

**Bath and District
Youth Cricket League
Playing Rules**
[Revision 2019 Season]

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Playing Rules

1. General

- 1.1 All matches are to be played in accordance with the Laws of Cricket as published by the MCC unless otherwise stated or agreed.
- 1.2 The League strongly endorses the ECB directives on fast bowling, proximity of fielders to play and any other guidance issued from time to time and should be adhered to in all fixtures.
- 1.3 The wearing of helmets for batsmen and fielders (including the wicket-keeper) within the 'danger' area is mandatory for all matches in all competitions. The League accepts no liability arising from individual Member Clubs failure to comply.
- 1.4 The League encourages Umpires, Coaches and other Officials to give advice during the game to aid game continuity, develop players and to achieve the objectives of the game.
- 1.5 The League is comfortable for the Laws of Cricket to be adapted by mutual arrangement prior to the commencement of a game, provided this is not to the detriment of the game, i.e. LBW laws, wides, no-balls, double bouncers, etc.
- 1.6 Where no agreement is made the Law of Cricket will prevail or alternative rules as prescribed herein shall apply (see specifically Under 11 Rules).
- 1.7 Please be aware of, and compliant with, Safe Hands Policy and Procedures with regard to Child Welfare and Safety and any rules and regulations issued by our National Governing Body.
- 1.8 Games shall start no later than 6.30 and preferably by 6pm to enable good light for all teams.

2. Player Eligibility

- 2.1 Players shall be members of the Club they are representing and shall only play for one club in the BDYCL during the course of a season unless otherwise agreed by the Management Board.
- 2.2 In the event that a Club shall have two or more sides competing in the same League competition, then the player shall only play for one of those sides during the season (unless explicitly agreed by the Management Board). However, if Clubs are represented in the same age group but in two separate divisions, then they are free to play across divisions. However, a player must only play for one side in the cup competition within one age group, should the club be entering more than one side.
- 2.3 To compete in U-15 competitions, no player shall be older than 15 on the 31st August of the applicable season, for U-13 competitions, no player shall be older than 13 on the 31st August of the applicable season, and for U-11 competitions no player shall be older than 11 on the 31st August of the applicable season. The above age groups apply to girls and boys alike although it is agreed that girls may play two years older than boys, thus an Under 13 can compete in the Under 11 competitions and so on.
- 2.4 Players are free to play for different age groups in a Club, provided they meet the above criteria, i.e. an U-11 player may also play for his Club at U-13 and U-15 level.
- 2.5 Under 15s – Overage Players; in the spirit of providing access to cricket and maintaining participation, sides to play up to three overage players in the Under 15s competitions (U16s for boys and U18s for girls although Girls must be under 18 when playing not just in the age group, i.e. once they reach their 18th birthday, they may not play in junior cricket)

2.6 The spirit of this rule is that overage players playing in the U15 competitions are there to make-up numbers where the Club would not ordinarily be able to field a full side and/or keep to provide access to cricket for the overage player, that they would not otherwise have the opportunity, such that it keeps the young person in cricket with no viable alternatives. Using overage players to strengthen sides or deprive other age group players from a game would not be considered within the spirit. Players that have played in district or county cricket in the prior 12 months are not eligible to play overage.

3. Fixtures

- 3.1 All fixtures are to be played on the arranged date unless they have been mutually re-organised for a more convenient date by competing clubs, in which case, the Secretary or League Administrator must have been advised in writing of the revised fixture before the commencement of the Season.
- 3.2 Any rearranged fixtures after the commencement of the League season, for whatever reason, will not be considered an official league game unless,
- o Following a postponement of a league game for whatever reason, a documented agreement (via BDYCL website) is made within 7 days of when the original fixture of a new date by mutual agreement.
 - o In the absence of a rearrangement, the original fixture outcome will be upheld, e.g. if it is rain or conditions effected then the points will be shared, if one team is unable to fulfil the fixture then the other team shall be awarded the win points, etc.
 - o Once a rearrangement is made then the outcome of the rearranged fixture will stand, i.e. should it be rain effected or defaulted.
 - o Clubs can continue to exercise the right not to rearranged games; it has to be a mutual willingness to play.
 - o A closing date of 31st July shall apply for all fixtures unless agreed by the Management Board officer.
 - o Clubs have the option once fixtures are arranged to play sooner and record the outcome.
- 3.3 Where points need to be awarded, the Management Board shall adjudicate.
- 3.4 With the exception of the Final, all cup competitions games will be arranged and played at the convenience of the competing clubs in accordance with the Cup draws.
- 3.5 In the event that Cup Fixtures are not completed either within the arranged fixture deadline date or by way of a reserve date the League will arbitrate, and where necessary is empowered to decide the fixture by way of a bowl-out or any other fair means or simply award the win. All Clubs' co-operation to meet pressing deadlines/Final date is essential.
- 3.6 Weekday fixtures shall commence no later that 6.00pm unless otherwise agreed by the competing clubs.
- 3.7 League fixtures for the U11 and U15 have been arranged for Monday evenings and U13 games for Tuesday evenings. Whilst the freedom to rearrange is offered per the above rules, we expect Member Clubs to remain sensitive to School and Representative Cricket.
- 3.8 The arranged fixtures will prevail if no alternative timing can be arranged.

