

Stoke Newington Cricket Club – Seniors Selection Policy



1. Club Objectives

Our mission is to provide the opportunity to enjoy cricket to as many adults and young people as possible and to give them all the chance to fulfil their potential. To achieve this, all our senior league sides should be playing at the highest possible level, as well as providing our juniors (who represent the future of the club) with a developmental pathway.

Each SNCC team has its own performance targets (which will normally be shared with squad members before the start of the season) and longer-term objectives (set out in Appendix 2) intended to ensure the club develops in a sustainable way. These targets and objectives will inform selection decisions alongside the selection principles set out in paragraph 3.

In pursuit of our targets and objectives we will seek to observe a policy of consistency and fairness to all members.

2. Selection Process

Selection for each SNCC team is the responsibility of the relevant Selection Committee (as set out in Appendix 1). Where a player is being considered for selection by a higher team, the relevant Selection Committee will normally try to consult with that player's captain as part of the selection process.

To help the Selection Committees with their decisions, all players must to confirm their availability on Spord for the upcoming weekend by:

- Tuesday 5pm – Men's 1st, 2nd & 3rd XIs
- Wednesday 5pm – Men's 4th, 5th & 6th XIs
- Thursday 5pm – Women's 1st & 2nd XIs

This timetable does not apply to the Men's Sunday Friendly XI or VPL teams, for which team line-ups are selected and published in batches up to a month in advance.

The Selection Committees will, so far as possible, make their selection decisions and publish team line-ups on the relevant SNCC WhatsApp groups in reasonable time before that weekend's matches. Prior to the team announcements, captains will try to communicate with any player who has been selected for a lower team, ideally verbally, but by text or WhatsApp where this is not possible.

Any player changing their availability after the relevant selection meeting must personally talk to their team captain as soon as possible. People who regularly change their availability after the relevant deadline above will be at risk of non-selection or selection for a lower team when next available.

3. Selection Principles

All league teams will be picked on the basis of recent performance and ability in order to maximise the strength of each team with a view to achieving their performance targets and longer-term objectives. We will also try to ensure, where possible, the correct balance (eg number of batters, spinners and seam bowlers) and this includes the balancing of youth and experience (as set out in paragraph 1).

The Men's/Women's 1st XI takes precedence over the Men's/Women's 2nd XI, the 2nd XI over the 3rd XI and so on. This is in accordance with MCCL and MWCL rules.

Friendly teams will be selected to make sure all playing members have the opportunity to get a game each week where possible. Youth development and rewarding those available in previous weeks will also be key.

Other factors which will contribute to selection decisions include:

- Attendance at training (but we acknowledge that players with County or other representative or school commitments will often need to prioritise these).
- Consistency of availability - we will aim to establish long-term availability at the start of the season.
- Timekeeping - players should arrive at the ground at the time set out in the teamsheet.
- Attitude and commitment to the Club, both in the past and present.
- Adherence to the Club's Code of Conduct.
- Payment of membership subs and match fees.
- Nature of the opposition.

Players make themselves available for selection for all sides unless special dispensation has been granted by the relevant Selection Committee. Therefore players must play where selected and in the team they have been selected for. Any player who refuses to play for a specific team will no longer be eligible for selection. No refunds of membership fees paid will be given.

If a player does not wish to be available for away fixtures, for whatever reason, they should make this clear to the relevant Selection Committee at the earliest possible opportunity, ideally at the start of the season. The Selection Committee will take this into consideration and try to offer the player an opportunity to play cricket where possible, though likely in a lower team than they can expect based purely on their ability.

4. Batting and bowling orders

Batting and bowling orders on matchdays are decided at the sole discretion of captains. Captains will try to make the most of each player's skill set and this will be influenced by the matchday environment, eg pitch and weather conditions, game situation and how each player performs.

There is sometimes a balance to be struck between the clearly defined performance objectives of each team and the need to develop younger players by exposing them to higher levels of responsibility. In the Men's 1st and 2nd XIs and the Women's 1st XI, where the stakes are higher, the need to win will take precedence over the wider and long-term objectives of promoting young players in the event that these objectives conflict. However, SNCC is proud of its history of developing its young players and captains will be encouraged to promote them and give them opportunities when they feel these young players are ready to contribute to a winning team.

In any event, if players do not bat or bowl in their usual position in a particular match, they should accept this for the greater good of the team. All players are nevertheless entitled to an explanation for such decisions (see paragraph 6 below).

