

NORTH HAMPSHIRE YOUTH CRICKET LEAGUES: COMPETITION RULES

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NORTH HAMPSHIRE YOUTH CRICKET LEAGUES: COMPETITION RULES

COMPETITIONS' MANAGEMENT

The North Hampshire Youth Cricket Leagues (NHYCL) are run by the North Hampshire Cricket Development Association (NHCDA) in accordance with the Constitution of the NHCDA (which can be viewed [here](#) on the NHCDA website).

The duties of the NHCDA Committee include the following:

1. To manage league and cup competitions within the NHCDA, including the organisation of the fixtures, the administration of the fixtures on Play-Cricket, the structure and rules of the competitions and to determine the winners of the annual awards.
2. To communicate important issues relating to NHCDA to all member clubs.
3. To hear and deal with any complaints or suggestions, properly made in writing to the NHCDA Secretary or Competitions Secretary, by the nominated youth section head of a member club.
4. To ensure that member clubs and players comply with the rules of NHYCL, and to exercise disciplinary measures where necessary.
5. To appoint sub-committees where required.

The NHCDA Committee will meet when required during the year to ensure that the efficient administration of the playing aspects of the league and related cup competitions is upheld.

The officers of the NHCDA Committee are elected annually at the AGM of the NHCDA, other than the Honorary President who is an *ex officio* member of the committee.

The NHCDA Committee can be contacted via the Secretary at the following email address: contactnhcda@gmail.com

CLUB ELIGIBILITY, SUBSCRIPTIONS AND FEES

A club must be a full or affiliate member of the NHCDA to be eligible to enter teams in the NHYCL. Clubs can apply for membership of the NHCDA on an annual basis. The NHCDA Committee reserves the right to refuse any application.

The annual subscription is £30 for a full-member club and £25 for an affiliate-member club. In addition there is a £10 fee per team entered in any league or NHCDA cup competition (this entry fee per team remains payable even if a team subsequently withdraws).

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PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

For all age groups, it is the responsibility of individual team managers (and ultimately the club itself) to ensure that all their players are eligible for the competition in which they are playing.

All players must be *bone fide* paid-up members of their NHCDA-affiliated club, and it is each club's 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 1st in the previous year. For girls playing in Open leagues, girls can be up to two school years older than the relevant age group (except for Open U18s for which girls cannot be older). Thus eligibility by age for each league is as follows:

League	Boys	Girls
Open U9s	under 9 (School Year 4 or below)	under 11 (Year 6 or below)
Open U11s	under 11 (Year 6 or below)	under 13 (Year 8 or below)
Open U13s	under 13 (Year 8 or below)	under 15 (Year 10 or below)
Open U15s	under 15 (Year 10 or below)	under 17 (Year 12 or below)
Open U18s	under 18 (Year 13 or below)	under 18 (Year 13 or below)
U9 Girls		under 9 (Year 4 or below)
U11 Girls		under 11 (Year 6 or below)
U13 Girls		under 13 (Year 8 or below)
U16 Girls		under 16 (Year 11 or below)

The only exception to the above table is for the U11 and U13 Open friendly divisions, in which the age eligibility for girls is the same as for boys.

If enough clubs enter at U18 level to justify running two leagues then there would be strict player eligibility criteria for the lower division such that no player playing senior cricket at Hampshire County League Division 3 or above would be allowed to play.

The NHCDA Committee may request evidence of a player's date of birth. If this is not provided to the Committee's satisfaction, the player in question may be deemed ineligible. The Committee reserves the right to change the result of any matches in which an ineligible player has played.

In exceptional circumstances, clubs may ask the NHCDA Committee to consider making individual exceptions to the age eligibility criterion, for example if a player has a disability, or if an U12 girl is new to the game and would benefit from playing softball cricket with the U11 girls.

Hybrid teams (i.e. consisting of players from more than one club) can be entered into NHYCL competitions subject to written permission in advance from the NHCDA Chairman or Competitions Secretary, and always be subject to a full-member club taking full responsibility for ensuring that all the players in the hybrid team are appropriately covered by the club's insurance policy and safeguarding responsibilities. However any player who plays for an approved hybrid team may not play for any other team in the same league in the same season.

Girls' teams must be made up of players who are bona fide paid-up members of the club unless they have received written permission in advance from the NHCDA Chairman or Competitions Secretary to include a guest player (ie a non-club member). Any request to include a guest player in a girls' team must be made in writing to the NHCDA Chairman or Competitions Secretary, and should not involve a player who represents another club competing in the NHYCL girls' leagues. If

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permission is granted, it will always be subject to the club taking full responsibility for ensuring that the guest player is appropriately covered by the club's insurance policy and safeguarding responsibilities.

Girls may play NHYCL Open league cricket for one club and NHYCL girls' league cricket for a different club.

Other than the above exceptions, players will only be allowed to play junior age group (ie U18 or below) cricket for one club during any season unless specific approval is given by the NHCDA Committee. Such approval will be considered if:

- a. the club that the player is leaving gives their agreement in writing to the move; or
- b. the clubs involved apply to the committee for a player to play for both clubs under the terms of the loan scheme (as set out below).

For the avoidance of doubt, NHYCL players can play adult cricket for their own club or for a different club to the club for which they play junior age group cricket.

LOAN SCHEME

The NHCDA Committee will consider favourably any application for a player to play for two clubs if:

- A. a player from a large club, who is not a County Squad Player or a Regional Squad Player or a County Girls' Squad Player, wishes to play for a smaller club provided that the smaller club only has a single team in the age group and is struggling with player availability, and that the player does not play for both clubs in the same division.
- B. If a player from a smaller club wishes to play for a Division 1 team as well as the lower division team to which their club belongs. The NHCDA Committee will consider favourably any such requests subject to the following conditions:
 - i) Clubs wanting to provide this opportunity to their better players must notify the NHCDA Committee of the name(s) of these player(s) and the NHCDA Committee would then pair that club with one or more relevant clubs in Division 1, once the league structure is agreed.
 - ii) Only one player per 'club swap' will be allowed (thus a lower division team will not be permitted to 'loan' two or more players to the same Division 1 team).
 - iii) Loans will only be permitted between the lowest and highest divisions in an age group.
 - iv) A 'loaned' player must play in Division 1 in the first half of the season in order to be eligible to play in the second half (measured by number of fixtures, irrespective of cancelled games).
 - v) The NHCDA Committee will decide the nature of the loaned player's participation in cricket for their home club according to the skill set of the player. The Committee will most likely place restrictions on the batting and/or bowling position of the player in the same way as "A team" players playing in B or C team cricket are not expected to play leading roles in these games.

Any player who is approved by the NHCDA Committee to play for two clubs under provision A or B of the Loan Scheme must officially register as a playing member of both clubs and thus be covered by each club's insurance policy when playing in NHYCL matches.

In any match in which a club plays a player who the NHCDA Committee has approved to play for two clubs under the Loan Scheme, the club's team manager must inform the opposition team's manager prior to the start of a game that the player is playing under the Loan Scheme as approved by the NHCDA Committee.

COUNTY AND REGIONAL SQUAD PLAYERS

For the purposes of defining the representative status of a player:

- i) Any boy who is in a Regional squad on the first day of the NHYCL summer season shall be deemed to be a “Regional Squad Player” for the whole of the following summer season, even if he is moved after the start of the NHYCL summer season to another pathway squad.
 - ii) Any boy who is in a County squad on the first day of the NHYCL summer season shall be deemed to be a “County Squad Player” for the whole of the following summer season, even if he is moved after the start of the NHYCL summer season to another pathway squad.
 - iii) Any girl included in any County winter training squad (for the winter immediately preceding the summer season), and any other player who is included in the County summer squad, is deemed to be a “County Girls’ Squad Player” for the summer season. However when the Girls’ County summer squads are announced, any winter squad player not included in the summer squad will no longer be deemed a “County Girls’ Squad Player”.
1. 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 Regional 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.
 2. In the event that a club has two or more girls’ teams in the same age group, then any player who is a County Girls’ Squad Player must play for the A team only (except that a County Girls’ Squad Player who is in a county squad for an age group younger than the relevant league can ‘play up’ in the B team e.g. an U11 County Girls’ Squad Player can play for the B team in the girls’ U13 league).
 3. Regional 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.
 4. 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).
 5. In the event of teams fielding ineligible players (e.g. over-age players or “A team-only” players in the B team) the team concerned will lose any points gained in the applicable match and the opposition will be deemed the winner of the match. If both teams use ineligible players, then no points will be allocated to either team for the matches in question
 6. If a boy or girl is selected for a county squad in a higher age group, the above restrictions will only apply in their actual age group for NHYCL cricket eg if an U11 boy is selected for the U12 county squad, he can play in any U13 team for his club.

NOTE REGARDING THE U18 OPEN LEAGUES

If enough clubs enter at U18 level to justify running two leagues then there would be strict player eligibility criteria for the lower division such that no player playing senior cricket at Hampshire County League Division 3 or above would be allowed to play.

