

THE BERKELEY SPORTS TWO COUNTIES YOUTH CRICKET COMPETITION.

THE STEVE GOATER CUP 2017 UNDER 12 RULES

ECB RECOMMENDED PITCH LENGTH – 21 YARDS.

BALL SIZE – 4¾oz Cricket Ball

ELIGIBILITY:

No player may play for more than one club (that is participating in the Two Counties league at the same age group) during the season. Players may play for a club in more than one age group as long as they fulfil the age group criteria. Clubs who are discovered to have fielded ineligible players will face the standard competition penalty of a match forfeit as well as a potential league fine to be decided by the Two Counties committee.

AGE:

To play in a specific age group, all players must be younger than the age on Sept 1 of the previous year – i.e. to play in the Under 12s competition in 2017 all players must have been under 12 years old on September 1st, 2016. Clubs who are discovered to have fielded over-age players will forfeit competition points as decided by the Two Counties committee. Non-representative players can only play 2 age groups up. I.e. an u10 can play u12s, but not u9s.

U12 SPECIFIC PLAYING RULES:

TEAMS – Division 1: 11 players per side playing 'hybrid' pairs. If a team starts the match in the field with less than 11 players then there is no requirement for the opposition to provide extra fielders.

Division 2: 10 players per side playing pairs cricket. Teams that field less than 10 players lose 2 batting overs per missing player (unless otherwise agreed by the Team Managers before the start of the match).

SCORING – Division 1: normal scoring laws.

Division 2: start with 100 runs and deduct 5 runs for each wicket lost.

BATSMEN – Division 1: (Hybrid Pairs) Batsmen are limited to batting for 4 overs and if not out, they are retired. If the new batter starts mid over on account of a dismissal, they will bat for the incomplete over before their 4 over allowance begins. "Retired" batters can return to after all batters have had their 4 overs or have been dismissed. Retired batters return in reverse order of batsman runs scored (i.e. the lowest batters run score returns first) for a further 4 overs. If they bat for a further 4 overs and there are other batters to come in then they should retire again.

Division 2: to bat in pairs for 4 overs with a total of 20 overs per innings; change ends at the fall of a wicket with the exception of a run out or the end of an over.

BOWLERS – Both divisions: Teams must use a minimum of 7 bowlers in 20 overs; maximum 3 overs per bowler.

Division 1: no additional bowling rules.

Division 2: any county or district player can only bowl after 16 completed overs, so their maximum is 2 overs.

LBW – this law will apply.

WIDES & NO BALLS - will result in a penalty of 2 runs plus others that may accrue as byes. No extra delivery.

However the last over in each innings will revert to the standard laws of the game i.e. one run for a wide or no-ball with 6 legitimate deliveries.

FIELDERS - must be 11 yards away from centre stump unless in the slip area. After the ball has been struck or has hit the pads, a fielder may, of course, move inside the restricted area to catch or retrieve the ball.

COACHING - permitted on field of play provided it does not interrupt the flow of the game.

PITCH - Artificial or grass of **21 yards**; if artificial then please let opposition know in advance so correct footwear can be worn. Boundary about 40 yards.

PROTECTION – helmets, gloves & pads are all mandatory. All standard hard ball protection must be worn.

GENERAL RULES:

UMPIRES - Each side must provide an experienced umpire. If only one experienced umpire is available, they always stand at the bowlers end with the least experienced/stand-in officiating at square-leg.

WIDE & NO-BALLS - Leniency in regard of the age of the players must be decided by the two umpires before the match begins so there is consistency throughout the match.

WICKET-KEEPERS - Wicket keepers may bowl, however, if they are swapped mid-innings, the match should continue. I.e. the fielding team should go a fielder down while their new wicket keeper is off the ground getting their pads on. Wicket-keepers are not required to wear helmets for soft-ball cricket.

BALL - The home team must provide one new ball per match (sourced from Berkeley Sports). Use of a pink cricket ball is encouraged for evening matches.

MANKAD RUN OUTS - No batter will be run out while backing up at the bowler's end (sometimes referred to as a Mankad dismissal) unless they've been personally warned by an umpire for committing such an offence in that innings.

DRINKS - Drinks for players should be available for both teams. If the conditions are hot then an extra drinks break in the middle of each innings can be agreed by the Team Managers.

SCOREBOARDS – It is the home club's responsibility to provide a scoreboard for the match.

SCORERS – both teams are expected to provide a scorer, to assist with players names. Modern scoring apps (possibly performed by the umpire) may require more communication during the match between an umpire and scorer on the boundary line.

BEHAVIOUR - Managers and umpires must use their authority to ensure that any instances of unsportsmanlike behaviour, both on and off the field, are dealt with speedily. If an incident warrants reporting, then this should be submitted using the match report form. Send to the secretary with your club's Junior Section Leader copied in.

LIGHT - If a game starts late and poor light will be an issue then overs for both innings should be reduced by agreement by both Team Managers before the start of the match. It is the responsibility of both Team Managers to ensure their players are quick between overs and the match is played at an appropriate speed. As a suggestion to speed up play, decide to all overs from one end, with the batters rotating at the end of each over or the first 50% from one end consecutively and then final 50% from the other end.

Be consistent in both innings for 'fairness' (to eliminate observations that one leg-side boundary was shorter than another!)

GUIDING PRINCIPLES & ETHOS OF THE TWO COUNTIES:

The committee believe these guiding principles are important components of player enjoyment and retention for a life-long enjoyment of the game.

1. **Participation** for all players. This means managers have all players actively involved in matches in all aspects of the game; batting, bowling, wicket-keeping and fielding positions (not the same player at long leg every over in every match)
2. **Opportunity** for all players. This means coaches think of their player's long-term enjoyment of the game by ensuring players aren't pigeon holed as only a bowler or batter or keeper in their early years.
3. **Fun** for all players. This means managers actively looking at their player's contribution in a match. How have they contributed? Have they tried something new? Demonstrated a skill from training?
4. **Communication** to all players.
 - a. Before the season, has the Two Counties ethos been communicated and explained to parents and players?
 - b. After each match, where players haven't had their expected opportunities, have the players and their parents received an explanation and an assurance for future matches?

TWO COUNTIES MANAGER PARTICIPATION CHECKLIST:

1. Did all 16, 20 or 22 players, depending on the match type, get a bat or a bowl?
2. If they didn't bat, did they get a bowl?
3. If they didn't bowl, did they get a bat?
4. If not, will they get an opportunity in the next match?
5. If not, why not? (that's what the player and parent(s) are thinking)
6. Does the team stick with the same players to open the batting/bowling match after match?
7. How many players have had the opportunity to be wicket-keeper during the season?

TWO COUNTIES 2017 SEASON DATES:

1. Season commences week commencing Monday 8th May 2017.
2. Matches, by mutual agreement of both managers, may be played prior to Monday 8th May 2017.
3. Season concludes Sunday July 30th 2017.
4. Matches, by mutual agreement of both managers, may be played until Thursday 31st August and count towards points table.
5. Final points tally will be taken on Saturday 1st September at 10am.