

Team Guidelines

Carine Cats – Tee-Ball Division

teeball.carinecats.com.au

TEE-BALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS



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SEASON DETAILS



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Calendar of Events

Please refer to our website Calendar for the current Calendar of Events

<https://teeball.carinecats.com.au/events/>

Committee Contacts

Once States teams have been finalised, parents' first point of contact will usually be the Team Manager, however the States Coordinator is always available for any queries leading into the selection process and then ongoing throughout the tee-ball season.

Key committee members contact details are below, however most queries should be directed towards the States Coordinator.

Role	Contact	Responsibility
States Coordinator	teeballstates@carinecats.com.au	Communication with team managers; available for States queries from all tee-ball members
Umpiring Coordinator	teeballumpiring@carinecats.com.au	Coordinates umpires with team managers
Coaching Coordinator	teeballcoaching@carinecats.com.au	Facilitates coaching clinics and advice for all coaches
Registrar	teeballregistrar@carinecats.com.au	Communication with team managers regarding game counts and scorecards
Photos and Merchandise	teeballmerch@carinecats.com.au	Coordinates team photos with team manager. Also coordinates trophies and badges

We also have a number of other committee members who work behind the scenes assisting with the coordination of States, such as through ground bookings, liaison with government organisations, and the ordering of uniforms. If you are interested in joining the committee, we are always looking for interested people!

Format of Championships

The State Championships were first played in the 1974-75 season, and are now played over the March long weekend. It is traditionally held at Langley Park, represented by about 30 clubs from metropolitan and country regions.

Teams play across five age groups, with divisions within each age group. Teams will typically play five 1-hour games over the long weekend, with a Gold, Silver and Bronze medal awarded to Division 1 teams, and a Gold medal awarded to other lower winning division teams.

Pre-State Carnivals

Across January and February, leading up to the State Championships, States teams play a number of Pre-State Carnivals across the metro area. Coaches select these carnivals – usually four, sometimes five – based on the needs of the team. They are an invaluable opportunity for coaches and players to work on their skills and develop their game sense.

Carine traditionally hosts the final Pre-State Carnival before the State Championships. This is a non-negotiable carnival for our States teams.

Scratch Matches

Training sessions are often an opportunity to play scratch matches against other Carine States teams. All scratch matches – so long as they have scores kept and follow the normal rules of tee-ball – count towards a player's overall Carine Cats game count.

Selection Policy

Carine Cats Ball Club believes that junior sport should be safe, enjoyable, inclusive and maximise individual participation. Our club acknowledges that positive experiences in junior competition will contribute to children developing a lifelong love of sport.

To be eligible for selection, players must be financial and active participants in the Carine Cats Tee-Ball season, and are required to have played at least 50% of club games by the end of the season.

Players will be selected on their performance at nominated team trials and demonstration of commitment and values and behaviour. Selection is not based on personal characteristics or attributes, such as gender. A player may be precluded from selection if there is a concern about their ability to compete safely or if their participation poses a risk to others.

Team Trials

Trials are held over two sessions on two different days – typically a Saturday afternoon and a Monday afternoon following Round 2 of the regular Saturday Club season.

Day 1 assesses individual skills, in particular batting (directional hitting and power hitting), fielding (infield throwing, outfield throwing, and catching), and base running (timed). Independent assessors are used on this day to collect metrics.

Day 2 assesses players' game play awareness. A series of games are used to assess knowledge and application, in particular batting (following coach directions and making independent decisions), fielding (game play decision making and skill application), and teamwork (leadership, attitude, sportsmanship). Assessors who have experience in coaching these particular age groups are used on this day to lead the games and conduct assessments.

More information about the roles and responsibilities of each of the following roles can be found within the *Volunteer Roles* section of these guidelines.

Head Coach

Nominations for Head Coach will be accepted at the time of player nominations. These nominations will be considered by the Tee-Ball Committee, with appointments made once team selection has been completed and players have been successful in the selection process. The States Coordinator will have the final say on any coach selection decisions that are made.

The Head Coach is required to hold a Level A Tee-Ball Coaching accreditation, or commit to gaining an accreditation prior to the commencement of the State Championship long weekend.