SQUAD MANAGEMENT

1. Clubs entering two or more teams in one age group do so on the understanding that the squads for each team are clearly identified; a player must be identified with only one team squad – though this does not mean that player cannot play up or down as the system allows the selection from a different squad. It is each club's responsibility to ensure that any current Regional or County Squad Players, or County Girls' Squad Players, are identified in the correct squad.
2. Clubs should base their decision whether or not to run multiple teams by the size of the relevant age-group: it is recommended that a club looking to run two girls teams should have a minimum of 16 eligible and available players, and a club looking to run two Open teams should have a minimum of 22 eligible and available players (i.e. the core boys and girls at that age group plus any players from the younger age group capable of 'playing up' (and regularly available to do so) and girls from the permitted older age group).
3. In exceptional circumstances, the NHCDA Committee may permit a club to have two teams in the same league as long as they can field two full teams when they play against each other, and the first-choice players of each team are those officially identified as primarily being in that team.
4. The NHCDA Committee accept that there can be good reason for involving A team players (who are not restricted by the Regional or County Squad Players eligibility rule) in the B or C team for player development purposes, on the basis that these players may have limited batting (if a bowler) or bowling (if a batsman) opportunities in the A team. However the NHCDA Committee do not expect teams to select an A team player in the B or C team if that player would, in all probability, be ineligible due to the County and Regional Player restrictions, other than the fact that the player in question elected not to be available for County or Regional squad selection. If in doubt about whether this rule might apply to a player, please consult the Competitions Secretary for guidance.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. For girls who play in both Open and girls' teams, the NHCDA Committee recommend that the girls' team should take precedence in selection (i.e. an Open team should allow a girls' team to have first option on a girl's availability). However an exception to this would be if a girl plays for two different clubs and the Open team is her original club.
8. 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.

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LEAGUE MATCH REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES (A)

SHARED REGULATIONS FOR OPEN LEAGUES WHICH DON'T PLAY PAIRS CRICKET

- **ALL LEAGUES EXCEPT U9 (OPEN & GIRLS), U11 SOFTBALL (OPEN & GIRLS), U11 OPEN DIVISION 3, U11 GIRLS' HARDBALL, U13 GIRLS AND U16 GIRLS**

NB see also Specific Variations tables on page 16

Pitch	See Specific Variations table for pitch lengths. The pitch can be on the grass square, or on a properly maintained artificial pitch.
Outfield	See <i>Guidelines for Boundary Distances</i> for recommended boundary distances.
Duration	All matches shall consist of 20 overs per innings except if deemed a late start or if there is a weather interruption and therefore subject to a reduction of overs to both innings (see <i>Match Regulations and Guidelines</i>).
Ball	One new hardball per match to be supplied by the home team (unless both teams mutually agree, prior to the toss, that there will be a new ball for each innings). At least one decent spare ball should be available. A pink ball must be used in all evening hardball matches (ie any match starting at or after 5pm). For any hardball match starting earlier than 5pm, a red or pink ball may be used. See Specific Variations table for ball sizes.
Number of Players	All U11, U13 and U15 matches (excluding U11 Division 3 and U15 Division 3) shall be 11-a-side. U15 Division 3 and U18 matches shall be default 9-a-side unless team managers mutually agree in advance that it can be 10 or 11 players per side. 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).
Batting	Retirement – see Specific Variations table. All Batsmen must retire when they reach the overs or scores indicated in the relevant age-group rules. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>For U15 Division 1, Under 15 Division 2, U13 Division 1 and U13 Division 2:</i> Batsmen that have retired are NOT permitted to return to the wicket. However the last pair do not have to retire. For the avoidance of doubt, the last pair may bat on until one of them is out, or the allotted overs for the innings are completed, or the match is won (whichever is soonest).• <i>For U15 Division 3 and U18:</i> Batsmen that have retired are NOT permitted to return to the wicket and the last pair do not have to retire (same as U15 Divisions 1 and 2). If the match is less than 11-a-side the last man stands rule applies ie when all but one of the players in a team are out, the not out player can continue to bat with a runner until he/she is out, or the runner is out, or the allotted overs for the innings are completed, or the match is won (whichever is soonest – see also the rule regarding runners in the <i>Match Regulations and Guidelines</i> section). For the avoidance of doubt, the last man stands rule does not apply to matches which were pre-agreed as 11-a-side (even if one team subsequently ends up with less than 11 players).• <i>For U11 Division 1, U11 Division 2 and U13 Division 3:</i> Batsmen that have retired can return to the wicket, in the order in which they retired, only when all 11 players have batted. They do not need to retire again. The innings will end if the batting side only has one not-out batsman. (NB – For U11 Division 3, see <i>League Match Regulations and Guidelines (B)</i>)
Result Submission	The match result and full scorecard should be submitted onto the NHYCL Play-Cricket website.

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- Bowling** The maximum number of overs that any one bowler may bowl is:
- *For U18 and U15 matches with 17 overs or more overs allotted per innings:*
Only two bowlers may bowl a maximum of 4 overs, and no other bowler may bowl more than 3 overs.
 - *For all U13 and U11 matches, plus U18 and U15 matches with 16 overs or less overs allotted per innings:*
No bowler may bowl more than 3 overs.

In any match in which less than 20 overs are allotted per innings (eg in a match with a delayed start) a minimum of 6 bowlers must be used by the fielding side if all the allotted overs are bowled.

- 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).

- No Balls** 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.

In respect of the No Ball regulation on the number of bounces that a delivery can make before it is deemed a No Ball will be as follows:

- For all Division 1 games – a delivery can only bounce once before it reaches the popping crease. Thus a ball that bounces two or more times before the ball reaches the popping crease shall be called a No Ball.
- For all other divisions (unless mutually agreed by both teams before the start of the game) – two bounces are allowed before the ball reaches the popping crease. Thus a ball that bounces three or more times before the ball reaches the popping crease shall be called a No Ball.

- LBW** The LBW Law shall apply in all matches. However umpires should mutually agree local terms on their application of LBW. The NHODA Committee recommends that in Under 11 matches LBWs should only be given when a batsman is trapped on the crease and plumb in front of the wicket to a ball (which hasn’t pitched outside the line of leg stump) which would have gone on to hit middle stump (or middle and off, or middle and leg).

- Teams who are missing players** If a team turns up for a game with fewer players than the agreed number, the Laws of Cricket shall apply (i.e. the team shall play only with the players they have brought to the game with no player batting more than once and no bowler bowling more overs than is permitted in the NHYCL rules). Exceptions shall only be allowed if both team managers mutually agree on a variation for the game (though neither team should feel under any obligation to agree to any variations, nor should there be any expectation on a team to agree to any variations). However no variation on batting and bowling rules shall be permitted in any Open league Division One match.

- Run outs**
- i) In any Under 11 game in which bails are used, to avoid situations when the bails are off and fielders, when trying for a run out, can’t pull up a stump to execute a run-out without bails, a run out will be valid if the ball is held against the stumps if the bails are already off.
 - ii) In any NHYCL game (in any age group) which uses spring-loaded sets of stumps, to avoid situations when the bails are off and fielders, when trying for a run out, can’t lift the whole set of stumps to execute a run-out without bails, a run out will be valid if the ball is held against the stumps if the bails are already off.

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LEAGUE MATCH REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES (B)

SHARED REGULATIONS FOR PAIRS CRICKET LEAGUES

- **U9 (OPEN & GIRLS), U11 SOFTBALL (OPEN & GIRLS), U11 OPEN DIVISION 3, U11 MIXED, U11 GIRLS' HARDBALL, U11 OPEN FRIENDLY, U13 MIXED, AND U13 OPEN FRIENDLY**

NB see also Specific Variations tables on page 16

Please note that these playing conditions are intended as a general guide. For many players, managers and helpers, this is often their first taste of competitive cricket. Therefore, the NHCDA Committee would like to stress that it should be fun and enjoyable for all.

