



BUCKS CRICKET BOARD JUNIOR COMPETITIONS 2019 SEASON

The Bucks Cricket Board organises competitions to encourage participation in cricket from an early age and to communicate that cricket is a fun, enjoyable physical team game in which lasting friendships are made. In adult cricket, the responsibility for maintaining the Spirit of Cricket rests with the captains, but in the development years, that responsibility rests with the Team Managers and Coaches. The Spirit of Cricket applies just as much to spectators as well as players, captains, coaches and Officials. Clubs are encouraged to ensure that supporters of junior teams understand this.

The Spirit of Cricket involves respect for:

1. Your opponents, your own captain and team
2. The role of the Umpires and the game's traditional values

It is against the Spirit of Cricket to

1. Dispute an umpire's decision by word, action or gesture or direct abusive language towards an opponent or Umpire
2. Indulge in cheating, sharp practice, appealing knowing the batsman is not out or advance towards an Umpire aggressively when appealing
3. Seek to distract an opponent either verbally or by harassment (there nothing too smart about sledging the opposing batsman or bowler and coaches and umpires are encouraged/urged to stamp on the practice before it becomes an ingrained habit)

The Board endeavours to run these competitions to encourage participation in cricket. It encourages managers to talk their opposing manager if they think a match must be cancelled through lack of players. The opposition may be able to provide some additional players or agree to lend substitute fielders or allow low scoring batsmen to resume batting.

Bucks Cricket Board Junior Competitions 2019:

Age Group	Leagues						Cup
U9	Dependent upon how many clubs wish to participate						No
U10							No
U11	North Prem	South Prem	North	Central	Sth Central	South	Yes
U12	North Prem	South Prem	North	Central	Sth Central	South	No
U13	North Prem	South Prem	North	Central	Sth Central	South	Yes
U14	North Prem	South Prem	North	Central	Sth Central	South	no
U15	North Prem	South Prem	North	Central	Sth Central	South	Yes

Formats*

Age Groups	Players	Overs	Pitch Lengths*	Boundaries	Balls
U9	6	12	15 Yards	33 Yards	Softball
U10	8	16	17 Yards	44 Yards	4.75 oz
U11	8	16	17 Yards	44 Yards	4.75 oz
U12	Up to 11	20	19 Yards	55 Yards	4.75 oz
U13	Up to 11	20	19 Yards	55 Yards	4.75 oz
U14	Up to 11	20	22 Yards	60 Yards	5.5 oz
U15	Up to 11	20	22 Yards	60 Yards	5.5 oz

* These formats have been thoroughly researched by the ECB (see Loughborough University research paper published on the Bucks CB Junior Competitions website). They aim to ensure junior cricket is played to maximise participation, engagement and enjoyment. As a result, we are keen to adopt all the recommendations, but we also recognise that in practice they can be difficult to implement, Variations to the formats - agreed between clubs - will be acceptable



Competition Structure

1. Competitions are organised by the BCB Youth Organiser. Any queries or disputes regarding the conduct of these competitions should be referred to him. His/her decisions will be final
2. Bucks Cricket Board will use its competition site <https://bucksbjl.play-cricket.com/> to manage the competitions. Clubs will need to set up junior teams, including the team manager's contact details, on their own club Play-Cricket site
3. League and Cup fixtures will be created on the BCB Competition site. Clubs will have need to update the fixtures on the site to reflect the agreed dates
4. The BCB Youth Organiser will conduct the draw for the competitions. Home and away venues will be shown in the knock out draw and will apply unless a change in venue is mutually agreed between the clubs
5. In the Leagues the first named club shall be at home unless a change in venue is mutually agreed between the clubs
6. In the Inter-county stages of the Under 15 & Under 13 knockout competitions, the ECB Competition Office at Lords stipulates the dates of matches and their venues. These will not be negotiable
7. The Competition matches will normally be played under the ECB 20 overs regulations, however, please refer to the match regulations stated in this document for variations
8. Outside of these Regulations the normal Laws of Cricket shall apply

