

Midland-Guildford Cricket Club

Junior Development Program



www.mgcc.net.au

Introduction

The Midland-Guildford Cricket Club is the Premier club of choice for all talented and aspiring junior cricketers in the greater Midland, Swan Valley and Hills districts who are dedicated to playing cricket at a representative level and beyond.

Our Junior Development program provides an elite training environment for talented junior players, whereby the major goal is to maximise the development of each individual athlete to ensure their true potential is realised. Additionally, the program is geared towards improving the capacity of each individual player to contribute in a team environment.

Philosophies

- A holistic approach to player development;
- Emphasis on individual player development within a team context;
- Winning and ladder position are secondary to the development of our junior talent;
- MGCC coaches work in partnership with MGJCA clubs/coaches to develop and nurture talented players;
- Engagement of caregivers within the junior development program is vital



Objectives

- To select the most talented developing players available in our district *ie junior players who demonstrate the distinct attributes to progress into WACA Premier Cricket and/or High-Performance Cricket (International, First Class, List A and underage state/national cricket)*
- To create a club environment that fosters learning, enjoyment and positivity;
- To develop the skills, physical attributes, cricket knowledge and match awareness of all players;
- To provide opportunities to 'stretch' and challenge those juniors identified with exceptional talent;
- To liaise with WACA high performance coaching staff to ensure said talent is identified appropriately;
- To develop outstanding junior coaches in the Midland-Guildford district;
- To be transparent with parents/guardians in our approach and provide opportunities to involve junior parents in club activities and events.

Structure

Our Junior Development program is split into 6 key squads across boys' and girls' cricket, specifically:

Girls

Next Generation Girls Cricket Academy (10-17 years) +
Under 17's Female Premier Youth League (FPYL)



Boys

Under 13 - Inverarity Shield (11-12 years old) *
Under 14 - Graham McKenzie Shield
Under 15 – John McGuire Shield
Under 17 – Ted Hussey Shield

+ more information on the Girls Academy is provided on our website
* exceptional 10 year olds will be considered on a case by case basis

- Under 15 and 17 boys play on each Saturday morning of the season, prior to senior matches.
- Under 13 and 14 boys play on Sunday afternoons. Games are scheduled at regular intervals during the season (approximately once a fortnight)
- FPYL girls play on Sunday mornings throughout the season.

Junior Squad Selection

There are two ways that junior players aged 10 to 17 can be selected into one of our squads:

- 1) Players may either be nominated by their respective junior community club/school or self-nominate for consideration to be invited along by MGCC to our junior selection trials. These trials are usually held at the end of the preceding season, in late March and early April.

Prior to the first trial session, MGCC will provide clear instructions to players, their guardians, and with interested Community coaches to outline the trial process and the expectations around squad selections.

During the trial process, invited juniors will:

- undertake a range of testing and match scenario activities that will be assessed by a panel of coaches from the Club;
- receive feedback on their performance by the panel;
- be provided with advice on areas to improve on, and how to achieve this. This information will also be provided to the player's Community Club.

At the end of the trial process, players and guardians will be informed in writing, in a timely manner, of the outcome of the trial process. Selection at trials is very competitive and Community Clubs should only nominate those players they **strongly** believe meet the selection criteria (outlined in the next section below) and have a **realistic** chance of making the final squad.

To assist in selecting final squads, a Junior Selection Committee (JSC) comprising an experienced/retired senior MGCC cricketer and 2 others (one being the team coach), is formed. All members of this selection panel will have due regard to each player's Community and Premier cricket experience, as applicable.

- 2) Players can be added to junior squads at any time via a recommendation by MGCC appointed coaches or talent identification officers.

Selection Criteria for Junior Squads

To ensure suitability of a potential nominee, it is necessary for Community Clubs, players and guardians to understand what player attributes are looked upon favourably by our junior selection panel. We consider the following 6 criteria to be the most important when deciding whether a Community club should nominate a player to trial for one of our junior squads:

- 1) **Current season performances** – stats taken from MyCricket and comparisons against other Premier players
- 2) **Attitude/Temperament** – how coachable are they? Responsive to feedback? Like a challenge? Do they make good decisions?
- 3) **Commitment** – do they work hard? Do they want to improve? Are they a good 'team player'?
- 4) **Technique** – do they hit the ball straight? Do they play with soft hands? Can they spin or swing the ball well?
- 5) **Physiology** – are they big and strong? Do they bowl fast? Are they athletic? Can they run well?



- 6) **Potential** – did their parents play much sport? Maybe they are smaller or not as strong as their teammates and need time to grow?

Squad Sizes

- Squad size max 15 players for U13s and U14s (+ country players). Max 3 'train on' may be selected for each team.
- Squad size max 15 players for U15s, U17s and FPYL (+ country/PSA players). Further 'train on' may be selected.
- **Train-on players** will still receive the same level of coaching as the rest of the squad, however will be ineligible for match selection in all but the most extraordinary of circumstances, such as the squad being affected by injury or illness.
- All junior players are expected to also play Community Cricket or represent their school, as appropriate.
- In the younger age groups (U13's and 14's), each player (except train-on players) will be selected for a **minimum of 4 matches** during the season to provide suitable development opportunities for all players.
- Whilst there is no rule governing the minimum number of matches in the older age groups, the intention of player development that underpins the program, dictates that players will be provided with sufficient opportunities to enhance their skills during matches, at an appropriate level.
- Whilst players can be stretched by playing higher grades of junior or senior cricket than they are ordinarily eligible for, players should not be selected across more than one Premier junior grade in the same round.
- Players from outside the squad may be added during the season if there is a need to increase the squad size or they would likely benefit from additional training.

Country Players

- The Club has a proud history of supporting regional WA and is committed to providing opportunities for talented junior players from these regional areas who are looking to engage with the Premier and/or Representative cricket pathway.
- While the preference will always be for regional players to complete the junior trials process, suitable regional cricketers identified by either WACA or MGCC staff can be invited to trial at a later date and added to our junior squads at any time.
- Certain allowances are provided by the Club to regional players. These are discussed on a case by case basis with the individual player's family, in consultation with the Club's Director of Cricket Operations and Management Committee.

Coaching

- The Club's overarching coaching philosophies are prescribed by the respective Heads of Coaching for Male and Female cricket, in concert with the Director of Cricket Operations and Management Committee. Our junior coaches align closely with these philosophies to ensure we have a whole club approach to coaching and development.
- Reduced squad sizes ensure that appropriate levels of coaching are available for all players in the squad, which in turn provides additional development opportunities for these players.
- Each junior squad comprises of a Head Coach, Assistant Coach and Team Manager appointed by the Club.
- The Head Coach of each junior squad is Representative Coach accredited (RCA), or working towards this accreditation.
- All coaches and Club appointed personnel who interact with junior players have a current Working with Children check, or are exempt from this requirement under law.

