

NORTH HAMPSHIRE YOUTH CRICKET LEAGUES: COMPETITION RULES - SUMMER 2016

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NHYCL CODES OF CONDUCT

NHCDA is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all its players. We believe that it is important that players, coaches, administrators and parents associated with the NHCDA should, at all times, show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of others. Therefore, members are encouraged to be open at all times and to share any concerns or complaints that they may have about any aspect with their club.

All Cricket Clubs in the NHYCL are expected to ensure that their players, coaches, managers, and officials, and the parents or guardians of their players, all abide by the following code of conduct:

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PLAYERS

- Players must play within the rules and spirit of cricket and respect officials and their decisions.
- Players must not swear on the pitch and must not make any comments to any batsman, directly or indirectly, which could be construed as unfair, demeaning, insulting or calculated to put the batsman off.
- Encouragement of fellow team-mates must be measured and not be a constant 'wall of sound' which could constitute an intimidating atmosphere. Players in doubt should take their guidance from any first class match.
- All players must respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Players should keep to agreed timings for training and competitions or inform their coach or team manager if they are going to be late.
- Players must wear suitable kit for training and match sessions, as agreed with the coach/team manager.
- Junior players are not allowed to smoke on club premises or whilst representing their club.
- Junior players are not allowed to consume alcohol or drugs of any kind whilst representing their club.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS / GUARDIANS

- Encourage your child to learn the rules and spirit of cricket and play within them.
- Discourage unfair play and arguing with officials.
- Publicly accept officials' judgements and never contest officials' decisions.
- When acting as an official, act in a neutral fashion specifically avoiding any partisan actions or behaviour.
- Do not shout comments or instructions from the boundary.
- Help your child to recognise good performance, not just results.

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- Never force your child to take part in sport.
- Set a good example by recognising fair play and applauding good performances of all. Avoid blatantly partisan support for your team.
- Never punish, criticise or belittle a child for losing or making mistakes.
- Support your child's involvement and help them to enjoy their sport.
- Use correct and proper language at all times.
- Encourage and guide participants to accept responsibility for their own performance and behaviour.
- Promptly pay any fees for training, matches, membership or events.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR CLUB OFFICIALS, COACHES, CAPTAINS AND MANAGERS

- Consider the well-being and safety of participants before the development of performance.
- Develop an appropriate working relationship with performers, based on mutual trust and respect.
- Make sure all activities are appropriate to the age, ability and experience of those taking part.
- Promote the positive aspects of the sport (e.g. fair play).
- Display consistently high standards of behaviour and appearance.
- Follow all guidelines laid down by the national governing body and the NHYCL.
- Hold the appropriate valid qualifications and insurance cover including CRB requirements.
- Never exert undue influence over performers to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- Never condone rule violations, rough play or the use of prohibitive substances.
- Support, encourage and praise players.
- Discuss team matters in private.
- For all U15 and U18 matches, plus U13 Division 1 and Under 13 15/15 Cup matches, all coaches, team managers or any other adult shall refrain from providing direct support to a fielding team on field placement. Clubs should encourage players to learn about captaincy and for bowlers to understand their own field placements.
- Never promote or undertake actions considered to be both demeaning to an individual player and contrary to the spirit of the game; for example forcing a player to run themselves out so a better player can return to the crease, instructing a player to deliberately drop a catch.
- Umpires should agree local terms on their application of wides, application of LBW, and the level of interaction or support to be given during the game.

COMPETITIONS' MANAGEMENT

The duties of the NHCDA Committee include the following:

1. To manage league and cup competitions within the NHCDA, including the organisation of the fixtures, the administration of the fixtures on Play-Cricket, the structure and rules of the competitions and to determine the winners of the annual awards.
2. To communicate important issues relating to NHCDA to all member clubs.
3. To hear and dispose of any complaints or suggestions, properly made in writing to the secretary, by the secretary or the nominated youth section head of a member club.
4. To ensure that member clubs and players comply with the rules of NHCDA, and to exercise disciplinary measures where necessary.
5. To appoint sub-committees where required.

The officers of the NHCDA Committee are to be elected annually at the AGM of the NHCDA. The officers for 2016 are:-

Committee Member	Name	Contact Details
Chairman	Chris Lane (Odiham & Greywell CC)	01256 861763; 0771 267 4701 chris@familylane.co.uk
Competitions Secretary	John Hayes (Fleet CC)	01252 615602; 07748 963257 johnhayes58@btinternet.com
Head of Boys' District Cricket	Tony Robson (Wield CC)	01420 563591; 07771 851288 tony@lunway.co.uk
Head of Girls' District Cricket	Emma Cowdrill (Cove CC)	01276 62029; 07928 852567 emma.cowdrill@gmail.com
Secretary	Gordon Hossick (Oakley CC)	07967 842112 gordon.hossick@yahoo.co.uk
Treasurer	John Pocock (Odiham & Greywell CC)	01256 702217; 07766 072273 john.pocock@aspectpc.co.uk

The Honorary President, Colin Justice, is an *ex officio* member of the committee.

The NHCDA Committee will meet when required during the year to ensure that the efficient administration of the playing aspects of the league and related cup competitions is upheld.

The NHCDA Committee will co-opt other officers who shall not be on the Committee. The co-opted officers for 2016 are:

Website Results Secretary	Irene Fergie (Basingstoke & North Hants CC)	01256 473012; 07950 018131 fergies@onyxnet.co.uk
Child Welfare Officer	Debbie Shore (Hook & Newnham Basics CC)	0786 7506978 debbie.shore@cgi.com

COMPETITION RULES

ELIGIBILITY, SUBSCRIPTIONS AND FEES

A club must be a full or affiliate member of the NHCDA to be eligible to enter teams in the NHYCL. Clubs can apply for membership of the league on an annual basis. The NHCDA Committee reserves the right to refuse any application.