5. Selection of junior players

A list of junior players available and keen to play senior cricket will be drawn up before the start of the season by SNCC's Cricket Coordinator (after consultation with the club's coaching team). This information will be shared with the Selection Committees and will be updated throughout the season. SNCC's Cricket Coordinator and the Club Chair have specific responsibility for monitoring the opportunities given to junior players and for overseeing the selection process so far as it relates to juniors. The Selection Committees are mindful of the particular need for communication and consultation with juniors/parents about senior selection decisions.

The mix of youth and experience for any given game or team may vary according to the circumstances of the season and the need to win matches. Also, in the interests of giving younger players valuable game time, seniors in the Men's 3rd, 4th, 5th XI & 6th XIs and the Women's 2nd XI may be asked to take a flexible attitude to selection. For example, in the first half of the summer when some juniors may be less available, senior players may be asked to play in a higher team. On the other hand, they may be asked to play in a lower team voluntarily later in the season once the school holidays have begun.

Parents of junior players are asked not to contact captains before, during or after a game to question selection or decisions around batting and bowling orders in senior cricket. A parent wishing to discuss any aspect of their son's/daughter's involvement in senior cricket, needs to do so with SNCC's Cricket Coordinator or the Club Chair.

6. Explanations for selection decisions

The process of selection is complicated, nuanced and potentially sensitive – it is inevitably an art rather than a science – and the club asks that members should always take this into consideration.

If a player is unhappy with any selection call, decision on batting or bowling orders, or their role within the team, they are entitled to an explanation. However, the expectation is that they put the needs of their team/ the club before their own and bear with the decision for that weekend. This will minimise disruption across all teams. Any person who questions selection decisions publicly (whether verbally or on social media platforms) will be in breach of SNCC's Code of Conduct.

If a player wishes to better understand the reasons for a decision, they should communicate directly with their team captain and/or the relevant Selection Committee. If any issue remains unresolved, it should be escalated to SNCC's Cricket Coordinator and the Club Chairman.

Appendix 1

Selection Committees

Men's 1st & 2nd XIs

1st XI Captain – Dominic Haddock

2nd XI Captain – Abhishek Sen

SNCC Chair – Jamie Endean

Cricket Coordinator – Duncan Holden

Men's 3rd & 4th XIs

3rd XI Captain – Hollie Summerfield

4th XI Captain – Som Batabyal

SNCC Chair – Jamie Endean

Cricket Coordinator – Duncan Holden

Men's 5th & 6th XIs

5th XI Captain – Ed Baldwin

SNCC Chair – Jamie Endean

Cricket Coordinator – Duncan Holden

SNCC Committee Member – Nick Willis

Sunday Friendly XI

SNCC Committee Member – Nick Willis

Sunday XI Manager – Andrew Dickens

Sunday XI Manager – Devarshi Lodhia

Women's 1st & 2nd XIs

Women's 1st XI Captain

Women's 2nd XI Captain

SNCC Chair – Jamie Endean

SNCC Committee Member - Stefan Mueller

Appendix 2

Longer-term Objectives

1. Men's 1st XI

To become one of the top club teams in the Middlesex County Cricket League. Achievement of this objective will manifest itself by achieving promotion to reach MCCL 1st XI Division Two by 2028 and then maintaining our position in that division. This starts every week with selecting a team to win the next match.

2. Men's 2nd XI

To work towards promotion while promoting the player pathway to the Men's 1st XI by providing opportunities for emerging talent to gain the confidence and experience to play at a higher level.

3. Men's 3rd XI

To work towards promotion, while progressing and supporting players with the potential to play for the Men's 1st or 2nd XI.

4. Men's 4th XI & 5th XI

To be competitive teams which play to the best of their abilities, while providing exposure and opportunities for players with the potential to play for the Men's 3rd XI. To provide an introduction to senior league cricket for young players under the supervision of experienced adult teammates, by ensuring a suitable blend of youth and experience takes the field each week.

5. Men's 6th XI & Men's Sunday Friendly XI

To offer fun and competitive cricketing opportunities for players of all age groups and levels. To provide playing opportunities to those who can't commit to playing every week. To offer an initial introduction to young players to senior cricket under the supervision of experienced adult teammates.

6. Women's 1st XI

To become one of the top club teams in the Middlesex Women's Cricket League by achieving promotion to the Esme Irwin League as soon as our talent and player base permits. In the meantime to compete strongly in the Sheila Hill League, while offering a developmental pathway for our most talented juniors.

7. Women's 2nd XI

To offer fun and competitive cricketing opportunities for players of all age groups and levels. To provide playing opportunities to those who can't commit to playing every week. To offer an initial introduction to young players to senior cricket under the supervision of experienced adult teammates.