

Winchmore Hill Cricket Club

Senior Cricket Selection Policy (updated 2026)

Dear Members,

As we approach the new season, we want to set out clearly how senior team selection will operate across the club.

We are a large, competitive club with six Saturday league sides and a strong junior pathway. Our selection policy is therefore designed to balance performance, development, and enjoyment of the game at all levels.

1. Core Principles

Selection is based on:

- Performance
- Commitment (training and availability)
- Attitude and contribution to the team

Our aim each week is to:

- Field the strongest possible teams
- Support the development of players across all sides
- Provide opportunities for juniors progressing into senior cricket

2. Selection Structure

- The 1st and 2nd XI are selected by the Director of Cricket in consultation with the 1st and 2nd XI captains
- Following these discussions, the final decision on 1st and 2nd XI selection rests with the respective captains
- Lower XIs are selected by their respective captains in consultation with the Director of Cricket
- A weekly selection meeting will take place on Tuesday evenings

3. Merit and Development

- The 1st XI is selected primarily on merit and performance
 - The 2nd XI balances performance with player development
 - The 3rd XI aims to be competitive while continuing to support player progression within the club
 - The 4th–6th XIs prioritise participation, development, and enjoyment
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4. Junior Pathway

- Talented junior players will be given opportunities in senior cricket where appropriate
- Selection will consider readiness, welfare, and long-term development
- Juniors will not be selected simply to make up numbers

- As a general rule, the minimum age for selection in senior cricket is **13 years old**, with any exceptions considered carefully in line with ECB guidance and player welfare

5. Commitment and Availability

Players are expected to:

- Keep their availability up to date on Teamo
- Attend training regularly, particularly those seeking selection in the 1st and 2nd XIs

Late withdrawals or poor communication may impact selection.

6. Movement Between Teams

- Movement between teams is a normal and necessary part of club cricket
- Players may move up or down based on form, team balance, and availability
- No player is guaranteed a place in any XI

As a general principle, the club will avoid moving a player more than one team up or down in a given week. Only in exceptional circumstances will a player be moved by two teams, and this will be carefully considered by the selection group.

7. Team Balance and Roles

Selection will also take into account:

- Batting depth
- Bowling options
- Fielding standards
- Match conditions

There may be occasions where specialist roles are required to support team balance. In particular, wicketkeepers may be asked to play in a side outside their usual team if needed. This will always be considered carefully, and the reasons will be clearly communicated to the player.

8. Conduct and Club Values

Selection may be influenced by:

- Discipline
- Behaviour towards teammates, opponents, and officials
- Commitment to the values of the club

9. Communication

- Teams will be published via Teamo
- Players are encouraged to speak to captains or the Director of Cricket if they would like feedback
- Selection discussions are confidential and decisions are final

We believe this approach provides a fair and transparent framework, while allowing captains the flexibility needed to be competitive and support player development across the club.

We look forward to a successful and enjoyable season.