Arrangement and Organisation of Fixtures

1. The Home Club shall, at the Annual County Junior Fixture Meeting, provide the Away Club with at least two dates for the fixture before the deadline date specified for the match in the draw. For subsequent matches, in knockout competitions, both team managers must cooperate fully to complete the matches by scheduled dates. Being unable to field your strongest side is not a valid reason for declining a fixture.
2. The fixture draws will specify the date by which all matches should be played (the "deadline date")
3. At the annual fixture meeting, the matches should be scheduled to be played before that deadline date. There are no restrictions as to how far in advance of the deadline date a match can be played – the earlier the better as it gives clubs greater flexibility in the event of rain
4. Should matches not be completed by the deadline date, through continuous bad weather, then a further two week "period of grace" will be allowed for the match to be played. This period of grace will cease on the 30th June after which date no period of grace will be allowed.
5. It is expected that all clubs shall fulfil the fixtures once made, with the only excuse for cancellation being adverse weather/pitch conditions - not having the strongest side desirable shall not be considered a valid reason for a fixture cancellation
6. After the commencement of the season, if a club fails to fulfil a fixture on the agreed date (other than for adverse weather), the club shall forfeit the match, which will then be awarded to the opponent club.
7. Team Managers must consult the Youth Organiser in the event of any insurmountable problem.
8. When rearranging fixtures cancelled by bad weather, both sides must use their best endeavours to mutually agree a new date. Having the strongest side available is not a valid reason for declining an offered date.
9. The Home team should give the away team a choice of three dates if possible
10. Any Cup (knockout) fixtures not completed by their deadlines will be decided by the toss of a coin - no period of grace will be given
11. If any League (Group stage) fixtures are not played by the specified deadlines, then equal points will be awarded to each team. If one team concedes the match, then the other team will be awarded two points and the conceding team none



Points system

Game Type	Scenario	Points	Bowling Bonus Points	Batting Bonus Points
Standard Rules	Winning Team	15	0	0
	Losing Team	0	1pt for every 20 runs	1pt for every 2 wickets
	Tied Match	10 points each	0	0
	Abandoned Game	7 points each	0	0
Pairs Game	Winning Team	2 Points	0	0
	Losing Team	0	0	0
	Tied Match	1 Point each	0	0
	Abandoned Game	0	0	0

Match Regulations

The Laws of Cricket shall apply subject to the following playing conditions:

1. Matches shall consist of one innings per side
2. In the event of adverse weather, the game can be reduced to a minimum length of 10 six-ball overs. The number of overs permitted by each bowler shall be varied in proportion to the total overs bowled. The finals will be played as per the ECB formats
3. No bowler shall bowl more than 3 overs. If the number of overs in the match is reduced, the number of overs per bowler shall be reduced pro rata
4. At Under, 12 and 13, when a batsman reaches or passes a total of 30 runs, he/she must retire unless 9 wickets have already fallen in the innings. Retired batsmen may not bat again. Batsmen at U14 & U15 shall retire at 50 runs unless 9 wickets have already fallen in the innings. Retired batsmen may not bat again
5. The Umpires shall not call "time" after the last ball of any innings until the ball has indisputably become dead
6. In all competitions, the Laws of Cricket relating to Wides, No Balls & LBW will be applied (With the exception of LBW in Pairs' games)
7. Club umpires should discuss and agree how they will apply the wide laws prior to each match to ensure consistency and communicate their policy to both Team Managers. To ensure matches are not extended in time, at U11 and below no extra ball shall be bowled
8. The Umpires shall not call "time" after the last ball of any innings until the ball has indisputably become dead
9. The division that a club is placed in will be based on its previous finishing position in the previous year's leagues one age group down – making allowances for clubs entering a side for the first time – and using self-assessment of playing strength and organiser's knowledge to get the best optimal placement
10. The winners of the North Prem and South Prem will play in a straight knockout match to decide the overall county winners
11. In the event of a club withdrawing from any of the league competitions, then all points scored for or against that club will deducted from that league
12. Balls can be either re-polished or new, and should last for both innings
13. Coloured balls are allowed (orange or pink – not white)
14. At U9 & U10 Managers may mutually decide to play either with a 4¾ oz re-polished hard ball, or a 3.6oz Incrediball. In the event of non-agreement, then the Incrediball shall be used
15. At U9, U10, U11, U12 & U13, the stumps should be 27 inches above the ground and the wickets 8 inches wide overall
16. The Umpires shall not allow play to proceed if any player is within 8 yards (Under 17) or 11 yards (Under 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15) from the middle stump at the striker's end, except behind the wicket on the off side
17. For the removal of doubt a no ball should be called if the ball bounces more than twice before reaching the popping crease. To ensure matches are not extended in time, at U11 and below no extra ball shall be bowled



