

# back to basics

## JUNIOR CRICKETERS ARE BEING TAUGHT TO LAST THE DISTANCE BY STICKING TO THE GAME'S FUNDAMENTALS

CAIRNS junior cricket officials are bucking the trend of encouraging power hitting, with new rules that reward players who can compile longer innings and work on the fundamentals of the game.

Previously, under-13 and under-15 matches have been played using one-day formats, which encourage players to go for broke.

Under changes introduced this season teams can bat for 64 overs in two-day games, giving players more time in the middle to work on their game.

And the changes are already paying dividends.

Mulgrave batsman Grant Phillips made headlines with his innings of 206 for the Cougars under-13s against Barron Bulls last month.

Under-15 co-ordinator and Cricket Far North vice-president Mike Stoodley said officials had been getting feedback from senior clubs that junior cricketers were struggling to compile big scores.

"They were used to play one-day games that were 36 overs a side and the batsmen were really not learning how to build an innings," Stoodley said.

"We've changed to two-day games and play them in quarters so each team bats for 64 overs, but they only bat for 32 overs at a time.

"There are not many teams that can bat out 64 overs so you get some different challenges for kids as they try to chase outright points and those sorts of things so it's giving them different variety of cricket."

### SOLUTION:

5	8	4	3	2	7	6	1	9
6	3	2	9	4	1	8	7	5
7	9	1	5	6	8	4	2	3
3	1	5	7	8	4	9	6	2
8	7	9	2	5	6	1	3	4
4	2	6	1	9	3	5	8	7
1	4	3	6	7	9	2	5	8
9	5	7	8	1	2	3	4	6
2	6	8	4	3	5	7	9	1



Cassidy Lane, 10, bowls for Barron River Bulls in the under-11s competition at Endeavour Park.

Stoodley said despite the trend towards compiling quick innings in Twenty20 cricket, it was still essential to learn the fundamentals of the game.

"Batsmen are learning they don't need to go out and whack the ball, they can take time about it and have a look at the foundations.

"It's about knowing how to bat properly and it's not all about whacking.

"From what I hear they are really enjoying it because it's adding an extra dimension to games.

"In one-day games certainly there is a sameness to it: you go out and bat and bowl.

"Now it's a different challenge.

"They're getting the opportunity to bat for longer and they are enjoying that."

The under-11 Cairns competition has remained the same and is all about encouraging participation.

Innings last 180 balls with the number of batsmen available determining the number of balls faced.

If there are 10 players each will face 18 balls regardless of how many times they are dismissed.

Many local cricketers are preparing for state titles next month.

The under-12 state titles will take place in Cairns on December 15-19.

The under-13 and under-16 titles are in Brisbane, under-14s in Bundaberg and under-15s in Ipswich.



Lloyd Pope, 8, bowls for the Barron River Bulls at Endeavour Park on Saturday.



Odin Berg, 9, bats for the Rover Sharks in the under-11 competition at Endeavour Park.



Xavier McKinley, 10, bats for the Rover Sharks in the under-11 competition at Endeavour Park on Saturday.