- Pitch** *For U9 (Open & girls): 15 yards in length. The pitch can be on the grass square or on a cut strip on the outfield, or be an artificial pitch.*
For U11 Division 3, U11 girls' hardball, U11 mixed, U11 open friendly and U11 softball (Open & girls): 17 yards in length. The pitch can be on the grass square, or on a properly maintained artificial pitch.
For U13 mixed and U13 open friendly: 19 yards in length. The pitch can be on the grass square, or on a properly maintained artificial pitch.
- Outfield** *See Guidelines for Boundary Distances for recommended boundary distances.*
- Teams** *For U9 girls and U9 specific 6-a-side Open league:*
Teams should consist of 6 players per side, unless team managers mutually agree in advance that it can be 8 players per side.
For U9 Open (excluding specific 6-a-side league), U11 softball (Open & girls) and U11 girls' hardball:
Teams should consist of 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.
For U11 Division 3, U11 mixed, U11 open friendly, U13 mixed and U13 open friendly:
Teams should consist of 10 players per side, unless team managers mutually agree in advance that it can be 8 players per side.
For teams in the U11 and U13 mixed competitions, each team must have a minimum of 4 boys and 4 girls. Thus each team will have a 5:5 or 6:4 gender split (for 8 per side it must be 4:4). Each batting pair must contain a girl and boy, except that in a team with a 6:4 gender split there will be one pair of the same gender.
For teams in the U11 and U13 open friendly divisions the following players are NOT permitted to play in any matches in these divisions:
- Girls from older age groups
 - County Squad Players, Regional Squad Players or County Girls' Squad Players (including those that have attended winter training), regardless of gender or age group (i.e. even if younger)

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- Duration** The match will consist of
- 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);
 - For 8-a-side matches: 16 overs per innings;
 - For 10-a-side matches: 20 overs per innings.
- except if deemed a late start or if there is a weather interruption and therefore subject to a reduction of overs to both innings (see *Match Regulations and Guidelines*).
- Girls U11s** If a club has an U12 girl new to the game whose cricket development would benefit from playing U11s, then the club should formally apply to the NHCDA committee for specific permission to permit her to play in the girls' U11 league (hardball or softball) or in the U11 mixed competition.
- Ball**
- *For U11 Division 3, U11 mixed, U11 open friendly, U13 mixed, U11 open friendly and U11 girls' hardball:* A 4¾ oz hardball shall be used. A pink ball must be used in all evening hardball matches (ie any match starting at or after 5pm). For any hardball match starting earlier than 5pm, a red or pink ball may be used.
 - *For U9 (Open & girls) and U11 softball (Open & girls):* An Incrediball is recommended (otherwise a Softee-type ball, such as a Supaball). A hard ball is not permitted.
- Teams who are missing players**
- 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.
- 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 10-a-side fixture, then the four batsmen with the lowest net individual scores from the first four pairs will each bat for one over with the ninth batsman (for the avoidance of doubt, the ninth batsman's partners may take strike).
- If a team has two or more less players than the opposition (eg 6 players in an 8-a-side match), 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).
- If a team in the U11 or U13 mixed competitions has less than 4 boys and/or less than 4 girls for a match, then the match is invalid and the rules set out in the *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* section shall apply.
- Result Submission** Only the match result, not a scorecard, should be submitted onto the NHYCL Play-Cricket website.
- However no result should be submitted for matches in the U11 and U13 open friendly divisions

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- Batting** Each team will bat in pairs for 4 overs and start on a total of 200 runs. Runs are added to this total in the normal manner and, at the fall of each wicket, 5 runs will be deducted and 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. A 'dismissed' batsman must never face the next delivery.
- 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.
- No Balls** If a ball bounces three or more times, then it shall be called No Ball. However, for U9 (Open & girls), U11 girls' hardball, U11 mixed, *U11 open friendly*, and U11 Softball (Open and girls) 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.
- LBW**
- The LBW Law will NOT apply in any softball matches (i.e. U9 Open & girls, and U11 Open & girls).
 - The LBW Law shall apply in U11 Division 3 matches, U11 mixed, U11 open friendly, U13 mixed, *U13 open friendly* and U11 girls' hardball. However umpires should mutually agree local terms on their application of LBW. The NHCDA Committee recommends that in Under 11 matches LBWs should only be given when a batsman is trapped on the crease and plumb in front of the wicket to a ball (which hasn't pitched outside the line of leg stump) which would have gone on to hit middle stump (or middle and off, or middle and leg).
- Wickets** *For U9 (Open & girls) and U11 Softball (Open and girls) 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.
- For U11 Division 3, U11 mixed, U11 open friendly, U13 mixed, U11 open friendly and U11 girls' hardball matches:*
- The wicket is only down when a bail falls
- Run outs**
- i) In any Under 9 or Under 11 games in which bails are used, to avoid situations when the bails are off and fielders, when trying for a run out, can't pull up a stump to execute a run-out without bails, a run out will be valid if the ball is held against the stumps if the bails are already off.
 - ii) In any NHYCL game (in any age group) which uses spring-loaded sets of stumps, to avoid situations when the bails are off and fielders, when trying for a run out, can't lift the whole set of stumps to execute a run-out without bails, a run out will be valid if the ball is held against the stumps if the bails are already off.

NORTH HAMPSHIRE YOUTH CRICKET LEAGUES: COMPETITION RULES

- 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.
NB This rule only applies in Pairs Cricket league matches and thus does not apply in Cup matches
- 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.
- 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).

NORTH HAMPSHIRE YOUTH CRICKET LEAGUES: COMPETITION RULES

LEAGUE MATCH REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES (C)

SHARED REGULATIONS FOR U16 AND U13 GIRLS' LEAGUES ONLY

NB see also Specific Variations tables on page 16

Pitch	See Specific Variations table for length. The pitch can be on the grass square, or on a properly maintained artificial pitch.
Ball	One new hardball per match to be supplied by the home team (unless both teams mutually agree, prior to the toss, that there will be a new ball for each innings). At least one decent spare ball should be available. A pink ball must be used in all evening hardball matches (ie any match starting at or after 5pm). For any hardball match starting earlier than 5pm, a red or pink ball may be used. See Specific Variations table for ball sizes.
Outfield	See <i>Guidelines for Boundary Distances</i> for recommended boundary distances.
Teams	Teams should consist of 8 – 11 players per side. The default number for a league match is 8 per side. If both teams can field more players then they are encouraged to mutually agree more per side (up to 11). 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.
Duration	The match will consist of 20 overs per innings except if deemed a late start or if there is a weather interruption and therefore subject to a reduction of overs to both innings (see "Match Regulations and Guidelines" rules).
Batting	<p>Retirement – see Specific Variations table.</p> <p>Batsmen that have retired can return to the wicket, in the order in which they retired, only when all players have batted. They do not need to retire again.</p> <p>In an 11-an-side match the innings will end if the batting side has only one not-out batsman.</p> <p>However if the match is less than 11-a-side the last man stands rule applies ie when all but one of the players in a team are out, the not out player can continue to bat with a runner until she is out, or the runner is out, or the allotted overs for the innings are completed, or the match is won (whichever is soonest – see also the rule regarding runners in the <i>Match Regulations and Guidelines</i> section). For the avoidance of doubt, the last man stands rule does not apply to matches which were pre-agreed as 11-a-side.</p>
Bowling	<p>The maximum number of overs that any one bowler may bowl is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>For matches with 17 overs or more overs allotted per innings:</i> Only two bowlers may bowl a maximum of 4 overs, and no other bowler may bowl more than 3 overs.• <i>For matches with 16 overs or less overs allotted per innings:</i> No bowler may bowl more than 3 overs. <p>In any match in which less than 20 overs are allotted per innings (eg in a match with a delayed start) a minimum of 6 bowlers must be used by the fielding side if all the allotted overs are bowled.</p>

NORTH HAMPSHIRE YOUTH CRICKET LEAGUES: COMPETITION RULES

No Balls	<p>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.</p> <p>In respect of the No Ball regulation on the number of bounces that a delivery can make before it is deemed a No Ball, two bounces are allowed before the ball reaches the popping crease. Thus a ball that bounces three or more times before the ball reaches the popping crease shall be called a No Ball.</p>
Run outs	<p>In any NHYCL game (in any age group) which uses spring-loaded sets of stumps, to avoid situations when the bails are off and fielders, when trying for a run out, can't lift the whole set of stumps to execute a run-out without bails, a run out will be valid if the ball is held against the stumps if the bails are already off.</p>
Last Over	<p>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).</p>
LBW	<p>The LBW Law shall apply in all matches. However umpires should mutually agree local terms on their application of LBW. The NHCDA Committee recommends that in girls' U13 matches LBWs should only be given when a batsman is trapped on the crease and plumb in front of the wicket to a ball (which hasn't pitched outside the line of leg stump) which would have gone on to hit middle stump (or middle and off, or middle and leg).</p>
County Cup	<p>Hampshire Girls County Cup matches take precedence over all NHYCL matches. If a team cannot fulfil an NHYCL League or NHCDA Cup match due to a clash with a Hampshire Girls County Cup match, then the team does not have to concede the NHYCL League or NHCDA Cup match. The NHCDA Committee expect both teams to do their best to rearrange the NHYCL League or NHCDA Cup match, but if this proves impossible then the NHYCL League or NHCDA Cup match will be deemed to be Abandoned (ie treated the same as a match postponement due to inclement weather before a match).</p>
Teams who are missing players	<p>If a team turns up for a game with fewer players than the agreed number, the Laws of cricket shall apply (i.e. the team shall play only with the players they have brought to the game with no player batting more than once and no bowler bowling more overs than is permitted in the NHYCL rules). Exceptions shall only be allowed if both team managers mutually agree on a variation for the game (though neither team should feel under any obligation to agree to any variations, nor should there be any expectation on a team to agree to any variations).</p>
Result Submission	<p>The match result and full scorecard should be submitted onto the NHYCL Play-Cricket website.</p>

SCORING FROM NO BALLS & WIDES IN ALL NHYCL LEAGUE AND CUP/PLATE MATCHES

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.

