

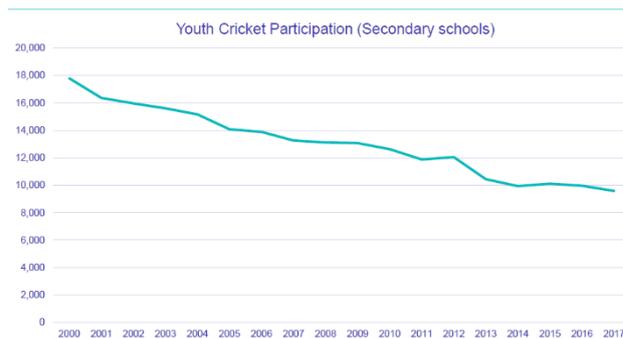
District and Club of Origin Eligibility

The Youth Cricket Landscape

For approximately two decades youth participation in cricket has been dropping across New Zealand and Auckland has suffered a consistent drop off in line with the national drop off. The last figures provided by NZC showed that youth participation in secondary schools across NZ dropped from approximately 18,000 in 2000 to approximately 9,000 in 2017. Sport NZ and the NZ Secondary Schools Sports Council identify that all traditional sports are declining at an alarming and consistent rate and are working with all major traditional sports to address this.

While Representative cricket isn't the sole cause of this decline, or the sole way we can turn this around, it is a factor that must be considered in the youth space.

Data



A key element to our strategy is to build a bridge between junior club and senior club cricket, both for performance and participation pathways, which the last two decades has been a canyon that too few players have managed to cross as clearly shown by the numbers provided by NZC. Through the Youth years we now offer opportunities for players to stay connected to their club that did not exist two seasons ago:

- New offerings for Clubs midweek for social participation. This resulted in 130 teams playing from Year 7 up for the 2018/2019 season, which we expect to grow for the 2019/2020 season.
- New Club of Origin offerings from Under 13 to Under 17 played on Sundays around School Cricket. This resulted in 20 teams playing across Under 14, Under 15 and Under 17 for the 2018/2019 season, which we expect to at least double with the full roll out for 2019/2020 season.

What Part Does Eligibility Play?

Providing a level of protection to clubs, particularly smaller clubs, to encourage players (their parents) to stay with their junior club and develop into senior players is the goal of having any eligibility rules. Player poaching has been identified through consultation as a problem for smaller clubs that struggle to have a consistent number of youth players coming through their senior ranks. To grow cricket across the 16 Auckland Clubs, we need all 16 clubs actively engaged in the youth space.

District and Club of Origin Eligibility

District eligibility since the 2018/2019 season has been based on Club of Origin eligibility. Players do not need to play Club of Origin to play District Cricket. *All eligibility dispensation requests or notifications of stand down periods must be received by ACA by September 30, 2019 for the 2019/2020 season.*

Club of Origin Eligibility

Players can only play in one Club of Origin LO team and T20 per year for the same club i.e. a player can play in both a Sunday LO series team and the holiday T20 tournament team for the same club. Players who played junior cricket in ACA junior competitions (Year 6 -Year 8/Under 11 – Under 13) must represent the club that they played most of their junior cricket with. If the number of years played for two or more clubs is equal, the player can choose which club they identify with to determine their Club of Origin. Players who did not play Auckland junior cricket, must represent the club they first joined in an ACA youth club competition. *The current club of a player does not matter for eligibility for Club of Origin competitions.*

Any other players who do not meet eligibility requirements will need to apply for ACA dispensation to be allowed to play. Dispensations will be considered when a player has moved home a significant distance where it is not practical to play for their original club e.g. a player moves home from Orewa to Papatoetoe would receive a dispensation to play for Papatoetoe and Manukau.



Reminder of District Eligibility 2018/2019 One Off Exemption Conditions

Players who had represented a District for the 2017/2018 season at Year 9 or higher had the choice to continue to play for their 2017/18 District for the remainder of their eligibility to play District Cricket, even if they didn't qualify for a Club of Origin team in that District. *Players that declared their intentions to play for a District that they did not qualify for by Club of Origin Eligibility for 2018/2019, now remain with the District they declared for the remainder of their District eligibility unless they choose to Stand Down (see below).*

Special Exemption for Kumeu Western District Eligibility Only 2019/2020

Kumeu eligible players who have represented Western for the 2018/2019 season at Under 14 or higher only can continue to play for Western for the remainder of their time they are eligible to play District Cricket. *These Kumeu players who declare their intentions to play for Western by September 1, 2019, must remain with Western for the remainder of their District eligibility unless they choose to Stand Down (see below).*

Any teams found to be playing an ineligible player will forfeit the matches the athlete played in.

Stand Down Period

Any player who would like to change their Club or District affiliation, that does not qualify for a dispensation to transfer, may declare their intent to play for a new Club or District and after a stand down period of one full season from Club of Origin and District Cricket, will be allowed to play for their declared Club or District for that following season and beyond. For example an Eastern player chooses to play for Western and Suburbs for the 2019/2020 season and is not granted a dispensation for this season, may declare for Western and Suburbs officially by September 30 2019, and after standing down for the 2019/2020 season, will be eligible to play for Western and Suburbs for the 2020/2021 season for both Club of Origin and District competitions and from then on will be considered a Western and Suburbs player in terms of eligibility.

There are no ACA qualification requirements for any training programmes run by Districts i.e. an ineligible player for a District may still train with a District Academy and play in any non-ACA tournament matches.

FAQ About Eligibility Policy

Why are Districts connected to Clubs?

There are six Districts in Auckland; Manukau, Central, Eastern, Western, Tuaraki, and Waitemata that represent the 16 Auckland Clubs. This is an important bond that we hope only becomes stronger.

We have moved closer to another club and my child would like to play there now for Club of Origin and District, is this allowed?

Yes, simply apply for a dispensation and this is a criterion that is acceptable to have an immediate transfer.

Are my child's chances of District selection reduced because we aren't at a big club?

No, the Club of Origin competitions allow all clubs to enter a higher-level competition that is a steppingstone to District selection. It could be argued that playing at a smaller club allows your child more opportunities to make these teams as there are naturally less players to compete with for places in these teams.

We've had a falling out with the club we were at and we want to move now, can we do this?

Yes, in terms of playing club cricket, you can move immediately. We would require more information regarding your circumstances before we could make a judgement on a dispensation for Club of Origin or District if you didn't want to stand down for one season.

My club isn't offering a Club of Origin option, what do we do?

If this is the case, we will work with your club to understand why they aren't able to enter a Club of Origin team. Once we understand all the information regarding this situation, we can help find a solution for you that may include playing for another club if the opportunity exists.

What happens if this rule stops players playing cricket?

This rule is designed to encourage players to stay with their clubs and for their clubs to provide opportunities for development for their players, forming a closer bond than previously when clubs had little involvement with players that when to Secondary School. If we were to find that this rule is having a negative impact on many players, it will be reviewed.