

Cardiff & the Vale of Glamorgan Junior Cricket League



2017 Rules and Regulations

These rules and regulations apply to the U11, U13 and U15 leagues. Rules applying to the 'Under 9 and Novices' tournaments are stated elsewhere and are available upon request from the Committee. All rules and regulations can be found posted upon the League web site - <http://www.cardiffandvalecricket.co.uk/>

1. General Principles & Interpretation

The league is intended to provide opportunities for children within the area to be involved in competitive games of cricket and, by doing so, develop their skills and understanding of the sport and the spirit of sport in general. Whilst the league is competitive, all children who play should have the opportunity to participate in the game as much as possible and to derive enjoyment from playing, even when not winning. In this respect the rules of the league are intended to ensure opportunity to participate, fairness and that matches are played within the 'spirit of the game'.

Where not specifically amended by these rules, the Laws of Cricket will apply in all matches. However any interpretation of the rules must firstly ensure the application of the spirit of the game and secondly apply common sense in relation to the age and abilities of the children playing.

Where a decision on the interpretation of the rules is required, both coaches should attempt to resolve this amicably at the time and explain any decision clearly to the players. If it proves impossible to reach such an agreement, the match will proceed upon the interpretation of the home coach, but will be referred immediately afterwards to The League's Executive Committee who may determine what action, if any, to take (Note: The powers of the Executive Committee to run the League, to make decisions and the appeal process is set out in the League Constitution - copies available on request).

2. Code of Conduct

All players, junior cricket co-ordinators, team coaches, umpires, parents and spectators are expected to observe a high standard of integrity and behaviour. In this respect it is expected that they adhere to the code of conduct, before, during and after matches. Breaches of the code must be reported to the League. The League strongly recommend that each club ensures that players and parents sign a 'Code of Conduct' so that club and League expectations are clearly stated and understood.

3. Players

A player may represent a club in the appropriate age group if he/she is under the age for that team (11/13/15 years of age) at midnight on 31st August prior to the season of the competition. Girls are allowed to play down one calendar year (for example, if they were under 12 they could play down as under 11, but if they were under 13 they would be regarded as under 12 and therefore have to play under 13), but that no girl also playing representative cricket is allowed to play down in the B division if she is also playing for her own age group.

Where a club has more than one team at the same age group the following rules apply:

- Players may play for an A division side up to FOUR times before they become ineligible to play for any other side at the same age group.
- County squad and national squad players must play in the A league team, if it exists, and for only one team at each club age group unless they are more than a year younger than the maximum age.

All players must be bona-fide Junior Members of the club they represent and not play in any other junior club league competition during the same season, unless sanctioned by the Executive Committee. The league will not condone any form of poaching of players, whether direct/indirect or by influence, from one club to another by parents, coaches/officials or players.

No player shall play for more than one club during the summer (outdoor) season without the consent of the Executive Committee. Girls may play for their own club and another club's, or hub's, girls-only team if their own club does not have a girls-only team at the correct age-group. A player is automatically registered for a club when that player's name appears on a score sheet for that club. If an ineligible player is used, sanctions may be taken against the offending club by the Executive Committee in the form of a fine or deduction of points or both. If a player wishes to transfer clubs within the Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Junior Cricket League during the summer (outdoor) season, he or she should write to the Chairman indicating the circumstances and these will be conveyed to the Executive Committee for consideration.

4. Fixtures

The Round Robin formula, successfully introduced in 2016, will be continued in 2017. Each team within an age/talent category will be scheduled to play all other teams within that league once and only once as part of the competition (unless team numbers are so small that teams can feasibly play twice - home & away – in a season).

Under 11 matches are normally scheduled to be played on a Monday, 6pm to 8pm.

Under 13 matches are normally scheduled to be played on a Tuesday, 6pm to 8pm.

Under 15 matches are normally scheduled to be played on a Thursday, 6pm to 8pm.

Finish times may be acceptably extended, if agreed by both coaches, if the weather causes a temporary halt in play. All play should be suspended for at least 20 minutes after the final flash of lightning/sound of thunder has been seen/heard.

Matches will be played at the scheduled time on the date shown in the published League fixtures, unless;

a) An alternative date or time is agreed between the clubs and reported to the League Results Secretary in writing at least 72 hours before the rescheduled start time (if the game is brought forward) or within seven days of the date shown in the published League fixtures (if delayed).

b) The teams are prevented from playing on the designated home team's pitch, due to bad weather or other unpreventable situation (e.g. vandalism, failure of a contractor to cut the grass, etc.)

Where matches are postponed under rule 4b, the home team must contact the away team to agree a new date. The home team must then report to the Fixture Secretary in writing (email and text accepted) within seven days with the revised date for the fixture or the reason for the failure to rearrange the match.

Clubs who use more than one ground must inform their opposition at least seven days before the fixture as to where the game will take place.

