

Proposal for Sunday friendly cricket in Cheshire

This is a proposal for a format and rules for friendly cricket organised by the Cheshire County Cricket League.

The object of the division is to increase interest in, and popularity of, the game of cricket and to encourage people to play who would not or cannot commit to regular, competitive, league cricket.

The reasons for promoting friendly cricket on a Sunday are to:

- offer an opportunity for people who do not want to or cannot commit to regular league cricket;
- allow people to play cricket in a friendly, non-competitive environment;
- to prevent teams being lost entirely through their inability to complete all league matches; and
- to provide an opportunity for young players to become accustomed to adult cricket.

Whilst we want to encourage teams to play as often as possible, we recognise that teams will not be able or willing to fulfil a fixture every weekend. The aim is to offer a fixture as often as teams would like to play and not penalising teams that try to play but are, ultimately, not able to.

A target for the first year is to achieve 1,000 player participations in cricket matches.

Fixtures

It is proposed that fixtures are arranged on 12 Sundays with no games on Bank Holiday weekends; however, it is accepted that this may not be the preference of the clubs and the final dates will be decided following receipt of the questionnaires.

There will be fixture and non-fixture weekends. The assumption is that teams will play on fixture weekends and not on non-fixture weekends; however, the aim is to provide maximum flexibility and not to discourage teams by imposing the need to play. If a team cannot fulfil a fixture on a fixture weekend, attempts will be made to rearrange fixtures and provide alternative opposition for those that can play.

Matches will be organised on these weekends in order to simplify administration. Matches will be arranged and encouraged on non-fixture weekends for clubs that specifically request them. These matches will be arranged closer to the time when teams' availability is known.

14 teams have expressed an interest. It is not considered practical to rely on rigid regions. Travel times and ground availability will be the priorities for the arrangement of fixtures.

Format

The objective of the format is to encourage meaningful participation of as many players as possible and to allow games to exist alongside other commitments, such as junior matches.

- One innings per team and 35 overs per innings.
- Target of two hours per innings and 25 minutes for tea.
- Toss can be mutually agreed if there is an imbalance between the quality of the teams.
- Maximum of 7 overs per bowler or no more than 20% of the overs (rounded up).
- Batsmen to retire at 50 but may return if all other players are out or retired.
- The match will be won by the team scoring the highest number of runs. If two teams score the same number of runs, the match will be considered a tie.
- The start time will be 14.00 with a target finish time of 18.30. This will allow junior fixtures in the morning and sufficient time for a break or travel before an afternoon match for people involved in both match. The finish time should be helpful for younger players.

It is assumed this format will be followed unless both teams agree an alternative. In the event that an alternative cannot be agreed, it is recommended that the format set out above is used.

If a different format is required or if a team has any concerns about the match, teams are encouraged to discuss matters with their opponent before the day of the match. As an example, a team might have a large number of young players, old players or a particularly weak team and, in this case, it could be that the stronger team bats first and uses only 30 overs. If there is a concern that the match will be totally unsuitable, the Fixtures Secretary should be notified and it may be possible to rearrange fixtures to provide more suitable opposition.

Cancelling fixtures or being unable to fulfil a fixture

The aim is to allow people to play cricket and every opportunity will be provided to allow teams to fulfil a fixture. If there is a risk that a team may not be able to fulfil a fixture, the Fixtures Secretary should be contacted immediately. It may not be necessary to cancel upon notification but the Fixtures Secretary will be able to consider alternatives and provide notice to other affected teams. The representative and the Fixtures Secretary will then agree the day on which a final decision will be made.

Rules

Whilst we want the administration to be as simple as possible, we do feel it is necessary to set out some rules for the matches. The CCCL is providing the administration of the matches and would, therefore, appreciate cooperation with basic administration and publicity.

Generally, the **Playing Regulations of the CCCL will apply**. There are some specific exceptions.

- There are no eligibility criteria (paragraphs 18 to 36 will not apply). In its place, there is a duty for clubs to honour the spirit of the matches and to manage the involvement of players to ensure the spirit is maintained having regard to particularly good, particularly weak and young players.
- All teams are expected to provide a scorer during their batting innings (paragraph 38).

Generally, the **Match Regulations of the CCCL will not apply**. The format for matches is set out above and replaces the Match Regulations.

- For example, there will be no stipulation when matches are cancelled. This is for the two teams and captains to agree. (Paragraph 3)
- Home teams are expected to have the same responsibilities for protecting the pitch as would be expected in a league game.

Generally, the **Club Duties set out in the CCCL handbook will not apply**. In their place, the following will be adopted:

- Scores of each team and wickets fallen and the result should be recorded on Play Cricket within 96 hours of the end of the match. Additional details can be added but this is the choice of each team.
- Each team will provide two umpires for the batting innings.
- The home team should provide a scoreboard.
- The preference is to play matches on a grass pitch. The home team should consult the away team in advance if an artificial pitch is proposed.
- There is no requirement to provide a roller.
- The home team should provide a normal cricket tea for both teams and the cost will be shared equally between the two teams. The maximum charge for the away team is £40.
- There will be no fines imposed by the CCCL.

The **Junior Cricket in Adult Matches CCCL regulations will apply**.

The **ECB Fast Bowling Match Directives will apply**.

The **ECB Premier League Disciplinary Regulations, incorporating the Code of Conduct and Spirit of Cricket will apply**.