**Tottington St Johns Cricket Club - Selection Policy**

**Published - November 2020**

**Selection Committee:** First XI Captain, Second XI Captain, Third XI Captain

It has been apparent that during the 2020 season, the cricket committee needed to be streamlined to ensure clarity and consistency in decisions and communications. We have taken the decision to abolish the Vice Captaincy positions for this year. This means that for the 2021 season, Selection will ONLY be conducted by the three elected captains; this means that the dispute mechanism (detailed below) will always remain totally impartial as members of the cricket committee were not included in the original decision.

The cricket committee has again agreed that our duty this year is to enable and facilitate the goals for each side, by supporting the captains in their decisions with selection. Ultimately, it is the Captain who takes to the field on the weekend, after having selected an eleven which they feel can win the respective fixture. If, on the rare occasion, an elected captain is unavailable for a fixture, the cricket committee will appoint a “stand in” captain. This decision is entirely at the discretion of the cricket committee after consultation with the elected captain.

The selection committee will justify all decisions regarding selections for respective teams, including any rotation of players out of the matchweek 11/22/33/44 etc, or the movement of players between sides.

In terms of criteria for selection, the following may be to be considered (in no particular order) by the selection committee:

* Form of player
* Attendance at practice (summer - Tuesday or Thursday nights, 6pm) – weekly attendance is actively encouraged
* General availability of player – have you been available both days? Are you available every/most weeks?
* Performance in previous seasons (using CricHQ)
* Does that player fit into the best eleven, second best eleven, and third best eleven available that weekend?
* Attitude/general demeanour around the club, including at social events.
* Do you support the club on and off field? We aren’t just here to play cricket!
* Discipline history with our league (GMCL) – please refer to GMCL Player Conduct documentation.
* How well you follow Match Day procedures – punctuality, correct kit, pre/post game groundwork, etc.
* The players’ potential to win the game of cricket in question (1st, 2nd or 3rd XI)

At this point, we wish to remind all members that you are available for selection for THE CLUB, which means any side which we field. No players, (bar Captain(s), Os Am, Pro) are guaranteed cricket each week, in a particular side. There will be some players starred, which again, will restrict the side they can be selected in. The rule for 2021 is that FIVE players will be starred for 1st XI Selection only, and 16 players will be starred for 1st/2nd XI selection only. These players are, however, in the minority. We have over fifty registered cricketers for the 2021 season. Starring will be determined by the Cricket Committee after consultation with the respective captains.

We wish to have a transient squad, where excellent, consistent performance can be rewarded with a better standard of cricket. This does mean that some players, despite performing well, may be displaced due to exceptional performance from another player. Likewise, we want to be able to offer players a “proving ground”, where, if they have been struggling with form in a particular side, they can play in a lower division in order to recapture form/confidence. This is not a punishment and must not be seen as one; this is how a squad works and as our squad grows, competition for places will increase. As our junior players mature and become eligible for selection for Senior Cricket, this competition will again increase. Tottington St John’s Cricket Club will embrace youth and offer opportunity (wherever relevant/appropriate) to junior cricketers, to safeguard the future of our club, for many years to come.

Selection will take place Tuesday night, and teams will be released no later than Thursday morning, via WhatsApp.

As our club grows, it is reasonable to expect that some players may not play the volume of cricket they would like. We would like to remind all members that whilst we fully understand you may be disappointed in not being selected, all decisions are clearly justifiable, and based on the above points.

At this point, the cricket committee would like to remind members that issues regarding selection queries/disputes should not be aired in public (WhatsApp groups, social media, etc), but by direct communication to the selection committee. Any disputes will initially be discussed by one each of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd XI captain.

If a squad member is still unhappy with the reasoning given, please then approach any of the Cricket Committee, who, after discussion with the relevant captain(s) and other cricket committee members, will provide a final decision which will be at least, a majority verdict.

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**The Cricket Committee reserve the right to make emergency amendments as and when required.**