



## **Playing representative cricket with IWHJCA**

Representative cricket is a great experience for talented young cricketers – it provides early experience in the potential pathway to senior representative cricket such as Green Shield, NSW Premier Cricket, and ultimately NSW and Australia teams.

Representative cricket is very different to club cricket: Teams play to win, and to use all the tactics and team strengths to achieve that. This competitive approach means that unlike club cricket, equal participation for players is **not** a goal for coaches.

## **Selection process**

The selection process is competitive. At the trials, players cannot rely on their statistics from previous seasons for selection. Independent assessors – skilled cricketers or coaches from other associations – watch the players at the trials and the assessor scores and notes are used for final squad selection, along with any other information selectors think is relevant. In some cases, the trials take two phases, with some players from the first trial invited to return for further assessment at a second trial.

Team selection strives to build a competitive team with players selected to provide the necessary skills balance and to perform specific specialist roles. In the end it may not be a question of a player not being “good enough” to be in the team, it may be that another player is better suited to team needs.

Coaches work on the final squad selection with the association’s representative cricket sub-committee. Discussions in that selection process remain confidential.

## **Representing IWHJCA**

Playing representative cricket is a privilege, and we require all selected players and their parents to keep this in mind during selection trials and as they join coaches and managers in representing IWHJCA.

The following pages include our Code of Conduct, what happens if our rules are breached, and a guide for parents. We hope reading these guidelines and rules will help players and supporters alike.

For most people reading this, the principles in the following pages will already be part of their cricket experience:

Be fair, be supportive, and if faced with a choice, do the right thing!



## Code of Conduct

All players, parents, coaches and supporters of Inner West Harbour Junior Cricket Association teams are expected to act within our Code of Conduct at all times when representing the association.

By committing to be a part of an IWHJCA team, players, parents and supporters (our *representatives*) agree to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with shared values and to abide by our Code of Conduct while representing the association on game days and at training or social functions, while being hosted at opposition clubs, and while wearing IWHJCA colours.

## Objective of the Code

We seek to ensure that all representatives behave in the true spirit, traditions and within the rules of the game, showing respect to one another, spectators, opposing players, coaches and umpires.

## Breaches

No representative bound by this Code of Conduct should engage in disorderly or improper conduct or behaviour. This behaviour includes, but is not restricted to:

- Assaulting (or attempting to assault) or verbally abusing an umpire, player, coach, spectator or NSW Cricket/IWHJCA representative.
- Disputing, as distinct from questioning, an umpire’s decision, or reacting in an obviously provocative manner towards an umpire;
- Using crude or abusive language, or hand signals or other gestures.
- Engaging in any conduct or act towards -- or speak to -- any person in a manner which offends, insults, humiliates or vilifies that person on the basis of that person’s race, religion, sexuality, gender, colour, descent or ethnic origin.
- Accusing any selector, umpire, coach, manager or player of bias of any form.
- Engaging in any other form of conduct or behaviour detrimental to the spirit of the game.

The team manager will be the **sole** judge of whether behaviour falls in the above categories. During games, it is the responsibility of the captain to ensure that players in the team comply with the Code of Conduct.

## Immediate actions

Breaches of this code will be reported to the IWHJCA judiciary committee for consideration and action. However, team managers have the right (and responsibility) to take immediate action during a game should they believe it necessary.

The team manager may take a range of actions, depending on the severity of the breach in the sole



opinion of the manager. These range from warnings to exclusion from the ground.

In all cases the team manager should not discuss the issue any further with the supporter in breach.

## **A guide for parents and carers**

Congratulations on your player’s selection to representative cricket.

If you are new to ‘rep’ cricket, these notes will help explain the commitment and expectations of supporters and players.

You will soon find that the commitment and concentration required by your player during the season will in some ways be matched by your efforts supporting your player and the team.

### **How to support rep cricket:**

- Understand that selection of representative teams is based on individual merit and team balance, and players may not get an equal “go”.
- Accept that the coach – and the coach alone – will determine batting and bowling orders and fielding positions. In older age groups (U14, U15), the coach will consult with the captain.
- Please do not approach selectors or IWHJCA Committee members regarding the selection or non-selection of players.
- Any queries about any aspect of selections, tactics, or other issues should be directed through the team manager, preferably by email (do not contact the coach!). Please be patient – managers are volunteers, and you may not get an immediate answer.
- Players in group sessions with the coach (such as pre-game and post- game huddles, or similar sessions at training) should not be distracted. Please do not join in!

Parents are expected to be aware of IWHJCA Rules regarding player commitment, including availability for training, trial matches and competition matches.

Your team manager will provide ample information and weekly requests for support – please do your best to support your player and the team. The effort is always repaid with good friendships and shared experiences.



## Your player:

Your child can only follow one set of instructions at a time – if they have serious representative aspirations and wish to succeed in this environment, that set of instructions will come from the coaches / selectors.

By all means find out what instructions are being given so that you can positively reinforce these at home or in private net sessions, but don't give instructions that conflict with the coaches / selectors – you will jeopardise your player's chances of selection if they are seen to ignore coaching instructions.

You may also need to remind your player of some simple playing guidelines that become golden rules in rep cricket. The rules are based on common sense, and on being fair and kind to your teammates, opposition and coaches.

Being a good player brings rewards, being a good **team** player makes every reward better.

- Turn up on time, in the right gear – always. It is your responsibility to achieve this modest goal, not your parents.
- There is only one captain. You can make suggestions quietly to the captain, but you must not direct fielders to change positions without the captain's *prior* agreement.
- Follow the directions of your coach and captain. Assume those directions apply continuously unless told otherwise – you can always ask to be sure.
- No one deliberately drops a catch, misfields, or bowls a poor delivery. It is never OK to criticise that player. It is always OK to support the player.
- Sledging – the deliberate personal verbal assault on a batter – is not OK. Negative comments to anyone – including the other team and umpires – will not be tolerated.
- Train as you intend to play. When the coach is running serious drills, you will train seriously. The only time for relaxing and horsing about is when the coach clearly says so.
- When their team is batting, players should regularly show their support for the batting pair. This means staying close to the action and being aware of what's happening on the field.
- Finally, players should do their best to encourage teammates to follow these rules, too.

Repeated breaches of any of these rules may result in non-selection and may also be reported to the IWHJCA representative cricket committee. The committee will inevitably take this into account when selecting teams in future years.