

THE BERKELEY SPORTS TWO COUNTIES YOUTH CRICKET COMPETITION.

THE TWO COUNTIES TROPHY 2018 UNDER 8 RULES

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RECOMMENDED PITCH LENGTH – 16 YARDS*

ECB is running some trial leagues with shorter pitch lengths. The following is our adaption. Stay at 16 yards, but the TC change for 2018 is a FLEXIBLE FRONT FOOT ALLOWANCE for u8 and u9 so that after 1 no-ball delivery the umpires show leniency to let bowler release ball closer so that ball only bounces ONCE.

Common sense approach for each bowler, 0.5 yard, 1 yard, 2 yards. Umpires best interpretation please.

BALL SIZE – Incrediball (a softball such that pads are not required by batters or gloves by the keeper) collected from sponsor.

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 8s competition in 2018 all players must have been under 8 years old on 1st September 2017. 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 u6 can play u8s, but not u5s.

New for 2018: players may also play in the same team as their school group (some children with August births might swap year groups or others sometimes repeat a school year)

U8 SPECIFIC PLAYING RULES:

TEAMS - 10 players per side. 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 - start with 100 runs and deduct 5 runs for each wicket lost.

BATSMEN - 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 - in the fielding side to bowl at least 1 over, maximum 3 overs per player. (Under arm bowling permitted for those who cannot bowl over arm)

LBW – this law will not 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 10 yards away from centre stump unless in the slip area.

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

PITCH - Artificial or grass of **16 yards**; if artificial then please let opposition know in advance so correct footwear can be worn. Boundary about 30 yards.

PROTECTION – helmets, gloves & pads are all optional

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.

New law on non-pitched deliveries, 41.7. The ECB guidance is that this law should not be applied in soft ball cricket.

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. *Unlikely that u8s are wearing pads.*

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.

NEW RULES FOR RESULTS REPORTING IN 2018; PLEASE READ POINTS, FIXTURES, TABLES DOCUMENT PRIOR TO THE SEASON

DRINKS - Drinks for players should be available for both teams. On hot days, 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.

All managers are encouraged to review the new ECB support documentation and share with their players.

<http://playerbehaviour.ecb.co.uk/>

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 2018 SEASON DATES:

1. Season commences week commencing Monday 7th May 2017.
2. Matches, by mutual agreement of both managers, may be played prior to Monday 7th May 2017.
3. Season concludes Sunday July 29th 2017.
4. Matches, by mutual agreement of both managers, may be played until Friday 31st August and count towards points table.
5. Final points tally will be taken on Saturday 1st September at 10am.