

## NORTH HAMPSHIRE YOUTH CRICKET LEAGUES: COMPETITION RULES

### NHYCL RULES SUMMARY

#### UNDER 9 LEAGUES

<b>Pitch</b>	15 yards
<b>Stumps</b>	27 inches (above the pitch)
<b>Outfield</b>	20–30 yards. This guideline can be overridden by the playing conditions of individual competitions or to accommodate local ground conditions.
<b>Format</b>	Pairs cricket. Each team will bat in pairs for 4 overs and start on a total of 200 runs.
<b>Duration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For 6-a-side matches: 12 overs per innings (unless team managers mutually agree on 15 overs per innings, and thus 5 overs per pair);</li><li>• For 8-a-side matches: 16 overs per innings;</li><li>• For 10-a-side matches: 20 overs per innings</li></ul> Overs per innings may be reduced if there is a late start or if there is a weather interruption (see below <i>Regulations and Guidelines</i> and <i>Match Postponements due to Inclement Weather during a Match</i> ).
<b>Ball</b>	An Incrediball is recommended (otherwise a Softee-type ball, such as a Supaball). A hard ball is not permitted.
<b>Number of Players</b>	<p><i>For U9 girls and U9 specific 6-a-side Open league:</i> 6 players per side, unless team managers mutually agree in advance that it can be 8 players per side.</p> <p><i>For all other U9 leagues:</i> 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>If a team ends up with 1 or 2 players less than the pre-agreed number, it should still fulfil the fixture (and the opposition may still field its full quota).</p> <p>If a team has an odd numbers of players, then the last batsman shall bat his/her overs with a different partner for each over (such partners being players who batted earlier in the innings and had the lowest net individual scores). So, for example, if each pairing is due to bat for 4 overs in a 8-a-side fixture, then the four batsmen with the lowest net individual scores from the first three pairs will each bat for one over with the seventh batsman (for the avoidance of doubt, the seventh batsman's partners may take strike).</p> <p>If a team has two players less than the opposition, then the total overs shall be divided as equally as possible among the pairs available. For example, if a team only has 6 players for a 16 overs innings (8-a-side match), two of the pairs shall bat for 5 overs, and one pair shall bat for 6 overs (the team manager should inform the umpires, before the innings starts, about which pairs shall bat for the differing number of overs).</p>
<b>Batting</b>	<p>Each team's innings will start with a total of 200 runs. Runs will then added to this total in the normal manner but 5 runs will be deducted at the fall of each wicket.</p> <p>At the fall of a wicket the batsmen 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 falls on the last ball of the pairs' allocated overs. Thus a 'dismissed' batsman must never face the next delivery.</p>

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- LBW** The LBW Law does NOT apply in any softball matches
- Bowling**
- Where 6-a-side, at least 5 players must bowl a minimum of 2 overs each, and no bowler may bowl more than 3 overs in total.
  - Where 8-a-side or 10-a-side (ie 16 or 20 over matches), no bowler may bowl more than 3 overs in total.
- Bowling ends** In all Pairs Cricket league matches teams must bowl the first half of an innings (eg the first 8 overs in a 16 overs innings) at the same end, switching to the other end for the remaining overs of the innings. The choice of ends shall be the fielding teams' unless low sunlight at one end is a factor in which case the umpires can overrule the choice and determine the ends according to which half of the innings at the sunlit end which will be least affected by the low sunlight. Umpires must switch ends between every over as normal.
- No Balls** If a ball bounces three or more times, then it shall be called No Ball. However, for all Softball matches, team managers may mutually agree to permit three such bounces. A bouncer which passes the popping crease at a height equivalent to the top of the batsman's shoulders (when standing up straight) shall be deemed a No Ball.
- Scoring from no balls & wides**
- 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 (eg 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 relevant byes or leg byes total. No extra ball is to be allocated except in the last over of the innings.
- The 2 runs for a no ball plus any runs scored from the bat, are recorded against the bowler's analysis. However any byes or leg byes scored of a no ball shall not be recorded against the bowler (e.g. a no ball which then goes for 4 byes will be recorded as 2 no balls plus 4 byes, of which only the 2 no balls are recorded against the bowler's analysis) .
- 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's analysis.
- Fielders in U9 matches** In all Under 9 matches (Open and Girls), coaches/managers are expected to rotate their team's fielders one position clockwise at the end of each over, with the last bowler taking the position into which the new bowler would have rotated into. This guideline does not apply to wicketkeepers as wicketkeeper rotation is optional.
- Wickets in softball matches**
- If (in the umpire's opinion) a legitimately-bowled ball hits the wicket or any part of the base of the wicket, the batsmen will be deemed to have been bowled regardless of whether the bails have come off.
  - If (in the umpire's opinion) the ball hits the wicket or any part of the base of the wicket, when the batsman is short of his/her crease, the batsman will be deemed to have been run out or stumped (as appropriate) regardless of whether the bails have come off.
  - A run out will be valid if the ball is held against the stumps if there are no bails, or the bails are already off.

