

2019

Oxton Cricket and Sports Club

Welcome and Information Pack – Junior Cricket ONLY

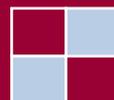
The following document provides Junior Members and their Parents/Guardians/Carers with information about the Club and the Junior Cricket Section including policy and rules of the Club.

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Document History:

Changes necessary to this document will be controlled by an issue / amendment procedure. This will comprise either:

- (a) Total re-issue of the **COMPLETE** document

OR

- (b) An amendment to the document by re-issue of only those pages affected by the change (this will always include a re-issued sheet).

Except in the case of a major re-write of the document (which shall be stated in the documented history) any changed information within the document shall be indicated by " blue change bars" in the right hand margin and blue triangle in bottom right of page. If the document is amended between full re-issues as in (b) above, then each amended page (including the front cover sheet) shall carry its own current status, e.g. Issue 1 New1.

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Introduction

Welcome to Junior Cricket at Oxton Cricket and Sports Club. The aim of this Pack is to provide you with information in relationship to Junior Cricket, be it as an existing member or a new addition to our Club.

Oxton Cricket Club holds ECB CLUBMARK Accreditation and is a Cheshire County FOCUS Club. The Club has also adopted and implements the ECB Code of Conduct, ECB Equity Policy and the ECB "Safe Hands - Cricket's Policy for Safeguarding Children" policies.

Junior Cricket is a major part of the Club. Children benefit from the excellent coaching and facilities the Club offers. We are affiliated to both the Wirral Junior Cricket League and the Cheshire County Cricket Junior League and currently run teams at the following age groups:

- Under 9's
- Under 11's
- Under 13's
- Under 15's
- Under 17's

Please see APPENDIX 3 (Page 21) if you are unclear which team you should be in.

Our aim is to ensure that all young cricketers (male & female), no matter what their ability; will have an equal chance of selection. The emphasis is very much on the young player having fun, whilst developing their cricket at the same time.

Our long term aim is to promote young players into the Club's senior sides.

This brochure has been compiled as part of The Club's overall development strategy and may form supporting evidence for CLUBMARK audits.

To allow us to continually improve, any feedback /comments are welcome – please feel free to contact any member of the coaching team or Cricket Committee.

Junior players are encouraged to come and watch the senior teams playing during the season and on this note I look forward to meeting you in the near future. Until then enjoy your time at the Club and most certainly enjoy your Cricket!

You may also find the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) section at APPENDIX 4 (Page 22) useful.

Chairman Junior Cricket

(On behalf of the Cricket Committee, Oxton Cricket and Sports Club)

ECB = English & Welsh Cricket Board



Our Ethos:

The importance of the way in which the game is played is very much part of the education and coaching environment that is Junior Cricket at Oxton. Old fashioned values such as sportsmanship are prized and in this way the special ethos of the Club is being promoted to the junior players.

We aim to ensure that our junior players enjoy playing competitive cricket in the correct spirit and to balance the need to give all our junior players opportunities to develop and to play a level of cricket that is appropriate to their individual talent and development needs.

The Club values greatly the contribution Junior Cricket makes to the Club and is thus committed to providing the very best facilities for its junior players. It is clear that junior players will be more likely to enjoy their cricket and have more fun if they are well managed and receive good quality coaching.

For that reason the Club has produced, herein, the Operating Policy for Junior Cricket, to inform the junior players and their Parents/Guardians/Carers what they can expect of the Club and in return what the Club expects from them.

The Club actively promotes the Code of Conduct for Juniors and Parents/Guardians/Carers as defined on page 11 of this Pack.



The Oxton Crest

The Oxton Crest depicts the Twin Lions Passant of Oxton emblazoned onto the shield, whose non-standard tincture or stain is Sanguine - 'Of the colour of blood; red'. In heraldic terms this signifies; 'Patience in Battle, and Yet Victorious'.

The Twin Lions Passant are taken from the Town of Oxton seals which in 1878 was part of the merger of Birkenhead, Cloughton-cum-Grange, Oxton and Tranmere to form the new Borough of Birkenhead.



Operating Policy for Junior Cricket:

It is agreed that the Club will:

1. Take all reasonable steps to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of all the Club's Junior cricket players.
2. Ensure that everyone involved with Junior Cricket is encouraged to show respect to each other and to Safeguard each other's welfare at all times.
3. Ensure that all home matches are played on pitches that are safe for the age group concerned.
4. Ensure that all fixtures are properly arranged and that a suitable match manager is available for each game.
5. Ensure that all coaching/training is supervised by suitably qualified coaches.
6. Ensure that all relevant personnel are properly DBS checked.
7. Ensure that junior players wear the correct clothing and safety equipment.
8. Ensure that junior players bowl no more overs than is recommended by the ECB for their particular age group.
9. Take all possible steps to supervise the taking of medications in accordance with the specific request of Parents/Guardians/Carers.
10. Deal with any emergency concerning the health or welfare of a junior player.

