

## EMTCC – Junior Participation Policy

### Background:

This document outlines the principles by which player participation (and team selection) is managed by EMTCC for each age group within the junior age groups – providing the framework by which decisions are made by volunteer coaches and coordinators.

As a club, EMTCC is committed to providing an opportunity for our boys and girls to develop a love for cricket, playing within a club environment which promotes inclusion, participation, personal development, and fun, combined with an understanding of the value of team sport and competition in helping our girls and boys become more complete players and individuals.

### Overarching Objectives:

EMTCC is committed to providing a cricketing experience for all players which allows them to:

1. Enjoy the fundamental ‘cricketing experience’ – being part of a team, playing with and for other members, and being part of the community of cricket... whilst having fun doing so;
2. Objectively develop their skills as a cricketer – learning the craft of the game, and as they progress through the age groups, become more confident and capable cricketers;
3. Participate and contribute to the team in which they play;
4. Celebrate individual and team success – in whatever form that takes. For some players success may be simply taking a catch or a wicket, or scoring one boundary; regardless we will acknowledge the individual for their achievements.
5. Enjoy the competition, and strive for individual and team success; but not at the expense of (1)-(4). Regardless of success, EMTCC players and teams are gracious in victory and defeat.

At the end of each season, our objective is that each player has developed their skills, become a better cricketer, has enjoyed their time playing for the EMTCC; and is looking forward to playing again next season. Team success is a target, but player development, enjoyment, and retention drives our success, not the other way around.

### Expectations of Player and Parents:

EMTCC provides a supportive, inclusive, and fun environment for all members of our community to enjoy cricket, and to develop as players. Our fundamental expectation of Coaches is that they will provide a safe and enjoyable environment for their players – but one with a clear sense of players’ mutual obligation to each other and the club.

EMTCC asks that players will make a commitment to themselves and the club to themselves as a cricketer by:

- Attending training and games (and informing team members/coaching staff if other commitments make that not possible)
- Adhering to team rules of behavior – especially in regards to playing the game in the correct spirit; where we celebrate success, respecting the umpires’ decisions, and supporting our teammates and opponents.
- Where possible, participate in other club activities

EMTCC recognizes the key role which parents play in supporting our players – not just getting their children to training/games, but also in the key roles of coaches, team managers, and game day volunteers. Parents are

pivotal in displaying the behavior we expect of our players – and are expected to conduct themselves in a manner which reflects the club’s ethos. The more involvement we have from parents, the better our club, and the more development each and every player will experience each season

### **Participation and Development Objectives by Age Group:**

#### **Blasters:**

Fun and Participation – All players are introduced to the game of cricket in an inclusive, supporting, and enjoyment focussed environment. All participants are involved in games and activities equally – no scores or statistics are kept... and the players learn the fundamentals of cricket through play.

#### **Girls Stage 1 and 2, Boys Under 11:**

**Participation and Enjoyment** – Equal participation (regardless of skill development) in a team environment.

Players join teams for the first time, but all members of the team will be given equal opportunity to bowl (via rotation), and bat (fixed number of balls faced) – as well as experiencing time in all positions of the field, and be the nominated captain of the team. Some teams will require all players to rotate off the field, and this will be done equally for all players, regardless of skill.

Players will train and play in a team, which will have a variety of skill and experience level, but teams will also be selected with some consideration of school and friendship groups, as well as the age of participants.

Coaching will focus on the broad skills of cricket (batting, bowling, and fielding), and introduce players to ‘cricket craft’ in a fun environment – but one which is developed around a game between two teams.

#### **Girls Under 16, Boys Under 13:**

**Player Development and Enjoyment** – We still remain very focussed on players having fun with their friends, but with the understanding that they can now be dismissed when batting (so equality of opportunity with the bat becomes the objective, not equity of balls faced). This requires a greater focus on each player competing to the best of their ability, and for the coach to arrange the team such that all players have the greatest opportunity to participate at their level.

All players will still have the opportunity to contribute to their team in batting, bowling, and fielding – players will be rotated through positions in batting and bowling order, and be encouraged to explore their potential in all aspects of cricket.

Our coaching and training focus will remain on foundation technical skills (the ability to bat and bowl with good technique, as well as how to catch and throw). Teams will be selected to ensure they are competitive in the grade to which they are allocated – with a clear distinction between the older/more experienced/more developed players in higher grades, but all players (where possible) in a team and competition which best suits their level of development.

As players progress into their second (or third) year of U13, they may begin to focus on a specialised position, but players of all experience and skill levels are accommodated

Teams will rotate the role of captain – and the designated captain is supported by the team’s coach(es).

### **Boys Under 15:**

**Specialisation, enjoyment, and cricket craft** – At this age, players are likely to have identified an affinity with one or more of the classic player roles (top-order batter, bowler, wicketkeeper, all rounder) – and as such coaching and development will focus on them refining these skills – as well as ensuring that they still develop all aspects of their game. Less experienced and developed players will be given the opportunity and support to continue to work on fundamental skills.

Our team selection and participation will still consider friendship groups, but higher graded teams will have an element of preferential selection on the basis of player ability/safety (and likely enjoyment in more competitive grades). The objective within all teams is that each player will have the opportunity to contribute to the team in each and every game – but players will not be required to rotate through all batting/bowling positions.