The annual subscription is £30 for a full-member club and £15 for an affiliate-member club. In addition there is a £10 fee per team entered in any league or 15/15 cup competition.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY FOR ALL SUMMER COMPETITIONS

For all age groups, it is the responsibility of individual team managers (and ultimately the club itself) to ensure that all their players are eligible for the competition in which they are playing.

To be eligible for a specific summer league a player must be under the declared age below as on September 1st in the previous year. For girls playing in boys leagues, girls can be up to two school years older than the relevant age group. Thus eligibility by age for each league is as follows:

League	Boys	Girls
U9	under 9 (School Year 4 or below)	under 11 (Year 6 or below)
U11	under 11 (Year 6 or below)	under 13 (Year 8 or below)
U13	under 13 (Year 8 or below)	under 15 (Year 10 or below)
U15	under 15 (Year 10 or below)	under 17 (Year 12 or below)
U18	under 18 (Year 13 or below)	under 18 (Year 13 or below)
U10 Girls	under 9 (Year 4 or below) *	under 10 (Year 5 or below)
U12 Girls		under 12 (Year 7 or below)
U14 Girls		under 14 (Year 9 or below)
U16 Girls		under 16 (Year 11 or below)

* U9 boys, who are neither in the U9 district squad nor are lead players in a club's U9 team, are allowed to make up numbers for U10 girls matches only if the match is 8-a-side and the majority of the team are girls. However before calling up any boys, if one team is short of players and the other team has 'spare' female players available, the 'spare' players should be offered to the other team to make up their numbers.

In exceptional circumstances, clubs may ask the NHCDA Committee to consider making individual exceptions to the age eligibility criterion, for example if a player has a disability, or if an U11 girl is new to the game and would benefit from playing softball cricket with the U10 girls.

Players will only be allowed to play for one club during any season unless specific approval is given by the NHCDA Committee. This will usually only be granted where a change of address has occurred or in the situation where a girl is unable to play in a girls team at their host club and instead is offered the chance to play at another club. In addition the club that the player is leaving will need to give their agreement in writing to any move, before the NHCDA Committee will consider the request.

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COUNTY AND DISTRICT SQUAD PLAYERS

For the purposes of defining the representative status of a player:

- Any boy included in any County Winter Training Squad (for the winter immediately preceding the summer season), and any other player who is included in the County Summer Squad, is deemed to be a “County Squad Player” for the Summer season.
 - Any boy included in any District Winter Training Squad (for the winter immediately preceding the summer season), and any other player who is included in the District Summer Squad, is deemed to be a “District Squad Player” for the Summer season.
 - Any girl included in any County Winter Training Squad (for the winter immediately preceding the summer season), and any other player who is included in the County Summer Squad, is deemed to be a “County Girls’ Squad Player” for the Summer season.
1. In the event that a club has two or more boys’ teams in the same age group, then any player who is a County Squad Player in the relevant age group (e.g. U13s & U12s in the Under 13 age group), or a District Squad Player at the senior age (e.g. U13s in the Under 13 age group) must play for the A team only.
 2. In the event that a club has two or more girls’ teams in the same age group, then any player who is a County Girls’ Squad Player must play for the A team only (except that a County Girls’ Squad Player who is in the county squad three years younger than the relevant league can ‘play up’ in the B team e.g. a county U11 squad player can play for the B team in the girls’ U14 league).
 3. District Squad Players at the junior age (e.g. U12s in the Under 13 age group) are permitted to play in a B team, but not in a C team.
 4. County Girls’ Squad Players can play in any boys’ team in their own age group, but can only play for the A team in the boys’ age group below their own age group (e.g. an U13 County Girls’ Squad Player can only play for an A team in the boys’ U11 league, but can play for any team in the boys’ U13 league).
 5. In the event of teams fielding ineligible players (e.g. over-age players or “A team-only” players in the B team) the team concerned will lose any points gained in the applicable match. Any win points will be awarded to the opposition. If both teams use ineligible players, then no points will be allocated to either team for the matches in question.

DISPUTES AND COMPLAINTS

The NHCDA Committee can only deal with complaints if they are notified to the NHCDA Chairman or the Competitions Secretary in writing or by email from the club’s nominated youth section head within five days of the match in question. A decision will be conveyed to the clubs concerned at the earliest opportunity.

The NHCDA Committee wish to make it clear that there is a “zero tolerance policy” adopted relating to any disciplinary matters covering all aspects of the playing environment. This includes players, managers, coaches, parents, spectators and any other associated parties directly or indirectly involved in any match. All of these people are expected to abide by both the Laws and the spirit of the game, as laid out in ECB guidelines and the NHYCL Codes of Conduct. Any matters relating to disciplinary matters must be notified to the NHCDA Committee in writing or via e-mail to the Competitions Secretary within five days of the alleged offence occurring.

The NHCDA Committee is responsible for dealing with any disciplinary matters arising from the conduct of matches played under its auspices, and its disciplinary processes shall follow exactly the procedures set out in the England & Wales Cricket Board’s Discipline Regulations and Guidelines (<http://static.ecb.co.uk/files/2703-nfc-disciplineregs-2011-p311-326-lr-11505.pdf>).

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The NHCDA Committee strongly endorses and expects that clubs administer their own disciplinary measures in respect of their players in the event of a reported matter.

Appropriate action by the NHCDA Committee could include any of the following:

- Player suspension
- Player or club fine
- Points deduction from a specific team or from multiple teams within a club
- Suspension of team or club from the League

The NHCDA Committee reserves the right to pass to the county administrators for further action, if seen fit, any serious breaches by a player, manager or supporter.

Clubs shall not distribute any electronic-based discussion or complaint to anyone other than the respective team manager / coach, their youth section head or other nominated committee members and the NHCDA Committee.