ADAPTING TO PLAYERS WITH DISABILITY

In line with the Hampshire Cricket Board's recommendation, the coach or manager of a team with a disabled cricketer should explain the limitation of the player's capabilities to the umpires and the opposing team's coach or manager prior to the beginning of the match. The umpires and both team managers should agree on any adapted rules and ensure that both sets of players are aware and understand any variations before the game starts.

GUIDELINES FOR BOUNDARY DISTANCES

Boundary distances for other age groups should be as follows (note that boundary distances should be measured from the centre of the match pitch):

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Boundary Minimum</u>	<u>Boundary Maximum</u>
Under 9s (Open and girls) and Under 11 girls softball	20 yards	30 yards
Under 11 hardball (Open & girls) U11 mixed and U11 Open softball	30 yards	45 yards
Under 13 (Open, mixed and girls)	35 yards	55 yards
Under 15 and above (inc U16 girls)	40 yards	70 yards

NB These recommendations can be overridden by the playing conditions of individual competitions or to accommodate local ground conditions.

NORTH HAMPSHIRE YOUTH CRICKET LEAGUES: COMPETITION RULES

SPECIFIC VARIATIONS

Note *All Under 9 Softball matches must be played on a 15 yard pitch*
All Under 11 Softball matches must be played on a 17 yard pitch

	U11 Hardball (Open, friendly, mixed & girls)	U15 Open, U18 Open
Ball size	4¾ ozs	5½ ozs
Stumps	27 inches (above the pitch)	28 inches (above the pitch)
Pitch Length	17 yards	22 yards
Retirement	<p><i>For Divs 1 and 2:</i> After 4 complete overs. Retired batsmen can return.</p> <p><i>NB retirement does not apply to U11 Division 3, nor to U11 girls hardball, as both of which are played to Pairs Cricket rules (see League Match Regulations and Guidelines (B))</i></p>	<p>After 8 complete overs OR on reaching 50 runs within their allocated 8 overs.</p> <p>Retired batsmen cannot return.</p> <p>The last pair do not have to retire.</p> <p>In U15 Div 3 matches which are less than 11-a-side, the Last Man Stands rule applies.</p>

	U13 Open (Divs 1 & 2)	U13 Open (Div 3, friendly & mixed)
Ball size	4¾ ozs	4¾ ozs
Stumps	27 inches (above the pitch)	27 inches (above the pitch)
Pitch Length	19 yards	19 yards
Retirement	<p>After 8 complete overs OR on reaching 30 runs within their allocated 8 overs.</p> <p>Retired batsmen cannot return.</p> <p>The last pair do not have to retire.</p>	<p>After 4 complete overs.</p> <p>Retired batsmen can return.</p>

	U13 Girls	U16 Girls
Ball size	4¾ ozs	5 ozs
Stumps	27 inches (above the pitch)	28 inches (above the pitch)
Pitch Length	19 yards	22 yards
Retirement	<p>After 6 complete overs OR on reaching 30 runs within their allocated 6 overs.</p> <p>Retired batsmen can return, and in matches which are less than 11-a-side, the Last Man Stands rule applies.</p>	<p>After 8 complete overs OR on reaching 50 runs within their allocated 8 overs.</p> <p>Retired batsmen can return, and in matches which are less than 11-a-side, the Last Man Stands rule applies.</p>

NORTH HAMPSHIRE YOUTH CRICKET LEAGUES: COMPETITION RULES

NHCDA CUP AND PLATE MATCH REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES

1. NHCDA knockout cup competitions shall be played in the Open U11, U13 and U15 age groups, and in girls' U13 and U16 age groups.
2. For Open NHCDA Cup competitions (but not girls' Cup competitions), teams who are not in Division 1 of the relevant age group league and who lose in the first round of the Cup, will be entered into the Plate competition. Teams who are not in Division 1 may elect to enter the Plate but not the Cup. The deadlines for each rounds of the Plate competition shall mirror the subsequent rounds of the Cup competition. For the avoidance of doubt, Division 1 league teams who lose in the first round, and any teams who get a bye in the first round and then lose in the second round, are not eligible for the Plate competition.
3. All Cup and Plate matches (Open and girls') must be played by the specified date for that round; failure to comply may lead to a team being excluded from the next round (the NHCDA Committee's decision shall be final).
4. It is the responsibility of the home team to contact their opponents as soon as possible and to confirm all match details as set out in the template Match Confirmation sheet (see p33) .
5. Cup and Plate matches cannot be postponed for any reason other than those set out in the Match Postponement rules.
6. If 8 or more overs of the second innings have been completed but the game is not completed due to inclement weather or unsafe conditions, then clause ii a of *Match postponements due to inclement weather during a match* shall apply (see page 21).
7. If a match is not played due to inclement weather, unsafe conditions or a clash with a Hampshire County Cup or ECB National Club Championship fixture, or if a match has started but has been abandoned before 8 overs of the second innings have been completed, then clause ii b of *Match postponements due to inclement weather during a match* shall apply (see page 21).
8. No player may take part in an Open U11, U13 or U15 Cup or Plate semi-final or final unless they have previously played in at least two matches (league and/or cup/plate) for the club's age group team(s) that season. A club may appeal to the NHCDA Committee to consider allowing an otherwise eligible player to play in a semi-final or final if that player has missed most of the season to date for an exceptional reason e.g. injury. For the avoidance of doubt, this rule does not apply in girls' Cup competitions.
9. It is up to the team managers to ensure that the game is played without undue delay and within the spirit of the rules. Team managers should be responsible for ensuring that all players in the batting team are ready to bat and spare balls are readily available.
10. Only in the girls' U13 and the Open U11 Cup and Plate competitions are umpires permitted to provide advice to a fielding team on field placement, or tactical advice to batsmen and bowlers. In all other Cup and Plate competitions the players must not have any assistance on field placement or on-field tactical advice.

NORTH HAMPSHIRE YOUTH CRICKET LEAGUES: COMPETITION RULES

NHCDA CUP AND PLATE MATCH DAY RULES

1. All Open Cup and Plate matches will be 10 players per team.
2. All girls' Cup and Plate matches will be 8 players per team.
3. For all Cup and Plate matches the ball, stumps and pitch length shall be the same size as for that age group in the normal league – see Specific Variations table for sizes. One new hardball per match to be supplied by the home team. At least one decent spare ball should be available.
4. Music can be played for incoming batsman.
5. All matches shall be 20 overs per innings unless there is a mutually agreed reduction of overs due to a delayed start.
6. For all Cup and Plate matches the maximum number of overs permitted per bowler shall be the same as for that age group in the normal league
7. In all Open Cup and Plate matches each team will bat in pairs for 4 overs.
8. In all girls' Cup and Plate matches each team will bat in pairs for 5 overs.
9. If a team has less than its full number of players:
 - a. For Open teams with 9 players, the four batsmen with the lowest net individual scores from the first four pairs will each bat for one over with the ninth batsman (for the avoidance of doubt, the ninth batsman's partners may take strike).
 - b. For Open teams with 8 players, each pair shall bat for 5 overs.
 - c. For any team with 7 players, each pair shall bat for 5 overs and the five 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).
 - d. For any team with 6 players, two of the pairs shall bat for 7 overs, and one pair shall bat for 6 overs.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. LBWs should be applied in the same way as for each respective age group's league matches.
13. For all Open Cup and Plate matches a delivery can only bounce once before it reaches the popping crease. Thus a ball that bounces two or more times before the ball reaches the popping crease shall be called a No Ball.
14. For all girls' Cup matches a delivery can bounce twice before it reaches the popping crease. Thus a ball that bounces three or more times before the ball reaches the popping crease shall be called a No Ball.
15. The last over of an innings must contain six 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).

NORTH HAMPSHIRE YOUTH CRICKET LEAGUES: COMPETITION RULES

The winner of a Cup or Plate match is team scoring most runs (when the match has been completed).

In the event of a tie on runs, the winner is then determined using this order of criteria:

- Least wickets lost
- If still tied, then there shall be a bowl out with all players bowling one ball each – most hits win. If one or both teams have less players than the other, then the number of players who bowl one ball for each team shall be equal to the number of players in the team who have the least number of players.
- If still tied, then there shall be a sudden death stump bowl out, if team A hits and team B misses, team A win. If team A Misses and team B Hits, team B win. In a sudden death stump bowl out, all players must bowl in the same order that they bowled in the first bowl out.

For all Cup and Plate matches, only the match result should be submitted onto the NHYCL Play-Cricket website. For the avoidance of doubt, scorecards for these matches should not be submitted.