18. Law 5 on bat sizes will not apply for 2018 or 2019
19. Law 41.7 High Full Toss. A bowler (Under 16 or below) will be no-balled for every high full toss. The player will not receive a warning nor be removed from the attack by an umpire, unless it be deemed to be a deliberate act, whereupon the bowler will be immediately withdrawn by the umpire for the remainder of the match
20. At U15 & U13, the BCB cup winners will be eligible (and be expected) to represent Bucks in the inter- county stages of the U15 & U13 National Championships (Note: The National stages of the Under 15 Cup operates under slightly different rules to these Regulations)

Eligibility

Clubs:

1. Must either be directly affiliated to the Bucks Cricket Board
2. Based outside Bucks may affiliate to the Bucks Cricket Board and play in competitions; however, they cannot represent Bucks in any subsequent National stages of the competitions
3. Can enter more than one team in any age group, but cannot have more than one team in any single league
4. Can choose the names of their teams
5. Own the responsibility for ensuring that players are eligible to represent both the team and the club
6. Must not knowingly field ineligible players (if a club fields an ineligible player, then all teams in the that age group for that club will be disqualified)

Players:

1. Must be members of their club, having paid all relevant club subscriptions
2. May only play for **one** club in any league competition, and one club in any cup competition
3. May play for their club at more than one age group (providing that they are within the relevant age limits – see appendix 1)
4. If any club knowingly fields an ineligible player in an age group, then that team will be disqualified from the competition
5. If a club enters two or more teams in one age group and any team fields an ineligible player, then all teams in that age group will be disqualified

Notes:

1. Cup and League competitions are regarded as separate competitions
2. Where a club fields more than one team in an age group, ideally players should be allocated to specific teams and not switch teams. It would be considered against the spirit of the game for clubs to play their strongest sides for key games
3. Mixed gender sides are allowed. Girls may play in age groups two years under their actual age
4. Players with mental or physical handicaps are allowed to play over their age group provided the opposition manager is in agreement (common sense must be applied in the interests of Health and Safety of all the players)

Results

1. The winner in all matches shall be the team with the greater score at the end of the match
2. When a match is played on a League (group stage) basis, if the match ends with scores level, then it shall be deemed a tie and the points shared. The match shall not be replayed
3. When a match is played on a knock out basis (including League semi-finals and finals), if the match ends with scores level, the winner shall be the side which has taken the greater number of wickets. If still equal, the side with the higher score at the end of the penultimate over shall win and so on back through the wickets. If still equal, the side with the higher score at the end of the penultimate ball shall win (and so on back through the balls). It is therefore essential that those scoring agree on the number of runs scored throughout the match



4. In all knockout matches when a result is precluded by bad weather or light, provided that 10 overs of the second innings have been completed, then the match shall be deemed to be concluded. The result shall be calculated by the scoring rate per completed over of the side batting second as compared with the overall scoring rate of the side batting first. If the side batting first did not bat for their full allocation of overs, their scoring rate shall be calculated on the assumption that they did bat for their full allocation. If less than 10 overs of the second innings have been bowled, the match may be replayed on a mutually agreed date provided this is before the deadline date specified in the draw. If this is not possible the match will be decided by a toss of a coin or any other method of resolving the match (e.g. a bowl out)
5. The Bucks Results should be entered onto the Board's result website by the winning team's manager.
6. Fixtures that are not played due to weather etc. must be reported on the results website by the Home Team's Manager (Failure to enter results may result in the match being treated as "abandoned" (for cup competitions the match will be awarded to the away team)
7. If two or more teams finish on equal points after the full programme of (league) matches, the final placings will be determined as follows (in order of priority):
 - a. If one team has beaten the other(s), then they shall be the League Winners
 - b. The team with the best net run rate less the net run rate of their opponents. Notes:
 - i. Matches that have been won by the other team's default (ceded/ walkover) will not count in the net run rate
 - ii. Where a team has been "all out" when batting, their total number of runs scored will be divided by 20 overs (or the lesser maximum number where the match has been played to a reduced number of overs
8. Finals for U11 upwards shall be played on grass pitches if possible
9. League Finals will be played by the end of July, grounds being decided by the toss of a coin
10. The Knockout Cup Finals will be played on the ground of the club reaching the final first, or if equal by the toss of a coin