ADMINISTRATION

- All League and Cup matches will be decided at the Fixtures Meeting held in February or March of the relevant season. Each club must send a representative – failure to do so will attract a fine equivalent to the applicable annual NHCDA membership fee.
- Each club must submit a full list of their fixtures to the Competitions Secretary within one month of the Fixtures Meeting, to be verified and placed on the website.
- It is considered that all clubs have had the opportunity to review the provisional fixture dates agreed at the Fixtures Meeting and the submission of those dates to the NHCDA Committee are now considered fixed and once the season starts these matches can only be changed by mutual agreement or due to inclement weather or unplayable conditions, or a clash with a Hampshire County Cup or ECB National Club Championship fixture, or the documented agreement of the Competitions Secretary. The same applies to all agreed 15/15 Cup fixtures.
- All home team managers must contact the opposing manager confirming that the fixture between their teams will take place as scheduled. This contact should take place at least 4 days prior to the date of the match.
- All clubs must ensure that their squad lists, for each team entered, are accurate on their respective Play-Cricket websites, with both first names and surnames, before the first game. This list must be revised with any new players as the season progresses.
- If there are more than two fixtures for the same age group scheduled on the same day, then the game in the highest division takes precedence.

SQUAD MANAGEMENT

- Clubs entering two or more teams in one age group do so on the understanding that the squads for each team are clearly identified; a player must only be defined in one squad – this does not mean that player cannot play up or down as the system allows the selection from a different squad. It is each club's responsibility to ensure that any current District or County Squad Players, or County Girls' Squad Players, are identified in the correct squad.
- Clubs should base their decision whether or not to run multiple teams by the size of the relevant age-group: it is recommended that a club looking to run two girls teams should have a minimum of 16 eligible and available players, and a club looking to run two boys teams should have a minimum of 22 eligible and available players (i.e. the core boys and girls at

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that age group plus any players from the younger age group capable of 'playing up' and girls from the permitted older age group).

- In exceptional circumstances, the NHCDA Committee may permit a club to have two teams in the same league as long as they can field two full teams when they play against each other, and the first choice players of each team are those officially identified as primarily being in that team.
- The NHCDA Committee accept that there can be good reason for involving A team players (exempt from eligibility rule above) in the B or C team for player development purposes on the basis that these players may have limited batting (if a bowler) or bowling (if a batsman) opportunities in the A team. Team managers are asked to alert their opposition prior to the start of a game if any A players are going to be involved to pre-empt any confusion midway through a game or afterwards.
- The NHCDA Committee do not expect to see any player used as a top order batsman in the A team playing as a top order batsman in any B or C team match. Similarly, if that player is used as a regular bowler for the A team, the NHCDA Committee do not expect to see that player used as a bowler in any B or C team match. If the NHCDA Committee believe a club has been abusing this then that club will be subject to a disciplinary hearing and potential significant penalties for the club.
- For girls who play in both boys' and girls' teams, the NHCDA Committee recommend that the girls' team should take precedence in selection (i.e. a boys' team should allow a girls' team to have first option on a girl's availability). However an exception to this would be if a girl plays for two different clubs and the boys' team is her original club.
- The NHCDA Committee encourages all team managers and coaches to do their best to enable every player in any match to either bat or bowl (if not both). It recognises that this may not always be possible, but it is hoped that there is an intention to do so whenever possible.

MATCH OFFICIATING

- Umpires shall be supplied by each team and should be a competent and responsible adult. Any suitable person over the age of 14 is allowed to umpire boys Under 9 and girls Under 10 age group matches, and any suitable person over the age of 15 is allowed to umpire boys Under 11 and girls Under 12 age group matches, provided they have been DBS certified.
- Both umpires shall officiate both innings.
- It is the sole decision of the umpires to call off a game if the conditions have become too dangerous to continue. Both umpires must agree to continue playing in such circumstances, if there is a split opinion then the game shall err on the side of player safety and therefore be called off.
- Both teams are obliged to provide a scorer.
- In the event of a close game, scorers should be fully agreed on the exact score before the 20th over begins.
- All clubs are requested to ensure their scorers agree names, scores and result before leaving the match to avoid discrepancies when results are entered.
- For all U15, U18 and girls' U16 matches, plus U13 Division 1 and Under 13 15/15 Cup matches, all coaches, team managers or any other adult shall refrain from providing direct support to a fielding team on field placement.

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MATCH REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES

- The NHYCL Codes of Conduct apply to all member clubs in all NHYCL games. All coaches must reinforce guidelines to all their players and parents that wrong /poor behaviour is not acceptable in any form.
- It is the responsibility of the home club to provide a new ball that will be used at the start of and throughout each innings of the match.
- The use of a pink or orange ball is permitted. Clubs wishing to use such balls are requested to inform the league prior to the season start so all other clubs in the same league can be notified in advance. Team managers should also confirm their intended use of such a ball when confirming arrangements with their opposite managers.
- Matches can be played on artificial pitches but the home club must make this clear when contacting the away team prior to the fixture.
- All matches shall be of one innings per side.
- All mid-week evening matches in April, May and August must start before or at 18:00 prompt (17:30 – 17:45 is recommended for matches in April and early May). In June and July the games must start no later than 6:15pm. Weekend matches should start no later than 10:30am, or by mutual agreement between the clubs.
- For all evening games, the interval between innings shall be a maximum of 10 minutes from the point when the umpires call TIME at the end of the first innings.
- All matches shall be played according to the Laws of Cricket subject to any age group variations specified in the NHCYL rules.
- The imposition of penalty runs shall not apply other than Law 41, 2a (illegally fielding the ball) and Law 41, 3 (ball striking a protective helmet belonging to the fielding side), which shall apply throughout.
- Law 2, which states that a member of the fielding team who is absent for 15 minutes of playing time or longer shall not be permitted to bowl thereafter until he has been on the field for at least the length of playing time for which he was absent, shall NOT apply in and NHYCL league or 15/15 Cup matches.
- Late starts are subject to mandatory reduction in overs: for every 6 minutes, or part thereof, that the game is delayed past the latest start time, the overs for both teams will be reduced by one.
- For all evening games, during the first innings, if there is an interruption in play due to weather, then there shall be a reduction in the number of overs per innings at the rate of one over for each team for each completed period of six minutes lost.
- If there is a reduction of overs due to a late start of weather interruption, the minimum number of overs is 10 overs per side unless both sides agree to less.

