

## **MATER HILL CRICKET CLUB - SELECTION GUIDELINES FOR SATURDAY TEAMS**

The purpose of these guidelines is to assist in the selection of teams entered by the Mater Hill Cricket Club in Saturday fixtures of the Warehouse Cricket Association.

### **1. Selection personnel**

Those with responsibility for selection of teams in the Saturday competition include:

- (a) the captain of each Saturday team (or if any captain is unavailable, the vice-captain of that team); and
- (b) a chairman of selectors appointed by the management committee (or the club secretary in the absence of any appointed chairman),

(referred to collectively hereafter as the **selection committee**).

### **2. List of players eligible for selection**

At the start of a season, the selection committee will prepare a list of players who have registered their interest in playing regularly in the Saturday competition (referred to hereafter as **regular players**).

The selection committee should also make a separate list of players who have indicated that they would like to play on Saturdays from time to time, but not so often so as to be considered regular players (referred to hereafter as **fill-in players**).

These lists of players may need to be adjusted during the course of a season as circumstances change.

### **3. Steps to be followed in the selection process**

As a general rule, the steps to be followed by the selection committee when selecting Saturday teams for any given match is as follows:

- (a) **step 1 (ideally to be completed by the Monday afternoon before each game)**: the selection committee should determine the availability of all regular players for the upcoming game, and prepare a list of these players. The captains will determine between themselves who will be responsible for contacting each of the regular players to ascertain their availability. Once the season is underway, usually the responsibility for contacting a particular player will fall on the captain of the team in which that player played their last game;
- (b) **step 2 (ideally to be completed by the Tuesday before each game)**: the selection committee should identify whether there are too many or too few players for the upcoming game.

If there are too few players, the captains should discuss which players on the fill-in list should be contacted to make up the numbers. No fill-ins should be contacted unless there will not be enough regular players to fill the teams.

If there are too many players, a decision should be made as to which player(s) to leave out, after following the guidelines outlined in section 5 below.

This process should result in the selection committee compiling a list of available players for the upcoming game.

- (c) **step 3 (ideally to be completed by Wednesday evening before each game)**: the captain of the first Saturday team is to select his team from the list of available players, to be followed by the captain of the second team, and so on. In the process of each captain selecting his XI, he is to follow the process outlined in section 4 below. If there are difficulties in identifying sufficient players to make up all teams, this step may need to be conducted before step 2 is finally completed;
- (d) **step 4 (to be completed by Thursday evening before each game)**: captains are to notify the players in their team as to where they are playing. If any regular players are not being selected, they should also be notified, and responsibility for doing so will usually rest with the captain of the team in which that player last played;
- (e) **step 5 (dealing with last minute changes)**: if there is a need to adjust the teams due to one or more players on the finalised team lists becoming unavailable, any empty position is to be filled in accordance with the guidelines set out below insofar as that is possible in the allowable timeframe before the commencement of the match. This may involve shuffling players between teams, which as a general rule, will be a preferable option to having players playing in less than ideal positions contrary to the principles set out below.

#### **4. Guidelines for the selection of teams**

When selecting his team pursuant to step 3 in section 3 above, a team captain should observe the following guidelines:

- (a) a captain should feel free, subject to the points below, to choose his team with a view to selecting the best eleven he can from the list of available players (less any players who have already been selected for a higher team). Accordingly, it is desirable that the first Saturday team represents the Mater Hill best XI, the second team being the second best XI, and so on;
- (b) except for the captain of the lowest side (who will, of course, not normally have a choice), a captain should ensure, as best as possible, that each player he selects in his side is capable of playing a meaningful role in that side, specifically, that the player will have the opportunity of either:
  - (i) batting in one of the top seven batting positions;
  - (ii) wicket-keeping, and batting above number 9 in the batting order; or
  - (iii) being one of the four main bowlers (or one of the five main bowlers in a one-day game).