The Operating Policy is set out by the;

Oxton Cricket and Sports Club - Cricket Section Committee

The Operating Policy is governed by;

The Junior Cricket Sub Committee

DBS = Disclosure and Barring Service



Safeguarding Children and Child Protection:

The Cricket Section is committed to providing a safe environment for our players, coaches and supporters.

To ensure this we follow guidelines set out by the governing body, ECB for the protection and involvement of children under 18 at our Club. In doing so the following statement applies;

"The Club shall adopt and implement the ECB Safe Hands – Cricket's Policy for Safeguarding Children and any future versions of the policy."

If Parents/Guardians/Carers have any child protection issues or concerns they are advised to take them directly to one of the Child Welfare Co-Ordinators rather than your child's coach or Team Manager.

More information can be found on the ECB Website on

<http://www.ecb.co.uk/ecb/safeguarding-children-and-child-protection>

If you do not have access to the internet and would like a copy of the guidelines, please speak to one of the Child Welfare Co-Ordinators.

Details of the Junior Cricket Child Welfare Co-ordinators are posted on the notice board in the Club pavilion.



Safety:

Safety of your child is paramount at the Club and we take this very seriously, since cricket is played mainly with a hardball and bat.

General:

The Junior Cricket Head Coach and Chairman of Junior Cricket or nominated senior responsible person in discussion with the various age group Coaches will assess the ground for training/playing fitness in the event of bad weather.

All coaches are trained in basic first aid and a first aid kit is held in the Clubhouse, along with the Accident Report Book.

When your child is on Club premises they must abide by the rules laid out by the Club with regards to safety.

- Children who are 7 years and under must have a parent or nominated adult stay with them at all matches or training sessions.
- Children must not be on Club premises (unless with a Parent/Guardian/Carer) beyond 21:30pm on a training evening.
- Children should not be left at the Club on their own after training has finished.
- The Club is responsible for your children during the published training hours only.
- On training evenings once the age group manager/coach has dismissed the players from the field, they become the responsibility of the Parent/Guardian/Carer.
- Players under 18 are discouraged from using the nets without a suitable qualified Club coach or an adult (Please see the section on Use of the Nets; Page 15).
- The areas that are strictly Out of Bounds to your child, this is especially important once training/matches have finished can be found at APPENDIX 1 Page 19.
- Climbing on the cricket square covers is strictly prohibited.
- Climbing on any structures around the ground is strictly prohibited.

A Risk Assessment Log is carried out each week and all Managers/Coaches will inform players of any potential hazards prior to training or matches commencing.

Insurance:

The Club maintains a Public Liability Insurance Policy to cover visitors to its premises in the event of an accident occurring during organised meetings. However, this does not cover the specific needs of players who may be injured during play. We strongly recommend that Parents /Guardians/Carers of young players should take out additional insurance to cover all sporting activities in which their children are involved.

Valuables and Liabilities:

The Club does not accept liability for the loss, damage or theft of personal belongings on the Club premises. It is advisable not to leave valuables (e.g. jewellery and watches, mobile phones etc) in kitbags in the changing rooms as these are not secure. If you have no choice but to bring valuables to the Club, we advise that you pass them to a coach/team Manager or other trusted adult for safe-keeping. Cars parked in the Club car parks and all contents, are left at the owner's risk and the Club will accept no liability for loss or damage in respect thereof.



Junior Coaches and Managers:

All the Managers and Coaching team have been advanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checked, hold an accredited coaching qualification (UK ECB Level 1 or above) and comply with the Club's Code of Conduct and Child Welfare Policy.

Coaches are also members of the ECB Coaches Association and have attended Safeguarding and Protecting Children courses.

Volunteers/Helpers:

We are always looking for people to help at any time for as long or as little as you can manage

What about becoming a coach? There are excellent courses available. Or maybe you could attend short courses entitled "Umpiring for the Terrified" and "Scoring for the Terrified". Or perhaps a Team Manager? The Club would be glad to look at funding Parents / Guardians /Carers to complete any of these.

Organising, managing and maintaining a cricket club and in particularly juniors, is demanding and challenging so we need all the help we can get. If you feel that you could donate some time as a coach, team manager or to help in any other capacity please contact the Chairman Junior Cricket.



Training and Matches:

Training Sessions:

These are held

Pre-Season:

At - location to be confirmed, please check Club website)

In Season:

At - Oxton Cricket and Sports Club, Townfield Lane, Oxton.