SUBMISSION OF RESULTS

- The home club has the primary responsibility to load the results of the match onto the NHYCL Play-Cricket website within 48 hours of the match (though the other club can agree to undertake this) and for the opposing club to confirm the accuracy of that score sheet within 3 days of the match. Any dispute should be notified to the applicable league results secretary within 4 days of the match.
- For boys U9 and girls U10 matches only the match result should be submitted. For all other age groups, full scorecards including individual runs and bowling figures, and relevant details of dismissals should be submitted.

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- For clubs who have difficulty in loading the results online then a result sheet must be emailed to the Competitions Secretary within 3 days of the match being played. A copy of that scoresheet shall be emailed to the opposition team manager who is asked to confirm the details to the Competitions Secretary within the following 2 days.
- Where a result sheet is submitted, please ensure that the players have first and last names, that full batting orders are submitted and the figures balance (includes runs scored and extras). The Competitions Secretary will return any incomplete scoresheets.
- Persistent late submission of results will lead to a fine or points deduction.
- The team scoring the most runs will be the winner of the match unless weather intervenes – see *Match Postponements due to inclement weather during a game*.
- 4 points will be awarded for a win or a win by concession; 2 points each for a tie; 1 point each for an abandoned game not replayed; and zero points for a loss or if game is cancelled.
 - A game is deemed to be Conceded when a team has been unable to fulfil agreed fixture for any reason (such as insufficient players to field a team or to provide appropriate adult supervision) unless otherwise permitted in these rules (e.g due to a clash with a Hampshire County Cup or ECB National Club Championship fixture).
 - A game is deemed to be Abandoned when the published fixture cannot be completed or started due to inclement weather or bad light. Clubs are free to rearrange and play and that result to then be counted but if there is no re-arranged game then it stands as Abandoned.
 - A game which is not deemed to be Conceded or Abandoned but is not played for reasons other than bad weather is deemed to be Cancelled if it is not re-arranged or, if the published fixture date is changed after the start of the season by mutual consent, the game is not played on the re-arranged date for reasons other than bad weather.
- The end of the league season for all age groups other than U18 shall be 23:59 on July 31st unless extended by the NHCDA Committee. The end of the U18 league season shall be 23:59 on the second Sunday in August, unless extended by the NHCDA Committee.
- The winner of the League will be the team that has accumulated the most points at the end of the season.
 - For U9 and U10 Girls, in the event of a tie on points, the winner will be decided on the result(s) of the match (or matches) between the teams that have tied.
 - For all other age groups, in the event of a points tie, the League will be won the team with highest net run rate. In the event of a net run rate tie, then by number of games won, then by the results of the matches played against each other by the teams who have tied, and then by the total number of wickets taken. NB For the purposes of calculating the net run rate, if a team is bowled out without using its full allocation of overs, then its run rate for that innings will be calculated using the full allowance of overs rather than the number of overs actually used (please note that the website calculation may be incorrect).
- If the above tie-break rules fail to determine an outright winner, then the teams still tied after the tie-breakers have been applied shall be declared joint winners.

The winners of the individual batting and bowling awards for each age group (excluding U9 boys U10 girls and U16 girls for which there are no individual awards) shall be the player (or players) who respectively score the most runs and take the most wickets in the top division of that age group. If a club has two teams in a top division, then a player's runs and wickets will be counted separately for each team (ie runs and wickets across both teams will not be aggregated).

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HAMPSHIRE BOYS COUNTY CUP QUALIFICATION

For U11s, U13s and U15s, only the teams in the top division are eligible to compete to be the NHCDA County Cup representative.

The NHCDA County Cup representative for each of the U11s, U13s and U15s shall be determined by a Shadow League. The Shadow League shall be based on the first match played between each team in the top division, provided that the relevant match is played by June 14th (or such other cut-off date to be determined by the NHCDA Committee). All U11, U13 and U15 teams in the top division must ensure that they schedule a fixture against each of the other teams in the top division prior to the cut-off date.

Rules for the County Cup Shadow League:

1. All normal league rules apply for each age group.
2. The Shadow League runs concurrently with the normal league competition. All Shadow League results stand for the main competition except if a Shadow League match is abandoned but rearranged after the cut-off date, then the result shall count as Abandoned for Shadow League purposes, but the result of the rearranged match shall stand for the main competition.
3. In the event that a team plays more than the required games as at June 14th (or such other cut-off date that may be determined by the NHCDA Committee), only the result of the first game actually played between any two teams will count in the Shadow League (regardless of which game may have been originally scheduled to have been played first).
4. In the event of postponements during the first round of league matches, every effort must be made for the game to be played by the cut-off date.
5. Shadow League matches take precedence over any other scheduled league game. The Competitions Secretary should be consulted in the event of a conflict with a 15/15 Cup match.
6. The team who will qualify for the County Cup will be the team which has accumulated the most points in the Shadow League by the cut-off date.
7. In the event of points tie, the team who will qualify for the County Cup will be the team with highest net run rate in Shadow League matches. In the event of a net run rate tie, then by the number of Shadow League matches won, and then by the results of the Shadow League matches played against each other by the teams who have tied, and then by the total number of wickets taken in Shadow League matches.

Fixture dates for Hampshire Boys County Cup and ECB National Club Championship matches are on fixed dates and take precedence over all NHYCL matches. If a club cannot fulfil an NHYCL match due to a clash with a Hampshire Boys County Cup or an ECB National Club Championship match, then the club shall not have to concede the NHYCL match. The NHCDA Committee expect both teams to do their best to rearrange the NHYCL match, but if this proves impossible then the match will be deemed to be Abandoned (i.e. treated the same as a match postponement due to inclement weather before a match).