5. Matches

The League offers two types of cricket; Pairs and Traditional. All matches shall consist of one innings per side. Teams will be made up of a minimum of eight players. Teams are not penalised any runs should they be unable to field a full team however teams with seven or fewer players will forfeit the match. Clubs must make every effort to commence matches on time and complete the game promptly. If one team is not ready to commence a match on time the other team may, if it wish, claim the toss. Coaches should report on the scorecard teams that unduly delay the match. The Executive Committee may impose sanction on persistent offenders.

5.1 Pairs Cricket

U11A, U11B and U13B games apply the rules of 'Pairs Cricket.' Batters play in pairs and occupy the crease for four overs in turn. Both teams should strive to field teams of 10 players but the coaches may agree in advance of the game to increase this up to a maximum of 12 players per side. Teams with fewer players than the opposition shall bat the same number of overs as them. Each pair in teams with fewer players than the opposition may bat one extra over to make up the short fall in their batting overs allocation.

If a team has an odd number of players there will be a single batter. If there is a single batter, he/she shall bat for two overs, normally last and with a runner at the non-strikers end. Batters shall have

unlimited “lives” but each “life” shall be recorded as a wicket lost. A wicket shall cost the batting team six runs. A batter dismissed cannot receive the next delivery.

5.1.2 U11 Pairs Cricket – new rules for 2017

At the 2017 AGM (February), a sub-committee was formed to explore ways in which U11A & B Pairs Cricket could be made more attractive to players stepping upon from U9 cricket or entering the game of cricket for the first time. The following rules shall be applied during the summer of 2017 and reviewed during the next AGM:

Applied to all U11 cricket:

1. If one team fields 10 players but the other team can field only nine, the team with nine players shall ensure that the lowest scoring batsman (runs off the bat) shall be the partner forming the 5th pair.
2. If one team fields 10 players but the other team can field only eight, the team with eight players shall ensure that the lowest scoring pair will form the 5th pair.

In addition to the above, applied to U11B league cricket only:

1. Clubs can play eight players per team per match but only by prior agreement between the coaches of the two teams
2. The length of the pitch shall be 18 yards
3. A fielding ring of 20 yards shall be set up. No fielder (wicket keeper apart) will be allowed in the ring at the point of delivery of the bowler. The ring should, ideally, be marked by discs on the ground although alternate methods may be agreed by both coaches on the day

5.2 Traditional Cricket

For Under 13A and U15 matches, each innings shall normally be 20 overs, but maybe reduced to 18 overs or increased up to 24 overs if agreed by both coaches. Both teams should strive to field teams of 11 players however, provided coaches agree before the date of the match, U15 matches may consist of any equal number of players between eight and 11.

6. Team clothing and equipment

Clubs should make every effort to ensure that players are appropriately dressed in cricket whites. The use of lighter coloured clothing for matches at any age group is permissible although the use of a white ball should be considered if ‘whites’ are not worn. All wicketkeepers and batters must wear protective pads, gloves, helmet and abdo guard. Fielders may wear protection if required but beneath clothing. As required by ECB regulations, no fielder should stand so close to the batter that a helmet is required. It is the responsibility of the clubs, coaches and umpires (if present) to ensure that no-one bats without a helmet. Cricket shoes with studs may be worn but the protected area of the pitch must not be damaged by them.

7. Pitches

Clubs should attempt to play matches on good quality grass wickets. However, artificial wickets are a perfectly acceptable alternative especially where it enables a match to proceed when the weather has prevented playing on grass. The outfield must be grass: no matches to be played on any artificial outfield surface. Boundaries must be marked by a line, rope or flags and should be set at an appropriate distance taking into consideration the age and ability of the players.

The pitch shall be:

Under 11B: 18 yards

Under 11A: 20 yards

Under 13: 21 yards

Under 15: 22 yards

8. The Ball & Stumps

The ball shall weigh 4.75 ounces for Under 11 & 13 matches. Adult sized balls may be used for U15 matches.

A new or good condition ball should be provided by the home side for each match. Once the match has commenced the ball should only be changed if it is badly damaged or lost. In such circumstances it is to be replaced by the best available ball. A white ball can be used in U15 matches if both sides are wearing coloured clothing.

Where possible for U11 & U13 matches, the stumps shall be 27 inches above ground and 8 inches wide. Otherwise they should be full sized.

9. Bowling

No player can bowl more than three overs in a game. In all U13A and U15A leagues, no player may bowl and keep wicket in the same match except where the wicket keeper is injured and is forced to leave the field. In U11A and all B leagues, a player who has kept wicket during a game is also allowed to bowl but is not allowed to return to the position of wicketkeeper again afterwards. This rule is to prevent the flow of the game being restricted. If more than one keeper is expected to be used in a match, it is strongly recommended that this is discussed between opposition coaches before the match and that the two wicketkeepers can keep for half the innings each.

In under 11A games, every member of the fielding side, with the exception of the wicketkeeper, must bowl at least one over. In U11B and U13B matches, every member of the fielding side, with

the exception of the wicketkeeper if not voluntarily changed in the match, must bowl at least one over.

