



## ECC JUNIOR TEAM SELECTION POLICY

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The club aims to field junior teams of appropriate numbers (capped at 15). The club has a firm commitment to give primary consideration to the following criteria in U11, U13 & U15 age groups.

- To maintain stable teams as much as possible moving through the age groups
- To accommodate friends who wish to play together in the same team as far as possible.

Placing players into teams in junior sport is always a complicated process and never an exact science. It cannot be planned ahead to any great extent as numbers are never known until registration is finalised. While the club aims to satisfy all the players and parents, it is not always possible to achieve this and we urge people to remember that players join a club not a particular team.

Cricket teams are grouped in two-year age blocks. Edinburgh has a policy of trying to place players with their friends when players first join at U11 & U13 age groups. The club follows this policy (rather than allocating players to teams on a strictly date-of-birth basis) because we understand that joining a new club can be daunting and joining with friends often makes this process easier. It needs to be understood however that, although the club places priority on keeping teams together, we cannot give any guarantee for subsequent seasons as the consequence of this policy is that players in a particular team can vary in age quite appreciably.

To support this, the club has a policy aimed at fostering a sense of belonging to the club so that, from their first year, the players get to know the players in other teams in their age group. This is one of the reasons that training is conducted in age-groups rather than on a team-by-team basis. In the event that players in a team from one season have to be moved around the next season, the club hopes that they will already be familiar with many of their new team mates. Thus, although we understand it may be disappointing, we hope that it will become an opportunity to make new friends. The most usual circumstance (but not the only one) that can cause difficulties in maintaining team stability is when the players in a particular team get to the point where they straddle two age levels and this can often have a knock-on effect on other team's structures.

### **Age groups:**

The cut off date for playing in cricket teams is 31<sup>st</sup> August. Thus in any particular season,

If you are aged 10 or under on 31<sup>st</sup> August, you are an U11 player

If you are aged 11 or 12 on 31<sup>st</sup> August, you are an U13 player

If you are aged 13 or 14 on 31<sup>st</sup> August, you are an U15 player

If you are aged 15 or 16 on 31<sup>st</sup> of August you are an U17 player

Each age group in the HDCA is divided into two divisions: Green (lower) and Gold (higher). At Edinburgh the progression through the divisions is age-based rather than ability-based. That is, bottom-age players play in green and top-age players play in gold.

**Under 17:** This is the only age group where it is possible, at the discretion of the club, that players will be graded into teams on the basis of ability provided that the club is fielding teams in both green and gold divisions.



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### **Players playing above age grouping:**

In principle the club will allow players to play above their age group (or above/below level within an age-group) under the following conditions:

1. There are places available in the team that they wish to join without exceeding the cap (15 players)
2. It will not result in the team they would be leaving having too few players to be viable (less than 13 players)
3. Priority is given to players who are applying to play out of age group (or level) in order to remain with their team from the prior season
4. Parents, coaches and the club must agree that the player will not be out of their depth playing against older age group (or level) opponents. The club wants players to enjoy their cricket and not to become demoralised.
5. Once players have changed age/level team, in subsequent seasons they will only be able to move back again if **a)** there is room in the original age/level team and **b)** it will not leave the new age/level team with too few players. NB players who were asked by the club to play at a different level for whatever reason and players covered by point 3 will have priority in relation to changing their level/age group.

### **Order of placement into particular teams:**

Provided the club is able to field a team in the relevant age group/level, players who register and pay by the stated deadlines will be guaranteed a place in the club (not into a particular team).

Unfortunately from time to time, not enough players return or register in a particular age group (or level) to allow a team to be fielded. Every effort will be made (following the guidelines above) to accommodate those returning players who find themselves without a team however, if other teams are full it may not always be possible. The club will endeavour to let players know as soon as possible if this is the case.

All players returning from the previous season who register by the deadline announced by the club will be accommodated in teams before a) any new player, b) any player registering late or c) any player returning from season's not immediately past (other than cases where the club has agreed prior to the absence, to hold a place. Examples of this would be in cases of injury or prolonged travel).

For this reason it is important to keep the club up to date with any email changes. Whilst the club makes every effort to contact all players from the prior season, it is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to ensure that they are aware of the registration deadlines and submit registrations on time. These dates should be available from the club before the end of July. Parents/Guardians should contact the club if they have heard nothing by then.