MATCH POSTPONEMENTS

A match can only be postponed if:

- i) Inclement weather or unsafe conditions prevent it starting; or
- ii) Inclement weather or unsafe conditions prevent a match that has started reaching the halfway point of the second innings; or
- iii) The match clashes with a Hampshire Boys County Cup or ECB National Club Championship fixture; or
- iv) The NHCDA Committee permit a match to be postponed for a reason other than i, ii or iii above; or
- v) If a match is called off for a reason other than i, ii, iii or iv above, and the team not responsible for calling it off wish to rearrange it and agree a rescheduled date (though they are under no obligation to try to do so).

MATCH CALLED OFF FOR A REASON OTHER THAN INCLEMENT WEATHER OR A CLASH WITH A HAMPSHIRE BOYS COUNTY CUP OR ECB NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP FIXTURE

1. If a club is unable to fulfil a match for any reason (such as insufficient players to field a team or to provide appropriate adult supervision) unless otherwise permitted in these rules, then this will be automatically deemed a concession unless the other team wish to rearrange the match and agree a rescheduled date (though they are under no obligation to try to do so). If such a match is rearranged but is not subsequently played due to i, ii, iii or iv above, then the match will be deemed a concession by the team who couldn't fulfil the original fixture.
2. If a match is rearranged after one of the teams failed to fulfil the original fixture for a reason not permitted in these rules, but then the other team is the unable to fulfil rearranged fixture for a reason not permitted in these rules, and the two sides do not agree to reschedule the match on another date, then the match will be deemed as Cancelled.
3. If a team feels it had an exceptional reason for not fulfilling a fixture, and that it does not warrant a concession, it should email the Competitions Secretary to request a ruling by the NHCDA Committee.
4. In the event that a team cannot fulfil a match for a reason that the NHCDA Committee deem as not warranting a concession, a representative of that team must contact the opposition as soon as possible (and no later than 3 days before the scheduled date), in the first instance by phone, with confirmation by e-mail to the opposition and the Competitions Secretary. The teams should consider as many alternative dates as possible and agree on a new date. Both team representatives should confirm and communicate the revised date of the fixture to the Competitions Secretary no later than 5 days after the date of requesting the postponement. The alternative dates should take into account:
 - a. The opposition's preferred match day;
 - b. That it must not clash with an existing fixture as recorded on the league website;
 - c. The ECB ruling on playing more than two consecutive days.
5. If a league match is called off for a reason that the NHCDA Committee deem as not warranting a concession, and if, despite the best efforts of both clubs to rearrange the match, the match is not subsequently played, then the match will be deemed as Cancelled.
6. Teams involved in Shadow Leagues should consider dates in half-term for rearranged games even though District Festivals take place during this time.

MATCH POSTPONEMENTS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER BEFORE A MATCH

1. In the event that a home team cannot fulfil a match due to inclement weather conditions before the scheduled start time of a fixture, then they must communicate with the opposing team manager as soon as possible to prevent a team travelling.
2. The home team must offer as many alternative dates as possible and jointly agree with their opposing team manager a new date for the match to be played and both team representatives should confirm and communicate the revised date of the fixture to the Competitions Secretary no later than 5 days after the date of postponement.
3. If, despite the best efforts of both clubs, a league match which cannot be played due to inclement weather cannot be rearranged, then the match will be deemed as Abandoned.

MATCH POSTPONEMENTS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER DURING A MATCH

It is the sole decision of the umpires to call off the game if the conditions have become too dangerous to continue. In making such a decision the safety of players is paramount.

In the event that adverse weather conditions cause a match that has started to be postponed the following guidelines should be adhered to:

Scenario 1

If the game is at a juncture where fewer than 10 overs of the second innings have been completed then the match is deemed void (where fewer than 20 overs have been agreed for each innings, the cut-off point will be the completion of the halfway point of the second innings). For 15/15 Cup games, the cut-off point will be the completion of the eighth over of the second innings, so Scenario 1 applies to any uncompleted 15/15 Cup game which has not reached the cut-off point.

The home team representative must offer the other team manager as many alternative dates as possible on which the match can be replayed. Both team representatives should confirm and communicate the revised date of the fixture with the Competitions Secretary no later than 5 days after the original scheduled fixture date.

In the event that a rearranged league game cannot be played a second time round for any reason, the match will be deemed Abandoned, unless either team emails the Competitions Secretary to request a ruling by the NHCDA Committee.

These circumstances must be conveyed to the Competitions Secretary within 24 hours of the scheduled date of the rearranged match.

Scenario 2

For 15/15 Cup games, if 8 or more overs of the second innings have been completed then the team with the best average run rate, to three decimal places, at the exact point of the game being abandoned, will be deemed the winner. In the event that the run rate is the same, then the match will be deemed a tie, and 15/15 Cup rules on tied matches will apply.

For league matches, if 10 or more overs of the second innings have been completed or, where fewer than 20 overs have been agreed for each innings, the cut-off point will be the completion of the halfway point of the second innings; then the match result will be decided as follows:-

For all Leagues except Under 9s and Girls Under 10s, the team with the best average run rate, to three decimal places, at the exact point of the game being abandoned, will be deemed the winner. All bonus points gained at this point can also be claimed. In the event that the run rate is the same, then the match will be deemed a tie, with the appropriate points, including bonus points, being awarded. For the Under 9 and Girls Under 10 Leagues the game will be deemed a tie, with appropriate points being awarded.

LEAGUE MATCH REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES (A)

SHARED REGULATIONS FOR BOYS LEAGUES (NOT U9 OR U11 DIVISION 3)

NB Specific Variations for each age group are detailed in next section.

