

# Panthers Selection Policy

## History

Created in 2024 for Panthers' inaugural season. Updated in January 2025 to take account of a second Panthers team playing in Division One – Panthers Second XI.

## The Selection Committee

The Selection Committee is made up of the 1st XI Captain, Head Coach and Supporting Coaches as necessary. It is facilitated by the Club Chair and will select all sides for matches.

## Availability and Selection Process

Teams will usually be selected on the Tuesday prior to the Sunday fixture. Availability requests will be sent out using the Spond app, and players will be selected from those who have made themselves available by the response deadline. Unless restricted by league rules, all squad members will be asked for availability for all matches.

To give the selection committee every chance to field strong teams while nurturing the entire squad, players must be available for all matches they can play, regardless of whether they be Premier Division, Division One, or Cup fixtures. Those who only make themselves available for a single league risk missing out on regular cricket altogether.

## Selection Aims & Principles

Our aim in the Premier League is to win matches and play hard, competitive cricket as a team. Selection will therefore be made according to these principles:

1. Picking the strongest, most balanced sides possible to ensure that the team has the right mix of batting, bowling, and fielding strengths to be competitive in different situations.
2. Form, availability, training attendance and attitude will all be considered, as will adherence to club policies and match-day conduct.
3. Future potential and promoting youth development to improve the strength of the club, now and in the future.

Our aim in the First Division is exactly the same! As a club we always want to win matches and play hard, competitive cricket, but recognise that Division One games afford more opportunities for more of our players to work on specific aspects of their games (inc. Batting, Bowling, Leadership, Tactics, Confidence, and Game Awareness). Selection for the Second XI will be made according to the same principles stated above but added to these will be the following considerations:

1. Game coverage for the entire squad - where reasonable, and subject to fixtures and player availability, we want to provide all squad members with regular matches.
2. Player development opportunities - in certain matches, players may be asked to undertake a different role to support and accelerate their development. For example, a player who may bat say #9 in a Premier League match, may be asked to bat much higher up in a Division One game.
3. Fitness & load management - to ensure that players selected for matches are fit to play and, in the case of seam bowlers, able to play, a full part in the match whilst adhering to ECB bowling guidelines.

## Match-Day Decisions

Decisions made by the Captain(s) on the day of the game are wholly intended to deliver the aims stated above. Aside from the rules that the League sets, there are no prerequisites for any player to bat or bowl during a match. All players who make up the Panthers' playing squad are expected to understand this approach and recognise that their primary goal is to help the team win every competitive game, irrespective of how big or small their part may be.

Due to the varied standards in Division One, the Captain and Coaches may occasionally make on-the-day decisions to uphold the spirit of cricket. For example, if it becomes clear that the Panthers are on course to win comfortably - and taking into account player development needs, the state of the game, and the opposition - a batter may be retired from her innings or a bowler may have their overs limited, if they have already taken multiple wickets.

That said, our primary objective remains the same: to win matches and play hard, competitive cricket as a unified team. In most games, not everyone will bat or bowl, but each player will still have a meaningful role in helping the team secure every victory.

## Managing disputes

If you are unhappy with any selection call, you are entitled to an explanation from the *Selection Committee*. However, please put the needs of the Club before your own when doing so. Any disputes will not be factored into future selections, but performance, attitude and form during future training sessions most definitely will.