If a player will likely be playing a lesser role than that set out above it is preferable that the player be selected in a lower side, if there is any other reasonable option available (such as moving another player who could fulfil a greater role, or recruiting a fill-in player – in circumstances where there is a shortfall of regular players);

- (c) a captain should always consult, where necessary and appropriate, with the other captains when making decisions involving the promotion or relegation of players so as to determine

what flow on effect this may have on other teams and whether there might be a better alternative.

## **5. Guidelines for resolving situations where too many players are available**

In determining which players should be selected where too many players are available, the selection committee should observe the following guidelines:

- (a) regular players always have priority over fill-in players;
- (b) regular players who have paid their membership fee and who are up to date on payment of match fees will always have priority over those who have not;
- (c) a regular player who has not paid his membership after playing at least three games will be treated as a fill-in player until his membership is paid;
- (d) for two-day matches, players who can play both weeks of a game will usually have priority over players who can only play one of the two days;
- (e) later in the season, players who have played on a very regular basis (i.e., virtually every game) will usually have priority over other players who have only played intermittently;
- (f) a player who has withdrawn from a game at some time after the Thursday evening before, without a reasonable explanation, will only be selected for the next game if there is room after all other regular players have been selected;
- (g) a regular player who is available and yet sit-outs a game due to a surplus of players, should be given priority selection in later games.

## **6. Role of the chairman of selectors**

The captains should keep the chairman of selectors informed (normally by copying him in on email correspondence) as to the state of team selections during the course of each week.

The chairman's role will be to raise any concerns he may have about particular selections (including observance of these guidelines), make any suggestions where this could be useful, and to resolve any disputes which may arise between captains.

## **7. Saturday super-sub rule**

The warehouse cricket rules for one-day Saturday games allow teams to play with twelve players if they wish to do so, with one player from the team not being permitted to bowl, and another player from the team not being permitted to bat.

Given that this scenario will result in some players effectively not playing a full game (either by not fielding for the entirety of their team's bowling innings or not getting an opportunity to bat or bowl), Mater Hill Saturday teams will select twelve players utilising the super-sub rule only in very exceptional circumstances, typically, only where it is necessary to ensure that all regular players are included in a team. This will only occur where no fill-in players are participating in games on that Saturday.

One other possible justification for playing twelve players might be when a regular player has to leave a match early and can be replaced by a fill-in player later in the game who has agreed to play a reduced role in the match.

Further, in the event that any team is selected with twelve players in the exceptional circumstances referred to above, this should be done in such a way so as to not compromise the strength of any lower side, e.g., the first side should not compromise the strength of the second side by playing twelve players when the twelfth player could instead play for the second side, and so on. Often this will mean that if any team is going to play with twelve players, it will normally be the lowest side.

#### **8. Expectations the club has of its players**

- (a) Players are expected to respond promptly to requests from captains to indicate their availability for the upcoming game. Any player who has not confirmed their availability by the time requested may be treated by the selection committee as being unavailable and may lose their place to a fill-in player.
- (b) Apart from exceptional circumstances (such as, for example, certain father/son pairings), all Saturday regular players must make themselves available for selection in any of the Mater Hill Saturday teams. Although they may, in some cases, want to remain in a particular team, this is not a matter for their choice. Selectors will attempt to make allowances where possible for particular individuals wanting to play with certain other players or in a certain team, but that cannot be guaranteed. Any Saturday regular player must be prepared to play in whatever team he is selected in. If he is not prepared to do so, he will be regarded as a fill-in player only and will not be guaranteed a place in any Mater Hill Saturday team.
- (c) As a general rule, any fill-in player who has refused to play in any particular team should only be selected in exceptional circumstances (i.e., if they are required to make up the numbers, and only if it will not unduly compromise the make-up of the teams or any regular player who might be moved to a different team as a result).
- (d) The selection committee may decide that a player who has made a late withdrawal from a game without a reasonable explanation should not be selected for a later game if there is a surplus of regular players.