- Pitch** See Specific Variations table for length. The pitch can be on the square, or an artificial pitch, or FLIX mat.
- Outfield** See Specific Variations table for recommended boundary distances.
- Duration** The match will consist of 20 overs per innings except if deemed a late start or if there is a weather interruption and therefore subject to a reduction of overs to both innings.
- Ball** One new hardball per match to be supplied by the home team. At least one decent spare ball should be available. See Specific Variations table for ball sizes.
- Batting** All clubs will follow the *ECB Safety Guidance on the Wearing of Cricket Helmets by Young Players*
- Retirement – see Specific Variations table. All Batsmen must retire when they reach the overs or scores indicated in the relevant age-group rules.
- For U11s:*
Batsmen that have retired can return to the wicket, in the order in which they retired, only when all 11 players have batted. They do not need to retire again. The innings will end if the batting side only has one not-out batsman.
- For U13s, U15s and U18s:*
Batsmen that have retired are NOT permitted to the wicket. The innings will end if the batting side only has one not-out batsman who is still permitted to bat regardless of any not-out retired batsmen. For the avoidance of doubt, if a batsman batting in the last pair reaches a retirement point, the innings will end with a retirement (as will the match if such retirement ends the second innings of the match).
- Bowling** A minimum of 6 bowlers must be used by the fielding side in any one innings. The maximum number of overs that any one bowler may bowl is:
- Innings of 17 overs or more: Only two bowlers may bowl a maximum of 4 overs, and no other bowler may bowl more than 3 overs.
 - Innings of 16 or less: No bowler may bowl more than 3 overs.
- In respect of the No Ball regulation on the number of bounces that a delivery can make before it is deemed a no-ball
- For all Division 1 games – a delivery can only bounce once before it reaches the popping crease. Thus a ball that bounces two or more times before the ball reaches the popping crease shall be called a No Ball.
 - For all other divisions (unless mutually agreed by both teams before the start of the game) – two bounces are allowed before the ball reaches the popping crease. Thus a ball that bounces three or more times before the ball reaches the popping crease shall be called a No Ball.
- Last over** The last over of an innings must contain 6 legal balls (Wides and No Balls still score 2 runs plus any other runs scored – see “Scoring from no balls and wides in league and cup matches for all age groups” section).

LEAGUE MATCH REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES (B)

SHARED REGULATIONS FOR U9 LEAGUES, U11 DIVISION 3 AND GIRLS' U10 LEAGUE

Please note that these playing conditions are intended as a general guide. For most players, managers and helpers, this is often their first taste of competitive cricket. Therefore, we would like to stress that it should be fun and enjoyable for all. We encourage all managers to agree on the most suitable format well in advance of the date of the fixture.

Pitch *For U9 and girls' U10:*
16 yards in length. The pitch can be on the square or the outfield, or be an artificial pitch or FLIX mat.
For U11 Division 3:
20 yards in length. The pitch can be on the square, or be an artificial pitch or FLIX mat.

Outfield *For U9 and girls' U10:*
A boundary of between 20 and 30 yards is recommended.
For U11 Division 3:
A boundary of between 30 and 45 yards is recommended.

Teams *For U9 and girls' U10:*
Teams should consist of 8 players per side, unless team managers mutually agree in advance that it can be 6 or 10 players per side. A 6-a-side game should only be considered if the only alternative is cancellation.
For U11 Division 3:
Teams should consist of 10 players per side, unless team managers mutually agree in advance that it can be 8 players per side.

Duration The match will consist of

- 15 overs, if 6-a-side,
- 16 overs, if 8-a-side,
- 20 overs, if 10-a-side.

Ball *For U9 and girls' U10:*
An Incrediball is recommended (otherwise a Softee-type ball, such as a Supaball). A hard ball is not permitted.
For U11 Division 3:
A 4¾ oz hardball shall be used.

Batting Each team will bat in pairs for 4 overs (or 5 overs if 6-a-side) and start on a total of 200 runs.
Runs are added to this total in the normal manner and, at the fall of each wicket, 5 runs will be deducted and the batters will swap ends, except if the wicket falls on the last ball of an over. For the avoidance of doubt, at the fall of a wicket the 'dismissed' batsman stays in unless the wicket fell on the last ball of the pairs' allocated overs. However a 'dismissed' batsman must never face the next delivery.

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- Bowling** *For U9 and girls' U10:*
- Where 6-a-side, at least 5 players must bowl a minimum of 1 over each, but can not bowl more than 3 overs in total.
 - Where 8-a-side, at least 6 players must bowl a minimum of 1 over each, but can not bowl more than 3 overs in total.
 - Where 10-a-side, at least 8 players must bowl a minimum of 1 over each, but can not bowl more than 3 overs in total.
- For U11 Division 3:*
- Where 10-a-side, Only two bowlers may bowl a maximum of 4 overs, and no other bowler may bowl more than 3 overs
 - Where 8-a-side, at least 6 players must bowl a minimum of 1 over each, but can not bowl more than 3 overs in total

No Balls If a ball bounces more than the permitted number, then it shall be called No Ball. The number of bounces that a delivery can make before it is deemed a No Ball is as follows:

For U9 and girls' U10:

The default is that two bounces are allowed before the ball reaches the popping crease, but managers can mutually agree to permit three such bounces.

For U11 Division 3:

Two bounces are allowed before the ball reaches the popping crease.

Last Over The last over of an innings must contain 6 legal balls (Wides and No Balls still score 2 runs plus any other runs scored – see “Scoring from no balls and wides in league and cup matches for all age groups” section).

Girls U10s If a club has an U11 girl new to the game whose cricket development would benefit from playing U10s, then the club should formally apply to the NHCDA committee for specific permission to permit her to play in the U10 league.

If a team is short of players for a girls' U10 match then:

1. First they should ask the other team if they have any 'spare' eligible girls available who would be willing to play for the other team to make up their numbers.
2. If still short of players for an 8-a-side game, then the managers should first try to rearrange the fixture to a day when 8 or more players per side can play. If this is not possible, then they should agree to play 6-a-side.
3. If neither an alternative date for an 8-a-side game can be found, and there are insufficient eligible girls available for a 6-a-side game, then U9 boys, who are neither in the U9 district squad nor are lead players in a club's U9 team, are allowed to make up numbers for U10 girls matches, but only if the match is 8-a-side and a clear majority of the team are girls.

