



30th September 2026

Subject: Academy Team Selection Process

Dear Cashmere Technical FC Members,

Now that the 2026 winter season has drawn to a close, we are beginning preparations for 2027. We would like to provide families with an update on the selection process for our Boys/Mixed Academy teams.

While this information relates specifically to our Academy teams, the outcomes will also help inform the formation of our Development teams and the teams below them for next season.

In previous years, Academy teams were selected through a single trial or "Team Selection Day." At the end of the 2023 season, we introduced a more comprehensive process consisting of six sessions over three weeks. We believe this provides players with a better opportunity to demonstrate their ability and allows our coaching staff to develop a more accurate understanding of each player.

The three-week selection process will apply only to players wishing to be considered for the following 2027 Boys/Mixed Academy teams:

- 14th Grade – players born in 2013
- 15th Grade – players born in 2012
- 17th Grade – players born in 2010 & 2011

Players who wish to be considered for our Development teams (Division 1) or teams in the divisions below do not need to attend these Academy sessions. Selection sessions for those teams will be held in February 2027, following a similar format to previous years.

We understand that changes to selection processes can raise questions. The key reasons for continuing with the three-week Academy selection process are outlined below.

Cashmere Technical Football Club
PO Box 28-048
Beckenham 8242
Christchurch, NZ
www.ctfc.co.nz

1. More thorough evaluation

A single trial does not always provide a complete picture of a player's ability. Six sessions allow our coaches to assess players across a range of activities and gain a better understanding of their technical ability, decision-making, adaptability and potential.

2. Reduced Pressure

One-off trials can create additional stress and anxiety, which may prevent players from performing at their best. Multiple sessions give players time to settle into the environment, become comfortable and express themselves more naturally on the field.

3. Greater Development Opportunities

The extended process allows our coaches to provide more meaningful feedback and guidance. This benefits players selected for the Academy and those who may be better suited to a Development team, helping each player continue progressing within the club.

4. Understanding Team Dynamics

Building a successful team requires more than individual talent. Over three weeks, coaches can observe how players communicate, respond to coaching, support their teammates and contribute to the overall team environment.

5. A fairer and more inclusive process

Every player can have an off day. Assessing players across six sessions creates a fairer process and provides more opportunities for players to demonstrate their ability, attitude, application and potential.

6. Building Confidence

Players will have opportunities to learn from mistakes, respond to feedback and build on their strengths throughout the process. We want the selection environment to challenge players while also supporting their confidence and development.

7. Commitment to Cashmere Technical

We want to continue developing players who are committed to Cashmere Technical and proud to represent the club. The three-week process allows us to focus on our players, strengthen relationships and continue building a positive sense of club identity and belonging.

8. Greater focus on other teams in February

Completing the Academy selection process earlier allows the club to dedicate more time and attention to our Development and community teams during the February selection period.

This process will apply only to the 14th, 15th and 17th Grade Boys/Mixed Academy teams for 2027. Selection information for all other grades will be communicated shortly. We believe this approach provides a fairer and more effective selection process while supporting the continued development of our players, teams and wider club community.

All Academy selection sessions will take place at **Garrick Park**. All players must register. All current Academy players **MUST** register also through the above forms. The dates for the Academy Team Selection are as follows:

14th Grade Academy (2013 born players)

Tuesday 3rd November – 4:15pm to 5:30pm
Wednesday 4th November – 4:15pm to 5:30pm

Tuesday 10th November – 4:15pm to 5:30pm
Wednesday 11th November – 4:15pm to 5:30pm

Please note there will be no sessions the week of 18th November due to FIFA using Garrick Park!

Tuesday 24th November – 4:15pm to 5:30pm – **Invite Only**
Wednesday 25th November – 4:15pm to 5:30pm – **Invite Only**

Register here: <https://forms.gle/vTNa5uzGUXy8zCp49>

15th Grade Academy (2012 born players)

Wednesday 4th November – 4:15pm to 5:30pm
Thursday 5th November – 4:15pm to 5:30pm

Wednesday 11th November – 4:15pm to 5:30pm
Thursday 12th November – 4:15pm to 5:30pm

Please note there will be no sessions the week of 18th November due to FIFA using Garrick Park!

Wednesday 25th November – 4:15pm to 5:30pm – **Invite Only**
Thursday 26th November – 4:15pm to 5:30pm – **Invite Only**

Register here: <https://forms.gle/LZC7bCFCuTtzNo7D8>

17th Grade Academy (2010 & 2011 born players)

Tuesday 3rd November – 4:15pm to 5:30pm

Thursday 5th November – 4:15pm to 5:30pm

Tuesday 10th November – 4:15pm to 5:30pm

Thursday 12th November – 4:15pm to 5:30pm

Please note there will be no sessions the week of 18th November due to FIFA using Garrick Park!

Tuesday 24th November – 4:15pm to 5:30pm – **Invite Only**

Thursday 26th November – 4:15pm to 5:30pm – **Invite Only**

Register here: <https://forms.gle/w7bFZjW2WeqfP5NU7>

We will aim to have the teams announced alongside the coaching staff for the 2027 season by Friday 8th December. This will allow players to relax over Christmas and then focus on the 2027 season. We will endeavour to start the Academy season in February 2027.

Thank you for your support and trust in our club. We look forward to witnessing the positive impact of this approach on our players' development and the overall success of our teams.

Kind regards,

Garbhan Coughlan
Director of Football
E: garbhanc@ctfc.nz



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