Team Manager

Nominations for Team Manager will be accepted at the time of player nominations. These nominations will be considered by the Tee-Ball Committee, with appointments made once team selection has been completed and players have been successful in the selection process. The States Coordinator will have the final say on any manager selection decisions that are made.

Assistant Coaches

Each team is eligible to select up to one Assistant Coach and two Base Coaches. The selection of this coaching team is the responsibility of the Head Coach, however the States Coordinator will make the final selection decisions if required by the team.

Level 1 and Level 2 Umpires

Each team is required to nominate a Level 1 accredited umpire, and ideally a Level 2 accredited umpire as well. Level 1 courses are available for parents who wish to learn this highly rewarding volunteer role – you get the best viewing seat in the house!

Being selected for a representative team to compete at the State Championships is an honour, and does require a commitments beyond what is expected of regular Saturday tee-ball.

States players receive two shirts – a playing shirt with their name on the back, and a training shirt which is returned at the end of the season. They will also receive a badge to be added to their CC hat. With this badge comes the responsibility of always demonstrating strong values in sportsmanship and being a valuable team player, whether it is at States or during a Saturday club game.

States Training

States training usually occurs on a Monday afternoon, and diamonds are quarantined from regular club training for these timeslots. States training should be in addition to club training. Once club games break for the Christmas period, coaches and teams may decide to add additional training sessions in.

The Christmas Break

While club games go into recess over most of December and all of January, for our States teams this is a time to focus on our training and game-play development. Teams will play a series of Pre-State Carnivals – usually on a Sunday, but sometimes on a Saturday – which allow coaches and players to experiment with positions and strategies. These carnivals are vital to success, and the growth that players make during this time is often evident when the club season starts up again in February.

Player Participation

While the Tee-Ball rules remain exactly the same, the philosophy around player positions is different to normal Saturday club games.

At club level, players are rotated between all positions to get experience, and the batting order often shuffled each game. At States, the emphasis is on learning one or two positions well and developing the skills and understanding to be an expert in that position. Likewise, the coaching team will work to develop a stable and consistent batting order, based on the attributes that each player brings to the team.

The pre-state carnivals are that opportunity for coaches to experiment and work with players to find their best position, so that by the time the State Championships arrive, the team is settled and every player understands their role.

There is an expectation that every player will play every game of a carnival or the State Championships and will not be left out of the team, unless injured or ill. As per tee-ball rules, no player will sit on the bench for consecutive fielding innings, however at States level coaching selection decisions are made that may mean some players receive more on-field time than others.

Parent Participation

The Tee-Ball philosophy is framed by the Four Fs (**F**un, **F**air Play, **F**undamental Skills and **F**amily Involvement). The family involvement aspect is crucial to a successful States team. Game-day roles such as scoring, base umpiring or bringing team equipment to carnivals are essential, as are the offers to stick around at States training and offer your assistance in any way. Some of the strongest, ongoing tee-ball family friendships are made at States through working together to make the experience an enjoyable one for everyone.

The Head Coach

The Head Coach's aim should be to develop their players' skills and game knowledge in a way that promotes a positive and life-long love of diamond sports.

The Head Coach must hold a Level A Tee-Ball Coaching Accreditation by the time the State Championships begin. The club can assist with finding a half-day course to attend if necessary to gain this accreditation.

The Head Coach is responsible for coordinating training sessions and games. They are the person responsible for delegating any coaching responsibilities to other members of the coaching team, and communicating clearly with them needs and expectations.

The Head Coach and the Manager should work closely together to ensure they have a clear understanding of the roles each has within the team.

The Assistant Coach

The Assistant Coach takes the lead from the Head Coach. They may take specific roles at training in regard to particular game strategies – such as batting techniques, or working together in field, or may be responsible for working more one-on-one with particular players.

On game day, the Assistant Coach should have a particular role in consultation with the Head Coach, such as being responsible for noting the strengths of opposition players for future innings or games, or taking a specific duty such as batting advice for players.

Although not essential, a Level A Tee-Ball Coaching Accreditation is a useful qualification to have, and any coaching volunteers are strongly encouraged to enrol in a course to complete this valuable resource.

