



HCC Junior Team Selection Policy

Our selection policy is governed by the following principles:

1. **Promoting Youth Development:** HCC is committed to promoting the development of young cricketers, serving the current and future playing strength of all Haslingden Cricket Club senior teams.
2. **Fair and Equal Opportunity:** All players across all teams will be given a fair and equal opportunity to perform. Team selection will be based on a combination of factors including age, attendance at training, ability, and behaviour. We aim to select a well-balanced side at all times, taking into account factors such as team dynamics, game strategy, and player development.
3. **Inclusivity:** We value the differences of all players and strive to create an inclusive environment where everyone feels welcome and respected.
4. **Upholding the "Spirit of Cricket":** We uphold the "spirit of cricket" and expect all players, coaches, and parents to do the same.
5. We support players of all abilities at Haslingden. In the case where players are identified by either County or Inter League trials, selection opportunities for such players will be considered for them to play at a level appropriate for their ability including playing up (when there is no fixture clash with their own age group) in line with the policy below."

Junior match Selection

It is the aim and the purpose of the Club to encourage junior players of all ages to participate in and play recreational and competitive cricket. Our coaching is based on the view that each player should be developed to their maximum potential.

Each age group will play a number of competitive games across the season. We are committed to ensuring all players gain 'match time' and will try to run an appropriate number of teams to support this where possible.

Team selection will be based on a combination of factors including age, attendance at training, ability which includes determining if a child is “hard ball ready” for under 11’s and above age categories (a safeguarding measure that managers and coaches have to adhere to) and behaviour.

Team selection will be announced via the relevant channels, approximately one week prior to the fixture.

A Team Captain will be selected each week to allow the players to develop their Leadership skills in under 9s and u11s, this will be rotated through the older more experienced players within an age group. Under 13s and above will have a designated captain(s) for the season, with the team managers allowing the captain to take on more responsibility.

During games, batting and bowling orders and decisions will be managed by the coach and/or captain. These will be made with careful consideration of player development alongside game strategy.

Priority will be given to players who are within the designated team age group, who attend training on a regular basis and who in the opinion of the coaches show the ability to safely play at the level they are selected for. Remaining team places will be allocated to players who are younger in age but who have shown that they have the ability and the talent to safely play at the level that they have been selected to play for which includes ‘playing up’ an age group as appropriate. Player safety will be prioritised.

Attendance

Players must attend training sessions as well as matches. Players who regularly attend training will be given priority in match selection over those players who do not attend training. If there are circumstances that prevent regular attendance, please let the coach know.

Selection Disputes

Team selection is ultimately down to Team Managers but should be done in accordance with this policy – as agreed by the Junior Committee.

It is vital that parents understand and are supportive of the selection policy used. Any concerns with selection should be raised in the first instance with the Team Manager or Junior Committee. Social Media should not be used for airing complaints or issues, please communicate face to face, by phone or text/email with the relevant manager. More serious issues should be reported directly to the safeguarding team.

(Sarah Cameron & Paul Mercer).

Behaviour Expectations

We expect all our junior players to be motivated and committed to playing cricket and display appropriate behaviour when playing matches. This includes respecting coaches and other players either on their team or opposing teams. Being selected to represent Haslingden Cricket Club is a privilege not a right. As such it needs to be earned. Poor behaviour by players will not be tolerated and managers have the right to temporarily withdraw players from selection if this is the case.

All players, parents and coaches agree to adhere with the above selection principles set out by Haslingden Cricket Club.