



## Junior Mounties



### Mt Eliza Cricket Club – Junior Playing up Grade Policy

This policy relates to requests received for players to participate in a grade higher than their MPCA mandated age requirement. In general, all players at MECC will be required to play in their mandated age grade in season 2021/22 prior to being considered for an older age group.

The following reasons are provided for this policy decision:

1. The MPCA provides age level rules to ensure all aspects of a child's development and enjoyment of cricket are taken into consideration.
2. The MECC's philosophy is that children should develop in their mandated age grade and enjoy the progress that they make through the MECC cricket program.
3. By enabling a player to play in an older age grade, a position in this age grade is granted for a player from a lower grade is only available if a position is vacant. Therefore, it may prevent a player of the right age from participating in this grade team, Priority would be then to give the place in the team to the older player.

Players may request in writing to play up a grade, in addition to their age grade. The following consideration will be given to the parental requests for their child to play at an older age level:

- The child's cricket ability
- The child's physical ability
- The child's emotional development
- The availability of players in both their mandated age group and the age group that they are requesting to play in

The priority for the club in player development is to play in your MPCA mandated age group as there are Premier and Development teams at under 12 -14 and 16 grades.

Exemptions that may be considered:

- The child is playing in a higher grade of cricket (i.e., Turf)
- The child is playing representative cricket
- An upper age group is short of players and the child's mandated age group is full / oversubscribed.

We trust that you appreciate the approach that MECC is taking with our junior selection process and look forward to discussing this with you should you require.

The MECC looks to maximise playing opportunities for all underage cricketers, including training in older age groups and seniors when appropriate. We will need to ensure that we do not expose a player to a higher grade of cricket without consultation with team coaches, head junior coach and Junior Coordinator. To play up is not a decision of the parent as the club has a duty of care.

### *The Pathway*

*The pathway aligns with key development times to maximise learning.*

*The early years are about building the foundations.*

*Focus on the holistic development of the individual including mental, tactical, and physical development.*

*The ability to adapt and perform is assessed throughout the pathway.*

*Progression to more difficult competitions based on skill rather than just age.*

*Growth is not linear so competency levels may vary as the player develops.*

Mount Eliza Cricket Club - Junior Committee