LEAGUE MATCH REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES (C)

SHARED REGULATIONS FOR U16, U14 AND U12 GIRLS LEAGUES (ie ALL EXCEPT U10)

NB Specific Variations for each age group are detailed in next section.

Pitch See Specific Variations table for length. The pitch can be on the square, or an artificial pitch, or FLIX mat.

Outfield See Specific Variations table for recommended boundary distances.

Teams Teams should consist of 6 – 11 players per side. The default number for a league match is 8 per side. If both teams can field more players then they are encouraged to agree more per side (up to 11). If one team is short of players and the other team has 'spare' players available and willing to play for the other team, then the 'spare' players should be offered to the other team to make up their numbers. If there are still not 8 players per side available then the teams should first try to rearrange the fixture to a day when 8 or more players per side can play. 7 or 6-a-side matches should only be played by mutual agreement and at last resort, and only if the only alternative is cancellation.

Duration All matches of 8 or more players per side should be 20 overs per innings. However any matches of 7 or 6 per side should be 15 overs per innings.
The number of overs per innings shall be reduced if there is a late start or a weather interruption (see "Match Regulations and Guidelines" rules).

Batting All clubs will follow the *ECB Safety Guidance on the Wearing of Cricket Helmets by Young Players*.

Retirement – see Specific Variations table.

Batsmen that have retired can return to the wicket, in the order in which they retired, only when all players have batted. They do not need to retire again.

In any 7 or 6 per side matches a "last man standing" rule will apply (ie if one player is left not out she can bat on with a runner until she is out, or the runner is run out, or until the allocated overs for the innings are completed). Last man standing will not apply in league matches of 8 or more players per team.

Bowling All matches of 8 or more players per side and 20 overs per innings shall be "minimum 6 bowlers, with only two bowlers permitted to bowl a maximum of 4 overs and all other bowlers permitted to bowl a maximum of 3 overs".

If a match of 8 or more players per side is reduced by bad weather to 16 overs or less it will be "minimum 6 bowlers, maximum 3 overs each".

Any matches of 7 or 6 per side and 15 overs per innings shall be "minimum 5 bowlers, maximum 3 overs each".

In respect of the No Ball regulation on the number of bounces that a delivery can make before it is deemed a no-ball, two bounces are allowed before the ball reaches the popping crease. Thus a ball that bounces three or more times before the ball reaches the popping crease shall be called a No Ball.

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- Last over** The last over of an innings must contain 6 legal balls (Wides and No Balls still score 2 runs plus any other runs scored – see “Scoring from no balls and wides in league and cup matches for all age groups” section).
- County Cup** Hampshire Girls County Cup matches take precedence over all NHYCL matches. If a club cannot fulfil an NHYCL match due to a clash with a Hampshire Girls County Cup match, then the club shall not have to concede the NHYCL match. The NHCDA Committee expect both teams to do their best to rearrange the NHYCL match, but if this proves impossible then the match will be deemed to be Abandoned (ie treated the same as a match postponement due to inclement weather before a match).

SCORING FROM NO BALLS AND WIDES IN LEAGUE AND CUP MATCHES FOR ALL AGE GROUPS

No Balls: score 2 runs to extras. Any runs scored from the bat from a no ball, over and above the 2 extras, will be given to the batsman (e.g if a no ball is hit for 4, 6 is added to the total split as 4 to the batsman and 2 to extras), and any runs scored as byes or leg byes from a no ball, over and above the 2 extras, will be added to the No Balls total (e.g. a no ball which then goes for 4 byes will be recorded as 6 no balls). No extra ball is to be allocated except in the last over of the innings. All runs resulting from a no ball, including extras and any runs scored from the bat, are recorded against the bowler.

Wides: score 2 runs to extras. Any runs scored as byes from a wide delivery, over and above the 2 extras, will be added to the Wides total (e.g. a wide which then goes for 4 byes will be recorded as 6 wides). No extra ball is to be allocated except in the last over of the innings. All extras scored from a wide ball are recorded against the bowler.

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SPECIFIC VARIATIONS

	U11 Boys (Divs 1 & 2) and U12 Girls (NOT Boys U11 Div 3)	U13 Boys and U14 Girls	U15 Boys, U18 Boys, and U16 Girls
Ball size	4¾ ozs	4¾ ozs	5½ ozs
Stumps	27 inches (above the pitch)	27 inches (above the pitch)	28 inches (above the pitch)
Pitch Length	20 yards	21 yards	22 yards
Retirement	After 4 complete overs OR on reaching 20 runs within their allocated 4 overs.	After 8 complete overs OR on reaching 30 runs within their allocated 8 overs.	After 8 complete overs OR on reaching 50 runs within their allocated 8 overs.

Guidelines For Boundary Distances

NB Boundary distances should be measured from the centre of the match pitch.

- For Under 9 Boys and Under 10 Girls the NHCDA Committee recommend a boundary of between 20 and 30 yards
- Other age groups should follow the ECB Recommendations for junior cricket boundary distances as follows:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Boundary Minimum</u>	<u>Boundary Maximum</u>
Under 11	30 yards	45 yards
Under 13	35 yards	55 yards
Under 15	40 yards	70 yards

NB These recommendations can be overridden by the playing conditions of individual competitions or to accommodate local ground conditions.

The NHCDA Committee recommends that U12 Girls follow the U11 boundary guidelines, U14 Girls follow the U13 boundary guidelines and U16 Girls follow the U15 boundary guidelines.

ADAPTING TO PLAYERS WITH DISABILITY

In line with the Hampshire Cricket Board's recommendation, the coach or manager of a team with a disabled cricketer should explain the limitation of the player's capabilities to the opposing team's coach or manager prior to the beginning of the match and both clubs should agree on any adapted rules and ensure that both sets of players are aware and understand any variations before the game starts.