NHCDA CUP AND PLATE FINALS

The teams involved in a Cup or Plate final should arrange the final between them, exactly as they have done for all other rounds. The first-named team in the draw (as posted on the NHYCL website) will be the home team, and the teams can agree to play on any mutually agreed date up to and including the first Sunday in September. The NHCDA Committee hope that the host team will offer at least 3 dates (and preferably many more than 3), spread widely over at least 3 weeks.

If either or both teams contact the Competitions Secretary to say that they can't agree a date, then the NHCDA Committee will force a set date on them. To avoid any possibility of favouring one team over the other, the NHCDA Committee will not consider which dates may or may not suit the teams concerned. If the set date happens to suit one team and not the other, that will be by chance. So teams should do their utmost to agree a date between them as the alternative could be a forced date that may only suit one, or even neither, team.

If a set date is forced on the teams, and one team can't field a team on the set date, then they have to concede. If a set date is forced on the teams and the first-named team can't provide a pitch on the date, the other team will be offered the chance to host it on the set date. If neither team can provide a pitch on the enforced date, or if final is not played due to bad weather or unsafe conditions and not subsequently rescheduled), then the Cup (or Plate) will be shared. The NHCDA committee hope that this undesirable enforced date scenario will encourage finalists to find a mutually agreeable date prior to (or on) the first Sunday in September.

The NHCDA Committee also expects the teams involved to discuss the umpiring of their final well in advance of the final. It is hoped that each team will provide a competent and experienced (ideally qualified) umpire who is not the coach or manager of the team, nor a parent of a player in the final. If only one neutral umpire is available, then he/she should umpire at both bowling ends and the batting team should provide a competent square leg umpire. However if none of these options are possible, then the teams may have to agree on the match being umpired by the coaches, managers or parents of players involved (though such persons should be competent and experienced at umpiring age group matches). In all scenarios, the NHCDA Committee expect both teams to be responsible for upholding the spirit of cricket at all times.

NORTH HAMPSHIRE YOUTH CRICKET LEAGUES: COMPETITION RULES

LAWS OF CRICKET – VARIATIONS

In October 2017 MCC significantly revised the Laws of Cricket. New Laws to note include:

- A helmet is now deemed as being part of the fielder's (or wicketkeeper's) person, meaning that a catch (or stumping) can be taken after the ball has struck the helmet, or become lodged in it. In addition, a batsman can now be run out or stumped if the ball rebounds directly from a fielder's (or wicketkeeper's) helmet onto the stumps.
- A runner should be someone who has already batted, but if that is not possible, then the runner should be changed as soon as it does become possible. This means that, if one of the opening batsmen had a runner and his/her partner was dismissed first, the outgoing batsman would need to become the runner.
- If the batsman grounds his/her bat (held by the hand) beyond the popping crease or another part of his/her person within his/her ground (the elbow when diving, for example), and provided that the batsman has continued forward momentum, and subsequently inadvertently loses this contact with the ground when the wicket is put down (eg the bat bounces up or both feet are in the air), then the batsman will be protected from being run out or stumped.
- Scorers should be aware that byes and leg-byes off a No-ball will be credited as such, rather than all being treated as No ball extras. So, for example, if a No-ball goes for 4 Leg byes, there will be two entries in extras ie 4 leg-byes in addition to the No-ball extras (2 runs for a No-ball in NHYCL outdoor matches – so previously such an incident would have been recorded as 6 No-ball extras).

FOR ALL NHYCL MATCHES, THE FOLLOWING LAWS ARE WAIVED:

1. Law 41.16 states that a non-striker leaves the crease at his/her peril, and if he/she leaves it early, the bowler is entitled to run him/her out. For Under 15, Under 16 and Under 18 matches in the NHYCL, Law 41.16 will apply.

However, in all NHYCL matches up to and including Under 13s, a non-striker can only be given run out when backing up if he/she has previously been given an official warning by the umpires in the innings after a bowler had aborted his/her delivery and pointed out that the non-striker had already left his/her crease.

The NHYCL Committee believes that, though backing-up as a non-striker is very important, players in the NHYCL need to be trained not to leave the crease until the ball leaves the bowler's hand. Therefore umpires in NHYCL matches up to and including Under 13s should have a discrete word with non-strikers who they see are leaving the crease early, regardless of whether the fielding team have noticed. Similarly, umpires should discourage bowlers from repeatedly aborting their run-ups in the hope of catching the non-striker out of their crease (bowlers should consider doing so when they are certain that the non-striker is taking an unfair advantage).

Umpires in Under 15, Under 16 and Under 18 matches are expected to remind players before the start of each innings that a non-striker leaves the crease at his/her peril, and if he/she leaves it early, the bowler is entitled to run him/her out without warning.

Umpires, coaches and players in Under 15, Under 16 and Under 18 matches should also be reminded that an umpire can only give a batsman out if the fielding side appeals. So the bowling team may consider that, in cases where the batsman has only marginally or innocently left the crease early, it might be in keeping with the Spirit of Cricket to warn the batsman rather than appeal.

NORTH HAMPSHIRE YOUTH CRICKET LEAGUES: COMPETITION RULES

2. Law 24.2 states that a member of the fielding team is not allowed to bowl for a defined period following any time they are absent from the field. However, in all NHYCL matches, the umpires will consider that any absence of any fielder will always be for “wholly acceptable reasons” in terms of Law 24.3.2 which states that of a player is absent for wholly acceptable reasons, he/she will not incur “Penalty time” when coming onto the field. Thus, even if a player has been absent, in NHYCL matches he/she will be permitted to bowl at any time once he/she take the field.
3. The imposition of penalty runs shall not apply in NHYCL matches, with the exception of Law 28.2 (illegally fielding the ball) and Law 28.3 (ball striking a protective helmet belonging to the fielding side) which shall apply throughout. The processes set out in Law 42 for dealing with offences shall apply other than the imposition of penalty runs. For Laws 42.2 – 42.7, in addition to the warnings provided to the captain, the umpires must advise the team coach/ manager and request that the behaviour improves. In the event of any breach that results in a sanction at Level 3 or Level 4, a report to the Competitions Secretary must be provided within 48 hours.
4. As a variation of Law 29:
 - i) In any NHYCL game (in any age group) which uses spring-loaded sets of stumps, to avoid situations when the bails are off and fielders, when trying for a run out, can't lift the whole set of stumps to execute a run-out without bails, a run out will be valid if the ball is held against the stumps if the bails are already off.
 - ii) In any Under 9 and Under 11 games in which bails are used, to avoid situations when the bails are off and fielders, when trying for a run out, can't pull up a stump to execute a run-out without bails, a run out will be valid if the ball is held against the stumps if the bails are already off.

NORTH HAMPSHIRE YOUTH CRICKET LEAGUES: COMPETITION RULES

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.
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.

NORTH HAMPSHIRE YOUTH CRICKET LEAGUES: COMPETITION RULES

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.

In the event that adverse weather conditions cause a match that has started to not be finished, then:

- i) For all NHYCL League matches:
 - a. 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.
 - b. 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 will be deemed 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).
- ii) For NHCDA Cup and Plate matches:
 - a. if the match is stopped at a point at which 8 or more overs of the second innings have been completed, the team with the best average run rate, to three decimal places, at the exact point of the game being abandoned, will be deemed the winner. For the calculation of the average run rate, the 200 run start will NOT count. In the event that the run rate is the same, then the match will be deemed a tie, and NHCDA Cup and Plate rules on tied matches will apply.
 - b. if the match is stopped at a point at which 8 or more overs of the second innings have not been completed, the result will be determined, as follows:
 1. Replayed on a mutually agreed date (to be before the deadline date of the round in question).
 2. If there is insufficient time to replay the match (or the teams cannot mutually agree another date before the deadline), but conditions allow and both teams are available to stage a bowl out, then six players shall bowl one ball each – most hits win. If still tied after six balls, then there shall be a sudden death stump bowl out, if team A hits and team B misses, team A win. If team A Misses and team B Hits, team B win. In a sudden death stump bowl out the same six players must bowl in the same order that they bowled in the first bowl out.
 3. If neither of the above two options are possible, the winner will be decided on a single toss of a coin (or equivalent) by the Competitions Secretary.

