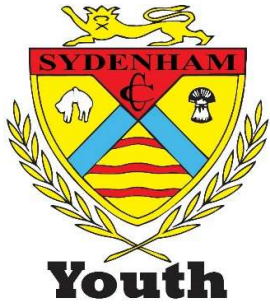


# Sydenham Youth Cricket (Boys) 2026 Information Pack



5 December 2025

The Sydenham Cricket Club is pleased to promote the **Sydenham Youth** section for high school aged boys (school years 9 – 13) in its club. **Sydenham Youth** enters youth teams into the Christchurch Metropolitan Cricket Association (CMCA) youth competitions. Girls cricket is catered for by other sections of the Club.

**Sydenham Youth** will attract high school (school years 9-13) aged cricketers that are looking to play club cricket on a Saturday in CMCA competitions. These cricketers will likely attend local high schools that do not currently provide cricket programmes that are played on Saturdays. Teams are currently made up of players from Cashmere High School, Hillmorton High School, Middleton Grange, Catholic Cathedral College, Te Aratai College, Hagley College, and other schools, including Lincoln High School and Rangiora High School. We hope that this continues.

**Sydenham Youth** is not constrained by any geographic boundaries and will accept interest from any player that wishes to play in CMCA Saturday competitions that may not otherwise be able to.

Players will join us after completing Year 8 at primary/intermediate school and will likely have played in competitions administered by the Christchurch Junior Cricket Association. Feeder clubs for us will be Sydenham Junior Cricket Club and possibly the Halswell Junior Cricket Club, Sumner Cricket Club (junior section), Riccarton Cricket Club (Junior Section) and Heathcote Cricket Club (Junior section). We extend an invitation to other clubs that provide junior cricket programmes that may have players that are looking to graduate to youth cricket that may not otherwise be catered for.

**Registrations for 2026 are now open.** We encourage players to register early so that we can determine the number of teams to be registered. Registrations are required in advance of team selections being announced.

We trust you find this information pack useful.

Kind regards,

Paul Durdin  
Youth Convenor  
[paul.durdin@abley.com](mailto:paul.durdin@abley.com)  
027 302 4313

Graham Harris  
President  
[president@sydenhamcricket.com](mailto:president@sydenhamcricket.com)  
029 292 0627

## 2026 Cricket Programme

### Playing Dates

Youth cricket is aligned to a player's school year. Teams are formed in January 2026 following receipt of registrations.

We understand from the CMCA that youth cricket will commence on the following dates:

- **31 January 2026 – 1<sup>st</sup> XI Championship Grade**
- **7 February 2026 – All grades except Year 9**
- **14 February 2026 – Year 9 grades**

The first part of the season will **finish on 28 March 2026**.

The cricket season recommences at the start of Term 4 in the school year and is played until early December 2026. **It is anticipated and expected that players will be available for the entire calendar year. Subscription fees cover the entire calendar year. Refunds are not offered for those that withdraw during the season.**

### Team Entries

Based on anticipated playing numbers, **Sydenham Youth** hopes to enter 7 or 8 teams in the following grades for Term 1 of 2026:

- 1<sup>st</sup> XI play in 1<sup>st</sup> XI Cup Grade (start time 10.30am)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> XI play in 1<sup>st</sup> XI Bowl Grade (start time 10:30am)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> XI play in 1<sup>st</sup> XI Plate Grade (start time 10:30am)
- 4<sup>th</sup> XI play in 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade (start time 12:30pm)
- Colts (start time 10.30am)
- Year 10 grade (start time 12:30pm)
- Year 9 (start time 12:30pm) – possibly 2 Sydenham teams

Additional/final team entries will be considered depending on team registrations. Teams may be regraded before the season reconvenes in mid-October.

Information on each grade can be found in the Youth Cricket section of <http://www.christchurchmetrocricket.com/> and in the [Competition Handbook](#).



## Playing Fees

Playing fees for the 2026 playing year have been retained at the same level as 2025.

The following fees apply:

- **Standard fee** \$190 per player (which includes \$20 for raffle tickets). This fee applies to Sydenham Youth players where there is only one player from the same family.
- **Family discount fee** - should a family have two or more players registered with Sydenham Youth then the standard fee is reduced to \$160 per player.
- **1<sup>st</sup> XI or 2<sup>nd</sup> XI fee** \$270 per player (which includes \$20 for raffle tickets). This fee applies to players wishing to be considered for selection for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI or 2<sup>nd</sup> XI team. The higher fees covers additional playing and coaching resources provided for these teams throughout the year. If a player registers under this category and is not selected for one of these teams, the club will refund the player \$80 (the difference between the 1<sup>st</sup> XI or 2<sup>nd</sup> XI fee and the Standard fee).

Subscriptions are due as part of the registration process. If you are unable to pay fees upfront for financial hardship reasons, then please contact the youth convenor Paul Durdin on 027 302 4313 or email [paul.durdin@abley.com](mailto:paul.durdin@abley.com) to discuss and arrange a payment plan.