Friday Evenings from 18:30pm to 20:00pm (under 9) or 20:30pm (under 10 upwards ONLY)

It is important that junior cricket members attend training, as selection is affected by attendance to these sessions. If we cannot see how a player is performing at training how can we select them for a team? We recognise that not all players can attend all training sessions. In these cases it is advisable to inform the managers/coaches in advance. In such cases subsequent selection for the teams will not be affected.

ALL players are required to 'check in' as they enter the ground.

Emerging Players Centre:

The Club aims to provide an Emerging Players Centre (EPC) when possible each season, where emerging talent from the age groups U13 and U15 will be offered specialist one-to-one coaching. The group of players selected will be no more than 6 to 10 in number based on the Cricket Committee agreement with the Professional Coach asked to lead the Centre. The day and times for the EPC will also be agreed with the Professional Coach within the confines of a Club Contract.

Players or Parents /Guardians/Carers must inform the Professional Coach or the Chairman Junior Cricket of none availability to attend at these sessions.

Matches:

ALL players must report to their appropriate Team Manager/Coach before the match commences. These are played on Sunday mornings unless otherwise informed

Matches start at 10:00am. Except for Cheshire County Cricket Junior League Games which start at 09:30am.

For pitch and training allocation areas players/supporters should check the Club notice board and website. For further information on Player Selection please see APPENDIX 2 (Page 20).

What to Bring to Training or Matches:

When attending training sessions or matches, young players should bring a drink (please put a name on the bottle), a hat or cap in the event of hot weather, and sun cream as required.



Clothing and Equipment:

As a Club we are trying to promote a more disciplined approach to kit and what is expected from our junior players.

The Club does have team colours and therefore the Cricket Committee would encourage purchasing a playing shirt and/or team cap. This would help promote pride in the Club and give your child a sense of being part of the Club and its identity.

Matches:

If your child is selected to represent Oxton Cricket Club in a match, they are encouraged to wear:

- Oxton Cricket Club Playing Shirt/White Cricket Shirt
- Cricket White Trousers, any make will be fine
- Appropriate footwear, preferable white. For hardball cricket these should practically be cricket boots/shoes for protection.

Training Sessions:

It is preferred that when training players are encouraged to wear:

- A White Cricket Shirt or Cricket Training Top.
- Cricket Whites or track suit bottoms or drill bottoms.
- Appropriate footwear, preferable white. For hardball cricket these should practically be cricket boots/shoes for protection.

Please Note: The Cricket Committee endorses the ruling that, the appropriate clothing is worn for both training and matches as outlined above - the wearing of non-cricket shirts (e.g. football shirts) for cricket training is not generally not permitted.

Equipment:

For those playing Kwik Cricket (Under 9's) - **NO Equipment** is needed as it is provided by the Club.

For players from age group Under 10's upwards to Under 18, playing hardball cricket, the following are requirements to take part in any matches or training sessions.

All players must wear a helmet with a faceguard when batting or keeping wicket against a hard ball (see page 15), together with pads, gloves and, for boys, an abdominal protector (box).

It is preferred that each player should provide their own cricket bat.

Second Hand Kit:

What do you do with your old kit? Do you have any cricket kit that your child has grown out of that is taking up space at home? Have you considered donating it to the Club?

Please leave any donations, with your Coach or Team Manager or contact the Junior Cricket Secretary. The condition of the kit must be good enough for someone else to use.



Codes of Conduct:

Junior Player - Code of Conduct:

As a member of Oxton Cricket Club you are expected to abide by the following Junior Player Code of Conduct:

- All members must play within the rules and respect officials and their decisions.
- All members must respect the rights, dignity and worth of everyone regardless of gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Members should keep to agreed timings for training and competitions or inform their Coach or Team Manager if they are going to be late.
- Members must wear suitable kit – for training and match sessions, as agreed with the Coach/Team Manager.
- Members must pay any fees for membership, training or events promptly.
- Junior members are not allowed to smoke on Club premises or whilst representing the Club at competitions.
- Junior members are not allowed to consume alcohol or drugs of any kind on the Club premises or whilst representing the Club.
- Junior members are expected to be aware of and respect *ECC Cricket Etiquette*.
- Junior members shall not use mobile phones in any changing rooms.

Any action that is thought to be a breach of this Code of Conduct will be reported to the Cricket Committee and then to the Club General Committee where decisions about any action will be made.

Parent / Guardian / Carer - Code of Conduct:

- Encourage your child to learn the rules and play within them.
- Discourage unfair play and arguing with officials.
- Help your child to recognise good performance, not just results.
- Never force your child to take part in sport.
- Set a good example by recognising fair play and applauding the good performances of all.
- Never punish or belittle a child for losing or making mistakes.
- Publicly accept officials' judgements.
- Support your child's involvement and help them to enjoy their sport.
- Use correct and proper language at all times.

Any action that is thought to be a breach of this Code of Conduct will be reported to the Cricket Committee and then to the Club General Committee where decisions about any action will be made.