MATCH OFFICIATING

1. Umpires shall be supplied by each team, and the same two umpires should officiate both innings to provide consistency throughout the match.
2. Softball matches in the NHYCL (ie Under 9s and non-hardball Under 11 matches) can be umpired by any suitable person aged at least 13.
3. All hardball matches in the NHYCL must be umpired by an ACU official, or a competent and responsible person aged at least 16.
4. It is the sole decision of the umpires to call off a game if the conditions have become too dangerous to continue. If there is a split opinion then the game shall err on the side of player safety and therefore be called off.
5. Both teams are obliged to provide a scorer. The NHCDA Committee recommend that, if possible, one scorer e-scores on a platform which is compatible with the play-cricket.com website. This enables the scorecard to be uploaded to the website at the press of a button. The other scorer should score on paper in case of a technical failure with the e-scoring.
6. In the event of a close game, umpires should ensure that the scorers agree on the exact scores before the last scheduled over begins.
7. 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.
8. If an umpire believes that a bowler is trying to bowl properly but has an illegal action, or if an umpire has doubts about the legality of a bowler's action:
 - i) The umpire should have a discreet word with the other umpire and, if necessary, the player's coach, in a way that doesn't leave the player being exposed in the heat of the moment. The NHCDA Committee considers it crucial that any such incident is handled with the utmost sensitivity so as not to damage the player's confidence.
 - ii) The umpire should report his/her opinion to the NHCDA Chairman or the Competitions Secretary as soon as possible after the game in question, having first informed the player's coach that the player's action will be reported. The NHCDA Committee will then work with the player's club (and, if appropriate, the player's other coaches) to assess the player's action and provide remedial help if necessary.
9. Umpires should ensure that the ECB directives regarding close fielders are adhered to throughout all matches (see Appendix 1).
10. 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 (see Appendix 2).
11. For all U15, U18 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.
12. 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.
13. 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.

MATCH REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES

1. 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.
2. Players should be dressed appropriately and wear suitable shoes. For all NHYCL matches (league and Cup), appropriate uniform coloured cricket clothing may be worn. For clubs that do not adopt a uniform coloured kit, players should wear shirts and trousers which are predominantly white, though girls may wear dark trousers if they wish.
3. All teams are requested to ensure their scorers agree names, scores and result before leaving the match to avoid discrepancies when results are entered.
4. It is the responsibility of the home club to provide a new ball that will be used for both innings of the match (unless both teams mutually agree, prior to the toss, that there will be a new ball for each innings). A pink ball must be used in any match starting at or after 5pm. For any hardball match starting earlier than 5pm, a red or pink ball may be used.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. All NHYCL League and NHCDA Cup/Plate matches shall be of one innings per side and shall be played according to the Laws of Cricket subject to any variations specified in the NHCYL rules (see *Laws of Cricket – Variations*).
8. 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. Weekend matches should start no later than 10:30, or by mutual agreement between the clubs.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. Clubs 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 (see Appendix 3).

SUBMISSION OF RESULTS

1. 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.
2. For Pairs Cricket matches (i.e Open and girls' U9s, Open Under 11 Division 3, girls' U11s, and all Cup and Plate matches), only the match result should be submitted. For all other age groups, full scorecards should be submitted including individual runs and bowling figures, and relevant details of dismissals.
3. Results should NOT be submitted for matches in the U11 and U13 open friendly divisions.
4. For clubs who have difficulty in uploading the results online then a result sheet must be emailed to the Competitions Secretary within 3 days of the match being played. If a result sheet is submitted, please ensure that the players have first and last names, and that full batting orders are submitted and the figures balance (includes runs scored and extras). The Competitions Secretary will return any incomplete scoresheets.
5. Persistent late submission of results may lead to a fine at the discretion of the NHCDA Committee.
6. The team scoring the most runs will be the winner of the match unless weather intervenes – see *Match Postponements due to inclement weather during a game*.
7. 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.
8. 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.*
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. A game is deemed to be tied if the scores are level, regardless of the number of wickets lost.
12. The end of the league season for all age groups other than U18 shall be 23:59 on July 31st unless extended by the NHCDA Committee. The end of the U18 league season shall be 23:59 on the second Sunday in August, unless extended by the NHCDA Committee.
13. The winner of the League will be the team that has accumulated the most points at the end of the season.
14. In the event of a points tie, the winner will be decided on the result(s) of the match (or matches) between the teams that have tied.
15. If the above tie-break rule fails to determine an outright winner:
 - *For all Leagues except for Pairs Cricket*: the League will be won the team with highest net run rate. In the event of a net run rate tie, then by number of games won, then by the results of the matches played against each other by the teams who have tied, and then by the total number of wickets taken. NB For the purposes of calculating the net run rate, if a team is

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bowled out without using its full allocation of overs, then its run rate for that innings will be calculated using the full allowance of overs rather than the number of overs actually used (please note that the website calculation may be incorrect).

- *For Pairs Cricket leagues and if the above tie-break rules fail to determine an outright winner in other leagues:* the teams still tied shall be declared joint winners (eg if three teams tie on points, but the results between the three teams eliminate one of the teams leaving the other two still tied, then those two teams shall be the joint winners).

AWARDS AND TROPHIES

1. All NHYCL League, Cup and Plate winning teams are required to be represented at the NHYCL Awards Evening (which shall normally be held in September).
2. All team trophies presented to NHYCL League, Cup and Plate winners remain the property of the NHCDA. However clubs are permitted to keep trophies that they have won until the next annual Awards Evening.
3. When a club has won a trophy, it must get it engraved, at its own expense, with the name of the winning team and year that it was won.
4. Clubs shall be held responsible for the loss or damage to trophies whilst in their custody and shall be responsible for insurance as necessary to cover this liability.
5. Clubs must return trophies, suitably engraved, to the Competitions Secretary prior to the following year's Awards Evening. The NHCDA shall fine any club that fails to return a trophy in time the amount of £20 per unreturned trophy, plus the cost of a replacement if a trophy is lost or badly damaged.
6. Pennants will be provided for any team which wins a knock-out Cup or an A team which outdoor league (but not B or C teams) and the cost will be billed to the winning clubs. Winning clubs will be given a brief window of opportunity to opt-out of having a pennant. Other winners (eg B teams or indoor leagues) may order a pennant if they so wish.
7. The winners of the individual batting and bowling awards for each age group (excluding Open U9s, Open U18s, girls' U9s, girls' U11s and girls' U16s for all of which there are no individual awards) shall be the player who respectively score the most runs and take the most wickets in the top division of that age group, provided that the winner of each respective batting award has scored at least 100 runs and the winner of each respective bowling award has taken at least 8 wickets (if this criterion is not reached, the relevant award will not be made). If a club has two teams in a top division, then a player's runs and wickets will be counted separately for each team (ie runs and wickets across both teams will not be aggregated). If there is a tie for most runs or most wickets, the following shall apply:
 - For batting, if total runs are equal, then batting average shall be the tie-breaker.
 - For bowling, if total wickets are equal, then bowling average shall be the tie-breaker.

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ADMINISTRATION

1. The NHCDA Committee will invite clubs to suggest which division each of their teams are best suited to play in, but the final decision as to which division each team shall play in shall be at the sole discretion of the NHCDA Committee. As well as taking into consideration a club's preference for which division each of their teams play in, the NHCDA Committee, in making their final decisions, shall also consider the likely strength of each team and the overall balance of teams in each division (ensuring a viable number of fixtures per team).
2. If there are only 3 or less entries for a Cup competition, that competition will not go ahead.
3. If the NHCDA Committee invites an affiliate member club to enter a team in any NHCYL competition, then it is a standing proviso that if a fixture involves a team from a full member club having a journey of 40 minutes or more to the affiliate member club (according to the AA route planner website, based on quiet traffic conditions), then the full member club's team shall have the option (to be exercised at least one week before the scheduled date) of reversing the fixture so that the match is played at the full member club's own ground.
4. All League and Cup matches will be decided at the Fixtures Meeting held in February or March of the relevant season. Each club must send a representative – failure to do so will attract a fine equivalent to the applicable annual NHCDA membership fee.
5. Each club must submit a full list of their fixtures to the Competitions Secretary within one month of the Fixtures Meeting, to be verified and placed on the website.
6. All clubs will be regarded as having had sufficient opportunity to review the provisional fixture dates agreed at the Fixtures Meeting once dates have been submitted to the NHCDA Committee, and as soon as both clubs involved in a fixture has submitted the date of that fixture it will be regarded as scheduled.
7. Once the season starts, scheduled matches can only be changed by mutual agreement or due to inclement weather or unplayable conditions, or a clash with a Hampshire County Cup or ECB National Club Championship fixture, or the documented agreement of the Competitions Secretary. The same applies to all agreed NHCDA Cup fixtures arranged during the season.
8. All home team managers must contact the opposing manager to confirm that the fixture between their teams will take place as scheduled and, if the home team has more than one ground, to confirm the match venue. This contact should take place at least 4 days prior to the date of the match.

A template Match Confirmation sheet is appended to these rules (see page 33)
9. All clubs must ensure that their squad lists, for each team entered, are accurate on their respective Play-Cricket websites, with both first names and surnames, before the first game. This list must be revised with any new players as the season progresses.
10. If a club has two or more fixtures for the same age group scheduled on the same day, then the game in the highest division takes precedence.

DISPUTES, COMPLAINTS, RULE BREACHES, DISCIPLINARY MEASURES AND APPEALS

The NHCDA Committee can only deal with complaints relating to NHYCL League or NHCDA Cup/Plate matches if they are notified to the NHCDA Chairman or the Competitions Secretary in writing or by email from the club's nominated youth section head within five days of the match in question. A decision will be conveyed to the clubs concerned at the earliest opportunity.

