

## Surrey Juniors

### Selection Criteria for Junior County Week Squad

#### **Introduction**

The purpose of this document is to provide parents, juniors and other interested parties with the criteria that the Junior Organiser uses to select players to represent Surrey in the annual Junior County Week Tournament. The Junior Organiser makes these decisions in partnership with the county coaches, county captain and vice captain and junior training officer.

At present the Junior County Tournament is held over two and a half days each year. Five counties are involved: Surrey, Sussex, Kent, Middlesex and Hampshire. Each county plays four matches, involving seven singles matchplay off scratch. Each county also plays a stableford foursomes competition which is played off half combined handicap.

For example:

	Sussex	Middlesex	Hampshire	Kent	Foursomes
Surrey versus	Day 1 PM 7 singles	Day Two Am 7 singles	Day Two PM 7 singles	Day Three AM 7 singles	Day Three PM 4 pairs (all 8 players)

The Junior County Week Squad will comprise 8 girls under the age of 18 on the 1<sup>st</sup> January for the relevant year. For 2010, this means girls will be under 18 on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010. Additionally either one or two girls will be selected as non-travelling reserves. These reserves will be called upon should one of the 8 county week squad have to pull out.

#### **Aims & Objectives of the Junior County Week Squad.**

The ultimate aim for the Junior County Week squad is to win. However this depends on the strength of our team compared to other counties teams, and so a more realistic aim is to ensure that the junior county week squad we select is made up of the 8 junior golfers who display the necessary golfing, performance and behavioural qualities that give the squad the best possible chance of winning. Furthermore we as a county need to have done everything we can to prepare these golfers to perform to their full potential. As every golfer knows, our performance on any given day may vary, but it is important that our response to that performance be consistent and appropriate.

#### **Selection Criteria**

The junior organiser will consider the following in making her selection:

**Handicap:** a player's handicap should be a reflection of their current playing ability. It is understood that some players play in more competitions than others, and at courses that vary in difficulty. Additionally handicaps reflect performance in stroke play and stableford events only. Please note that junior county week matches are played off scratch (lowest gross score on a hole wins), so generally a player with a lower handicap is more likely to be chosen than one with a higher handicap.

**Matchplay Performance:** as county week is played in matchplay format, a player's ability to perform at matchplay is significantly important. This is seen through results, both in terms of club, county and practice matches as well as an individual's performance at coaching sessions.

**Golfing Performance:** specifically the ability to perform under pressure, show a consistent level of play and demonstrate appropriate course management and decision making skills. Much of this is tested through the coaching sessions, county and club competitions, friendly competitions and matches held during the golfing season.

**Golfing Attitude:** a junior's ability to respond to different situations, both in terms of varying weather conditions, their reaction to good and bad shots, their ability to perform well as a team member, and as an individual. Again these qualities are seen primarily within coaching sessions, competitions and friendly, club and county matches.

**Other Factors:**

- In **building a team** various additional factors will come into play, for example, having appropriate leaders as well as team players. Considering foursomes pairings.
- **Enthusiasm and Commitment:** this is seen in a player's performance and attendance at coaching sessions, their involvement in matches at county and club level and their performance in county and club / open competitions.
- **Maturity:** the player's ability to cope with being in an unfamiliar environment for three days and away from Parents / Guardians / Siblings. Consideration will be given to how responsible an individual is, and whether they are sufficiently independent to look after themselves. (Please note that the Junior Organiser and at least one other Senior Surrey Official are in attendance, however players do sleep in individual rooms, and must behave appropriately at all times.)
- **Fitness:** This is also a factor as the players are expected to play 5 rounds in 2 and a half days.
- **Opportunities:** Junior county week acts as a precursor to senior county week. Where possible opportunities will be given to those juniors who have the potential to represent Surrey at senior county week in the future.

**Conclusion**

As can be seen there are many factors involved in selecting players to represent Surrey in the annual Junior County Tournament. As previously mentioned the aim is to select the 8 players who will display the necessary golfing, performance and behavioural qualities that give the squad the best possible chance of winning. These decisions are made with the use of objective and subjective information, such as handicap, performance in matchplay, coaching, county and club competitions, a players ability to deal with pressure as well as their ability to integrate with other team members whilst being able to perform when on their own.