The Base Coaches

Base Coaches are an important part of any States team. Base running should be explicitly taught, with States players developing the difference between aggressive running and illegal “suicide running”.

The 1st Base Coach and 3rd Base Coaches take their lead from the Head Coach, who should be clear with the running expectations. Players should have the opportunity to get used to the base coaches’ voices and signals at training.

The Manager

The Team Manager is responsible for being the communication link between all members of the team, and also between the team and the States Coordinator.

Ensuring parents and players are aware of training schedules, upcoming events or carnivals and the rostering of volunteer roles that parents will need to fill at these is essential. Being an active listener to parent queries, being able to source answers from the club or other States Managers, and communicate clearly and in a timely manner are the qualities that make the operation of a States team smooth and enjoyable.

The Manager will also work closely with the States Coordinator, who will be able to provide specific information about pre-state carnival details and State Championship details. Scoresheets and game counts are submitted to the States Coordinator, and the coordination of carnival equipment, such as gazebos, benches and bat stands comes as part of this role.

On game day, the Manager is responsible for a specific role, such as ensuring the players demonstrate sportsmanship, set high expectations for themselves on the bench, understand their batting order and know the positions they will be playing in their next fielding innings. These game day responsibilities should be discussed with the coaching team to ensure that everyone knows their role and can support one another.

The Umpire

State Championships

At the State Championships long weekend, each team is required to provide a Level 1 umpire and/or a Level 2 umpire. More than one Level 1 umpire per team is desirable to help share the load.

For each game played, the team will need to provide a base umpire, who must have a minimum Level 1 accreditation. This means that if a team does not have a Level 1 umpire, the manager will need to source one through the Teeball Umpiring Coordinator, with the team needing to organise payments for the umpire.

Additionally, for each team that the club enters into the State Championships, they need to provide a Level 2 (or higher) accredited umpire who will be rostered on to plate umpire neutral games (i.e. games not involving Carine Cats). This means that if a team does not have a Level 2 umpire, the Teeball Umpiring Coordinator will need to source one on your behalf, with the team needing to organise payments for the umpire.

Pre-State Carnivals

There is no official expectation that umpires need to be accredited at pre-state carnivals, however the expectations at these events means that umpires need to understand the rules clearly. At Carine Cats, we expect that States teams will provide plate umpires with a minimum of Level 1 accreditation for all pre-state carnival games. Umpiring at these carnivals involves a mix of both plate and base umpiring. If a team does not have a Level 1 umpire available, the Team Manager will need to source one through the Teeball Umpiring Coordinator, with the team needing to organise payments for the umpire.

The Scorer

All parents who do not have a specific coaching, managing or umpiring role are expected to undertake scoring duties. Tee-ball scoring is not difficult (compared to softball or baseball scoring!), and can be a great social way of enjoying a game with the scorer from the opposing team.

Any parent who is unsure of scoring is welcome to let their manager know, and we can arrange a session to step through the process. Alternatively, offering to score at Saturday club games in “less stressful” scenarios, or shadowing someone at a Saturday club game as they score are other ways you can familiarise yourself with the process.

The Team Manager will provide a roster for scratch matches, pre-state carnivals and the State Championships to ensure an equitable spread between scoring roles.

Other duties

There are always other duties that those parents who do not have formal roles can do to be a valuable part of the team.

As mentioned in the *Parent Participation* section, offering to assist at training is always appreciated, whether it is being an extra person for warm ups, or taking a one-on-one drill.

The collection of equipment leading into pre-state carnivals often involves being able to get to the Equipment Shed at Carine Open Space during the week to collect a gazebo, bat stand and benches. Being available to collect and transport these to venues is always of great help.

At the Carine Pre-State Carnival, we will need additional volunteers from all States teams for roles such as canteen duty, or set-up/pack-up of diamonds.

The Carine Cats Ball Club prides itself on being an inclusive, welcoming club who respects the rights and wellbeing of all members, supporters, volunteers and players.

