

## **Age Group Manager Role at Teddington CC**

Managing an Age Group is one of the most rewarding roles a parent can play at Teddington, and can really add to the enjoyment of watching your child learning and enjoying cricket.

It is hard work, but guiding a whole year group of children and seeing their progress through the years is an amazing and fulfilling experience.

The role itself is quite flexible and can appeal to parents with many different skill-sets. Some Age Group Managers bring cricket playing and coaching experience; others excel at administration and marketing; some bring leadership or networking skills; others simply bring a great rapport with kids. Your success is dependent on your enthusiasm and your ability to enthuse and involve other parents like you.

Each age group runs semi-autonomously within a structure of coaching and competitive matches overseen by the Director of Junior Cricket at Teddington. From U8 upwards there will be a programme of League matches (League fixtures are organised for you but you will need to confirm and move them if necessary), and you have the opportunity to arrange other matches and take part in multi-team festivals. You will contribute to training sessions and work with the coaches to ensure that your children receive the coaching they need.

You will need to be a great communicator and someone who can think on their feet. You need to be calm, approachable, enthusiastic and have a smile on your face. You will need to be available to answer parents' queries during the season.

### **What do I do in the role?**

You won't do everything yourself – delegation is a key skill – but for the Age Group to run smoothly the following need to get done:-

#### **Leading**

You will be the face of the age-group, easily identifiable to kids and parents as the go-to person.

#### **Communicating with other parents**

You are the main communication point for the age group. How you do this is up to you. A weekly email round-up is a great way to keep parents up to date – we have some examples that you can copy or use for inspiration. Whatsapp plays an increasingly prominent role in running some groups.

You also need to communicate the ethos of the Club - what we are trying to achieve and how each individual child and family fits into this picture.

### **Representing the Club**

The Age Group Manager is the friendly face of Teddington CC when dealing with other clubs. You will confirm fixtures and arrangements for the match, welcome them to the Club, ensure that there are biscuits and squash available for the break, and be their go-to person for any operational issues during their visit.

### **Representing the Age Group**

You will represent the Age Group on the Junior Committee and in other coaching and organisational club meetings. You may represent the Club at League meetings.

### **Getting the match on and match management**

Running a match is a key responsibility. For a home match, you need to ensure your opposition are coming and you have a pitch to play on. You need an Umpire and a Scorer. You need stumps, boundary markers, a ball and a scoreboard.

You may choose to do some of these yourself or delegate them to another one of the parents - it doesn't matter, they just need to get done! One of the more quirky things to organise at Teddington is clearing deer poo off the pitch!

### **Coaching**

You don't need to have been a cricketer, but if you have played or been around school, university or club cricket in the past, it certainly helps. If you would like to help out with coaching, there are a variety of ECB courses available which can help you on this journey. A coaching qualification will help you work with the kids - both during matches and during coaching sessions throughout the year.

### **Selection**

You will select sides for the various Leagues and friendlies, balancing the need for coaching with children's (and parents') desire for matches. Most groups operate a rotation policy, giving large numbers of kids suitable exposure to competitive cricket. Sometimes there will be difficult conversations with parents to be had about why their child has missed out on selection.

### **Umpiring**

Umpiring correctly, clearly and fairly is vital. You will need to discuss umpiring approach (and levels of leniency in younger or development groups). In the younger groups you

will probably set fields and help the children out with bowling changes and strategy. If nothing else, umpires get the best view of the game!

### **Scoring**

Every match needs a scorer. You are likely to need volunteers for this. It is possible to score electronically or using traditional pen and paper. If there is sufficient interest, the club can organise a training session over a few drinks!

### **Social events, catering and fundraising**

Social events are the lifeblood of the year group, making a significant contribution to the group staying together over the years. You may be the social organiser – or you can probably find a fellow parent to run this part of your group. The Club is fundraising for the new Pavilion and each Age Group needs its own fundraising organiser.

### **Child Protection**

Any incidents on or off the field need to be dealt with and then reported to the Child Welfare Officer. This can range from on-field injuries to bullying or bad behaviour - even by adults! You need to be approachable and calm when dealing with incidents.

Every adult involved with the Club needs a current DBS check to the levels required by the ECB (England and Wales Cricket Board). This is very easy to obtain and can be organised via the Child Welfare Officer.

If you are interested in becoming an Age Group Manager – or would simply like to help out – please do get in touch.