The Club Constitution Document provides information on the Club's disciplinary procedure.



Junior Players' Health and Consent Form:

As a condition of Junior Cricket Membership. We would be grateful if you could complete a Junior Member Health and Consent Form. For the safety of your child it is important that the Form is fully completed.

The form is downloadable from the Club's website (see Communication Page 18) or completed as part of the web based Club fees template.

The website also provides all of the Club's latest news and other important information, so please check it out as regularly as you can.

Information & News will also be posted on the Clubhouse notice boards.



Cricket Etiquette:

For Junior Players learning the customs or rules of how to behave when playing cricket is just as important as learning how to play the game itself.

Below is a list of the most important rules of 'etiquette' which you need to learn in order to take part in cricket matches and represent **Oxton Cricket Club**.

- Always clap the batsman as he or she arrives to bat. This happens at the beginning of the batting innings or as a new batsman arrives to bat at the fall of a wicket.
- In Kwik Cricket the fielding side clap the batting pair as they arrive at the crease and leave the field.
- Always clap the opposing team off the pitch at the end of an innings. If you are the fielding side you clap the batsman as they walk off the pitch and if you are the batting side you must all get together at the boundary to clap the fielders as they leave the pitch.
- Always shake hands with the opposing team members at the end of the last innings as players leave the field.
- Always shout 'three cheers' for the opposition straight after the match has ended. This requires everyone to be together at the end of the game in order to join in.
- The home team allows the away team to take their food and drink first.
- When batting, all team members must pay attention to the game, supporting the batting pair who are on the pitch by cheering good shots and encouraging when they are struggling. (This is a good way to learn about the game as good play and mistakes can be pointed out).
- Always be polite to the Umpires and never question any decision they make.
- Always thank those who have helped with the match e.g. umpires, scorers, providers of food and drink etc.
- Always place rubbish etc in the bins around the ground or take it home for recycling, remember others maybe using the facilities after you.
- Remember to collect all equipment that has been used and put it back where it belongs.

These are just a few simple rules to remember.

Please do your best to learn them.



Nets Safety Policy:

The Cricket Committee has laid down the following for using the Outdoor Nets Facility:

General Rules:

1. The nets are for **Cricket Practice ONLY**.
2. **Cricket spikes MUST NOT be worn in the nets.**
3. The nets **CANNOT** be used by juniors under the age of 15, unless supervised by an adult.
4. Group practice sessions **MUST** be conducted under the supervision of an ECB Qualified Coach. Or suitable supervising adult.
5. Juniors under 18 **MUST WEAR A CRICKET HELMET** when batting or keeping wicket to a hard cricket ball.
6. The maintenance Policy for the nets must be followed.
7. Players' equipment bags to be stored **outside** of the nets and away from the entrance.
8. All players are required to keep the net area tidy at all times.
9. Strictly **NO** Food or Drinks to be taken into the net area.
10. All players using these nets for practice must behave in a proper and correct manner.
11. After each practice session any training equipment (stumps etc) **MUST** be stored away properly.

Nets used for ARRANGED practice Sessions:

For the safety of our Junior players (those being under the age of 18):

1. When batting, facing a hard ball, the proper protective items, including helmet, **MUST** be worn.
2. Before practice commences Coaches **MUST** check the cage and netting to ensure a safe environment.
3. Coaches will instruct junior plays in the use of the nets

Nets used by Junior Cricket Members outside normal practice sessions:

1. The Club will not accept any responsibility for unaccompanied children using the nets facility.
2. Members, under the age of 18, using the net facility are the responsibility of their Parents/Guardians/Carers.
3. Individuals using the nets without the supervision of a suitably Qualified Coach do so **AT THEIR OWN RISK.**
4. The use of Helmets and other protective wear is essential when using a hard ball.

Helmets Policy:

The Club, Junior Cricket rules state that the wearing of helmets by ALL Junior Players under the age of 18 is compulsory. This is based on ECB guidelines. Under no circumstances will the Club accept the Parents/Guardians/Carers consent for a Junior Player not to do so.

Our Rules state:

1. A Junior Player must at all times wear a helmet with a faceguard when batting against a hard ball.
2. A Junior Player must at all times wear a helmet with a faceguard when standing up to the stumps when a hard ball is being used.



Fees/Subscription:

For Junior Players taking part in competitive matches a match fee is levied. This is in addition to the Junior Cricket Annual Membership Subscription.

The match fee is set by the Cricket Committee at the beginning of each season.

Annual Membership details can be found on the Club website and it should be noted that for all Junior members, the Club require at least one Parent /Guardian/Carer to join as a House Member (included in the Junior Subscription Fee).



Sponsorship/Fundraising:

Do you own a company / would your employer consider sponsoring Junior Cricket at Oxton or an individual team?

