



# **FUN, SKILLS, WINNING.**

*The EAGCC Youth Section Guide to Attitude and Behaviour.*

EAGCC Youth section has borrowed the above ethos from the Australian Schools Cricket Coaching Manual and use it to prioritise our approach to Youth Cricket at EAGCC.

## **Fun ...**

The first priority for all coaches is for children to enjoy cricket and look forward to training and playing. We try to base coaching on game-sense and whole-part-whole ideas to maintain interest and matches are not played with a win-at-all-costs mentality. Having fun does not mean allowing chaos to reign however, and points for players and parents to note are:

- When coaches start talking, we expect players to stop talking. Continuous chatting, messing about and similar behaviour ruins the session for everyone. Such lack of respect is unacceptable and coaches will rightly ask offending players to behave differently.
- If such requests are ignored the offending player may be asked to sit out the session and only return when ready. Parents will be advised by email if this happens.
- If the above persists then the parents will be requested to meet with the coach involved. If they cannot agree on a joint way to resolve the problem it is best for all concerned that the player quickly moves to an alternative club.

## **... Skills ...**

Our coaches' primary aim is to get the best from the players available. We do this by indoor nets, outdoor training and by supporting comments during a game. As players get older there is an occasional tendency to think 'they know it all' which is rarely the case and players should always aim for continuous improvement. Please note ...

- Our season is short and attendance at training is not usually a problem but coaches reserve the right to base selection on attendance and attitude at training.
- Players are requested to turn up to training on time and with the right kit and the right attitude i.e. they are there to learn.

## **... Winning**

If children have fun and learn skills then there is a good chance they will win when we play matches. These are of little consequence at Kwik Cricket level and whilst becoming more serious further up the age groups are, and hopefully always will be, still played in the right spirit by EAG. This means we play to win but not at all costs. Important notes for players are:

- Coaches work with the captain to select teams and set batting and bowling orders to try to give everyone equal opportunities during the season. Their decisions are final.
- All players are expected to wear club shirt and cap, white trousers, white trainers and white socks (not trainer socks) for games. If players do not turn up in the right kit coaches reserve the right to use the 12<sup>th</sup> man instead.
- It is useful if the 12<sup>th</sup> man turns up to home games and will be rotated in when fielding. No match fees are required.
- All players are expected to turn up at least 30 minutes before a match starts to prepare. At home games this should be 45 minutes to help open up, bring in rope, put out stumps, etc.
- On arrival, players are expected to prepare physically and mentally for the game by concentrating on warm ups and other drills. The game starts then, not with the first ball. If a player's attitude is not right the coach reserves the right to use 12<sup>th</sup> man instead.
- Players are expected to respect other team mates by congratulating them when things go well and commiserating with them when things go badly. Persistent, deliberate making fun of other players is considered as bullying and will not be tolerated under any circumstances.



- The same respect will be shown to opposition and sledging is forbidden. Likewise with umpires and 'please' and 'thank you' are much appreciated (and likely to help with 50-50 decisions!)
- At the end of the game players are expected to sensibly discuss what went well and what did not to usefully contribute to the preparation of the next training session. If at home they are then expected to help put rope, etc. out again. Players who persistently fail to help with match day tasks will be spoken to and might not be selected for the following fixture.

Notes for parents or guardians are:

- Before games, parents can help coaches by adding availabilities to the web site early then checking for emails or on the web site for team selections and replying accordingly. Coaches have enough to do without chasing up individual players.
- Parents are requested to attend matches to support their children and their team although sharing lifts to long away games makes sense. They are also requested to help with match day tasks including scoring, collecting match fees, preparing refreshments, moving tables & chairs, etc. Volunteering is preferable to asking!
- Afterwards, helping clear up or writing a brief match report is another big help.

### **And Finally ...**

It is worth remembering that EAGCC is a voluntary organisation. Unlike schools, no-one is obliged, contracted or paid to coach or play. There is a vast amount of work involved in running a busy cricket club so player and parent support for coaches and other club officials is much appreciated.

Comments or questions from players or parents are welcomed.

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