

NORTHERN CRICKET UNION

COMPETITION RULES

(A) ADMINISTRATIVE RULES APPLYING TO ALL COMPETITIONS

A1. All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of Cricket, except as varied by Competition Rules or Bye-Laws.

Competition Entries

A2. Application for entry to competitions for the following season shall be made, in writing, to the General Secretary not later than 31st October each year. Each application shall incorporate a signed statement that the club or school will conform to the Union's Rules and the guidelines contained in the *Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport in Ireland*.

A3. Any club participating in competitions shall maintain such insurances as shall be prescribed from time to time, shall pay such contributions as may be required towards any insurance effected by the Union on clubs' behalf, and shall provide the General Secretary with such evidence of its insurances as may be required.

A4. Any club that withdraws a team from an adult competition after 31st January shall be liable to a fine of £50.

Responsibility of Captains

A5. It is the responsibility of the captain of every team to be thoroughly familiar with the Rules and Bye-Laws governing the competition in which the team is playing, and to ensure that the team complies fully with them at all times.

REGISTRATION AND ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

Registration

A6. Each club shall, before 15th April, send to the General Secretary, on the form provided, a list of its playing members, including school pupils. The Domestic Cricket Development Directorate may impose upon any club that fails to do so a fine not exceeding £50.

A7. A club wishing to register any player who did not play cricket under the auspices of the Union in the previous season and who has, within the past three years:

- played regular first XI club cricket (other than under the auspices of the Union) or
- played representative cricket at Under 19 level or higher

shall also submit a Supplementary Information Form giving full details of the player's performances in competitive cricket over the past three years.'

A8. Where the player is not currently eligible to play for Ireland in all ICC men's competitions in which it participates, no such application shall be considered unless the Supplementary Information Form, together with all necessary supporting documentation, is submitted by 15th May. The Registrations Committee may allow a replacement player to be

registered on a later date where it is satisfied that the player originally registered has become unavailable as a result of serious injury or international, provincial or state selection by his home country.

A9. Clubs are solely and entirely responsible for the accuracy of the information supplied in support of an application for the registration of a player.

Starring

A10. On the list of registered players:

- (a) a club with two teams shall star the first eight players normally selected for the 1st XI;
- (b) additionally, a club with three teams shall star for its 2nd XI the three remaining players normally selected for the 1st XI, together with the first eight normally selected for the 2nd XI;
- (c) additionally, a club with four teams shall star for its 3rd XI the three remaining players normally selected for the 2nd XI, together with the first six normally selected for the 3rd XI;
- (d) additionally, a club with five teams shall star for its 4th XI the five remaining players normally selected for the 3rd XI, together with the first four normally selected for the 4th XI.

A11 Should a club subsequently wish to register additional players, or to alter its starring list, it shall apply in writing to the General Secretary and send a copy to the Honorary Section Secretary of each Section in which it has a team. Any club failing to notify each Section Secretary shall be liable to be fined by the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate.

A12. Details of the player it wishes to de-star and of the player it wishes to star in his place, with analyses of their performances over the previous three matches in competitions organised by the Union, shall be given on the form provided. Such alterations shall be subject to scrutiny by the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate.

A13. A player starred for a team and not playing for that team or a higher team for a period of three consecutive matches or three weeks, whichever be the greater, or who sustains an injury sufficiently serious to be likely to prevent him from playing for such a period, or who otherwise becomes unavailable for such a period, shall forthwith be de-starred by his club and another player starred in his place. Where a player is unavailable to play for the team for which he is starred in any match because of his selection for an Irish international squad, he shall be deemed for the purposes of this rule to have played for the team in the match. Failure to comply with this rule may result in forfeiture of points and/or elimination from cup competitions at the discretion of the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate.

A14. A player may transfer clubs during the season only with the approval of the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate. No transfer shall be approved after 31st July.

A15. The list of registered players and the starrings in effect on 31st August shall remain in force until replaced by a new list for the following season.