General Code of Ethics

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of others
- Be fair, considerate and honest when dealing with others
- Be professional in, and accept responsibility for your actions
- Make a commitment to providing quality services
- Demonstrate a high degree of individual responsibility especially when dealing with persons under the age of 18 years.
- Refrain from any form of abuse towards others
- Refrain from any form of harassment or discrimination of others
- Provide a safe environment for the conduct of the activity
- Show concern and caution towards others who may be sick or injured
- Be a positive role model

States Coordinator Commitment

- Give all people equal opportunities to participate.
- Ensure that rules, equipment, length of games and training schedules are modified to suit the age, ability and maturity level of all players.
- Provide quality supervision and instruction for junior players.
- Help coaches and officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development, and help improve the standards of coaching and officiating.
- Ensure that everyone involved in sport emphasises fair play, and not winning at all costs.
- Make it clear that abusing people in any way is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary action.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

Coaches Code of Conduct

- Remember that players participate for pleasure and winning is only part of the fun.
- Never ridicule or yell at a player for making a mistake or not coming first.
- Be reasonable in your demands on players' time, energy and enthusiasm.
- Operate within the rules and spirit of your sport and teach your players to do the same.
- Ensure that the time players spend with you is a positive experience. All people are deserving of equal attention and opportunities.
- Avoid overplaying the talented players; the just-average need and deserve equal time.
- Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of all players.
- Display control, respect and professionalism to all involved with the sport. This includes opponents, coaches, officials, administrators, the media, parents and spectators. Encourage players to do the same.
- Show concern and caution toward sick and injured players. Follow the advice of a physician when determining whether an injured player is ready to recommence training or competition.
- Obtain appropriate qualifications and keep up to date with the latest coaching practices and the principles of growth and development of all players.
- Any physical contact with a person should be appropriate to the situation and necessary for the player's skill development.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Adult players, coaches and club members are expected to set appropriate examples and act as role models for junior club members.

Manager Code of Conduct

- Remember that players participate for pleasure and winning is only part of the fun.
- Never ridicule or yell at a player for making a mistake or not coming first.
- Ensure that the time players spend with you is a positive experience. All people are deserving of equal attention and opportunities.
- Remember that young people participate for their enjoyment and benefit. Do not over emphasize awards.
- Ensure that everyone involved in sport emphasises fair play, and not winning at all costs.
- Give a code of behavior sheet to spectators, officials, parents, coaches, players and the media, and encourage them to follow it.
- Remember, you set an example. Your behavior and comments should be positive and supportive.
- Make it clear that abusing people in any way is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary action.
- Display control, respect and professionalism to all involved with the sport. This includes opponents, coaches, officials, administrators, the media, parents and spectators. Encourage players to do the same.
- Show concern and caution toward sick and injured players. Follow the advice of a physician when determining whether an injured player is ready to recommence training or competition.
- Any physical contact with a person should be appropriate to the situation and necessary for the player's skill development.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

Player Code of Behaviour

- Play by the rules.
- Never argue with an official. If you disagree, have your captain, coach or manager approach the official during a break or after the competition.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in any sport.
- Work equally hard for yourself and/or your team. Your team's performance will benefit, so will you.
- Be a good sport. Applaud all good plays whether they are made by your team or the opposition.
- Treat all participants in your sport as you like to be treated. Do not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor.
- Cooperate with your coach, team-mates and opponents. Without them there would be no competition.
- Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit, not just to please parents and coaches.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

Parent and Supporter Code of Behaviour

- Remember that children participate in sport for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Encourage children to participate, do not force them.
- Focus on the child's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.
- Encourage children always to play according to the rules and to settle disagreements without resorting to hostility or violence.
- Never ridicule or scold a young player for making a mistake. Positive comments are motivational.
- Remember that children learn best by example. Appreciate good performances and skillful plays by all participants.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
- Respect officials' decisions and teach children to do likewise.
- Show appreciation for volunteer coaches, officials and administrators. Without them, your child could not participate.
- Applaud good performance and efforts from all individuals and teams. Congratulate all participants on their performance regardless of the game's outcome.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, whether it is by spectators, coaches, officials or players.
- Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them there would be no game.
- Encourage players to follow the rules and the officials' decisions.
- Do not use foul language, sledge or harass players, coaches or officials.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.