

AUCC Year 7 Convenor

Tel (home) 521 8526, (mobile) 021 178 3377, email [bruce-deb.hawkes@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bruce-deb.hawkes@xtra.co.nz)