



Welcome to Carlton Cricket Club!



We'd like to extend a warm welcome to you and your child(ren) to Carlton Cricket Club's Girls squads for the 2025 season. This note is a brief introduction to the club; there is lots more information on the [Junior section of the club website](#).

New this year:

- The age limit for Girls hardball matches is increased to U16 (age as of 1 September 2024)
- Lothian Juniors leagues are adding Girls Development fixtures on Sunday mornings, aimed at girls who are just starting to play hardball cricket - more details below. The nominal age is U13, but older girls are welcome to play if this is the right level for their cricket.

We have plenty of space in the Girls squads! No knowledge of cricket is needed to join the softball or development squads. Please encourage your friends to come along and try out cricket as well - but please ask a parent to contact Martin Firth first to let us know they're coming.

What to expect

Girls squads are arranged into three levels. All three squads train on Monday evenings, starting on 21 April.

Squad	Times	Description
Softball (P2-P5)	5:00 - 6:00pm	<p>The Girls Softball squad is for younger players who have recently taken up the game.</p> <p>The players train with a soft ball, in order to learn the basics of the game.</p> <p>Players will be invited to take part in softball matches.</p>
Development (P6-P7)	5:00 - 6:00pm	<p>The Girls Development squad is a level between the Softball and Hardball squads, for older primary players.</p> <p>The players train with an incrediball (part way between a soft and hard ball), progressing to hardball at their own pace.</p> <p>Players will be invited to take part in softball matches, and Girls Development league matches. As their</p>

		confidence with playing hardball cricket develops, they will also be invited to play hardball matches.
Hardball (P7 - S5)	5:00 - 6:15pm	The Girls Hardball squad train and play with a hard ball. Players will play in hardball matches, including Women's second team matches and - for older players - Women's first team matches.

We plan to have a cake stall and teas/coffees at training sessions, which is a highlight of the training sessions from the children's point of view.

What should I bring to training sessions?

Softball squad players do not need any cricket kit, we have everything they will need for training and matches.

Development squad players do not initially need any kit, we have some kit they can borrow for training. However, as they progress towards the hardball squad, it is likely that they will want their own helmet, pads, gloves and bat.

Wear something warm and comfortable that you don't mind attracting grass or mud stains. But other club or school badges are not allowed.

Hardball squad players will probably want their own helmet, pads, gloves and bat, although we do have some kit they can borrow for training.

Players playing for the Girls Hardball team, or the Women's second team, will need a Women's Hardball playing shirt, available from from [the Carlton Grey-Nicholls store](#).

For all players: we also offer a range of other cricket clothing through from [the Carlton Grey-Nicholls store](#), including the ever-popular Carlton hoodie. These are entirely optional.

It's also a good idea to bring a water bottle, and 50p for the cake stall.

Finally, *please* label anything which can be dropped: hoodies, hats, water bottles ...

Are there matches?

Yes! There are matches for girls at all levels.

Softball	<p>Girls Softball and Development players play in Girls U12 tournaments which take place on Sunday mornings across Edinburgh and the Lothians. We will publish the schedule on Pitchero when it is available (probably in late March).</p> <p>The general pattern on a Sunday morning is: meet at 9:15; start playing at 9:30; play three games; finish around 11:30.</p>
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	<p>Girls are also invited to play in Mixed U10 tournaments, also on Sunday mornings, with the same format.</p> <p>Initially, we invite only players who played last year to the first few games, then all players from around mid-June, once they've had a few training sessions.</p>
Development	<p>New for 2025, Development players will play in the Lothian Juniors Girls Development league. We expect 2 games each in May and June, on Sunday mornings. We will review the level of interest after that to decide what further games to play.</p> <p>This level is aimed at girls who are just starting to play hardball cricket. The age is nominally U13, but it is open to players of any age for whom this level is appropriate. The emphasis is on enjoying the game and practising hardball cricket skills.</p> <p>Matches will be 8-a-side, in pairs format, 16-overs a side. Everyone bats in a pair for 4 overs and everyone bowls 2 overs.</p> <p>Matches are usually played with an incrediball (part way between a soft and a hard ball).</p>
Hardball	<p>We enter a team in the Lothian Juniors Girls U16 (hardball) league. We expect there to be 8-12 games on Sunday mornings from May to August, against other clubs in Edinburgh and further afield.</p> <p>Matches will be 8-a-side, in one of two formats, depending on the strength of the two teams.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - T20, "When you're out you're out" (this is the preferred format). - Pairs, 16-overs. Everyone bats in a pair for 4 overs and everyone bowls 2 overs. <p>Many of the Girls Hardball squad are also invited to play in the Women's Second Team in the Women's Challenger League. Games are usually on a Sunday afternoon, but also sometimes on midweek evenings.</p>

