

Dear U9 Cricket Parents,

We would like to welcome you all to Bishops Prep cricket, and we look forward to five years of development and fun. The information below will help to inform you about the exciting year ahead.

Tuesday is match day, and Thursday afternoons (14:15 – 16:00) is practice day.

- The venue each Thursday is the Woodlands Astro at the College. This Astro is situated immediately on the right as you drive through the main College gates.
- Every Thursday after school, the boys wait in the Grade 3 corridor and then walk to the College under supervision.
- We will be assessing the boys' ball skills, fielding, bowling, batting, catching, and throwing again. The boys will be divided into groups according to their ability. We review the groups regularly, and there are systems in place to monitor progress in training and matches.
- We spread the coaches equally amongst all the groups to ensure that all groups receive the same quality of coaching.
- Cricket practice ends at 16:00. If you are unable to collect your son by 16:15, he will be walked back to the Prep school with a member of staff and will be taken to aftercare.

Dress Code

- Bishops sport shirt
- White shorts
- Blue Bishops rugby socks
- Predominantly white trainers
- Bishops cap/hat
- Blazer (only for matches – worn on arrival at field)
- Sunscreen

I would appreciate your support in ensuring that boys are correctly dressed for practice sessions and matches. Boys will not be allowed to participate without the correct clothing. Cricket bats will be provided, but boys are allowed to bring their bats for practice sessions and matches.

Tuesday (14:30 – 16:15) is Match day at various schools or on our Woodlands Astro.

- For the first few weeks, Tuesday and Thursday will both be practice sessions, but once the fixtures are sent, Tuesdays will only be match days.
- Please bear in mind that this is 'mini' cricket, and the emphasis is on allowing each boy the opportunity to play in a match, develop his cricketing skills at his own pace, and enjoy his cricketing experience.
- Letters regarding teams and venues will be emailed out on Friday mornings.

- You will be responsible for organising transport for your son to the match. The boys should be changed and collected from school at 14:00 and taken to the field. If your son is playing on our Astro, I will walk him to the venue.
- If you are unable to organise transport for your son, it is up to you to arrange a lift with another parent. Teachers and coaches are not allowed to transport the boys. Please make sure your son knows who will be lifting him or write a reminder in his homework diary.
- As cricket is a team sport and we are trying to develop a good sense of team spirit amongst the boys, your son is required to stay with his team until the match has ended and everyone in the team has batted and bowled. The coaches are not allowed to give permission for a boy to leave the field before a match has ended.
- Matches are usually finished by 16:15 on a Tuesday but sometimes can go on longer if we are late or our opponents arrive late.
- Please ensure that boys are collected promptly at 16:30.
- Boys need to be dressed correctly for matches and will not be allowed to play if he is not wearing the correct uniform. Blazers also need to be worn on arrival at the match. Please ensure that when you leave the field, your son has all his belongings. School bags and tog bags should be left in the car.

Friday Practice

Time: 13:15 until 14:15 at the Rossall Field (only Term 4)

- These sessions to introduce the boys to hardball cricket are voluntary for the boys.
- Every Friday after school, the boys meet at the Rossall Field (Prep). They must be collected from the Prep.
- Equipment will be provided. Boys can also bring their equipment and balls, neatly packed in their kit bag.

Interhouse Matches

- Once all the Mini Cricket matches have been played, towards the end of the term, the Grade 3s will start their Interhouse matches. These will take place during Tuesday and Thursday practice sessions (14:15 – 16:00) at the Woodlands Astro.
- Boys must wear their usual cricket outfit with their house T-shirt.

I hope this letter helps to shed some light on how 'Mini Cricket' is run at the Prep. We will do our best to ensure your boys enjoy their cricket and reach their full potential.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at cgroom@bishops.org.za or prepsport@bishops.org.za.

Kind regards,
Chris Groom