Players at U15 and U17 may be approached to join senior teams (at a level appropriate to their development). At the discretion of the coach/coordinator, team captains may be appointed, or the role may be rotated through a group of senior players. At this level, the captain will be required to set field positions and bowling order, and as such a level of cricket knowledge, experience, and leadership skills are required.

### **Boys Under 17:**

**Continued specialisation and development; pathway to senior cricket** – As players mature, they take a larger role in their own development – and responsibility within their team.

Players will all be given an opportunity to contribute to the team – but this will not always be an equal division – as considerations of player safety (as a reflection of ability), as well as level of competition and team success are weighed against individual capacity. Players will generally play specialised roles within a team which determine how they contribute to the team – but coaching and support will still be focussed on objective development of the individuals in all aspects of the game.

Team Captains will be appointed by the Coach in consultation with the players.

### **Senior Cricket – The Titans Approach.**

EMTCC’s senior players have developed an Ethos by which they Play:

An East Malvern Toorong Titan:

- Takes responsibility and looks for improvement, not excuses;
- Brings positive energy and concentrated effort to games and training;
- Never gives in until the final ball [has been played];
- Respects the game and all involved;
- Has a disciplined approach to playing and preparation;
- Is committed to helping their teammates become better cricketers’

A Titan is committed to winning Premierships

The EMTCC Junior Teams recognise that we are developing players who will adopt the Titan’s approach when they become senior players. This means that our junior coaching, selection, and participation philosophies

reflect the essence of the Titans Approach – respect for each other and the game, personal improvement (becoming a better cricketer) and a clear awareness of the role which all players as individuals play as part of a team.

### Participation Guidelines:

The table below shows the way EMTCC balances participation and competition in our junior team – this may not reflect the experience of each player each week, but will absolutely reflect their experience across the season. Cricket throws up many challenges to ensuring equal participation (one-day versus two-day games, the fact that from U13A batter can be dismissed first ball...) but we strive to ensure the each player will experience their cricket as described below:

	Participation	Competitiveness	Description	Team Numbers capped at
Girls Stage 1 and 2	100%	0%	<b>Bowling</b> – All players bowl in every match <b>Batting</b> - All players bat in every match <b>Fielding</b> – Players will receive equal fielding & Wicketkeeping time	9
Girls Under 16	70%	30%	<b>Bowling</b> – All players bowl in every match <b>Batting</b> - All players bat in every match <b>Fielding</b> – Players will receive equal fielding & Wicketkeeping time	9
Boys Under 11	100%	0%	<b>Bowling</b> – All players bowl in every match <b>Batting</b> - All players bat in every match <b>Fielding</b> – Players will receive equal fielding & Wicketkeeping time	9
Boys Under 13 B and C	70%	30%	<b>Bowling</b> – All players bowl in every match <b>Batting</b> - All players bat in every match <b>Fielding</b> – Players will receive equal fielding & Wicketkeeping time	11
Boys Under 13A	50%	50%	<b>Batting &amp; Bowling</b> –All players will either bat or bowl in every match <b>Fielding</b> – Players will receive equal fielding time	13
Boys Under 15 B and C	60%	40%	<b>Batting &amp; Bowling</b> –All players will either bat or bowl in every match <b>Fielding</b> – Players will receive equal fielding time	13
Boys Under 15A	40%	60%	<b>Batting &amp; Bowling</b> –All players will either bat or bowl in every match <b>Fielding</b> – Players will receive equal fielding time	13
Boys Under 17B	30%	70%	<b>Batting &amp; Bowling</b> –All players will either bat or bowl in every match <b>Fielding</b> – Players will receive equal fielding time	13
Boys Under 17A	20%	80%	<b>Batting &amp; Bowling</b> –All players will either bat or bowl in every match <b>Fielding</b> – Players will receive equal fielding time	13

Note: While every attempt is made to follow these guidelines, sometimes game or weather conditions make this not possible, for example during a one-day match or when kids bat their allocated balls and not leaving enough balls for others to bat (no non-compulsory retirements). EMT endeavours to field teams in a wide range of age groups and gradings to help maximise the opportunities for every junior player.

Other clubs may have different priorities and approaches, but this has no influence on the way junior cricket is played at EMT. The club greatly values the involvement and support of parents in upholding these values, and the club encourages parents to acknowledge the achievements of opposition players as well as our own.

## **Policy for Finals all age groups.**

During the finals the balance between player rotation and winning games shifts significantly towards the latter, so it is likely that some players may not get a bat or bowl, The better batsman will bat at the top of the order and the better bowlers will bowl. This approach is endorsed by EMTCC committee for Finals in all age groups.

**Selection for A teams in each age group,** Each year all boys and girls are given an opportunity to try out for the A teams, During preseason training boys and girls are given the opportunity to be selected for the A team in each grade. Selection is made by the age coordinator and the coaches for the A team.

**Players nomination for ISEC Rep Cricket.** Each year ISEC and AGC request players nominations from each club for the rep carnival played in January, nominations are submitted from the Junior Coordinator with the assistance of all coaches in the nominated age group.

Endorsed by EMTCC C'ee : 01 09 2021