We use Pitchero to announce matches, ask about availability of players, and announce teams. We'll send a separate communication with more detail about how we - and you - use Pitchero.

Senior cricket

Some Girls' Hardball players also attend Women's senior training and play in Women's senior matches.

- Attendance at senior training is by coach invitation based on performance at Girls' Hardball training. You should discuss with your coaches whether you are ready for that, and which team you should sign up for.

- Women's training is on Fridays, 6:00 - 8:00 pm.
- Women 1s play 30-over league games or 20-over cup games on Sunday afternoons, with occasional friendlies.
- Women 2s usually play 20-over matches on Sunday mornings or midweek evenings.

We use Pitchero for availability and selection for seniors in exactly the same way as for juniors. And we ask for an additional subs payment of £30 for girls who also take part in senior cricket.

How do I keep up with Carlton news and events?

You can stay informed through:

1. **Pitchero** – Match details, training updates, and event announcements. Enable notifications so you don't miss anything!
2. **Instagram (@Carltoncc1863)** – News and updates.
3. **WhatsApp Groups**
 - Team admins may create WhatsApp groups for team discussions (not for availability or selection, which is managed via Pitchero).
 - The "Arrows Chat" group is available for general Carlton discussions (family-friendly, children must have a parent in the group too). Contact your team admin if you want to be added to this group.
4. **Website ([CarltonCC](#))** – Regular news updates.

Do you stop for summer holidays?

No! Cricket goes on every week from 21 April to the end of August.

What if it rains?

We try very hard not to cancel cricket, so you will find we play on through light rain. But sometimes the weather defeats us and we have to cancel a training session. When that happens, we will announce it through Pitchero.

Can I help?

Yes please!

All of our lead coaches for training sessions are paid professionals, but all the administration of the club and of match squads is done by volunteers. We always need help to run the club, for example:

- Running the cake stalls at Monday training sessions.
- Helping to run the teams on Sunday mornings.

- Selling and serving burgers at club social events (once the weather warms up a little).
- And various other roles.

We will make requests for help of various sorts at points through the season - please consider these positively and offer help when you can, we really appreciate all help

Alternatively, please contact Siobhan or any one of the junior committee (see below) and offer to help. It doesn't have to be a lot, a few evenings selling cakes would be a great start and a good way to meet other parents at the club.

Can I join in?

Yes!

Some parents join Carlton to play cricket as well as their children. We run seven senior league teams including two Women's teams, plus a Sunday development side and occasional friendly games. If you're interested in playing, please contact Martin (membership secretary).

Who should I ask ...

Contact details are all on [Contacts – Carlton Cricket Club](#), also on the noticeboard just inside the middle door of the clubhouse.

Junior cricket is managed by the Junior committee. Key contacts are:

- **Siobhan Fontenla**, junior convenor - questions generally about Carlton junior cricket.
- **Mary Rose**, Child Wellbeing and Protection Officer - questions or concerns about the wellbeing of your (or any) child.
- **Stevie Gilmour**, head coach - questions about coaching; tips on improving your child's cricket; summer camps ...
- **Charles Stronach**, cricket manager - questions about junior teams.
- **Kelly Caton**, kit manager - questions about Carlton clothing.
- **Kelly Foley**, Fixtures secretary and Lost property.
- **Martin Firth**, membership secretary - questions about membership and Pitchero.

We try to make sure that one of us is at training sessions to answer questions, or just for a chat about cricket.

We hope you and your children enjoy cricket as much as we and our children have done, and we look forward to seeing you at Carlton this summer.

Siobhan Fontenla & the Junior Cricket Committee