The subscription year is from January 2026 to December 2026. If you are joining for half a season, please contact us directly to arrange a reduced subscription.

Subscriptions are used to help cover the costs of player affiliation fees to the CMCA, ground fees and coaching and equipment expenses. A cricket ball costs an average of \$80.00 per game. Subscriptions do not cover the total cost of the provision of youth cricket.

Refunds are not provided for any player who withdraws throughout the playing year.

## Playing Uniform

All teams play in whites in Term 1. Sydenham Youth does not have an official white uniform so players can purchase their uniform from the store of their choice. Players are expected to provide their own white playing shirt and white trousers. Individual teams may choose to have white tops printed that include the youth logo, player name, playing number, sponsor etc. Please run this past the youth convenor Paul Durdin before proceeding.

Our teams playing in 1<sup>st</sup> XI grades (1<sup>st</sup> XI, 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, 3<sup>rd</sup> XI) and in the Colts grade play with a white ball in Term 4 and play in coloured clothing provided by the club.

As part of a player's subscription, upon first registration with Sydenham youth they will be provided with:

- **1x Sydenham Youth baseball style** (to keep)
- **1x Sydenham Youth Hoodie** (to be returned upon departure from the club)

White knitted playing jerseys may be provided for some teams. If provided, these are to be returned upon departure from the club.

## Managers

Each team will require a manager(s) to assist with running the team. We encourage parents and caregivers of players to get involved. The more assistance the team receives from parents and caregivers the better.

Managers also operate as a team across the club and are in regular contact with each other to resource teams when players are unavailable e.g. injury, illness, family commitments etc.

## Coaching

Coaching of Youth Cricket is overseen by former Black Cap and Sydenham Director of Cricket Matt Bell. Matt utilises the coaching services of Sydenham Senior Men players, other qualified coaches contracted to the Club and 1<sup>st</sup> XI players, to assist with Managers with the coaching of all teams.

## Practices

All teams currently have at least one 90-minute training session scheduled each week in the weeks leading up to and during the playing season. By way of example, in 2025, the practice schedule was as follows:

- Tuesday 4:00 – 5:30pm 1<sup>st</sup> XI, 2<sup>nd</sup> XI and Colts
- Wednesday 4:00 – 5:30pm Year 9 and Year 10
- Thursday 4:00 – 5:30pm 1<sup>st</sup> XI, 2<sup>nd</sup> XI and 3<sup>rd</sup> XI
- Friday 4:00 – 5:30pm Colts

**The new indoor centre has proven to be an amazing asset for the club. Now, all teams practice each week regardless of the weather. We are seeing the benefits of this in improved results across all our teams since it opened.**



## Other Training Opportunities

We are pleased to offer other paid training opportunities throughout the season. Training can be self-directed through the indoor centre, where club members are able to book a lane in the facility at discounted rates, or through training sessions organised by Matt Bell, including the Thrive in Cricket Academy that was offered by the club for the first time in 2023.

### Team Selection

Year 9 teams will be selected following the Year 9 camp held on Wednesday 28 January 2026 (refer Year 9 Training Camp section).

Selection for other teams will be based on registration numbers, previous playing performance, player attitude/coachability, an trial/open wicket sessions, and the need for team balance. Teams will be named as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> XI and 2<sup>nd</sup> XI – no later than Friday 16 January 2026
- All other teams (including Year 9) – no later than Friday 30 January 2026.

### Umpiring

Youth cricket is generally umpired by players. The batting team umpires when their team bats and vice versa. Generally, those selected to bat at 7 & 8 should go out to umpire first and then either get replaced by those selected to bat 9 & 10 or as required after no more than 10 overs.

For Year 9 teams (and other teams where boys are not confident with umpiring), a parent may be required to stand with the umpire to assist them in understanding their duties. By Term 4 most players are comfortable umpiring by themselves however the assistance of a parent, or confident player, can be used at any time.

All players are strongly encouraged to learn to umpire.

The Canterbury Regional Cricket Umpires and Scorers' Association's website <https://www.crcua.co.nz/> has a lot of useful information on umpiring. They also run training courses throughout the year. We will endeavour to make you aware of when these are.

Umpire training will be included as part of the Year 9 camp.

### Scoring

Like umpiring, Sydenham Youth players are encouraged to learn how to score the game with the assistance of a parent.

Scorers should always sit together. All games are to be scored on PlayHQ.

## Batting Pods

The most recent guidance from the CMCA is the use of batting pods applies for all Year 9 teams and is encouraged for the Year 10 grade (excluding Colts). In these formative years players are still developing their cricket specific skills. The use of batting pods gives all players opportunities to bat in different batting positions throughout the season.

