



## **Wellington Collegians Junior Cricket Club Representative Team Selection Policy**

### **Rep teams**

Each year the Club selects one or more Rep teams to represent the Club at Year 7 and Year 8 level. Normally only one team is selected in each grade. However, in years where player numbers or player depth warrants it, the Club will pick more than one team to enter into the relevant competition.

The Rep team programme can be demanding with games often played on Sundays throughout the season. The games are generally a longer format than Saturday cricket and the Rep teams will usually also attend the Labour Weekend camp in Hawkes Bay.

### **Trials**

The Rep teams are selected at trials run by the Club. The trials will be held on a date or dates to be advised by the Club from year to year. Reserve dates may be booked as backup in the event that poor weather prevents a trial taking place.

More than one trial may be held at the Club's discretion.

Trials will be 'open' meaning any player who meets the relevant year group eligibility criteria is welcome to trial.

Trials will consist of some or all of: fielding drills, net sessions, open wicket sessions and matches against fellow trialists. In recent years the Club has favoured net sessions because they enable the selectors to see the players facing and bowling more deliveries, and demonstrating a wider range of fielding skills.

### **Eligibility to trial**

The following criteria apply for eligibility to participate in the trials. Players will:

1. be enrolled (and paid) to play for a Collegians team in the Year 6, Year 7 or Year 8 grades
2. trial for the year grade in which they are enrolled to play. In other words, players playing 'up' a year cannot trial for the year grade below them even though this may be their natural grade, and
3. confirm their commitment to attend all matches and practices (if selected).

The Club typically runs trials during Term 1 so that players have a chance to trial when they are playing regularly. The teams are selected and commence playing in Term 4. If trials are run in Term 4, the players are often coming in relatively 'cold' after the winter sports season which may see them trial below their best.

### **How Collegians selects its Rep teams:**

Selecting Rep teams is not easy in any sport. Often when selecting a squad of 12 (for example), there may be 7 or 8 players that stand out and then a further 8 to 10 that could all fill the final spots. Decisions have to be made and there will always be disappointments. The trial will be an important determining factor in selecting Collegians' Rep teams, but the selectors may also factor in previous performances, knowledge of the player and the balance of the team.

### **Selectors**

The Club will convene an independent selection panel. The exact make-up of the panel varies from year to year but typically includes people who have an association with the Club and who may have coached or be coaching in other year groups. The panel may also include the junior club's professional coach and/or an external selector if appropriate.

The Club aims to choose selectors who are independent and objective and who will make recommendations based on what they see at the trials. No member of the selection panel will be a parent, team coach or team manager of any trialing player.

### Format of Trials

Skills assessed at the trials	What is being looked for?
Fielding and catching	Ability to stay in position Ability to catch and throw Ability to field (backing up, throwing speed and accuracy)
Batting	Playing in the "V" Playing the right shots to the balls that are being delivered Ability to score runs Running between the wickets – backing up, communicating with partner, sliding bat (if the trial is a game scenario)
Bowling	Ability to bowl straight consistently Minimal wides and no balls Ability to take wickets

From Year 7 there can be some degree of specialisation. We begin to distinguish between batsmen and bowlers. Not everyone is going to be an all-rounder, so players who are not strong in both batting and bowling are not necessarily at a disadvantage to someone who is capable in both disciplines.

### Other assessment of players

The selectors may seek additional input on individual players from their prior season team coaches. This feedback might include information about:

- performance throughout the season
- attitude and application during the season's training sessions, passion for the game, openness to feedback/critique and ability to learn from feedback.

Players' statistics from CricHQ or their team's scorebook may be considered but the Club recognizes that statistics only tell part of the story.

If required, team coaches may be asked to meet the selectors and/or the Grade Coordinator to discuss players. This provides an opportunity for the coaches to highlight strengths and areas for development and provides the opportunity for the selectors to ask questions about technique and attitude etc.

### How many players are selected from the trials?

The size of the squads selected will depend on a number of factors such as how many Rep teams there will be in each year and the format of the Rep programme. For teams of 9 a side, a squad of between eleven and fourteen players will be selected following the trials. The final number will vary from year to year but the Club will endeavor to communicate this prior to the trials so there are clear expectations.

The objective is to select the best team for Collegians, so the selectors will be looking at the mix of the players to blend a team. While we will look for a wide variety of skills including batting, keeping, left and right handers, fast bowlers and spin bowlers, we recognize at this early age it is important to keep players' involvement high. Therefore, all players will be encouraged to bat and bowl and to do so in different situations (e.g. opening and finishing an innings).

### Rep team announcements

The selectors will meet shortly after the trials to finalise the squads, after which the selected names will be announced by email to all trialists. The Club will try to announce the squads within three days of the final trial.

Please note the decision of the selectors is final and not open to negotiation. Our selectors have a difficult job, and they choose the team in good faith and with the best interests of the Club at heart. We understand that players who miss out will be disappointed. This is inevitable, and we ask the parents to support the selectors and the decisions that are made, and to assist in managing their own child's expectations.

We regularly see players who miss out on selection in these early Rep teams come through in later years, including at College. This might be because they develop physically at different times or because their interest in the game increases over time.

## **Fees**

There are additional fees for players who are selected in the Rep teams which must be paid in order to be eligible to play. These vary from grade to grade and year to year and will be communicated to parents. As an indication, fees for 2018/2019 teams were \$60 for Year 7 and \$30 for Year 8. Additional fees apply to teams attending the Labour Weekend tournament in Hawkes Bay.

## **Coaches and managers**

The Club appoints coaches to its Rep teams. These are often but not exclusively parents of team members. Preference may be given to coaches with NZC recognised coaching qualifications.

The Coach will appoint a Manager, who is usually the parent of a team member.

## **When does the Rep team play?**

The Reps will generally play matches on Sunday and at least one tournament during the season. The fixtures are decided by Cricket Wellington year by year.

Rep players are expected to play for their year grade team on Saturday throughout the season as normal.

## **What happens if I don't make the Reps?**

Players not selected for the Reps will continue to play for their club year grade teams.

## **Wellington Collegians Junior Committee**

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