

Post-Covid Lockdowns: Girls Cricket is Dominating



It's been a tough couple of years for our teenage girls. They crave a feeling of belonging and social connection and hanging out with mum, dad and their younger siblings doesn't cut it. Social media and messaging platforms have provided some of these connections, but they are a poor substitute for being with their friends and having fun.

Playing cricket has been a great way to get my 14-year-old daughter off her phone and interacting with her peers. She came to the game as a 'fill-in' before Christmas and we haven't missed a game since. The atmosphere at Blackburn Cricket Club is 'fun & friendly' with the genius lying in shifting the focus of the game away from 'winners & losers' towards a culture where everyone wins.

The Blackburn Cricket Club is warm and welcoming and lots of fun. The girls are incredibly supportive of each other, and encouragement is valued rather than competitiveness. For my daughter, there is the bonus of playing in the same team as her cousin, along with girls she knows from netball and high school. The great game of cricket is now woven into her social tapestry.

Over the summer, as I tuned in to the women's Ashes, it occurred to me that Cricket Australia is on to a winning formula. Corona virus has smashed all community sport, but especially indoor games like basketball and, to a lesser extent, netball. Enter cricket. A great game played outdoors where boys and now girls can enjoy the sunshine while honing their skills, both cricketing and social.

I look forward to Sunday mornings where I watch from the sidelines and chat with the other parents, including my brother and his wife. Blackburn Cricket Club embraced my daughter and made her feel welcome and comfortable right away. Teammates helped her figure out helmets, gloves, thigh pads and all the other tricky parts of the game. Clearly at the cutting edge of women's sport, they have implemented a model where talented female coaches lead their junior girls' cricket teams. Having these female role models allows the girls to learn within an environment which benefits them enormously.

The team manager is full of genuine enthusiasm, sending out congratulatory messages on WhatsApp soon after games and organising the upcoming week of training. The Junior Girls Coordinator is a bundle of energy at training as he speaks with passion about all the clubs' girls' teams and how they are faring week to week.

So, well done and thank you to Blackburn Cricket Club for providing such a wonderful opportunity for my daughter and her peers to play cricket and re-engage with their sport and their community!

For more information about playing girls junior cricket at Blackburn Cricket Club visit:

<https://www.blackburn.org.au/girls-cricket>



