**Spirit of the LDCC Junior League**

The objective of junior cricket in the Liverpool Competition is to have as many children playing cricket as possible for as long as possible to the highest standard they can all achieve. Thereby promoting health and wellbeing for the children in our communities, the sustainability of our clubs, the growth of our sport and supporting the talent pathway.

To keep children motivated and participating over the long term they need to feel connected to their clubs (and league), appropriately challenged, and valued. When playing and organising games we encourage clubs to consider the following measures in seeking to achieve the goals of connection, appropriate challenge, and valuing children.

* In pairs cricket agree with the opposition coach/manager a system so that your best bowlers bowl against their best batters and vice versa. We encourage umpires in pairs cricket manage the strike, so each batter in the pair faces an equal number of balls during their turn.
* In T20 formats in Development leagues, we recommend limiting the number of overs bowled by any bowler to three overs. In the second half of these games, we would like both teams to ensure those who’s participation in the first half was small given a greater opportunity in the second half. For example, those who didn’t bowl will bat in the top five or those who didn’t bat could bowl in the opening overs.
* in Development leagues, we encourage clubs to be flexible with eligibility and adopt a stage, not age approach. You may have children too old for U13 cricket but who’s ability level makes U15 inaccessible. Provided their ability level does not skew the standard for the U13s then we ask that you communicate with your opponent and let these children play.
* Where you have very strong players rather than allowing them to dominate a game of a standard that is below their level, be imaginative about their role in the game (examples might include hold back the opening batter till the last 5 overs when scoring rate needs to be higher, give them a predominant role in their weaker discipline, make developing leadership or tactical awareness their goal for the season). We encourage clubs in these instances to play the child in an older age group to stretch their dominant discipline.
* Do not allow a difficulty in getting eleven players (or your preferred eleven players) to stand in the way of cricket opportunities for children.