Should you wish a specific team or section of the Club to benefit from your sponsorship the Club would be pleased to discuss this further.

For example, you or your company could sponsor team shirts, caps or jumpers for the whole section or just one age group – this would provide the players with a free or heavily discounted item of useful kit and your company logo would be visible to a wide audience.

As a Club we hold various Fundraising activities. If you can help or have a suitable idea to raise funds please help us out.

This does not have to be financial assistance, you or your employer may have some useful equipment etc that the Club could make benefit of.

If you are interested or can help and would like more information, please speak to the Chairman Junior Cricket or any member of the Cricket Committee or Junior Sub Committee.



Communication:

The Club continue to make use of the Club website and associate media formats (such as Twitter).

If you have advised us of your email address then it is likely that you have already received one of the Club newsletters which is generated from the website and have been issued over the last few months.

There is useful information on the website so please feel free to have a closer look at

www.oxtonsportsclub.com

If you do not have access to the internet or do not have an email address, please let us know and we will ensure that you are kept advised of what is going on at the Club.

Communication of Training and Matches Cancelled due to Wet Weather:

Training:

You may recognise that occasionally it rains in the summer months. If it happens to be raining before a Friday training session (or if it has rained heavily overnight) and the Grounds-man deems the outfield at the Club unsuitable for training – this is usually to protect the ground for the weekend fixtures, then a 'Session Cancellation' notice will appear on the Club Website along with a message on the Club Twitter account – hopefully before 6pm on Friday. The Club operates a 'Traffic Light' System on the website for advising on the status of training as follows:

Green – Training definitely ON

Amber – Check with your team manager/coach or on arrival at the ground

Red – TRAINING CANCELLED

If we go ahead with a session but rain looks likely - parents will be encouraged to stay in near vicinity / at the ground just in case training has to stop.

Matches:

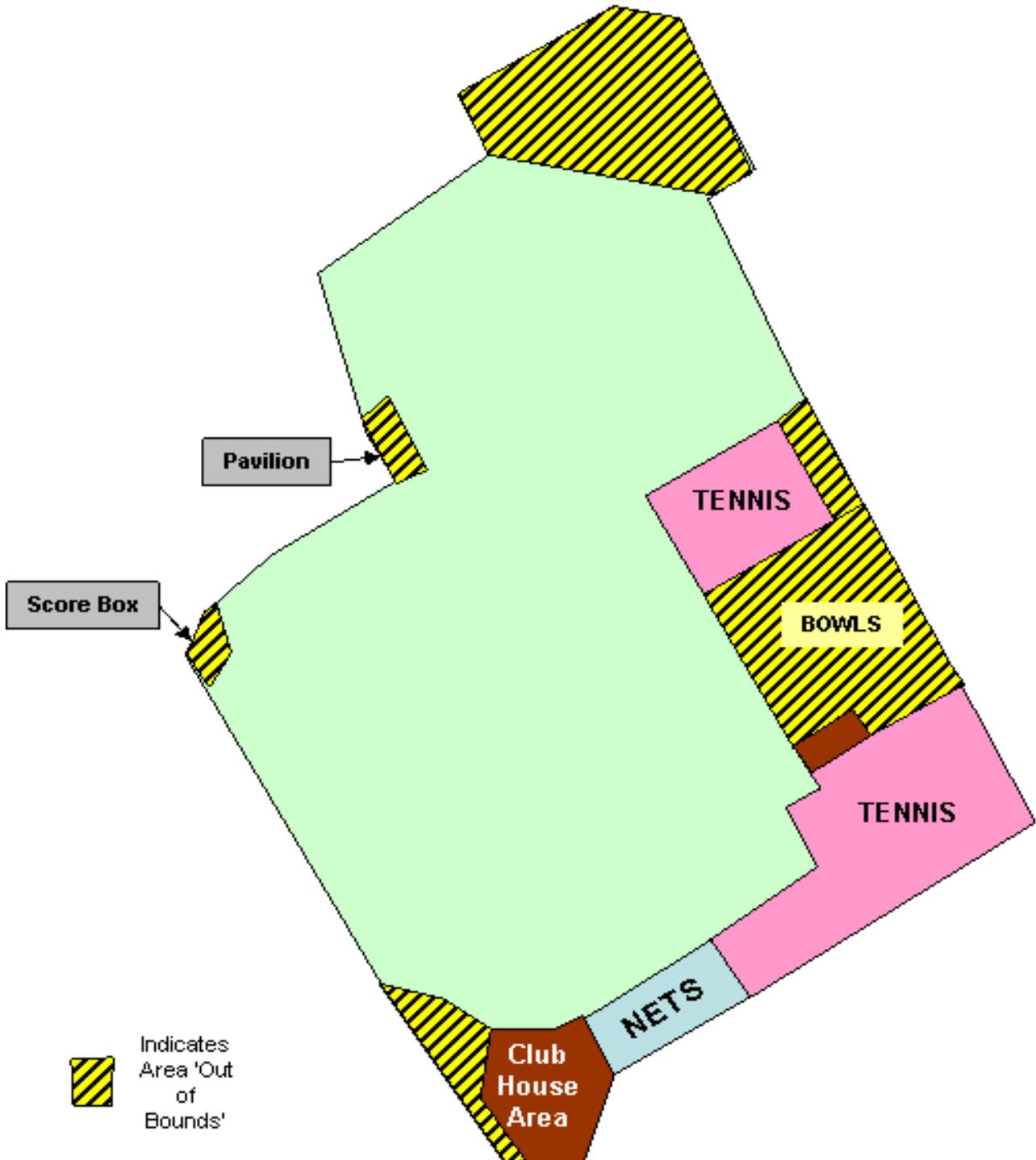
It is the age group manager's responsibility to inform Parents/Guardians/Carers of any match cancellations due to bad weather. This is especially important if travel to an opposition ground is taking place. If travelling direct to grounds please check that the game is still on before you depart if you have any concerns over playing conditions. The Club endeavours to make all reasonable efforts to ensure that travel to away grounds is not a wasted journey.

