

Welcome to senior cricket at Carlton (junior players)



We'd like to extend a warm welcome to you in Carlton's senior teams in 2026.

Carlton is very proud of the fact that every year 40 or more juniors, drawn from all our junior hardball levels, enjoy playing for our senior teams. You are joining an illustrious list of former and current players who have followed that pathway.

Playing for a senior team means you get more cricket in longer games which extends and develops all your skills. You also contribute to the continuing culture of Carlton as a club which maximises the opportunities for junior cricketers.

This note is an introduction to senior cricket at Carlton for junior players. It outlines what you can expect from senior cricket, and what we expect from junior players playing senior cricket.

What to expect

Juniors in senior teams are a central part of the team - you are not there simply to make up the numbers. You will be asked to contribute to bowling or batting, frequently both, and to show a willingness to try hard and field well (an area that Carlton takes great pride in). We encourage you to take part in team discussions, offer input into field settings and tactics, and to offer encouragement to all team members.

You will play longer games, typically 30 or 40 overs, against senior teams from other clubs. This provides the opportunity to learn to bat and bowl for longer periods, against physically stronger (though not usually with stronger technique) opponents. Longer games can be hard at first, you need to work on staying focussed and concentrating for the whole game.

Availability and selection for matches

You should make yourself available for senior cricket by signing up to the relevant teams in Pitchero. In most instances that will initially be for the 5th XI or the Women's 2nd XI.

Senior teams use Pitchero in a very similar way to Junior teams - the selection process is fully described in [Senior and Women's Team Selection Policy](#). Here is a brief summary of your part in the process.

In Pitchero, you can see a full schedule of any teams that you are signed up to play for. We ask that you post your availability as follows:

- Keep an initial indication of your availability up-to-date for the next 3 weeks. We won't hold you to this, but it helps us to identify potential problem weekends, for example when many people are away.

- Update your availability for the following weekend by the Sunday evening before.
- Keep an eye on selection notifications - when you see you have been selected for a team, respond - hopefully positively - immediately.

We aim to announce team selection on Wednesdays. However, last minute changes are frequently necessary, so we may make changes late in the week. We are continually amazed by - and very grateful for - the patience of players and their parents when this happens.

We need to balance games for all players at the club, so it is sometimes necessary to ask players to sit out a week. When this happens, the team captain will explain that it is a rotation and the player has not been dropped. They will usually be selected again the following week.

Training

Once you are signed up for senior cricket, you are welcome to attend senior training sessions. Summer senior training sessions are led by Stevie..

Senior training is different from junior training: Stevie is the head coach and leads training, and Dan Da Costa is the assistant coach. However, there are lots of players and only 2 coaches, so players are expected to take more responsibility for their own game. Your role is to play a part in that process: when you're bowling, work on your normal style of bowling; when you're batting, bat as if you are in a match. If you want help, or you're in doubt as to what you're doing, ask one of the coaches.

Senior training	Tuesday 6:30 - 8:30pm
Senior training	Thursday 6:30 - 8:30pm
Women's training	Monday 6:30 - 8:30pm

Boys can sign up for senior training by signing up for a senior team in Pitchero. If you are signing up to senior cricket for the first time, you should choose the Mixed Development Team and/or the 5th XI.

Girls can attend Women's training by invitation based on performance at Girls' Hardball training. Girls should discuss with their coaches whether you are ready for that, and which team you should sign up for.

Matches

Carlton enters 5 teams in the ESCA leagues. In 2026, our teams are in these divisions:

- 1st XI: Eastern Premier League
- 2nd XI: ESCA Championship
- 3rd XI: ESCA Division 2
- 4th XI: ESCA Division 5
- 5th XI: ESCA Division 7

We enter two Women's league teams:

- 1st XI: Women's Premier League
- 2nd XI: Women's Challenger League.

We also have a Mixed Development Team, which plays occasional matches on Sunday afternoons, and there are friendly midweek 5th XI T20 matches throughout the season.

Our responsibilities

Code of conduct for working with children

We take our responsibilities to our junior players very seriously, and this is the same whether you are playing for junior or senior teams. Team captains and adult players all accept the [Code of conduct for working with children](#).

If you have any concerns about how you are treated, please talk to one of:

- Your team captain
- The club's Child Welfare and Protection Office: Mary Rose
mary.rose1008@gmail.com or 07958 649704

If you have any questions on these codes of conduct, please talk to your team captain.

Your responsibilities

Club Culture

Our key values are inclusivity, respect and development. When you play for Carlton teams, you accept these values, which are expanded on in our [Culture Statement](#) (also linked from the footer of every page of the [club website](#)).

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 often ask for help, please offer to help as much as possible, can for example:

- Preparing the ground ahead of the new season, and clearing everything away at the end of the season.
- Helping with groundwork during the season.

Code of conduct for players and match officials

We are proud of our record of fair play. When you join Carlton, you accept the [Cricket Scotland Code of Conduct](#).

Communications

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**
 - There are WhatsApp groups for team discussions, most usefully arranging lifts to matches (but not for availability or selection, which is managed via Pitchero).
 - The "Arrows Chat" group is available for general Carlton discussions.

Ask your team captain to add you to these groups. They are all family-friendly, and juniors must have a parent in the group too.

4. **Website ([CarltonCC](#))** – Regular news updates.

Who should I ask ...

In the first instance, ask your team captain. You can contact them through Pitchero's "Messages" feature, although you will probably quickly discover their phone numbers.

Team	2026 Captain
1st XI	Dan Da Costa
Womens 1st XI	Sam Haggo
2nd XI	Charles Stronach
Women's 2nd XI	Sarah Beith
3rd XI	Brad McKay
4th XI	Al Murray
5th XI	Keith Murray

Other useful contacts are:

President	Bob Irvine
Director of Cricket	Stevie Gilmour
Pitchero admin	Martin Firth
Child Welfare and Protection Officer	Mary Rose

Other information

Membership Subs

Membership subs for 2026 will be agreed at the AGM in February 2026, and will be listed in <https://carltoncc.co.uk/club/membership>. We ask for an additional subscription for juniors who also sign up for senior cricket, in 2025 this was:

- Boys: £55
- Girls: £30

Clothing and kit

Everyone should wear official team clothing for match days, and we would love everyone to be wearing the club badge at training.

There are two strips.

Kit	Description	Used by
Playing blues	Sky blue shirts with dark blue trousers	Worn for all league matches
Training blues	Dark blue shirts with dark blue trousers	Worn for training. Also worn for most friendly games.

Kit can be ordered from Gray Nicolls Carlton store:
<https://www.gray-nicolls.co.uk/collections/carlton>.

=====

We hope you enjoy playing senior cricket at Carlton, and we look forward to seeing you developing your skills further this summer.

Bob Irvine, Stevie Gilmour & the Management Committee