Scrutiny

A16. All registrations and starrings shall be scrutinised by the Registrations Committee, which shall:

- in respect of players who are currently eligible to play for Ireland in all ICC men's competitions in which it participates, require the starring for a higher team of any player whom it believes to be of cricketing ability so much in excess of the standard generally obtaining in the competitions for which registration is sought, as to make his participation unfair to other players and teams participating therein;
- in respect of players who are not currently eligible to play for Ireland in all ICC men's competitions in which it participates, refuse or withdraw the registration, or require the starring for a higher team, of any player whom it believes to be of cricketing ability so much in excess of the standard generally obtaining in the competitions for which registration is sought, as to make his participation unfair to other players and teams participating therein.

A17. In determining whether or not a player's cricketing ability is appropriate to particular competitions, the Registrations Committee shall take account of any general guidance given to it by the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate.

A18. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Registrations Committee shall not refuse or withdraw the registration of any player who was first registered by the club as a school pupil and has not subsequently played for another club (other than a university club).

A19. Where the Registrations Committee becomes aware that a player's registration has been approved on the basis of inaccurate or incomplete information, it may rescind the registration with retrospective effect. Where a registration is so rescinded, the club shall be regarded as having fielded an ineligible player in any match in which the player concerned had played since his registration was originally approved.

A20. The Registrations Committee may delegate such powers as it deems appropriate to the General Secretary or an Honorary Officer. After 1st June, any power of the Registrations Committee may be exercised by the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate.

Eligibility

A21. No player may play for a club until his registration for the current season has been accepted by the Registrations Committee, or for a team more junior than that for which he is starred.

A22. Even if subsequently de-starred, no player shall play in a cup competition more junior than that entered by the team for which he was starred on 31st May. Except for players eligible to play in the Under 15 League, or replacement players who have been approved in accordance with A8 above, no player registered after this date may play in the Challenge or Junior Cup, and no player registered after 30th June may play in the Intermediate, Minor (Lindsay) or Minor Qualifying Cup.

A23. No player who has participated in international cricket, or played in two or more senior inter-provincials within the previous twelve months, may play for a team other than the 1st XI without the approval of the Registrations Committee.

A24. No player may play for more than one club in cup competitions in any season.

A25. In determining whether or not a player is resident in Northern Ireland for purposes unconnected with cricket, the Registrations Committee shall take account of any general guidance given to it by the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate.

A26. No player who is not currently eligible to play for Ireland in all ICC men's competitions in which it participates may play, or act as a substitute, in any cup competition other than in a Challenge Cup match against a team from the same Section, or a team from a different Section where both clubs so agree; and not more than one such player may play in the same team in any cup or league match. This restriction shall not apply to players who are serving with HM Forces in Northern Ireland or to a person who, having been resident in Northern Ireland for less than four years, satisfies the Registrations Committee that he was so resident for purposes unconnected with cricket.

A27. No player currently registered for a club in another Union affiliated to the Irish Cricket Union may be registered without the prior approval of the Registrations Committee. No player transferring from such a club may be registered without that club's prior written approval.

A28. No player joining a club, having previously been registered by another club, may play for his new club until he has satisfied the General Secretary that he has met all financial and/or contractual obligations (apart from those arising from a contract of employment) to his previous club.

A29. Any dispute between the clubs and/or between a club and the player arising from the interpretation of A28 shall be adjudicated upon by a suitably qualified and independent third party appointed by the Union, whose decision shall be finding and binding upon all parties to such dispute. The costs of such adjudication shall be borne equally by the parties unless the adjudicator otherwise directs.

A30. A player shall normally be registered for only one club at any time. However, where the player's normal club does not participate in the Mid-Week League, or in an age-group competition for which the player is eligible, the player may be registered by another club solely in respect of the competition(s) in question. The competition(s) shall be specified on the registration form, which shall also indicate the player's normal club.