Club Communications Policy:

Under current Government guidelines and as part of GDPR, the Club has a Communications Policy which is available on the website.



Appendix 1: - Areas 'Out of Bounds'





Appendix 2: - Guidelines for Junior Player Selection

Junior Club Representative Teams (All Competitions):

At the earliest opportunity after a match, the Junior Cricket Age Group Managers/Coaches will meet to discuss match performances.

The next fixture will also be reviewed and based on availability of players the Managers will agree on which players are to be selected.

It is important therefore that player's availability is communicated to the Manager at least a week in advance.

It is absolutely imperative that players & Parents/Guardians/Carers give advance notice as early as possible as to when a player is **not available for selection**.

Within the constraints of age eligibility, players will be expected to make themselves available for all teams to play in all competitions. To be more specific, Junior Cricket players at Oxton may be asked to play for a range of teams based on the following criteria:

- Ability
- Standard of opposition to be played
- Attendance and/or performance in training
- Attendance and/or performance in matches
- Need to enhance the performance of a team
- Need to field a full team

Junior Players Pathway to Open Age (Adult) Teams.

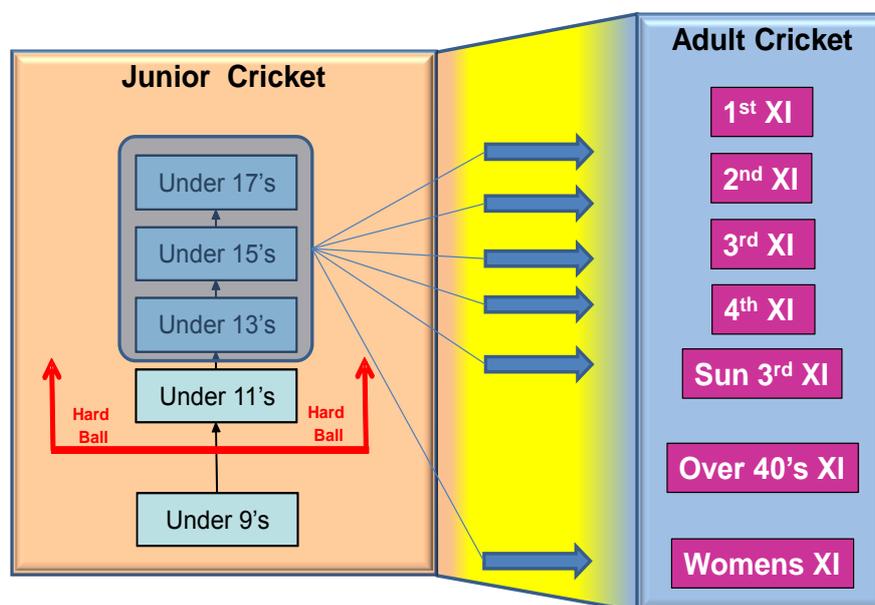
The Cricket Selection Committee, within the confines of ECB Guidelines and County League Rules for Junior Players in Open Age Teams, may select Junior players for one of the Senior Club teams, if places are available.

The Junior Sub Committee will review nominated Junior players based on ability and maturity, who will form part of a 'Junior Cricket Players Pool', from which Senior Club team captains may request players.

Senior Team Captains may only select players from this Pool in consultation with the Chairman Junior Cricket.

The Chairman Junior Cricket will report to the Junior Cricket Committee or individual age group Managers/Coaches on Junior players selected for Senior Club teams.

Player Pathway:





Appendix 3: - Which Team should a player be in?