15/15 CUP AND PLATE MATCH REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES

1. For boys' 15/15 Cup competitions (but not girls'), teams who are not in Division 1 of the relevant age group league and who lose in the first round of the 15/15 Cup, will be entered into the Plate competition. The deadlines for each rounds of the Plate competition shall mirror the subsequent rounds of the Cup competition. For the avoidance of doubt, Division 1 league teams who lose in the first round, and any teams who get a bye in the first round and then lose in the second round, are not eligible for the Plate competition.
2. The game must be played by the specified date for that round, failure to comply may lead to a team being excluded from the next round (the NHCDA Committee's decision shall be final).
3. It is the responsibility of the home drawn team to contact their opponents.
4. 15/15 Cup games cannot be postponed for any reason other than those set out in the Match Postponement rules.
5. In the event of inclement weather causing postponement the match can be re-scheduled on a mutually agreed date (to be before the deadline date of the round in question).
6. Any game not played by the deadline will be decided by the toss of a coin by the Competitions Secretary.
7. If 8 or more overs of the second innings have been completed but the game is not completed due to inclement weather or unsafe conditions, then the "Match postponements due to inclement weather during a match" rules on 15/15 Cup matches apply.
8. If the game has started and each team has not had the opportunity to bat 8 overs then the result will be determined, as follows:
 - Reschedule on a mutually agreed date (to be before the deadline date of the round in question).
 - If there is insufficient time to reschedule and if conditions allow, hold a Stump bowl out (6 players bowl one ball - most hits win); if no winner results then there should be a sudden death stump bowl out, i.e. if team A hits and team B misses team A win.
 - If neither of the above two options are possible, the winner will be decided on a single toss of a coin.
9. No player may take part in a boys' U11, U13, U15 or U18 semi-final or final unless they have previously played in at least two matches (league and/or cup/plate) for the club's age group team(s) that season (a club may appeal to the NHCDA Committee to consider allowing an otherwise eligible player to play in a semi-final or final if that player has missed most of the season to date because of injury). For the avoidance of doubt, this rule does not apply in girls' 15/15 Cup competitions.
10. It is up to the team managers to ensure that the game is played within the spirit of the rules regarding the time limits by taking into consideration the following:
 - The batting team ensure that all players are ready to bat.
 - Spare balls are to be made readily available to the umpires.
11. Only in the girls' U14 and the boys' U11 15/15 Cup and Plate competitions are coaches permitted to provide direct support to a fielding team on field placement. In all other 15/15 Cup and Plate competitions the players should have any assistance on field placement.
12. Coloured clothing may be worn.
13. Music can be played for incoming batsman.

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15/15 Cup and Plate Match Day Rules

- All boys' U11 15/15 Cup and Plate matches will be 9 players per team.
- For girls' 15/15 Cup matches the default number of players per team is 9. If both teams can field more players then they are encouraged to agree to play the match with more per side (up to 11). If less than 9 are available for both teams, then the match can be reduced to 8, 7 or 6-a-side by mutual agreement. For the avoidance of doubt, these variations are only permitted in girls' 15/15 Cup matches.
- For all 15/15 Cup and Plate matches the ball shall be the same size as for that age group in the normal league – see Specific Variations table for sizes. One new hardball per match to be supplied by the home team. At least one decent spare ball should be available.
- All matches shall be 15 x 8-ball overs per innings.
- The last over of an innings must contain 8 legal balls (Wides and No Balls still score 2 runs plus any other runs scored – see “Scoring from no balls and wides in league and cup matches for all age groups” section).
- For all boys' 15/15 Cup and Plate matches a delivery can only bounce once before it reaches the popping crease. Thus a ball that bounces two or more times before the ball reaches the popping crease shall be called a No Ball.
- For all girls' 15/15 Cup matches a delivery can bounce twice before it reaches the popping crease. Thus a ball that bounces three or more times before the ball reaches the popping crease shall be called a No Ball.
- Front-foot No balls: The ball bowled after a front-foot No Ball will be deemed a Free Hit (even if it is the start of the next over). For the avoidance of doubt, a Free Hit will NOT follow any other type of No Ball.
- The only valid method of dismissal on a Free Hit is run out.
- In all 15/15 Cup and Plate matches a “last man standing” rule will apply (ie if one player is left not out he/she can bat on with a runner until he/she is out, or the runner is run out, or until the allocated overs for the innings are completed).
- Batsmen retire at 30 for U11, U13 and U14 Girls, but retire at 50 for U15, U16 Girls, and U18. Once retired there is no return to the crease except for the last remaining batsman who will continue to bat (even if he/she exceeds the retirement score) until he/she is out or the overs are completed.
- In all 15/15 Cup and Plate matches the maximum number of overs permitted per bowler is three overs.
- A minimum of six bowlers must be used in any innings that reaches the 15th over. The only exception is if a girls' match is reduced to 7 or 6 players per team, 5 bowlers shall be the minimum required to bowl.
- The first innings must take no longer than 1 hour 10 minutes - the umpires must monitor the number of completed overs that have been bowled at the 1 hour 10 minute point. This must be verified by the scorers. The time limit rule is mandatory for all cup games.

The team batting second will have their 15 overs reduced by the amount of completed overs not bowled at the 1 hour 10 minute mark. The target they have to get will be the score posted by the team batting first from their full 15 overs.
- One minute is the time allowed for the incoming batsman to reach the crease once a wicket has fallen (failure will result in the dismissal of incoming batsman "Timed Out").

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The winner of a 15/15 Cup or Plate match is team scoring most runs (when the match has been completed within the timeframe).

In the event of a tie on runs, the winner is then calculated using this order of criteria:

- Least wickets lost
- If still tied, then a bowl out (all 9 players bowl one ball – most hits win). If one or both teams have less than 9 players, then the number of players who bowl one ball for each team shall be equal to the number of players in the team who have the least number of players.
- If still tied, then sudden death stump bowl out, if team A hits and team B misses team A win. If team A Misses and team B Hits team B win.