If a ball bounces more than twice or rolls along the ground before reaching the batting crease, then a “no ball” will be called.

10. Batting

In U13A games, batters shall retire after reaching a personal score of 25 runs.

In U15 games, batters shall retire after reaching a personal score of 30 runs.

Retired batters will not be allowed to bat again in the match.

11. Fielding

All wicketkeepers must wear a helmet when standing up to the wicket. It is the responsibility of the clubs, coaches and umpires to ensure that no-one keeps wicket without a helmet when standing up to the wicket. No fielder except the wicket keeper will be allowed to field nearer than 11 yards measured from the middle stump, except behind the wicket on the offside.

12. Scoring

For U11A, U11B and U13B matches, the following will apply:

- Each team shall commence its innings with 200 runs.
- 6 runs shall be deducted from the overall score for each wicket lost.
- 2 runs will be added to the score for a wide or no ball and no extra ball will be allowed except in the final two overs of an innings.

The normal laws of cricket will apply to scoring for Under 13A and U15 matches.

13. Umpires/ Coaching

It is appreciated that it will not generally be possible to appoint neutral umpires for matches (though this will be arranged for ‘Final Day’). Clubs should make every effort to find umpires (other than the coach) who have an understanding of the Laws of Cricket, the league rules and who can apply these sensibly to the age and ability of the players. Whoever umpires a match, they must do so impartially.

Once an umpire has commenced standing in a match, he/she should normally complete the whole match. If it is necessary to change an umpire, the reasons must be explained to the other umpire and both coaches (if different) before they stand. Umpires may stand at whichever end they

consider most suitable. For example, if one umpire is inexperienced, the other umpire may stand at the bowlers end every over.

The team captain is responsible for managing the players on the pitch. However in U11 matches it is permissible for coaches to stand on the playing area to give coaching advice and demonstrate skills, providing they do not interfere with or delay play. Coaches must only advise the captain on fielding positions between overs, but they may demonstrate a skill between balls.

14. Results/ League Tables/ Finals.

In each match the team scoring the most runs shall be the winner. In the event of the scores of each team being equal, the winner shall be the team which has taken the greater number of wickets.

Three points will be awarded to a team that wins or is awarded the match. One point will be awarded to a team playing and losing a match. One point will be awarded to each team where a game is abandoned after FIVE overs and is not re-arranged. No points will be awarded to either side where a game is not played, claimed or is abandoned before five overs are bowled and is not rearranged.

Matches not played or properly re-arranged under rule 4 may be claimed. If a team wishes to 'Claim' a match, then it must complete Section A of the 'Match Conceded/ Claim For Points' form and send the whole form to the Results Secretary who will send it to the manager of the opposing team to complete Section B. If the completed form is then not returned to the Results Secretary **within seven days of posting**, the claimant team will be awarded the match. If the form is returned with a counterclaim then the Results Secretary, and/or the Chairman, will decide on whether the game should be awarded to one of the sides, replayed or deem it as Abandoned and award points accordingly; the decision will be final. The latest date of receipt of any such claim will be 31st July except where a match has been arranged before that date to be played in August and one of the teams then cancels it, in which case the latest date for any claim will be the end of season date.

In 2017, only the Results Secretary shall enter results (and claimed matches) on to the League's web-based database (Play-Cricket). Both teams involved in a match must report the result to the Fixture Secretary within 48 hours of the game finishing. If one of the teams fails to report the result to the fixture Secretary within 48 hours then that team shall gain no points for that match. If neither team reports the result within 48 hours to the Fixture Secretary then the game shall be regarded as unplayed and neither team shall gain any points from the fixture. Should the game be rescheduled due to bad weather or mutually agreeable circumstances, the new date must be reported to the Fixture Secretary within seven days otherwise that match shall be regarded as abandoned and the result of the game, if played, shall not be included in the League table.

Individual teams have the right, and are encouraged to add additional data to the Play-Cricket web site such as individual player names and statistics.

League tables will be published by the League throughout the season on the Play-Cricket website. Any decision made on appeal by the Executive Committee on contested results or league tables will be final.

15. The Hardwick Shield Day (Finals Day).

Finals will involve the two teams who scored the most points, subject to them having played a minimum of 50% of their fixtures. If no team has played sufficient matches the team(s) having played most matches will qualify. In the event of two or more teams tied on points then order of selection will be:-

- Most games played
- Results against tied teams
- A play-off. No player may appear in the finals unless they have played for that team during the season, unless approved in advance by the Executive Committee.

In the event of a 3 way tie, the total number of wickets taken in the season shall decide the outcome. If this does not decide the issue, the highest total of runs scored in all the league games shall be the deciding factor.

The venue(s) dates and times of finals will be determined by the Executive Committee, whose decision shall be final. Trophies will be provided at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

The 2017 C&VOG Junior Cricket Executive Committee are:

Chair & Fixture/Results Secretary	Tony Duffy
Vice-Chair	Phil. Harrison
Treasurer	Peter Morgan
Secretary	Matthew Walsh