How Old are You?	6 to 7	7 to 8	8 to 9	9 to 10	10 to 11	11 to 12	12 to 13	13 to 14	14 to 15	15 to 16	16 to 17	
Which School Year are You in?	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
This is YOUR Cricket Age Group Squad	Under 9 B	Under 9 B	Under 9 A	Under 11	Under 11	Under 13	Under 13	Under 15	Under 15	Under 17	Under 17	
This is the Cricket Game Format You will Play	Kwik Cricket			Hardball Cricket								
This is the League You will Face Matches in				Cheshire Junior Cricket League								
This is the number of overs played (per team)	20	20	20	20	20	25	25	25	25	25	20	
This is the Equipment You need to play	NONE			Hardball Bat, Pads, Gloves, Helmet, Box, Cricket Boots (Spikes) and Trainers								

Note: Age Limits are taken at 1st September the year prior to the season starting. When players must be under the specified age limit.

The above is an example only and some players may be placed into an older age group based on their ability, game awareness and attitude on the pitch, or possible the strength of opponents, this will be at the discretion of the Junior Cricket Sub Committee. This step will also be discussed with the player and player's Parents/Guardians/Carers.



Appendix 4: - FAQ's

At what age can my child join the junior section?

We accept children both boys and girls from U7 to U16

How do I know what age group my child is in?

Your child's age group is determined by their date of birth and corresponds to school years.

For example:

- U7: September 1st 2008 to August 31st 2009 (School Year 2)
- U8: September 1st 2007 to August 31st 2008 (School Year 3)
- U9: September 1st 2006 to August 31st 2007 (School Year 4)
- U10: September 1st 2005 to August 31st 2006 (School Year 5)
- U11: September 1st 2004 to August 31st 2005 (School Year 6)
- U12: September 1st 2003 to August 31st 2004 (School Year 7)
- U13: September 1st 2002 to August 31st 2003 (School Year 8)
- U14: September 1st 2001 to August 31st 2002 (School Year 9)
- U15: September 1st 2000 to August 31st 2001 (School Year 10)
- U16: September 1st 1999 to August 31st 2000 (School Year 11)

Depending on numbers and at the discretion of Chairman Junior Cricket, the Club may take children in School Year 1.

Under 9's will usually start at the Club on the ECB All Stars Programme.

How do I apply?

Follow this [link](#) to find out everything you know about how to apply

Do you offer discounted membership fees?

Yes, the Club operates a fund to support those who may be unable to pay part or all of the subscription. Membership is free to those applicants who are eligible for free school meals. If your child is not eligible for free school meals, but you have difficulty affording the membership fee, then please contact **Chairman Junior Cricket** for how we can readily assist you.

If you have more than one child, the second child receives a discount of £5 on membership, and all subsequent siblings a £10 discount.

Do you offer trial sessions?

Due to the large numbers of players wanting to join the club we are unable to offer membership on a trial basis. Once you have accepted a place at Oxton CC on behalf of your child the fees will only be refunded in exceptional circumstances (this does not include your child changing their mind once they've started!)

When do the summer coaching sessions begin?

Either the last Friday of April or first Friday of May (tbc). Most league fixtures will be finished by the end of July but there will be coaching taking place at the Club until the Friday before the August Bank Holiday.

Do you run other courses during the season?

We run cricket camps in the Summer holidays. These may be run by the Club Professional or with Cheshire County Cricket Board. The dates are advertised on the website nearer the time, and your age group manager will also email you details.

What leagues do the children play in?

See diagram APPENDIX 3



What format are the matches?

U9s play Kwik Cricket with a soft ball, 10 players per team, where the each team bats in 5 pairs of 4 overs per pair. If the batsman is out, 4 runs are deducted, but the batsman can carry on batting.

U10, U11 play hardball cricket at 10 a side `pairs cricket over 20 overs.

U13 and U15 play hardball cricket at 11 a side over 25 overs.

Is the club successful?

Yes, we have won various leagues and zone groups and cup competitions in the Cheshire County Junior Cricket League and the Wirral Junior Cricket Leagues.

Do you also play non-league games?

Yes, the age group managers arrange a number of friendlies each season.

Who is my age group manager?

Go to the relevant team page on this site to see who your age group manager is.

Can I be sure my child is well looked after?

Oxton CC has Clubmark status, which is awarded to clubs who have the best practice welfare and child protection processes place.

All our managers and qualified coaches are DBS-checked, and have attended first aid and child protection courses within the last three years.

In addition we expect that for children who are under 12, a parent or guardian should be present at coaching.

What is the selection policy for matches?

For age groups that are only entered for one league (U9s, U11s, U13s) the teams for league games are picked on merit. Selection for friendlies is intended to provide playing opportunities for as many of the age group as possible.

