



Prestwich Cricket Club



Club Policy – Selection

This policy outlines how players are selected for recreational cricket matches, ensuring the process is fair, transparent, inclusive, and prioritises welfare, particularly of young people and vulnerable adults.

Scope

This policy applies to:

- All age-group and senior teams
- Players, parents, coaches, captains, and club volunteers
- Both league and friendly fixtures

Principles of Fair Selection

Selections will be based on the following principles:

- **Player Welfare First:** Consideration is given to physical, mental, and emotional readiness, especially for juniors playing up in senior teams.
- **Ability and Attitude:** Selections reflect a balance between current performance, effort, teamwork, and development potential.
- **Equal Opportunity:** All eligible players should have fair access to selection opportunities, regardless of age, gender, background, or ability.
- **Player Development:** Clubs should aim to support long-term player growth by offering appropriate game time across the season.
- **Team Balance:** Selection considers team structure (batting, bowling, fielding balance) and fixture level.
- **Safeguarding:** ECB guidance on managing children, mixed age play and safeguarding must always be followed.

Selection Criteria

Selections may take into account the following:

- Attendance at training and matches
- Commitment to the club and team spirit
- Player conduct (on and off the field)
- Availability and fitness
- Development needs (e.g. juniors gaining experience)
- Inclusion targets (e.g. women and girls' participation, disability cricket)

****Note: Selection is not solely performance-based. A holistic view is encouraged.****

Selection Process

- Selection decisions are made by a designated selection panel, which may include team captains, lead coaches, and junior coordinators.
- For junior sections, decisions must be made with input from Club Safeguarding Officers and ECB age guidance.
- Selections should be recorded and, where necessary, communicated sensitively to players and parents.
- Parents should not be involved in selecting teams their children are part of. This will avoid conflict of interest.

Communication

- Selection decisions should be shared with players in a timely, respectful manner.
- Feedback should be available to players on request, especially when a player is not selected.
- Social media and messaging platforms (e.g. WhatsApp) must be used appropriately and in line with club safeguarding policies.

Appeals or Concerns

If a player or parent has concerns about a selection decision:

- They may raise it initially with the team coach or manager.
- If unresolved, the matter can be referred to the Club Safeguarding Officer for safeguarding or inclusion concerns.
- A respectful, private conversation will always be prioritised over public complaints or group discussions

Policy Review

This policy should be:

- Reviewed annually by the Club Committee in consultation with the Club Safeguarding Officer
- Updated in line with ECB guidance or when safeguarding issues arise