

MCC Club XI Competition

Since 1896

JOIN A TRADITION OF COMPETITIVE CRICKET
PLAYED ON TOP GROUNDS AND IN GREAT SPIRIT



About the MCC Club XI Competition

History

The MCC Club XI Competition boasts a history dating back to 1896. Initially it was organised as an internal competition by the MCC due to an excess of players available to play in the VCA (now known as Victorian Premier Cricket) competition teams. To provide all players with a game of cricket, the MCC formed five teams.

Teams comprised of 'old boys' from a number of private schools later joined the competition, along with teams from other District/Premier Cricket clubs.

The MCC Club XI Competition has expanded considerably over the past 15-20 years and now boasts 34 teams across 4 Divisions.

The Competition is part of the MCC's Cricket Strategy to support and promote game development and participation.

Players in the Competition in 2023/24 came from 30 different nationalities and the various divisions provide opportunities for those of a range of abilities. It is a senior competition and players must be over 15 years of age to take part (in select circumstances a player aged between 13 and 15 may be granted a Junior Player Permit).

Clubs and players are attracted to the Competition for the high standard of conditions, on-field competition, umpiring and positive spirit in which the games are played.

The Competition is structured and managed in such a way as to honour its long and rich history while ensuring it meets the standards required of the present and future.

Existing Clubs

- Melbourne Cricket Club
- Old Scotch Collegians
- Old Melburnians
- Old Wesley Collegians
- Old Xaverians
- Old Trinity
- Old Carey
- Old Haileyburians
- Melbourne High School Old Boys
- Whitefriars Old Boys
- Penleigh Essendon Grammarians
- Caulfield Grammarians/NCG
- Old Camberwell Grammarians
- North Balwyn Cricket Club
- East Malvern Tooronga Cricket Club
- Maccabi AJAX Cricket Club



Match Format and Schedule

Key Details

The match format is one day games consisting of 40 overs per innings, starting at 12:30 PM.

Every game is assigned one umpire. Clubs are required to pay half the umpire fee. For finals, two umpires are assigned. The competition pays for the second umpire in semi-finals and pays for both umpires in grand finals.

There are four Divisions with around eight teams in each division allowing for each team to play each other twice in the 14-round Home & Away season.

The top four teams in each Division play each other in semi-finals and the winners play off in the grand final.

Promotion and relegation is done at the end of the season based on feedback from the clubs, as well as final results from the season.

Games are played either on Saturdays or Sundays depending on the ground availability and preference of the home team. While the vast majority of games are played on Sundays it is important to note that this is not a 'Sunday-only' competition and teams entering the competition are expected to be able to field teams if scheduled to play on a Saturday.

For all games an MCC Club XI-branded red four-piece Kookaburra cricket ball is required. Information on where to purchase these will be provided prior to the commencement of each season.

Players must wear traditional whites or creams (no coloured clothing or pads are permitted).

A Culture of Respect and Sportsmanship

The MCC Club XI attracts very good umpires and the culture is one in which opposing teams - while often having strong rivalries - play in a spirit that shows respect to umpires, their opponents and the game more broadly.

Clubs are encouraged to work together when required and to operate with good grace and respect.

Clubs will only be admitted to the Competition when it has been determined that this key element is understood and will be embraced.

Representative Game & Awards Night

Each season the Club XI has the opportunity to field a representative team to play the MCC XXIX Club on the Albert Cricket Ground. This is a highly sought after fixture.

The end-of-season presentation awards are held at the MCG, usually to coincide with an AFL game, with catering in the Hans Ebeling Room and reserve tickets to watch the game.



How to Join the MCC Club XI Competition

Submission details

All prospective clubs and teams to the Competition must be approved by the MCC Cricket Advisory Committee.

Before any submission can be made the Convenor of the Competition, Roly Imhoff and MCC Cricket Manager, Eivion Bowen, may wish to meet with key stakeholders from your club.

A written submission on a club letterhead should be sent to Roly Imhoff.

In this submission clubs should include:

- A background about the club, eg history, committee structure, number of teams, success, competitions played in, etc.
- Number of teams wanting to enter the competition and previous standard.
- An idea of player ages and abilities. Do the players play for other clubs as well or do they predominantly only play for your club?
- Ground details and any access restrictions.
- Evidence of financial and administrative stability and governance, player/membership numbers, good player behavior, commitment to a strong culture, club goals for next five years, etc.
- Statement as to why your club is a good fit for the Club XI Competition.

Roly will then present this to the MCC Cricket Advisory Committee for approval. This may be subject to re-evaluation after one season.

Key Contacts

MCC Club XI Convenor
Roly Imhoff
Email: rolyimhoff@gmail.com
Mobile: 0419 003 264

Grading of teams

New teams to the competition may need to start in a Division slightly lower than they'd prefer subject to availability.

Teams can then work their way up the Divisions following a successful year.

An example of this is Penleigh Essendon Grammarians (PEGs), who started in Division 4 in 2021/22 and have made their way into Division 1 for the 2024/25 season.