When applicable the A team is picked on merit. The B team is also picked on merit, but because a wider group of juniors are capable of playing in the B league, this team is used as a development squad, providing match play opportunities to as many juniors who are capable of playing B team cricket as is reasonably possible, to enable them to improve their game and contest the A team places. Selection for friendlies is intended to provide playing opportunities for those who are not yet ready for league cricket.

For the U15s and U17's, the age group manager will choose the team selected on merit.

How many times a season can my child expect to play in a game?

If your child is in a league squad, he or she can expect to play once a week (generally Sunday morning with some midweek games). If your child is playing friendlies, then he or she will play less often, but can still expect to play several times in the season if available.

What do I do if my child is not playing enough games?

You should contact your age group manager and have a conversation about it. The managers have to deal with a large number of children, and they do their best to make sure everyone gets match play opportunities. If your child is missing out, it is most likely to be due to an oversight.

How can my child progress if the age group managers aren't there to watch?

The age group managers will usually be managing a side, so they rely heavily on match reports from the individual running the other league games or friendlies. Generally, the managers rely on good feedback from coaches or adult in charge.



Are your coaches qualified?

Every coaching session will be run by at least one qualified UKCC Level 2 coach. We try to work on a ratio of at least one qualified coach to 24 children in drills work; and 1:8 in nets work.

You may also see some young adults working as unqualified coaching assistants with a qualified coach – these are members of our academy and development squads, whom we encourage to coach the juniors.

We also like to encourage parents to participate in the coaching sessions and perhaps take the course to become a qualified coach themselves – it's a great experience!

What kind of coaching do you offer?

Our coaches apply the Long Term Athletic Development coaching programme, especially tailored for cricket. Click here for more information on the LTAD programme: <http://static.ecb.co.uk/files/planning-for-long-term-success-910.pdf> We place a lot of emphasis on children learning the basics well, and that involves a lot of drills – which the children really enjoy. Of course, playing games is part of the learning experience as well, so that's why we have a packed fixture list. But we try and make sure that the two – match play and coaching – go hand in hand through the season.

Is there mid-week training?

NO - not unless an age group manager/coach informs their team accordingly. Age's u9 to u15 train on Friday evenings

Who are the age group managers, and what do they do?

The age group managers are your main point of contact. All of the age group managers are volunteers, and they are often (but not always) the parent of a child in the same group.

They manage the entire age group – not just the A team – and in that capacity they run coaching sessions; organize the friendly fixtures; run fixtures themselves; make sure that responsible adults are available to run fixtures in their absence; co-ordinate with the other managers and coaches in the age group to ensure that all the children are getting the right opportunities for their abilities; communicate with parents on matters relating to selection, match arrangements and other admin; run the midweek training sessions; run the pre-season squad training; and attend the juniors committee meetings.

Crickey, that sounds a lot; how can I help?

Any help is very welcome, and in many cases you don't need to have any knowledge of cricket to help out. We value our volunteers in whatever capacity they choose to help the club, be it team management, coaching, scoring, umpiring, helping with the admin, fundraising, or simply helping with lifts to and from the ground.

Students taking the **Duke of Edinburgh Award** can fulfil their community volunteer service section by helping with cricket coaching on a Friday evenings or at matches on Sunday morning.

If you can help in any way please contact Chairman Junior Cricket

How do I feedback any concerns to the age group manager?

The managers are actively encouraged to get feedback from parents, and parents should feel free to engage with the managers if they have any issues or concerns they wish to raise. However, parents also have a duty to ensure that they are courteous in giving their feedback to the managers. Abusive and unpleasant emails or verbal exchanges fall a long way sort of the standards we expect from parents, and can result in the revocation of their child's membership. If your feedback is being ignored by the age group manager, then please contact the Chairman Junior Cricket can take forward the matter on your behalf.

What do I do if I have a complaint about a coach or manager?

If you have a concern or complaint about a coach or manager then you should immediately contact either Chairman Junior Cricket or the Child Welfare Officer



What do I do about getting my child into the District or County sides?

Towards the end of each season, the Club is approached by Cheshire County Cricket Board to nominate players for selection to its winter district and county training programme with a view to selection in district and county sides in the following season. If you would like your child to be put forward, please discuss the matter with the age group manager.

What is the Clubs' Winter training programme?

We run a winter nets programme. You will be notified of the arrangements by your age group manager in January of each year. This is also communicated on the Club website

What clothing should my child wear?

See Welcome Pack or [click here](#)

What kit should my child wear?

See Welcome Pack or [click here](#)

Does the club provide equipment?

NO, however please speak with your team manager if equipment is a problem

What is expected of me?

On joining the Club, you undertake to abide by the Club's Code of Conduct for Parents/Guardians/Carers, and to make your child aware of the Code of Conduct for Young People.



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