A31. If an ineligible player plays or acts as a substitute in any match, his club shall be deemed to have lost the match. In addition it shall be fined by the Registrations Committee.

A32. No player not normally resident in the Union's area may play in league or cup competitions for a club in Section 3 of the Senior League unless the club satisfies the Registrations Committee that the player is in the area for purposes unconnected with cricket.

A33. Only one player not normally resident in the Union's area may play in league or cup competitions for a club in Section 1 or 2 of the Senior League. The club must satisfy the Registrations Committee that the player holds a coaching qualification at or equivalent to ECB Level 2. This restriction shall not apply to any player approved by the Registrations Committee as being in the area for purposes unconnected with cricket.

A34. Only two players not normally resident in the Union's area may play in league or cup competitions for a club in the Premier League, at least one of whom must be qualified to play for Ireland. The club must satisfy the Registrations Committee that any non-Irish qualified player registered under this rule holds a coaching qualification at or equivalent to ECB Level 2. If a club registers two Irish qualified players not normally resident in the Union's area, at least one must hold the above-mentioned coaching qualification. This restriction shall not apply to any player approved by the Registrations Committee as being in the area for purposes unconnected with cricket.

Grounds

A35. Each club shall submit annually to the General Secretary, not later than 31st October, a list of all the grounds it wishes to have registered for league and cup cricket in the following season.

A36. The Domestic Cricket Development Directorate shall, on the recommendation of the Grounds Committee, decide upon the suitability of grounds for each Section of the Senior League. Gradings shall be published in conjunction with the current list of registered grounds by 31st August each year.

A37. No Senior League match shall be played on an unregistered or unsuitably graded ground. Teams in the Junior League agreeing to play on unregistered grounds shall have no subsequent right to ask for the match result to be set aside because of ground conditions.

A38. After each Senior League match at which no official umpire has officiated, the visiting captain shall complete a Ground Report Form and send it to the General Secretary within seven days of the match. Any other captain may submit a Report if he wishes to comment, favourably or unfavourably, on a ground on which his team has played and send it to the General Secretary within seven days of the match.

Umpires

A39. Appointments: There shall each year be compiled a list of official umpires. These umpires shall be appointed to officiate in all Challenge Cup matches and, as far as is possible, to the Senior League and Section I of the Junior League. Umpires shall be appointed to Junior and Intermediate Cup semi-finals, and these matches shall receive priority over those in all other competitions except the Challenge Cup.

A40. Fees and Expenses: In all cup finals, umpires' fees and other expenses shall be borne by the Union. In other cup matches, umpires' fees and expenses shall be shared equally by the clubs playing in each round. The fees and expenses of umpires appointed to league matches shall be shared equally by all clubs in the relevant Section. In Sections to which umpires are not normally appointed, clubs that desire umpires may apply to the Umpires' Appointments Secretary, who shall appoint umpires if they are available: the fees and expenses for any such match shall be shared by the clubs concerned. The Honorary Treasurer shall disburse fees and expenses to umpires. He shall submit accounts to clubs at the end of each season and clubs shall pay these accounts by 16th November. Failure to discharge liabilities shall be dealt with as in General Rule 3(d).

A41. Reports: Each 1st XI captain shall, after each match in which an official umpire or umpires have officiated, complete an Umpires' Report form and dispatch it so as to reach the designated person within seven days of the match. A club failing to fulfil its obligations under this rule shall be fined £10 in the first instance, £15 in the second instance, and so on by increments of £5 in respect of each subsequent breach.

Sunday Fixtures

A42. Each Club shall advise the Union before the start of each season whether or not each of its teams is prepared to play fixtures on Sundays.'

Alteration to Rules

A43. Competition Rules, including this Rule, may be altered, added to or rescinded only in accordance with Article 14 (7) and shall require the approval of sixty per cent of those attending and voting. Such alterations shall apply from the start of the following season, unless the notice of motion specifies a later date.