Appendix 1 - Age Eligibility

Age Group	Must not have reached their	By Date
Under 9	9th Birthday	31/08/2018
Under 10	10th Birthday	31/08/2018
Under 11	11th Birthday	31/08/2018
Under 12	12th Birthday	31/08/2018
Under 13	13th Birthday	31/08/2018
Under 14	14th Birthday	31/08/2018
Under 15	15th Birthday	31/08/2018

Appendix 2 – Pairs (Barrington) Cricket Rules

1. Each team shall commence their innings with 200 runs
2. The number of overs for each innings will be twice the number of players in the team
3. Each player (excluding the wicket-keeper) must bowl at least two overs, but not more than three overs
4. The batting team shall be divided into pairs of batsmen and each pair shall bat for four overs
5. Batsmen shall have unlimited "lives" but SIX runs shall be deducted from the total every time a batsman is dismissed (including run outs)
6. A batsman cannot be given out LBW
7. No batsman who is out should face the next ball; batsmen shall change ends after a dismissal if necessary, to achieve this
8. If the umpires are satisfied that a player is incapacitated during a match, his place may be taken by a reserve who shall bat and/or bowl in his place. If no reserve is available, another player shall, without exceeding his/her quota, bowl any overs due to be bowled by the injured player. The captain of the fielding side shall choose one of the batsmen in the batting side's first three pairs to bat a second time in the fourth pair



9. Should a side (for unforeseen circumstances) take the field with only nine (or 7 if 8 per side) players, then the captain of the opposing side may decide prior to each innings, which of the remaining nine players may bat again as the tenth man and which should be allowed to bowl the quota of overs of the missing player. It is expected that all Team Managers will use their best endeavours to prevent such events occurring
10. Wides and No balls will be awarded 2 extra runs (plus boundaries if applicable). There will be no extra ball, excepting in the last over of an innings when extra balls shall be awarded

Appendix 3 – Code of Conduct

1. The published Code of Conduct stipulated by the BCB and ECB shall apply to all matches - specifically it is required that all Team Managers ensure that in every circumstance the Umpires decision is unquestionably accepted as final by players, parents and supporters
2. BCB expects all clubs to educate their players and their parents in the "best traditions of the game"
3. All coaches should refrain from trying to captain their sides during the game
4. If a coach is also umpiring, advice should be given to the captain between, rather than during, overs and this should be curtailed above the age of 11
5. BCB encourages all Team Managers and Umpires to actively "keep each game moving". Slow over rates are the bane of modern cricket. Constantly resetting field placing and "mothers union meetings" should be discouraged
6. Clubs should stick to a 10-minute interval between innings.

Appendix 4 - Umpires

1. In the preliminary league matches and earlier Cup Rounds, clubs are expected to provide their own Umpires who should perform their duties with fairness and honour and within the spirit of the game as well as to the letter of the laws
2. Clubs reaching the semi-final stages of the knock out competitions are encouraged to seek independent umpires. Team Managers from other competing clubs are often willing to undertake this task
3. The BCB will arrange the umpires for the Finals

Appendix 5 - Coloured Clothing

1. Clubs may wish to play matches wearing coloured kit and BCB respects their rights to do so, however, when coloured kit is worn, in the interests of Health and Safety, so that players can see the ball clearly, especially in late evening light, pink or orange balls must be used
2. Where one side only chooses to play a match in coloured clothing, then all the balls for that match shall be supplied by the club choosing to play in coloured clothing