

The Teddington Way - Parents

As a junior section in an amateur cricket club we have 2 main purposes: 1) To be a fair, inclusive and transparent club who gives everyone a go with equal opportunities, and 2) To help each player reach their full potential. While this stage in your child's cricketing experience is a fantastic time, it does have associated challenges.

The areas the TCC Junior Committee want to share with you are:

The objectives from U5-U8 junior cricket at Teddington CC

The objectives from U9-U11 junior cricket at Teddington CC

The objectives of U12-U15 junior cricket at Teddington CC

Our outlook on match play

Our approach to selection

Actions before and during match play

Value of training

The objectives from U5-U8 junior cricket at Teddington CC

At these age groups the main emphasis is providing children with a fun and active involvement in cricket. As children progress through these age groups they will be more equipped to start playing cricket matches, but in their more formative cricket years they will play games and activities that enhance discrete batting, bowling and fielding skills. By the end of this period, they should have the building blocks necessary to start playing more competitive matches.

The objective of u9-u11 junior cricket at Teddington CC

Simply it's to inspire this age group to love the game of cricket, to love both training and learning and to begin to understand the values/benefits of playing cricket at a club such as TCC.

We want to build a learning, supportive and social environment that gives equal opportunities for young players to learn the skills of learning, to develop their cricket specific technical skills and to have a set of foundation skills that help prepare them for when the game gets faster, harder and more competitive, to participate in healthy sporting activities and to build friendships with players within the club.

The objective of U12-U15 junior cricket at Teddington CC

Generally, by 12-15 years of age children will reduce the amount of sports they play and focus on a couple of sports that they take more seriously. The development of the children remains paramount, but the competitive nature of the games will increase and there are more likely to be competitions, especially at U15, where teams will be selected on ability. However, there will be competitions where all abilities will compete. The main aim within these age groups will be development. If players are thought to be ready to play above their age level, then this will be reviewed on an individual basis.

Our outlook on match play

Our main objective in playing games is in development and learning. Children will naturally play with a winning attitude; however, we want to ensure they play to win with an understanding, and within a supportive, encouraging and learning environment. Winning is naturally important to the players but it is not the be all and end all. We value effort, performance and sportspersonship over winning.

Our approach to selection

We will try to select an appropriately competitive and balanced team where possible, but we will also balance that with giving boys and girls throughout the age group match exposure.

Your Age Group Manager (AGM) is working hard to ensure that everyone - including the

opposition - gets a good game and is tested appropriately. We want as many players as possible to get a good amount of match exposure at the right level. Please trust and help your AGM to manage this process.

There are lots of different types of matches - League matches, Cup matches and Friendlies. Some matches are in a Development League, which will feature a larger number of less experienced players. There are also friendlies, where the standard will vary.

Your AGM will try to ensure that less able players are not exposed at an inappropriate level. However, he will attempt to push your child's learning by getting them to play at a level that challenges them.

Please respect the AGM, because it is not an easy job and they are volunteers who are doing their best by the children playing in the team. If you have an issue, please speak to them respectfully so you can work together to come to a resolution which benefits the cricket development of your child.

Before, during and after match play

Matches are a fantastic experience, both for the children themselves and for their parents (and other relatives!). Your children will undoubtedly want to share what happened and discuss events in the match with you. It is a fantastic opportunity for a shared family experience and learning for your child.

Please therefore make every effort to attend the match yourself and to stay around to support your child and the other adults running the match. Teddington Cricket Club appreciates that everyone has busy lives, but if you are able to stay and support then this is strongly encouraged.

Before the match

Please be clear about availability and respond to availability invitations from your AGM quickly

Please make every effort to meet on time

Please help the AGM set up the match

Please ensure your child is there in time to warm up with their team-mates

During the match

Encourage your child to watch the game they are playing so they support the team and understand the situation they will be batting/bowling in

Do volunteer to score (it's not that hard!) or lend the AGM a hand - this may simply mean encouraging the kids to watch.

After the match

Please help clear the equipment away.

Please do stay, socialise, have a drink, let the children play some more in an unstructured and free-way. It's a great way for players and parents to develop new friendships.

Please stay until the end of the game. Even if your child has finished their direct involvement in the game, please stay and support your team.

Value of training

Cricket can be a technically difficult game. It is important to develop skills to ensure that the players are improving and able to perform the way they want to when they are 13-15 years old and to then install good habits in learning and technical efficiency to help players express themselves and to be able to excel in adult/older age teams too. Also due to the nature of cricket, batters may only face 10-15 balls in a game, and only bowl 12 balls in a 2-3 hour game. Compared to a 2 hour training session where in a batting drill they may play in excess of 70 balls (in a net they only get to face approx. 25-30 balls every 10 mins) and they would

get to bowl 30 to 40 deliveries with a focus and learning objective. Although children understandably want to play games, please encourage them to train and develop their skills.

Finally

The Coaching Team and the Age Group Managers are really enjoying working with your children as they develop their skills, and we are proud of everything that they achieve. We have a brilliant group of children and supportive parents and relatives, both of which are essential for the future of the Club and the wider sport.