



Saffron Walden Cricket Club (the "Club") - Selection Policy



1. Selection Committee (seniors)

The Selection Committee shall consist of the Chairman of Selectors and team captains. The Academy Co-ordinator and the Club Captain appointed by the AGM may also attend. If the Club appoints a cricket manager he shall be entitled to serve on the Selection Committee. If necessary, the Chairman shall have the casting vote. It is an expectation of captaincy that captains shall attend Selection Committee on a regular basis and seek to establish player availability before the meeting. If necessary a captain may nominate one of his team to represent him at Selection Committee.

The Committee shall meet on Monday evenings throughout the playing season. They will apply the following principles in arriving at their decisions:

1. The Club seeks to play cricket at the highest appropriate level and to be competitive in all games (with the exception of social games or cricket weeks when other criteria might apply). It will always field the strongest side available at each level.
2. It expects each playing member to play at the highest level of which they are capable but acknowledges that some players may wish to play below that level for a variety of reasons - in which case this must be made clear to the Chairman of Selectors.
3. Where availability is greater than the number of places available the committee shall consider commitment to training and other factors before making their decision.
4. Those who have not paid their subscriptions cannot expect to play.
5. Some competitions define who may play and who may not play (e.g. Overseas players).
6. The Spirit of Cricket is a preamble to the Laws of the game and takes a high priority in the ethos of the Club. Contravention of the Spirit of Cricket by any player may affect his chances of selection.

Any player with a grievance or other concern about selection shall be entitled to place his grievance or concern before the Committee provided the Chairman is given 5 days' notice. In the Academy this role will be taken by the Academy Director.

The membership fee is to cover the costs of equipment, insurance, coaching and use of club facilities. It does not guarantee selection for teams. Competitive team selection is made on merit. Fully paid up members will receive priority for selection. Attendance at training is not necessarily a criterion for selection where there are good reasons. Players who receive training/coaching elsewhere (e.g. school, county) shall not be expected to attend although attendance wherever possible is advised as a sign of commitment to the squad. Winter training can also clash with other sporting activities and this is acknowledged.

All players shall be nominally allocated to a team squad at the beginning of the season. Allocation shall be based on a player's ability as well as his or her ambition. This will indicate to the player how the club views his or her ability. However, players will need to be prepared to play up or down from that squad if it is in the best interests of the Club (e.g. they will play up if places become available and they may be asked to play down if demand for places outstrips the number of places available). There may also be occasions, particularly towards the end of a season, where a lower team in contention for honours may be strengthened at the expense of a higher team with no such prospect, consistently with the rules of the league). Squad membership shall be kept under constant review.

The Committee shall maintain an availability list and this responsibility shall be allocated to a member of the Committee. ALL players are expected to advise their captains or a member of the Committee of their availability before 6pm on a Monday evening. If this is not done they cannot expect to be selected. Advance notice of holidays or other commitments should be given to the Committee as far in advance as possible. The Committee shall consider all senior teams including u16 particularly where matches coincide.

Some junior players may be invited to play for adult teams both within the Club and for local village sides who are in partnership with the Club (see below).

In senior sides (from u16 upwards) the primary purpose shall be to win games with balanced sides in which all members will have a reasonable chance of batting or bowling. It is acknowledged, however, that in successful sides there is always a risk that players may not bat or bowl in a particular game.

2. Selection (Academy)

In Academy sides a greater emphasis shall be placed on participation notwithstanding the need to ensure that all age groups remain in contention for league or cup honours. It is the Club's wish to field at least two sides for each age group in order to maximise the opportunities for participation. A traditional model of a stronger A side and a B side shall be the default model in each group but managers shall consider other models if the strengths of their respective squads and leagues require

this. Once decided the structure shall be explained to players (and parents if appropriate).

Selection shall be made by managers who will take full account of the views of the lead squad coach. Parents and players are expected to notify managers as far in advance as possible of non-availability so that participation can be properly planned. The rules of certain competitions restrict who can and cannot play and managers, parents and players are expected to familiarise themselves with these regulations (eg. Girls may play in the same team as boys two years above their age group, in Cambridgeshire leagues players may not play for two teams in the same age group in one week). In order to maximise participation, managers will endeavour to promote the important role of '12th Man'. A 12th man can be rotated in to the team during a match with the agreement of the opposing manager although may not be able to bat or bowl.

Selection for junior teams is made not just on ability. Positive attitude and a clear understanding of the Spirit of Cricket are also important. As responsible adults we also have to take into account safety and be sure that players can compete in a hard ball game without risking their own safety or the safety of others. Full account will be taken of ECB Fast Bowling Directives and this may require players to be rested from time to time. The Club will not knowingly disregard any over-playing directive. Where it is felt that young players are playing too much irrespective of any directive, full account will be taken of the wishes of the parents and the player in question.

For those who have the appropriate level of ability and attitude, the Club is also able to recommend players to District and full county level both in Essex and Cambridgeshire. Players may play for other clubs or teams but priority should always be given to the Club's sides.

Coaches may require players of certain ability and aptitude to play up an age group. This will particularly apply to u15s who may be asked to play at u16 in order to ensure the strongest possible side in the Matchplay competition. If this is the case they will advise the relevant team managers. In such cases the coaches will balance the needs of the individual player with the needs of their peers' age group squad where the player is likely to be a good role model as well as providing strength to the squad. Managers may also ask players from a lower age group to play in their side if availability necessitates it. The age-group manager should be informed but the decisions whether or not to play rests with the player and her/his family. It does NOT rest with the age group manager.

Representative players (e.g. County or District) should be encouraged to play up an age group but should not be obliged to do so and neither should they do so to the exclusion of their own age group where they are outstanding role models. Such players or players at boarding school who cannot attend Academy squad training

should not be penalised in terms of selection provided the manager and coach have some reassurance that they are training and playing regularly elsewhere

Young players aspiring to play adult cricket should identify themselves to the Committee through the Academy Co-ordinator (who will seek also to be proactive in this respect). Players accepted into this pool shall have appropriate mental, physical and technical qualities but willingness and enthusiasm will also be important. Arrangements will be made with other clubs locally to ensure the maximum opportunity is available for young players to gain experience of senior cricket. Such clubs will have appropriate child welfare policies in place (including a nominated Child Welfare Officer) and young players shall expect to be played as an equal member of the team and captains shall make every effort to ensure that they are used as such.

Young players shall train and play in their age groups unless their coach, in consultation with the Club Coach, decides otherwise. However they shall never train or play with a higher age group to the exclusion of their own age group.

For ages 5-10, coaches may decide to allocate players to a higher or lower age group for coaching purposes. However, at age 10, whenever they start playing with a hard ball and/or start secondary school, they shall resume coaching and playing exclusively with their age group. In such cases parents, team managers and coaches shall work together to integrate such young players back in to their age group. From u11 players shall only play up if they are officially county standard or if our Club Coach deems them to be. Only u13 players can play in open age, senior cricket. In exceptional cases a county coach may ask the club to consider an u12 for selection to a senior side. In all cases the decision of the Club Coach is final.

The Academy Co-ordinator shall be responsible for introducing players into senior sides. Once selected, captains will be expected to allocate a mentor from the team to support the integration of the young player into the senior sides.

Any player or his or her family with a concern over selection should raise it initially with the captain or team manager. If this fails to resolve the problem then the Academy Co-ordinator should be approached and may intervene.

Reviewed May 2019