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## Purpose

The purpose of this document is to explain the ways in which Harrogate CC aims to develop young cricketers within the cricket club.

## Background

Harrogate Cricket Club aims to provide a junior section that allows every young cricketer to achieve their individual potential, be that as a club cricketer or a county player. The club also seeks to provide a “pathway” into open age cricket for those players who wish to continue playing cricket after they leave the junior section.

The club operates training sessions for children from 5-17, and enters teams into the Nidderdale Junior Cricket League at all age groups from Under 9s to Under 17s.

The club is affiliated to the Yorkshire Cricket Board, and actively supports the YCB Player Development Pathway, attached, by nominating players for representative team trials.

Harrogate Cricket Club also supports the “YCB Guidelines for Coaching and Match Play for Young Cricketers”, which limits the number of games and coaching sessions that a child can take part in within set periods of time.

## Young Player Development

Harrogate Cricket Club enters teams into the Nidderdale Junior Cricket League, which operates teams from Under 9s to Under 17s, linked to the following school year age groups;

1. Under 9s      School Years 3 & 4
2. Under 11s    School Years 5 & 6
3. Under 13s    School Years 7 & 8
4. Under 15s    School Years 9 & 10
5. Under 17s    School Years 11 & 12

The club also recognises that certain players may benefit from regularly playing “up” in the age group above, in order to provide the young cricketer with a higher standard of cricket. This will usually apply to players that demonstrate above average levels of ability, and are likely to have been nominated for representative trials through the YCB Player Development Pathway. NB – It is not recommended that cricketers play “up” more than one age group.

# Harrogate Cricket Club

## Young Player Development Policy



When selecting players to play “up” an age group, the relevant coaches should also agree what role the player will take when playing for the age group above, e.g. as a batsman, bowler etc. This role should complement and develop their current strengths.

It is also important that the coach considers the player’s mental development as well as their physical development. The player must also be able to cope with the psychological demands of playing with children that could be two or three years older than them.

**The decision as to which players should be considered to play “up” rests entirely with the relevant age group coaches.**

For older juniors, a further option would be “Open-Age” Cricket, through the club’s senior teams. However, a player must be a minimum of 13 (and in School Year 8) before being considered for this.

Once a player has been identified to play “up” an age group, the coach of the current age group must discuss the proposal with the young player and their parents, to ensure that both the player and the parent support the coach’s recommendation. If the coach, player and parent are in agreement, then all parties should sign the relevant player development form.

The player’s performance should be regularly monitored and discussed by both coaches and the player, to ensure that the child is benefiting and enjoying their cricket.

### Team Selection Policy

In general, Harrogate Cricket Club will attempt to give all junior cricketers the same amount of practice and game opportunities during the course of a season. The coaches will attempt to match individual player ability levels with those of their opponents, team-mates etc. However, in certain circumstances some players may play more or less games than the average, as follows;

- Players who have additional games as part of Representative teams;
- Players of above average ability may play “up” an age group within the club;
- Players that are either new to cricket or who struggle to grasp the basics of cricket, may be omitted from games until the coach believes they have the minimum level of skills and ability required to **safely** take part in a competitive game. We will attempt to organise “development” games for these children during the season;
- Players who do not attend training, or do not demonstrate the required level of behaviour of effort during the training sessions.
- Players who are persistently unavailable when selected.

In support of the well-being of our young people, Harrogate Cricket Club will always adhere to the YCB Guidelines For Coaching and Match Play For Young Cricketers, which states (in summary);

- Within a 7 day period (Sunday-Saturday) – no more than four matches;
- With a 14 day period – no more than six matches

This includes all club, representative and county matches. A full copy of the policy can be obtained from the Nidderdale Cricket League Web-Site.

# Harrogate Cricket Club

## Young Player Development Policy



### Summary

Harrogate Cricket Club aims to provide a structured framework for its junior cricketers, intended to allow every player to achieve their individual potential. The club will employ a variety of methods to achieve this, with players being allowed to “play up” and age group where appropriate. The club will also attempt to provide all junior members with a similar amount of coaching and game opportunities throughout a season, wherever possible.

### YCB Player Development Pathway



YCB Player Development Pathway.pdf