



# Clontarf Cricket Club – Youth Cricket Selection Policy

**Developing Good Human Beings is the first process of developing good Cricketers, and Building a Great Club**

## Purpose

This policy outlines the principles and approach for selecting youth players for fixtures at Clontarf Cricket Club. It aims to balance participation, development, and competitiveness in a fair and transparent manner.

## Scope

This policy applies to all youth teams participating in:

League Competitions (and friendly fixtures)

Cup Competitions (knockout format, culminating in a final)

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## 1. General Principles

- **Fairness & Opportunity:** Every player should have the opportunity to play matches, develop their skills, and enjoy the game.
  - **Commitment & Conduct:** Attendance at training, match availability and attitude will be considered in all selections.
  - **Player Development:** The Club supports the development of all players, recognising that different players develop at different rates.
  - **Merit Consideration for Cup Matches:** While age and commitment remain factors, player ability and performance will be key considerations in cup competition selection to ensure teams are competitive.
  - **Safety:** Safety is of paramount importance to all our youth players.
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## 2. League Competition Selection

**Objective:** Maximise participation and development opportunities for players within the age group, within reason.

- **Priority will be given to players within the correct age group** for that team. This will be applied at all times in **friendly matches**, and as a general rule in **league competition**, within reason.
- **Players from younger age groups may be selected in the following circumstances:**
  - To complete a team where needed
  - To provide an opportunity for exceptional development in limited instances.
  - Where safety is a concern based on the strength of the opposition.



- Depending on the stage of the league competition and CCC's league standing.
  - The goal is to ensure all players in the squad have the opportunity to play a fair number of games across the league season.
  - Managers will aim to rotate players where appropriate to maximise inclusivity and provide broad match experience.
  - Where the match situation permits, managers and coaches will endeavour to provide **batting and bowling opportunities** to as many players as possible over the course of the season.
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### 3. Cup Competition Selection

**Objective:** Field a competitive team with the best chance of progressing in the competition.

- Selection will be **based on merit**, taking into account:
    - Skill and performance
    - Match awareness
    - Physical readiness
    - Attitude, commitment, and teamwork
    - Safety of the individual player
  - Players from younger age groups **may be selected ahead of older players** where they are considered to provide a stronger contribution and balance to the team.
  - However, age group eligibility and player commitment (such as attendance at training and matches) will also be taken into account to ensure fairness and team balance.
  - The aim is to reflect the competitive nature of the cup format, while still upholding the Club's values of respect and inclusion.
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### 4. Manager Discretion and Flexibility

This policy is intended as a **guideline**, and it is ultimately at the **manager's discretion and judgement** to determine the appropriate mix of age, ability, commitment, and team balance for each match. Managers are trusted to apply this policy in the best interests of both the players and the team as a whole. Where a LEAD Manager is supported by Co-Managers, it is encouraged that the LEAD manager discusses matters arising among his or her co-managers.

### Other Subjective Factors to Consider

Selection decisions may also be influenced by a range of contextual and team-related factors, including but not limited to:



- Squad size and player availability
  - Strength and nature of the opposition
  - Team cohesion, morale, and camaraderie
  - Player enjoyment and engagement
  - Stage and format of the competition (e.g. league vs cup)
  - Effective team combinations and balance
  - Weather conditions
  - Suitability and condition of the ground
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## 5. Escalation

This policy is intended to guide managers in making fair and balanced selection decisions. However, in certain situations, a manager may need to escalate and consult for a second opinion on a matter related to youth team selections.

Escalation must take place prior to a team being selected and announced.

When escalation is required, the following hierarchy should be followed:

1. **Chair of Youth Cricket**
  2. **Chair of Cricket**
  3. **Chair of the Club**
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## Conclusion

This policy provides a **balanced and flexible framework** that supports participation and development in league and friendly matches while promoting competitiveness and high performance in cup competitions. It reflects the values of fairness, inclusion, and sporting ambition that define Clontarf Cricket Club.