



## AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY CRICKET CLUB

### INFORMATION FOR PARENT COACHES/MANAGERS OF JUNIOR BLUES TEAMS

Thank you for volunteering to be the primary coach/manager for one of our Junior Blues Rep teams.

While the club provides coaching resources to support the Junior Blues programme, it is vitally important that we have a team of enthusiastic parents willing to accompany the team and run things on game day.

Coaching a Sunday Rep team is a bit different to coaching a Saturday team – there is a different ethos, and the team can change from fixture-to-fixture based on selections. This guide is intended to help you navigate the process, understand a bit more about how it works, what we are trying to achieve, and what is expected of you. We hope it is helpful.

#### **Objectives**

- For players to develop skills by playing others with similar abilities
- For players to experience a more serious style of cricket. Although the focus should still be on development and fun, a higher standard of behaviour and game management (e.g. warmups, fielding positions) is expected.
- To provide an extra playing opportunity in addition to Saturday games.
- Although there is more of a focus on winning as compared to Saturday games, this should not be at the expense of the participation, development or enjoyment of any player.
- To have fun!

#### **Team selection**

- The club will trial and then select a squad of players for each year group. Selections for the squad will be based partly on trials and coach evaluations, partly on grade convenor input, partly on input from the coaches of Saturday teams.
- **“A” teams** will be selected as the best available players.
- **“B” teams** have more of a development focus, and are selected on a rotation basis from the wider squad.
- Junior Blues training on Mondays will be predominantly squad based, and the intent of training is development across the entire squad.
- Shane Goonasekera (JCC) and his coaching team will select the A & B teams for each fixture based on;
  - Performance at rep training Feedback from parent-coaches at previous fixtures
  - Statistics from games
  - Player availability & rotation to ensure all squad members get game time (rotation will naturally affect B team more than A team).

#### **Game Management**

- The rules of Junior Blues games generally allow coaches more flexibility on how the players are used than in Saturday games (e.g. some bowlers can bowl more overs). Some coaches of “A” teams may choose to exploit this for competitive advantage. We do not expect every player in the “A” team to be provided with identical participation every game. However at AUCC the primary objective of the programme is player development. We believe this is more important than winning. Therefore if unequal participation in the “A” team does occur, we encourage coaches to ensure that this does not impact on the enjoyment or development of any of the players.
- Similarly we want to ensure all players have the opportunity to develop all skills, and are not pigeon-holed into specialist roles. E.g. wicket keeper, opening batter. Therefore we encourage a rotation policy which allows all players to experience different roles in the team.
- “B” team players should expect equal participation. The batting order and bowling workload to be rotated to give all squad members an opportunity to develop and perform. It is helpful if a coach can get assistance from another parent as a team manager to help keep track of rotation and opportunities for players.

#### **What is expected of you as coach of a Junior Blues Team?**

- Please communicate with your team prior to the game to confirm when and where to meet on game day. We have had several instances of players missing games due to emails going into spam folders or not being read so a positive confirmation from parents is recommended.
- Communicate openly with us about any questions you have or information you need – we are here to help you.
- Attendance at Junior Blues training session on Monday afternoon is great if you can (we know this may not be possible).
- Ensure you have a full gear bag available for game day – In most cases you should be able to use your child’s Saturday team bag, but please contact the Club manager if you require any additional gear.
- Familiarise yourself with the rules & playing conditions, as these may differ slightly from normal Saturday rules. You will find these here <http://aucc.co.nz/superseries.php>
- Run the team & game on game day – engage other parents in your group to assist with scoring, umpiring, warmups.

- Provide direct feedback to Shane Goonasekera after each game on individual player performances to assist with ongoing player development and team selections. Feedback might also include attitude, sportsmanship & team spirit.
- Respect the spirit of Cricket <http://www.aucc.co.nz/thespiritofcricket.php>
- Respect and abide by the AUCC Code of Conduct <http://www.aucc.co.nz/clubcode.php>
- For HOME fixtures, please remind your team & parents to attend the clubroom presentation after the conclusion of games. It is important to support the club and acknowledge the outstanding performances of the teams and players.

**Match Balls** will be supplied by the club – Club Operations manager Ketan Patel will advise prior to each fixture.

#### Scoring & Results

- Y4 teams, use the normal paper scoresheet. For Y5 and above, we prefer you to live score the game on CricHQ if possible, however if this is not possible, then using the standard Scoresheet/Scorebook is ok, but please ensure the scorecard is entered in CricHQ afterward so that player stats are recorded.
- Scorers, at the end of the match please send the match result, total scores & MVP name to the Fixtures Coordinator (via Text or email). If your game was scored on manual scoresheets or scorebooks, then please send a scan or photo of the scoresheet to both Fixtures coordinator & JCC (No need to do this if your game was live-scored on CricHQ).
- Y4 teams, please ensure that a stats spreadsheet is kept up to date, and submitted to JCC at the end of the season – reps stats count toward records & awards for end of season prizegiving, so these stats are import (for Y5+ we use CricHQ stats).

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Shane Goonasekera

Junior Coaching Coordinator (JCC) [jcc@aucc.co.nz](mailto:jcc@aucc.co.nz)  
021-049-9160

Ketan Patel

Fixtures Coordinator  
[fixtures@aucc.co.nz](mailto:fixtures@aucc.co.nz) 021-262-8041

Ketan Patel

Club Operations Manager  
[Manager@aucc.co.nz](mailto:Manager@aucc.co.nz)

**Contacts**