Where batting pods apply, teams should be divided into 3 batting pods. Pod A Players 1-4, Pod B Players 5-8, Pod C Players 9-12 with the strongest batsmen in the team spread across each pod. Each week pods will rotate in the batting order, e.g. week 1 batting order is Pod 1-2-3, week 2 batting order is Pod 3-1-2, week 3 batting order is Pod 2-3-1. Players can be moved around within their pods each week.

Boys batting in the last pod each week should be given the opportunity to bowl early in the opposition team's innings.

## Representative Cricket

Players will be encouraged to participate in further cricket opportunities provided by the CMCA. These include Year 9/10 combined and Year 11/12 festivals.

These self-nomination festivals allow players to play with, and against, the best cricketers in their age groups across Canterbury and further afield.

Information of representative pathways can be found at <http://www.christchurchmetrocricket.com/Youth-Cricket/youth-cricket-1>

## Social Media

**Sydenham Youth** uses social media wherever possible to promote the club and record and promote individual and team performances. Players can expect to be photographed when playing.

Managers (or a designated parent or player) will be asked to submit brief team reports (and photos) for publication after each match.

A [Sydenham Youth Facebook](#) page exists, and we encourage all players, parents and supporters to LIKE it. We suggest you check it out to get an idea of the club culture.

## Contacts

Key contacts within **Sydenham Youth** are:

Paul Durdin  
Youth Convenor  
[paul.durdin@abley.com](mailto:paul.durdin@abley.com)  
027 302 4313

Graham Harris  
President  
[president@sydenhamcricket.com](mailto:president@sydenhamcricket.com)  
029 292 0627



Registrations

**Registrations for 2026 are now open.** We encourage players to register asap so that we can determine the number of teams to be registered and so that we can plan for trials.

Registrations for will remain open until the Youth Training Camp at the end of January.

Register via <https://www.playhq.com/new-zealand-cricket/register/4ba59c>

Questions

Please forward any questions you may have to Paul in the first instance.



## Year 9 Training Camp

Players in Year 9 in 2026 are invited to attend the pre-season camp that has been scheduled for Wednesday 28 January 2026 at Sydenham Park. Players must be registered to attend the camp.



The cost of attendance at this camp is included in the annual playing fees.

The training camp is designed by our Director of Coaching Matt Bell with the assistance of the CMCA.

The camp will run from 10:00am – 4:00pm and will proceed regardless of weather.

The training camp will cover:

- Specific skill-based drills
- Net sessions
- Umpiring & scoring
- An open wicket (possible)

**This camp will form part of the process for selecting team(s) and the grade they will be entered in.**

Players not able to attend will still be considered for selection based on known past performance and potential.

A player may attend part of the camp if they are unavailable to attend in its entirety. Players to bring:

- Playing Gear
- Hat
- Sunscreen
- Lunch / Water bottle



# Sydenham Youth Cricket

Registrations are now open!

<https://www.playhq.com/new-zealand-cricket/register/4ba59c>

## Payment Details

Playing fees for the 2026 playing year have been retained at the same level as 2025. The following fees apply:

- **Standard fee** \$190 per player (which includes \$20 for raffle tickets). This fee applies to Sydenham Youth players where there is only one player from the same family.
- **Family discount fee** - should a family have two or more players registered with Sydenham Youth then the standard fee is reduced to \$160 per player.
- **1<sup>st</sup> XI or 2<sup>nd</sup> XI fee** \$270 per player (which includes \$20 for raffle tickets). This fee applies to players wishing to be considered for selection for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI or 2<sup>nd</sup> XI team. The higher fees covers additional playing and coaching resources provided for these teams throughout the year. If a player registers under this category and is not selected for one of these teams, the club will refund the player \$80.

Subscriptions are due as part of the registration process. If you are unable to pay fees upfront for financial hardship reasons, then please contact the youth convenor Paul Durdin on 027 302 4313 or email [paul.durdin@abley.com](mailto:paul.durdin@abley.com) to discuss and arrange a payment plan.

## By registering your son (yourself if over 16) you acknowledge the following Agreement & Responsibilities

- Information from registrations may be used by the club for any purpose it may have. This may include forwarding of name and addresses for representative selection, the compilation of clinics and for promotional purposes.
- I/my child declare that I/they am not currently registered with any other club and have been formally released if so in the past
- I/my child is aware of the objectives of New Zealand Cricket Inc and the CMCA. In seeking to ensure that all grades of cricket are played the guidelines set out in the preamble to the "laws of cricket" entitled "The Spirit of Cricket". I have read and understand this document and agree to abide by the guidelines set down in it in all matches I/my child am involved with
- My child may have their image taken and this may be used to promote a personal, team or club result, match, performance in circulations made by the club.
- I acknowledge in playing for the club our obligation for full payment of my/my child's subscription on the basis selected above and that the club has the right to employ debt collectors to recovery any outstanding's debt
- Club Clothing (Playing Jersey / Hoodie) remain the property of the Club and will be returned when I/my son ceases to play for the Club.