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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).

### REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES

- All players must be *bone fide* paid-up members of their NHCDA-affiliated club, and it is each clubs’ responsibility to ensure that its players are covered by the club’s insurance policy when playing in NHYCL matches.
- To be eligible for a specific summer league a player must be under the declared age below as on September 1<sup>st</sup> in the previous year. For girls playing in Open leagues, girls can be up to two school years older than the relevant age group.
- In the event that a club has two or more Open 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 who is in the older school year of an age group (e.g. U13s in the Under 13 age group) must play for the A team only.
- 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.
- County Girls’ Squad Players can play in any Open team in their own age group, but can only play for the A team in the Open age group below their own age group (e.g. an U13 County Girls’ Squad Player can only play for an A team in the Open U11 league, but can play for any team in the Open U13 league).
- 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. At any level of NHYCL cricket, picking players to bat at the bottom of the order while not being asked to bowl or keep wicket is not consistent with the NHCDA aim of maximising participation. The NHCDA Committee recognises that it may not always be possible to enable every player to either bat or bowl (if not both) in a match (such as, for example, if a team bowls out the opposition cheaply and then chases the target without losing any wickets), but it is hoped that team managers and coaches will always do their best to give every player an opportunity to bat or bowl (or keep wicket) in all matches.
- In all hardball matches umpires should ensure that players are wearing appropriate protective kit, including helmets for all batsmen and for wicketkeepers standing up to the wicket.
- All teams are requested to ensure their scorers agree names, scores and result before leaving the match to avoid discrepancies when results are entered.
- 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. Any such players should bat at the bottom of the order. 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 in doubt about selecting such a player or what they should and shouldn’t be allowed to do in a match, please consult the Competitions Secretary for guidance. 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.
- To pre-empt any confusion or complaint during or after the match, team managers should alert the opposition manager prior to the start of a game if any regular A team players (who are not ineligible for B or C team matches) are due to be involved in a B or C team match.

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- Umpires should ensure that the ECB directives regarding close fielders are adhered to throughout all matches.
- Team managers are responsible for ensuring that their fast bowlers (defined as bowlers to whom a capable wicket keeper of the same age group would in normal circumstances stand back to take the ball) are only bowled in accordance with the ECB directives for preventing injury to fast bowlers.
- 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.
- Umpires should ensure that in all games (for any age group) there are no comments or instructions from parents or coaches to on-field players from the boundary, nor any coaching of an on-field player from the boundary.
- For all U15, U17 and girls' U16 League and Cup matches, plus U13 Division 1 League and Under 13 NHCDA Cup matches, there should NOT be any advice provided during an innings to a fielding team on field placement, nor any on-field tactical advice to batsmen or bowlers. This applies to umpires, coaches and team managers – indeed nobody other than the players themselves should offer tactical advice to on-field players.
- Umpires should mutually agree local terms on their application of wides, application of LBW, and (in matches for age groups not excluded in the point immediately above) the level of interaction or support to be given during the game.
- An umpire in an NHYCL League or NHCDA Cup/Plate match should only call no-ball for an illegal bowling action if, in the umpire's reasonable opinion, the bowler deliberately throws the ball.
- It is the responsibility of the home club to prepare the ground appropriately (including a suitable wicket, a marked boundary, stumps and scoreboard). Matches can be played on properly maintained artificial pitches but the home club must advise their opponents at least 48 hours before the scheduled start time of the match that a non-turf surface will be used and advise them of any special footwear requirements.
- The home team must provide a pitch of the correct length for the match as stated in these rules. There is no margin of variance and the NHCDA Committee may take disciplinary action against any club which fails to provide pitches of the correct length.
- All mid-week evening matches in April, May and August should start no later than 18:00 prompt (17:30 – 17:45 is recommended for matches in April and early May). In June and July the games should start no later than 18:15. Late starts are subject to a mandatory reduction in overs: for every six minutes, or part thereof, that the game is delayed past the latest start time, the overs for both teams will be reduced by one. If there is a reduction of overs due to a delayed start, the minimum number of overs is 10 overs per side unless both sides agree to less.
- In all matches, the interval between innings shall be a maximum of 10 minutes from the point when the umpires leave the wicket at the end of the first innings. In evening games umpires should aim for a shorter interval, encouraging players to be back on the field five minutes after the end of the first innings.
- For all evening league 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 a batsman requires a runner, or when the Last Man Stands rule applies, the runner must be the most recently dismissed (or retired) batsman and must wear pads, gloves and a helmet, and carry a bat. If no batsman has retired or been dismissed, the runner should be the next batsman in.

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- The home club has the primary responsibility to upload the results of the match onto the NHYCL Play-Cricket website within 48 hours of the match (though the other club may undertake to do this). Both teams should check the accuracy of the result (and, if applicable, the scorecard). Any dispute should be notified to the Competitions Secretary.
- For Pairs Cricket matches, only the match result should be submitted.
- 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 (eg due to a clash with a Hampshire County Cup or ECB National Club Championship fixture). *For the avoidance of doubt, this is the only way a game can be Conceded.*
- A game is deemed to be Abandoned when the published fixture cannot be completed or started due to inclement weather or bad light. Clubs may mutually agree to rearrange the fixture, and if it is subsequently played then that result shall count, but if it is not subsequently played then the result 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.
- A game is deemed to be tied if the scores are level, regardless of the number of wickets lost.

*The above are the key rules and regulations, but do not cover all issues that may arise.*

*For all NHYCL rules, regulations and guidelines, see the full NHYCL Rules document at [nhcda.co.uk](http://nhcda.co.uk)*

### **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 Open 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 OPEN 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.

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2. For the avoidance of doubt, genuine reasons, such as illness or school trips, for not being able to field a team or to provide appropriate adult supervision will not prevent the match being automatically deemed a concession unless the other team agree to a rescheduled date and the match is subsequently played.
3. If a match is rearranged after one of the teams failed to fulfil the original fixture for a reason other than i, ii, iii or iv above, but then the other team is unable to fulfil the rearranged fixture for a reason other than i, ii, iii or iv above, and the two sides do not agree to reschedule the match on another date, then the match will be deemed as Cancelled.
4. 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 that the postponement will be treated as being under iv above.
5. In the event that a team cannot fulfil a match for a reason that the NHCDA Committee decides does not warrant 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 do their best to 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 the opposition's preferred match day and that it must not clash with an existing fixture as recorded on the league website.
6. If a league match is called off for a reason that the NHCDA Committee decides does not warrant a concession or an abandonment, 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.

### **MATCH POSTPONEMENTS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER BEFORE A MATCH**

1. In the event that a ground is not fit for play due to inclement weather conditions before the scheduled start time of a fixture, then the home team manager 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, an alternative date cannot be mutually agreed for a match not played due to inclement weather, 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.

If any NHYCL Under 9 match or Girls' U11 match (softball or hardball) starts, but is unable to be completed (regardless of what point the match has reached), then the match is deemed as being Abandoned. The home team manager should then offer the other team manager as many alternative dates as possible on which the match can be replayed.

If a date to replay the match cannot be mutually agreed, or if a date to replay the match is agreed but in the event the rearranged match cannot be played for any reason, the match should be officially recorded as Abandoned, unless either team emails the Competitions Secretary to request a ruling by the NHCDA Committee (such a request must be sent to the Competitions Secretary within 48 hours of the scheduled date of the rearranged match).