

EAST CHRISTCHURCH-SHIRLEY CRICKET CLUB INC.



The Junior Section of the East Christchurch Shirley Cricket Club plays an integral role in the promotion and development of cricket within metropolitan Christchurch. The Junior Section is managed by a committee of volunteers who are duly confirmed at the Annual Meeting of the Club. The committee duties are many and cover all the basics from fund raising, after match functions, enrolments, end of season prize giving and our popular picnic. Also this committee is responsible in producing a Junior cricket policy and managing the policy in the best interests of both parent and children.

The Junior Section caters for all children from year 1 to year 8 both within and outside the district. In fact it would be fair to say, we cover most of Christchurch from Opawa in the south to Belfast in the north, and from New Brighton in the east to Ilam in the west, offering cricket to children in thirty three primary and intermediate schools.

The programme we offer is second to none. We have dedicated, experienced, well qualified leaders working in the development areas of Milo 'Have A Go' and Milo Kiwi cricket. Progression through the levels is monitored to ensure the children have the basics to develop the skills and techniques to fully participate and derive enjoyment and success as a team member.

Progression through the levels or types of games offered is gauged by not only skill and technique development but also age [the year 1, 2, etc] - we try to cater for the social needs as well as the physical.

The Christchurch Junior Cricket Association (CJCA) offers two types of cricket, traditional and an alternative based on the 'kiwi' principle. Consequently we enter teams in most of the competitions available. To be able to enter teams we need adults to coach and manage each team. The Club offers coaching courses to assist our 'learning' coaches as well as assistance with team coaching and practices.

The Club supplies all the essential playing gear as well as helmets and first aid kits. We do not supply clothing although we continue to investigate the possibility of assisting with the purchase of floppy hats and playing shirts.

Team selection is in most cases quite casual. We only have one elite team picked as a result of a trial. All the remaining teams are by player choice and keeping children with their friends and schoolmates. With teams of equal ability we believe there is a good chance that all team members will have equal opportunity to participate and perhaps succeed.

The team competition is on Saturday morning usually from 9.00am to 12 noon. The traditional teams usually take up the whole playing time, whereas the non-traditional teams [“Average, Have A Go, Kiwi”] usually finish no later than 11.30am. The traditional teams play 'real cricket' on adult sized pitches and can play any where within the city boundaries as far away as Halswell, Hornby, Sumner or Harewood. The non-traditional teams play on mown strips usually at Burwood Park.

The success of the Juniors Section can be measured in many ways: perhaps, the most significant is that over half of our current Senior Men's squad came through the junior system.