The NHCDA Committee wish to make it clear that there is a "zero tolerance policy" adopted relating to any disciplinary matters covering all aspects of the playing environment. This includes players, managers, coaches, parents, spectators and any other associated parties directly or indirectly involved in any match. All of these people are expected to abide by the Laws of Cricket and the Spirit of Cricket, as well as ECB guidelines and the NHYCL Codes of Conduct. Any matters relating to disciplinary matters must be notified to the NHCDA Committee in writing or via e-mail to the Competitions Secretary as soon as possible after the alleged offence.

The NHCDA Committee is responsible for dealing with any disciplinary matters arising from the conduct of matches played under its auspices, and its disciplinary processes shall follow exactly the procedures set out in the England & Wales Cricket Board's Discipline Regulations and Guidelines. **In the event of a reported matter, the NHCDA Committee strongly endorses and expects that clubs administer their own disciplinary measures in respect of their players.**

Appropriate action by the NHCDA Committee could include any of the following:

- Player suspension
- Player or club fine
- Points deduction from a specific team or from multiple teams within a club
- Suspension of team or club from the League

The NHCDA Committee reserves the right to pass to the county administrators for further action, if seen fit, any serious breaches by a player, manager or supporter.

Clubs shall not distribute any electronic-based discussion or complaint to anyone other than the respective team manager / coach, their youth section head or other nominated committee members and the NHCDA Committee.

INVESTIGATIONS INTO RULES BREACHES AND APPEALS

The general process for an investigation will be as follows:

1. Written complaints or allegations should be made to the NHCDA Committee by an aggrieved club. The Committee may also raise a complaint or allegation following its own routine reviews of its competitions.
2. The Committee shall seek representations from all relevant parties.
3. The Committee shall consider representations and conclude as to whether the NHCDA (or otherwise relevant) rules have been broken.
4. If deemed necessary, the Committee may change the result of a match and thus the allocation of points from the match. In addition, the Committee may apply a sanction according to the following tariff:

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Section of rules	Penalty for breach
Player eligibility	Financial penalty against the club: a flat fee of £30 per breach to be paid to a cricket-related charity nominated by the NHCDA Committee.
Squad management	Points penalty up to a maximum of a 10 point deduction depending on the perceived seriousness of the offence
League regulations	Points penalty up to a maximum of a 10 point deduction depending on the perceived seriousness of the offence
Match Regulations	Points penalty up to a maximum of a 10 point deduction depending on the perceived seriousness of the offence
Codes of conduct	Points penalty up to a maximum of a 10 point deduction depending on the perceived seriousness of the offence. The Committee also reserves the right to ban individuals, teams or clubs if an offence is thought to be serious enough.
Fixture administration	Financial penalty against the club: a flat fee of £30 per breach to be paid to a cricket-related charity nominated by the NHCDA Committee.

Clubs have the opportunity to appeal against a Committee decision on four different, but specific grounds, in which case an Appeal Panel will be formed.

NHCDA APPEAL PANEL – TERMS OF REFERENCE

Purpose

The purpose of the Appeal Panel is to hear appeals from member clubs or individual players with regard to decisions taken by the NHCDA Committee relating to the application of the rules of the various competitions organised by NHCDA, namely the North Hampshire Youth Cricket League (NHYCL) and various Cup and Plate competitions.

An appeal can only be made on the basis of one or more “grounds for appeal”. These are:

1. The decision of the NHCDA Committee was against the weight of the evidence;
2. A procedural irregularity;
3. Fresh evidence (in which case the appellant must state why the evidence was not previously submitted); or
4. The sanction imposed was manifestly excessive.

The Appeal Panel will decide whether the decision of the NHCDA Committee should be upheld, reduced, enhanced or overturned by reference to the grounds for appeal. For the avoidance of doubt, the Appeal Panel is not a forum for a full rehearing of the original case or investigation.

Composition

The Appeal Panel will be formed of three representatives from NHCDA clubs who were not involved in the original case or investigation and who have no conflict of interest relating to the club or player bringing the appeal.

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The Chairperson of NHCDA will approach appropriate individuals to ask if they would serve on the Appeal Panel.

The Appeal Panel should have a Chairperson who in the event of a tied vote has a casting vote. The identity of the Chairperson will be agreed among the members of the Appeal Panel once the Panel has been properly constituted.

Proceedings

The Appeal Panel is at liberty to conduct its proceedings however it chooses. For example:

It may call for additional information from either the NHCDA Committee, the appellant or one or more third parties if it deems this will be helpful.

Subject to the nature of the case, it may interview adults, and where appropriate and deemed necessary, children to improve its understanding of particular events and actions. Where it is deemed necessary to interview children, appropriate safeguarding measures will be put in place.

It may conduct research of relevant websites or other online resources such as cricket clubs, youth cricket associations, the ECB or relevant bodies from other sports.

It may hold online or in-person meetings as a group and invite others to attend should it wish.

The Appeal Panel should commence its deliberations as soon as practicably possible after its appointment and should conclude them within 14 days of the appeal being lodged.

Decision

Once it has concluded its investigation the Appeal Panel will communicate its finding to the NHCDA Committee and the appellant simultaneously.

The written decision of the Appeal Panel will be binding and final on both the NHCDA Committee and the appellant. There is no right of appeal for either party.

The decision of the Appeal Panel will be communicated to all member clubs of NHCDA on an anonymous basis in order to provide transparency as to the issue at hand and the Panel's conclusions with regards to it.

The decision of the Panel will be considered at the next NHCDA Rules Forum in order to decide whether the rules of the NHCDA should be amended in light of it.

NHYCL CODES OF CONDUCT

NHCDA is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all its players. We believe that it is important that players, coaches, administrators and parents associated with the NHCDA should, at all times, show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of others. Therefore, members are encouraged to be open at all times and to share any concerns or complaints that they may have about any aspect with their club.

All Cricket Clubs in the NHYCL are expected to ensure that their players, coaches, managers, and officials, and the parents or guardians of their players, all abide by the following code of conduct:

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PLAYERS

- Players must play within the rules and spirit of cricket and respect officials and their decisions.
- Players must not swear on the pitch and must not make any comments to any batsman, directly or indirectly, which could be construed as unfair, demeaning, insulting or calculated to put the batsman off.
- Encouragement of fellow team-mates must be measured and not be a constant 'wall of sound' which could constitute an intimidating atmosphere. Players in doubt should take their guidance from any first class match.
- All players must respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Players should keep to agreed timings for training and competitions or inform their coach or team manager if they are going to be late.
- Players must wear suitable kit for training and match sessions, as agreed with the coach/team manager.
- Junior players are not allowed to smoke on club premises or whilst representing their club.
- Junior players are not allowed to consume alcohol or drugs of any kind whilst representing their club.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS / GUARDIANS

- Encourage your child to learn the rules and spirit of cricket and play within them.
- Discourage unfair play and arguing with officials.
- Publicly accept officials' judgements and never contest officials' decisions.
- When acting as an official, act in a neutral fashion specifically avoiding any partisan actions or behaviour.
- Do not shout comments or instructions from the boundary.
- Help your child to recognise good performance, not just results.

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- Never force your child to take part in sport.
- Set a good example by recognising fair play and applauding good performances of all. Avoid blatantly partisan support for your team.
- Never punish, criticise or belittle a child for losing or making mistakes.
- Support your child's involvement and help them to enjoy their sport.
- Use correct and proper language at all times.
- Encourage and guide participants to accept responsibility for their own performance and behaviour.
- Promptly pay any fees for training, matches, membership or events.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR CLUB OFFICIALS, COACHES, CAPTAINS AND MANAGERS

- Consider the well-being and safety of participants before the development of performance.
- Develop an appropriate working relationship with performers, based on mutual trust and respect.
- Make sure all activities are appropriate to the age, ability and experience of those taking part.
- Promote the positive aspects of the sport (e.g. fair play).
- Display consistently high standards of behaviour and appearance.
- Follow all guidelines laid down by the national governing body and the NHYCL.
- Hold the appropriate valid qualifications and insurance cover including DBS requirements.
- Never exert undue influence over performers to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- Never condone rule violations, rough play or the use of prohibitive substances.
- Support, encourage and praise players.
- Discuss team matters in private.
- Refrain from coaching an on-field player and/or from providing advice to a fielding team on field placement, or tactical advice to batsmen or bowlers, when outside the boundary in any game and, if umpiring, only in Age Group matches for which such assistance is permitted (see the *Match Officiating* section in these Rules).
- Encourage players to learn about captaincy and for bowlers to understand their own field placements.
- Never promote or undertake actions considered to be both demeaning to an individual player and contrary to the spirit of the game; for example forcing a player to run themselves out so a better player can return to the crease, instructing a player to deliberately drop a catch.