4. Results

- 4.1 The Home side shall be responsible for the reporting of match results to the League Administrator, by way of the BDYCL, within 3 days of the match and their opponents are expected to verify the result through the same method.
- 4.2 Games that did not take place on the arranged date, for whatever reason (weather, default etc.) also need to be reported by updating of the fixture on the BDYCL Website or via the League Administrator.
- 4.3 In the absence of verification of the result, then after 7 days, the League Administrator shall verify the result as presented.
- 4.4 If results are not submitted on a timely basis by the home club, the League reserves the right to make appropriate penalties.
- 4.5 In the event of a contested result, the League Administrator shall arbitrate and whose decision will be final.

5. Playing Conditions

The Playing Conditions as recommended by the ECB shall be adopted wherever possible, which are currently as follows:

	Ball Weight	Pitch Length	Stump Dimensions
Under 11	4.75 oz	17 yards	27" x 8"
Under 13	4.75 oz	19 yards	27" x 8"
Under 15	5.5 oz	22 yards	28" x 9"

All matches are played with hard balls and Clubs should ensure their players are sufficiently skilled to participate.

Where possible, the playing surface should align to the preferred ECB Match Formats as follows:-

Under 11- Max Boundary 40 yards

Under 13- Max Boundary 50 yards
Under 15- Max Boundary 55 yards

However, in the line with the spirit of the BDYCL, provided child welfare and safety is maintained, and a fair contest can be achieved, then the inability to fulfill the specific criteria above shall not prevent a match taking place.

6. Tied Games League and League Cup - All Age Groups

In the event of a game finishing with scores equal, then the team that has taken the most wickets shall be declared the winners. If still equal, the side with the highest score at the end of the penultimate over shall be the victors; if still equal, scores shall be compared at the end of the prior and so on.

7. League Only – All Age Groups

- 7.1 The winning team shall be awarded 4 points and the losing team 0 points. In the event of a fixture being cancelled, points shall be shared (2 points each) unless one team has been unable to field a side or cancelled the fixture for reasons other than weather or unplayable conditions. In such cases, the defaulting side shall be awarded 0 points and their opposition 4 points.
- 7.2 No points shall be awarded for a rearranged fixture unless this was organized in accordance with Playing Rules 3.1 or 3.2.

8. Determining League Winners

- 8.1 The team at the top of each league when the fixtures are completed or results decided will be the League Winner.
- 8.2 In the event that on completion of the League calendar two or more teams has accumulated equal points resulting in a tied division, then the team who fared best in the head to head game(s) shall be the winners.
- 8.3 If the sides cannot be separated by these means then the team with the most wins shall be the League winner. If still equal, then a playoff game will take place including a round-robin competition where there is a three-way tie.
- 8.4 In the event that a deciding fixture(s) cannot be arranged then the competition winner will be shared amongst the equal sides.

9. Age Group Playing Conditions

General

- 9.1 These rules and laws of the game shall prevail in the absence of mutual agreement ahead of the match by the competing clubs. Adjustment of rules to suit playing conditions, time available, respective playing and player strength, etc, are acceptable with the over-riding considerations being player safety and welfare, enjoyment and fair competition.

Under 15s

- 9.2 Both the League and League Cup competitions shall consist of one innings per side of 20 overs with each bowler limited to 4 overs.
- 9.3 Batsman may bat until they are out but retirements for inclusion (not standard injury and illness considerations) are allowable subject to umpire approval. That batsman may return but only after the number 11 (or highest number in the event of not competing with a full side).

Under 13s

- 9.4 For the U13 Premier and Regional competitions (11 a side), the rules are as per 9.1 and 9.2
- 9.5 For the U13 Pairs Division(s), one innings per side of 16 overs, whereby the batting side is divided into pairs and each pair shall bat for 4 overs.
- 9.6 Each batsman has 'unlimited lives' but each dismissal and loss of a 'life' shall result in 5 runs being deducted from the total, which starts at 200 for each side. No batsman who is out for any reason shall face the next delivery except for a run out whereby the non-striker shall face the next delivery whomever the victim may have been or the change of an over.
- 9.7 Each fielder excluding the wicket-keeper must bowl one over but no more than 3. The winning team shall be the side that has the highest total after deductions. Teams in the Pairs division are permitted to play a game in accordance with the 11-a-side rules by mutual agreement.
- 9.8 Unless otherwise agreed, the Rules for all U13 matches shall be as follows – overs will consist of 6 balls with wides and no balls penalised with 2 runs but not rebowled, with the exception of the final two overs of each innings when wides and no balls would count as one penalty run each but be rebowled until 6 legitimate balls have been completed.
- 9.9 There shall be no LBWs in the Pairs division unless agreed by the managers as an exception but are considered standard for the 11-a-side league.
- 9.10 The U13 League Cup Competition shall be played in accordance with the 11-a-side Rules.

Under 11s

- 9.11 The U11 11-a-side League shall consist of one innings per side of 16 overs, with each bowler bowling a maximum of 3 overs.

(A 20 over game may be played by prior agreement in which case, the maximum overs per bowler will be 4).

9.12 The U11 8-a side Divisions shall be played in accordance with 9.5-9.9

9.13 The U11 League Cup Competition shall be played in accordance with the 8-aside Rules.

10. U9 Competitions

A separate body of rules not detailed herein will cover any U9 Competitions.

11. Bath and North East Somerset – National Knock-out Qualifying Competition

Both the U13 and U15 competitions will be played in accordance with the individual Competition Rules as laid down by the ECB and distributed to competing Member Clubs. All competing Clubs shall have paid their appropriate affiliation fees and meet the necessary qualification criteria. In the event the winners of our competition are non-compliant, the League shall nominate the next best-placed team for the Regional Playoffs.

12. Rules Not Covered

The Management Board shall arbitrate where appropriate on the Rules or in the absence thereof. The Management Board's decision shall be final.