THE SPIRIT OF CRICKET (extract from the ECB Code of Conduct)

Cricket is a game that owes much of its unique appeal to the fact that it is played not only within its Laws, but also within the Spirit of the Game. Any action which is seen to abuse this spirit causes injury to the game itself. The responsibility for ensuring the spirit of fair play rests with Coaches, Managers and Captains of all junior teams playing in these competitions.

Player's Conduct

In the event of any player failing to comply with the instructions of an umpire, criticising a decision by word or action, showing dissent, or generally behaving in a manner which might bring the game into disrepute, the umpire concerned shall in the first place report the matter to the other umpire and to the player's Captain and Manager, requesting the latter to take action.

Fair and Unfair Play

According to the Laws the umpires are the sole judges of fair and unfair play. The umpires may intervene at any time, and it is the responsibility of the captain (or Manager, if more appropriate) to take action where required.

The umpires are authorised to intervene in cases of:

- Time wasting
- Damaging the pitch
- Dangerous or unfair bowling
- Tampering with the ball
- Any other action that they consider to be unfair.

The Spirit of the Game involves RESPECT for:

- Your opponents
- Your own captain and team
- The role of the umpires
- The game's traditional values

It is against the Spirit of the Game:

- To dispute an umpire's decision by word, action or gesture
- To direct abusive language towards an opponent or umpire
- To indulge in cheating or any sharp practice, for instance
 - a) Appeal knowing the batter is not out
 - b) Advance towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing
 - c) Seek to distract an opponent either verbally or by harassment with persistent clapping or unnecessary noise under the guise of enthusiasm and motivation of one's own side.

Violence

There is no place for any act of violence on the field of play.

Players

Captains, managers, coaches and umpires together set the tone for the conduct of a cricket match. Every player is expected to make an important contribution to this.

Disciplinary action

Failure to respect any or all of the spirit of cricket, the NHYCL Code of Conduct and ECB Code of Conduct may lead to disciplinary action.

APPENDIX 1

RULES CLARIFICATIONS

Players playing for more than one club (*ref: top of page 4 in the Rules*):

As guidance, the NHCDA Committee will generally consider permitting a player to play for different clubs as long as this is at different age groups. However, the Committee will not normally grant permission for a player to play for two different clubs at the same age group.

Clubs are entirely responsible for ensuring that the one-club rule is adhered to and should take steps to ensure all players and parents are aware of its existence.

Clubs with more than one team entered in the same age group and league (*ref: rule 3 on page 5 of the Rules*):

Any club with more than one team in the same league should allocate players to two different squads on Play-Cricket. Selection should be done in accordance with the normal player eligibility criteria taking into account the rules relating to County and Regional Squad Players and to provide as much cricket as possible for all members of the club. In the context of a game all players, whichever squad they are allocated to, should be given the same opportunities to participate by the coaches. It is recognised that some players may play for both teams during the course of the season for reasons of availability to ensure the fixture goes ahead and/or to maximise cricketing opportunities for all squad members. If a club with more than one team in the same league is in any doubt about selection, it is advised to seek the advice of the Competitions Secretary.

Inputting of results on Play-Cricket (*Ref: rule 1 on page 25 of the Rules*):

If a fixture has not been played for whatever reason then the rearranged date of the fixture should be entered into Play-Cricket as soon as possible. If the result of a match has not been entered within 48 hours of the fixture being played, the Committee may assume that this is an administrative error and will act in accordance with point 4 on page 25 of the rules.

The NHCDA Committee strongly recommends the use of the Play-Cricket scoring App which automatically loads results on to the league website. It is likely that scoring on this App for all NHYCL matches will soon be made mandatory.

Rearrangement of fixtures (*Ref: pages 21 and 22 of the Rules*):

If the home team follows the procedure set out in the Rules, offering as many alternative dates (on various days of the week) as they can, then there are very few justifiable reasons for the away club to not accept any of these proposed dates. One would be if the relevant team is already playing a fixture on all the days proposed. Otherwise it should be the case that at least one of the dates will be acceptable.

APPENDIX 2

ECB POLICIES

1. ECB Policy – Fielding Regulations

The ECB has regulations covering the minimum fielding distances for young players in all matches where a hard ball is used.

- No young player in the Under 15 age group or younger shall be allowed to field closer than 8 yards (7.3 metres) from the batsman's position on the popping crease on a middle stump line, except behind the wicket on the off-side, until the batsman has played at the ball.
- For players in the Under 13 age group and below the distance is 11 yards (10 metres).
- These minimum distances apply even if the player is wearing a helmet.
- Should a young player in these age groups come within the restricted distance the umpire must stop the game immediately and instruct the fielder to move back.
- In addition any young player in the Under 18 age group must wear a helmet and, for boys, an abdominal protector (box) when fielding within 8 yards (7.3 metres) from the batsman's position on the popping crease on a middle stump line, except behind the wicket on the off-side.
- Players should wear appropriate protective equipment whenever they are fielding in a position where they feel at risk.

2. ECB Policy – The Wearing of Cricket Helmets by Young Players

ECB [guidance states that](#) young players [must wear head protection](#) when batting and when standing up to the stumps when keeping wicket against a hard cricket ball in matches and in practice.

In all NHYCL Matches using a hard ball, all players when batting or when keeping wicket and standing up to the stumps must wear a helmet with a faceguard.

Please note that, in matches played under the control of the Hampshire Cricket Board (and that means all matches in NHYCL), a parental waiver is NOT acceptable and helmets must be worn in the circumstances given above.

Players must regard a helmet with a faceguard as a normal item of protective equipment when batting against a hard ball, together with pads, gloves and, for boys, an abdominal protector (box). There is a British Standard (BS7928: 1998) for cricket helmets and it is in the best interests of players to ensure that their helmet conforms to this standard.

Players should wear appropriate protective equipment whenever they are fielding in a position where they feel at risk or their manager assesses they may be at risk.

3. ECB Policy – Directives for Preventing Injury to Fast Bowlers

ECB directives for preventing injury for fast bowlers apply equally to both boys and girls. For the purposes of these directives a fast bowler is defined as a bowler to whom a capable wicket keeper of the same age group would in normal circumstances stand back to take the ball.

NORTH HAMPSHIRE YOUTH CRICKET LEAGUES: COMPETITION RULES

All coaches/managers are expected to identify those players with the potential to bowl fast and ensure they follow the directives in all cricket throughout the season.

To ensure that young fast bowlers do not place undue stress on their bodies, every attempt must be made to keep the amount of bowling within reasonable limits. The following directives provide sensible playing and training levels.

These figures are based on players bowling in no more than 3 matches or practice sessions per week for age groups up to and including Under 15, and 4 matches or practice sessions per week for age groups up to and including U19. Players can play in other matches provided they do not bowl.

Table for maximum overs:

<i>Age on previous 31 August</i>	<i>Maximum overs per spell</i>	<i>Maximum overs per day</i>
Up to 13	5	10
Under 14 and Under 15	6	12
Under 16 and Under 17	7	18

Having completed a spell the bowler cannot bowl again, from either end, until the equivalent number of overs to the length of that spell has been bowled from the same end. If play is interrupted, for any reason for less than 40 minutes, any spell in progress can be continued after the interruption up to the maximum number of overs per spell for the appropriate age group. If the spell is not continued after the interruption the bowler cannot bowl again from either end until the equivalent number of overs to the length of their spell before the interruption have been bowled from the same end. If the interruption is of 40 minutes or more, whether scheduled or not, the bowler can commence a new spell immediately.

Once a bowler covered by these directives has bowled in a match they cannot exceed the maximum number overs per day for their age group even if they subsequently bowl spin. The bowler can exceed the maximum overs per spell if bowling spin, but cannot then revert to bowling fast until an equivalent number of overs to the length of their spell have been bowled from the same end. If they bowl spin without exceeding the maximum number of overs in a spell, the maximum will apply as soon as they revert to bowling fast.

If you have any difficulty with the implementation of these directives or need advice on a specific fast bowler's action, please contact the NHCDA Secretary and advice will be arranged as speedily as possible.

NORTH HAMPSHIRE YOUTH CRICKET LEAGUES: COMPETITION RULES

APPENDIX 3

NHYCL MATCH CONFIRMATION

Please see the details below for our forthcoming game.

Please confirm as soon as possible that you agree with the details below and that your team will be at the ground stated below and the stated meet time.

Date of Match:	
Home Team:	
Away Team:	
Age Group:	
Open or Girls:	
League or Friendly or Cup or Plate:	
Division (if league match):	
Type of Match:	
Number of Players per side:	
Meet Time:	
Time Start:	
Number of Overs per innings:	
Pitch Length:	
Pitch (grass or artificial):	
Spiked shoes allowed (yes/no):	
Home team Contact:	
Home team Contact Mobile Number:	
Home team Contact Email:	
Away team Contact:	
Away team Contact Mobile Number:	
Away team Contact Email:	

Venue:

The details and the directions of the ground are as follows: