



RULES & REGULATIONS 2024



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The Northern Cricket Union of Ireland is a Company Limited by Guarantee registered in Northern Ireland (Company Number NI649724), and a Charity registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (Charity Number NIC106791) having its registered office at The Pavilion, Stormont Estate, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3TA, Northern Ireland.

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

1. The company's name is the Northern Cricket Union of Ireland (and in this document it is called the 'charity').

Interpretation

2. In the articles:

'**address**' means a postal address or, for the purposes of electronic communication, a fax number, an e-mail or postal address or a telephone number for receiving text messages in each case registered with the charity;

'**the articles**' means the charity's articles of association and 'article' refers to a particular Article;

'**the charity**' means the company intended to be regulated by the articles;

'**clear days**' in relation to the period of a notice means a period excluding:

- the day when the notice is given or deemed to be given; and
- the day for which it is given or on which it is to take effect;

'**the Commission**' means the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland;

'**Companies Acts**' means the Companies Acts (as defined in section 2 of the Companies Act 2006) insofar as they apply to the charity;

'**Connected person**' in relation to article 7, sub-clause (2) of article 9 and sub-clause (2) of article 51 'connected person' means:

- (1) a child, parent, grandchild, grandparent, brother or sister of the director;
- (2) the spouse or civil partner of the director or of any person falling within sub-clause (1) above;
- (3) a person carrying on business in partnership with the director or with any person falling within sub-clause (1) or (2) above;
- (4) an institution which is controlled –
 - (a) by the director or any connected person falling within sub-clause (1), (2), or (3) above; or
 - (b) by two or more persons falling within sub-clause 4(a), when taken together
- (5) a body corporate in which –
 - (a) the director or any connected person falling within sub-clauses (1) to (3) has a substantial interest; or
 - (b) two or more persons falling within sub-clause (5) (a) who, when taken together, have a substantial interest.
- (c) Schedule 5 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 applies for the purposes of interpreting the terms used in this article.

‘director’ means a director of the company, and includes any person occupying the position of director, by whatever name called. The directors are charity trustees as defined by section 180 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008;

‘document’ includes, unless otherwise specified, any document sent or supplied in electronic form;

‘electronic form’ has the meaning given in section 1168 of the Companies Act 2006;

‘independent director’ means a director, nominated following an external search process, who is free from any close connection to the charity over the preceding four years;

‘member’ has the meaning given in section 112 of the Companies Act 2006;

‘the Nominations Committee’ means the committee established by the directors in accordance with Article 40;

‘ordinary resolution’ has the meaning given in section 282 of the Companies Act 2006;

‘proxy notice’ has the meaning given in article 22;

‘officers’ includes the directors and the secretary (if any);

‘the seal’ means the common seal of the charity if it has one;

‘secretary’ means any person appointed to perform the duties of the secretary of the charity;

‘special resolution’ has the meaning given in section 283 of the Companies Act 2006;

‘subsidiary’ has the meaning given in section 1159 of the Companies Act 2006;

‘the United Kingdom’ means Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Words importing one gender must include all genders, and the singular includes the plural and vice versa.

Unless the context otherwise requires words or expressions contained in the articles have the same meaning as in the Companies Acts but excluding any statutory modification not in force when this constitution becomes binding on the charity.

Apart from the exception mentioned in the previous paragraph, a reference to an Act of the Legislative Assembly or Act of Parliament includes any statutory modification or re-enactment of it for the time being in force.

Liability of members

3. The liability of the members is limited to a sum not exceeding £1, being the amount that each member undertakes to contribute to the assets of the charity in the event of its being wound up while he, she or it is a member or within one year after he, she or it ceases to be a member, for:

- (1) payment of the charity's debts and liabilities incurred before he, she or it ceases to be a member;
- (2) payment of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up; and
- (3) adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves.

Objects

4. The charity's objects ('Objects') are specifically restricted to the following:

To promote and improve cricket generally in the North of Ireland among males and females, able-bodied and disabled, through:

- promoting the playing of cricket and supporting the development of cricket clubs;
- running men's, women's, boys' and girls' league and cup competitions for clubs and schools; and
- organising interprovincial teams in a range of age-groups and providing coaching and fitness training for the associated regional development squads.

Powers

5. The charity has power to do anything which is calculated to further its Objects, or is conducive or incidental to doing so. In particular, the charity has power:

- (1) to raise funds. In doing so, the charity must not undertake any taxable permanent trading activity and must comply with any relevant statutory regulations;
- (2) to buy, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any property and to maintain and equip it for use;
- (3) to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or any part of the property belonging to the charity. In exercising this power, the charity must comply as appropriate with any provisions of the Charities Act for the time being in force;
- (4) to borrow money and to charge the whole or any part of the property belonging to the charity as security for repayment of the money borrowed or as security for a grant or the discharge of an obligation. The charity must comply as appropriate with any provisions of the Charities Act for the time being in force, if it wishes to mortgage land;
- (5) to promote and organise co-operation in the achievement of the above objects with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities and to that end to exchange information and advice with them and work in association with other

- charities, local authorities and voluntary organisations engaged in the furtherance of the above objects in the area of benefit;
- (6) to establish or support any charitable trusts, associations, organisations or institutions formed for any of the charitable purposes included in the Objects;
- (7) to acquire, merge with or to enter into any partnership or joint venture arrangement with any other charity;
- (8) to set aside income as a reserve against future expenditure but only in accordance with a written policy about reserves;
- (9) to employ and remunerate such staff as are necessary for carrying out the work of the charity. The charity may employ or remunerate a director only to the extent it is permitted to do so by article 7 and provided it complies with the conditions in that article;
- (10) to:
- (a) deposit or invest funds;
 - (b) employ a professional fund-manager;
 - (c) arrange for the investments or other property of the charity to be held in the name of a nominee;
- in the same manner and subject to the same conditions as the trustees of a trust are permitted to do by the Trustee Act (Northern Ireland) 1958 and the Trustee Act (Northern Ireland) 2001.
- (11) to provide indemnity insurance for the directors in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, section 93 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008;
- (12) to pay out of the funds of the charity the costs of forming and registering the charity both as a company and as a charity;
- (13) to establish or acquire subsidiary companies;
- (14) to enter into contracts to provide services to or on behalf of other bodies;
- (15) to vet, recruit and train volunteers with relevant skills to carry out the objects of the charity.
- (16) to pursue the principal object of the company in any part of the world and to procure the company to be registered as a recognised charity in any country or place in any part of the world whether in the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, the European Union or elsewhere.
- (17) to assume the funds, assets, rights, debts and liabilities of the unincorporated association called the “Northern Cricket Union of Ireland”.

Application of income and property

6. (1) The income and property of the charity must be applied solely towards the promotion of the Objects.
- (2) (a) A director is entitled to be reimbursed from the property of the charity or may pay out of such property reasonable expenses properly incurred by him or her when acting on behalf of the charity.
- (b) A director may benefit from trustee indemnity insurance cover purchased at the charity’s expense in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, section 93 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008;

(c) A director may receive an indemnity from the charity in the circumstances specified in article 64.

(d) A director may not receive any other benefit or payment unless it is authorised by article 7.

(3) Subject to article 7, none of the income or property of the charity may be paid or transferred directly or indirectly, by way of dividend bonus or otherwise, by way of profit to any member of the charity. This does not prevent a member receiving:

(a) a benefit from the charity in the capacity of a beneficiary of the charity;

(b) reasonable and proper remuneration for any goods or services supplied to the charity.

Benefits and payments to charity directors and connected persons

General provisions

7. (1) No director or connected person may:

(a) buy any goods or services from the charity on terms preferential to those applicable to members of the public;

(b) sell goods, services, or any interest in land to the charity;

(c) be employed by, or receive any remuneration from, the charity;

(d) receive any other financial benefit from the charity;

unless the payment is permitted by sub-clause (2) of this article, or authorised by the court or the Charity Commission. In this article, a 'financial benefit' means a benefit, direct or indirect, which is either money or has a monetary value.

Circumstances in which charity directors or connected persons may benefit

(2) (a) A director or connected person may receive a benefit from the charity in the capacity of a beneficiary provided that it is available generally to the beneficiaries of the charity.

(b) A director or connected person may enter into a contract for the supply of services, or of goods that are supplied in connection with the provision of services, to the charity where that is permitted in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, sections 88, 89 and 90 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

(c) Subject to sub-clause (3) of this article, a director or connected person may provide the charity with goods that are not supplied in connection with services provided to the charity by the director or connected person.

(d) A director or connected person may receive interest on money lent to the charity at a reasonable and proper rate, which must be not more than the Bank of England bank rate (also known as the base rate).

(e) A director or connected person may receive rent for premises let by the director or connected person to the charity. The amount of the rent and the other terms of the lease must be reasonable and proper. The director concerned must withdraw from any meeting at which such a proposal, the rent, or other terms of the lease are under discussion.

(f) A director or connected person may take part in the normal trading and fundraising activities of the charity on the same terms as members of the public.

Payment for supply of goods only– Conditions

(3) The charity and its directors may rely upon the authority provided by sub-clause (2)(c) of this article only if each of the following conditions is satisfied:

- (a) The amount or maximum amount of the payment for the goods is set out in an agreement in writing between the charity or its directors (as the case may be) and the director or connected person supplying the goods ('the supplier') under which the supplier is to supply the goods in question to or on behalf of the charity.
- (b) The amount or maximum amount of the payment for the goods does not exceed what is reasonable in the circumstances for the supply of the goods in question.
- (c) The other directors must be satisfied that it is in the best interests of the charity to contract with the supplier rather than with someone who is not a director or connected person. In reaching that decision, the directors must balance the advantage of contracting with a director or connected person against the disadvantages of doing so.
- (d) The supplier must be absent from the part of any meeting at which there is discussion of the proposal to enter into a contract or arrangement with him or her or it with regard to the supply of goods to the charity.
- (e) The supplier must not vote on any such matter and must not be counted when calculating whether a quorum of directors is present at the meeting.
- (f) The directors must have had regard to any guidance given by the Commission concerning the making of such agreements before entering into an agreement with the supplier.
- (g) The reason for their decision must be recorded by the directors in the minute book.
- (h) The number of directors in receipt of remuneration or payments authorised by article 7 or connected to a supplier must form a minority of those then in office.
- (i) The duty of care in section 1(1) of the Trustee Act (Northern Ireland) 2001 is applied to each director when making such a decision as mentioned in Article 7(3)(c).

(4) In sub-clauses (1), (2) and (3) of this article:

(a) 'charity' includes any company in which the charity:

- (i) holds more than 50% of the shares; or
- (ii) controls more than 50% of the voting rights attached to the shares; or
- (iii) has the right to appoint one or more directors to the board of the company.

(b) 'connected person' includes any person within the definition in article 2 'Interpretation'.

Declaration of directors' interests

8. A director must declare the nature and extent of any interest, direct or indirect, which he or she has in a proposed transaction or arrangement with the charity, or in any transaction or arrangement entered into by the charity, which has not previously been declared. A director must absent himself or herself from any discussions of the charity directors in which it is possible that a conflict will arise between his or her duty to act solely in the interests of the charity and any personal interest (including but not limited to any personal financial interest). Such a director must not be counted in any vote or quorum on this matter.

Conflicts of interests and conflicts of loyalties

9. (1) If a conflict of interests arises for a director because of a duty of loyalty owed to another organisation or person and the conflict is not authorised by virtue of any other provision in the articles, the unconflicted directors may authorise such a conflict of interests where the following conditions apply:

- (a) the conflicted director is absent from the part of the meeting at which there is discussion of any arrangement or transaction affecting that other organisation or person;
- (b) the conflicted director does not vote on any such matter and is not to be counted when considering whether a quorum of directors is present at the meeting; and
- (c) the unconflicted directors consider it is in the interests of the charity to authorise the conflict of interests in the circumstances applying.

(2) In this article, a conflict of interests arising because of a duty of loyalty owed to another organisation or person refers only to such a conflict that does not involve a direct or indirect benefit of any nature to a director or to a connected person.

Members

10. The members of the charity shall be:

- (1) Clubs that have applied to the charity in the form required by the directors and been approved by the directors.
- (2) The directors.
- (3) (a) The directors may refuse an application for membership only if, acting reasonably and properly, they consider it to be in the best interests of the charity to refuse the application.
- (b) The directors must inform the applicant in writing of the reasons for the refusal within twenty-one days of the decision.

(c) The directors must consider any written representations the applicant may make about the decision. The directors' decision following any written representations must be notified to the applicant in writing and is final.

(4) Membership is not transferable.

(5) The directors must keep a register of names and addresses of the members.

(6) Affiliated schools and other organisations that have applied to the charity and been approved by the directors shall be associate members of the charity.

For the avoidance of doubt, associate members and Honorary Life Members are not members of the charity and shall not be entitled to be entered into the register of members.

Termination of membership

11. Membership is terminated if:

(1) the member dies or, if it is a club, ceases to exist;

(2) the member resigns by written notice to the charity unless, after the resignation, there would be fewer than two members;

(3) the member club is expelled from the charity under the provisions of the disciplinary byelaws;

(4) the member is removed from membership by a resolution of the directors that it is in the best interests of the charity that his or her or its membership is terminated. A resolution to remove a member from membership may be passed only if:

(a) the member has been given at least twenty-one days' notice in writing of the meeting of the directors at which the resolution will be proposed and the reasons why it is to be proposed;

(b) the member or, at the option of the member, the member's representative (who need not be a member of the charity) has been allowed to make representations to the meeting.

General meetings

12. (1) The charity must hold its first annual general meeting within eighteen months after the date of its incorporation.

(2) An annual general meeting must be held in each subsequent year and not more than fifteen months may elapse between successive annual general meetings.

13. A general meeting may be called at any time by:

(1) the directors; or

(2) for a general meeting other than an annual general meeting, a written requisition, stating the purpose of the meeting and signed by the authorised representatives of not fewer than six member clubs.

Annual general meeting

14. The annual general meeting must:

- (1) consider and, if approved, adopt the minutes of the previous annual general meeting;
- (2) consider and, if approved, adopt the annual report and statement of accounts;
- (3) elect persons to fill any vacancies in the offices of President or Vice-President;
- (4) elect or re-elect duly nominated persons to replace the retiring directors;
- (5) consider and, if approved, elect any Honorary Life Members nominated by the Board;
- (6) elect the auditors; and
- (7) consider and, if passed by the requisite majority, adopt any proposed alterations to the articles or to the charity's Rules.

Notice of general meetings

15. (1) The minimum periods of notice required to hold a general meeting of the charity is fourteen clear days.

(2) The notice must specify the date, time and place of the meeting and the general nature of the business to be transacted. If the meeting is to be an annual general meeting, the notice must say so. The notice must also contain a statement setting out the right of members to appoint a proxy under section 324 of the Companies Act 2006 and article 22.

(3) The notice must be given to all the members and to the auditors.

16. The proceedings at a meeting will not be invalidated because a person who was entitled to receive notice of the meeting did not receive it because of an accidental omission by the charity.

Proceedings at general meetings

17. (1) No business shall be transacted at any general meeting unless a quorum is present.

(2) A quorum is twenty members present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote upon the business to be conducted at the meeting.

(3) The authorised representative(s) of a member club must be counted in the quorum.

18. (1) If:

- (a) a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting; or
- (b) during a meeting a quorum ceases to be present;

the meeting must be adjourned to such time as subject to article 18(2) and place as the directors determine.

(2) The directors must reconvene the meeting and must give at least seven clear days' notice of the reconvened meeting stating the date, time and place of the meeting.

(3) If no quorum is present at the reconvened meeting within fifteen minutes of the time specified for the start of the meeting, the members present in person or by proxy at that time constitute the quorum for that meeting.

Chairperson

19. (1) General meetings must be chaired by the person who has been appointed to chair meetings of the directors.

(2) If there is no such person or he or she is not present within fifteen minutes of the time appointed for the meeting a director nominated by the directors must chair the meeting.

(3) If there is only one director present and willing to act, he or she must chair the meeting.

(4) If no director is present and willing to chair the meeting within fifteen minutes after the time appointed for holding it, the persons present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote must choose one of their number to chair the meeting.

Adjournment

20. (1) The persons present in person or by proxy at a meeting may resolve by ordinary resolution that the meeting must be adjourned.

(2) The person who is chairing the meeting must decide the date, as subject to article 20(4), time and place at which the meeting is to be reconvened unless those details are specified in the resolution.

(3) No business shall be conducted at a reconvened meeting unless it could properly have been conducted at the meeting had the adjournment not taken place.

(4) If a meeting is adjourned by a resolution of the members for more than seven days, at least seven clear days' notice must be given of the reconvened meeting stating the date, time and place of the meeting.

Resolutions

21. (1) Decisions at general meetings must be made by passing resolutions:

(a) Decisions involving an alteration of the articles and other decisions so required by statute must be made by special resolution. A special resolution is one passed by a majority of not less than 75% of those present (in person, or through an authorised representative or representatives or by proxy) and voting at a general meeting.

(b) Decisions involving an alteration to the charity's Rules must be passed by a majority of not less than 60% of those present (in person, or through an authorised representative or representatives or by proxy) and voting at an annual general meeting.

(c) All other decisions shall be made by ordinary resolution requiring a simple majority of those present (in person, or through an authorized representative or representatives or by proxy) and voting.

(2) Any vote at a meeting must be decided by a show of hands, save that the vote on a contested election to any office shall be conducted by ballot.

(3) (a) The declaration by the person who is chairing the meeting of the result of a vote shall be conclusive.

(b) The result of the vote must be recorded in the minutes of the charity but the number or proportion of votes cast need not be recorded.

Content of proxy notices

22. (1) Proxies may validly be appointed only by a notice in writing (a 'proxy notice') which –

- (a) states the name and address of the person who is entitled to attend, speak or vote (either on a show of hands or on a poll) appointing the proxy;
- (b) identifies the person appointed to be that person's proxy and the general meeting in relation to which he or she is appointed;
- (c) is signed by or on behalf of the person appointing the proxy, or is authenticated in such manner as the directors may determine; and
- (d) is delivered to the charity in accordance with the articles and any instructions contained in the notice of the general meeting to which they relate.

(2) The charity may require proxy notices to be delivered in a particular form, and may specify different forms for different purposes.

(3) Proxy notices may specify how the proxy appointed under them is to vote (or that the proxy is to abstain from voting) on one or more resolutions.

(4) Unless a proxy notice indicates otherwise, it must be treated as –

- (a) allowing the person appointed under it as a proxy discretion as to how to vote on any ancillary or procedural resolutions put to the meeting; and
- (b) appointing that person as a proxy in relation to any adjournment of the general meeting to which it relates as well as the meeting itself.

Delivery of proxy notices

23. (1) A person who is entitled to attend, speak or vote (either on a show of hands or on a poll) at a general meeting remains so entitled in respect of that meeting or any adjournment of it, even though a valid proxy notice has been delivered to the charity by or on behalf of that person.

(2) An appointment under a proxy notice may be revoked by delivering to the charity a notice in writing given by or on behalf of the person by whom or on whose behalf the proxy notice was given.

(3) A notice revoking a proxy appointment takes effect only if it is delivered before the start of the meeting or adjourned meeting to which it relates.

(4) If a proxy notice is not executed by the person appointing the proxy, it must be accompanied by written evidence of the authority of the person who executed it to execute it on the appointer's behalf.

Written resolutions

24. (1) A resolution in writing agreed by a simple majority (or in the case of a special resolution by a majority of not less than 75%) of the members who would have been entitled to vote upon it had it been proposed at a general meeting is effective provided that:

- (a) a copy of the proposed resolution has been sent to every eligible member;
- (b) a simple majority (or in the case of a special resolution a majority of not less than 75%) of members has signified its agreement to the resolution; and
- (c) it is contained in an authenticated document which has been received at the registered office within the period of 28 days beginning with the circulation date.

(2) A resolution in writing may comprise several copies to which one or more members have signified their agreement.

(3) In the case of a member club, its authorised representative may signify its agreement.

Votes of members

25. The following shall be entitled to vote at a general meeting:

- (1) one club representative for each team that participated in Senior, Junior or Women's league cricket in the current or previous season;
- (2) one representative of each club that participated only in midweek cricket in the current or previous season;
- (3) the directors;
- (4) two representatives of the schools affiliated in the current or previous season, nominated by the Schools' Committee.

26. Any objection to the qualification of any voter must be raised at the meeting at which the vote is tendered and the decision of the person who is chairing the meeting must be final.

27. (1) Any club that is a member of the charity may nominate any person or persons, as appropriate, to act as its representative(s) at any meeting of the charity.

(2) The club must give written notice to the charity of the name(s) of its representative or representatives. No representative is entitled to represent the organisation at any meeting unless the notice has been received by the charity. A representative may continue to represent the organisation until written notice to the contrary is received by the charity.

(3) Any notice given to the charity will be conclusive evidence that the representative is entitled to represent the organisation or that his or her authority has been revoked. The charity is not required to consider whether the representative has been properly appointed by the organisation.

Directors

28. (1) The directors shall comprise:

- (a) the Chairperson;
- (b) the Vice-Chairperson;
- (c) up to three independent directors;
- (d) three directors nominated by the Board; and
- (e) up to four directors with significant cricket experience.

(2) A director must be a natural person aged 16 years or older.

(3) No one may be appointed a director if he or she would be disqualified from acting under the provisions of article 43.

29. The minimum number of directors must be six and the maximum twelve.

30. The subscribers to the memorandum are the first directors of the charity.

31. A director may not appoint an alternate director or anyone to act on his or her behalf at meetings of the directors.

Powers of directors

32. (1) The directors must manage the business of the charity and may exercise all the powers of the charity unless they are subject to any restrictions imposed by the Companies Acts, the articles or any special resolution.

(2) No alteration of the articles or any special resolution shall have retrospective effect to invalidate any prior act of the directors.

(3) Any meeting of directors at which a quorum is present at the time the relevant decision is made may exercise all the powers exercisable by the directors.

Retirement of directors

33. At the first annual general meeting, all the directors must retire from office unless by the close of the meeting the members have failed to elect sufficient directors to hold a quorate meeting of the directors. At each subsequent annual general meeting, one-third of the directors or, if their number is not three or a multiple of three, the number nearest to one-third, must retire from office.

34. (1) The directors to retire by rotation must be those who have been longest in office since their last appointment. If any directors became or were appointed

directors on the same day, those to retire must (unless they otherwise agree among themselves) be determined by lot.

(2) If a director is required to retire at an annual general meeting by a provision of the articles, the retirement shall take effect upon the conclusion of the meeting.

(3) A director who retires by rotation having completed nine or more years' continuous service shall not be eligible to be nominated again until the third subsequent annual general meeting.

Appointment of directors

35. The charity may by ordinary resolution:

(1) appoint a person who is willing to act to be a director; and

(2) determine the rotation in which any additional directors are to retire.

36. No person other than a director retiring by rotation may be appointed a director at any general meeting unless he or she is recommended for election by the directors, or the Nominations Committee, as appropriate.

37. All members who are entitled to receive notice of a general meeting must be given not less than seven or more than twenty-eight clear days' notice of any resolution to be put to the meeting to appoint a director other than a director who is to retire by rotation.

38. (1) The directors may appoint a person who is willing to act to be a director to fill a vacancy remaining after the annual general meeting or arising casually thereafter.

(2) A director appointed by a resolution of the other directors must retire at the next annual general meeting and must not be taken into account in determining the directors who are to retire by rotation.

39. The appointment of a director, whether by the charity in general meeting or by the other directors, must not cause the number of directors to exceed any number fixed as the maximum number of directors.

Nominations Committee

40. The directors shall establish a Nominations Committee, which shall consist of five persons appointed by the Board. No person who is likely to become a candidate for nomination to fill any vacancy being considered by the Nominations Committee shall be eligible to be a member, save that the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson may be members.

41. The Nominations Committee may consult as widely as possible, including, as appropriate, member clubs, other stakeholders in cricket in the Union's area, Sport NI, and the governing bodies of other sports, in its quest for suitable nominees.

42. The Nominations Committee shall have the purposes of nominating to the Board suitable persons to fill any impending vacancies in:

- (a) the offices of President, Vice-President, Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson;
- (b) the directors heading Directorates;
- (c) the independent directors appointed in accordance with Article 28(c); and
- (d) the directors with significant cricket experience appointed in accordance with Article 28(e).

Disqualification and removal of directors

43. A director must cease to hold office if he or she:

- (1) ceases to be a director by virtue of any provision in the Companies Acts or is prohibited by law from being a director;
- (2) is disqualified from acting as a trustee by virtue of sections 86 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of those provisions);
- (3) in the written opinion, given to the company, of a registered medical practitioner treating that person, has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a director and may remain so for more than three months;
- (4) resigns as a director by notice to the charity (but only if at least two directors will remain in office when the notice of resignation is to take effect);
- (5) is absent without the permission of the directors from all their meetings held within a period of six consecutive months and the directors resolve that his or her office be vacated.

Remuneration of directors

44. The directors must not be paid any remuneration unless it is authorised by article 7.

Quorum for directors' meeting

45. (1) No decision may be made by a meeting of the directors unless a quorum is present at the time the decision is purported to be made. 'Present' includes being present by suitable electronic means agreed by the directors in which a participant or participants may communicate with all the other participants.

(2) The quorum shall be four, or the number nearest to one-third of the total number of directors, whichever is the greater, or such larger number as may be decided from time to time by the directors.

(3) A director must not be counted in the quorum present when any decision is made about a matter upon which that director is not entitled to vote.

Proceedings of directors

46. (1) The directors may regulate their proceedings as they think fit, subject to the provisions of the articles.
- (2) Any director may call a meeting of the directors.
- (3) The secretary (if any) must call a meeting of the directors if requested to do so by a director.
- (4) Questions arising at a meeting must be decided by a majority of votes.
- (5) In the case of an equality of votes, the person who is chairing the meeting has a second or casting vote.
47. If the number of directors is less than the number fixed as the quorum, the continuing directors or director may act only for the purpose of filling vacancies or of calling a general meeting.

Chairperson

48. (1) The Chairperson is the person appointed to chair directors' meetings.
- (2) If the Chairperson is unwilling to preside, or is not present within ten minutes after the time appointed for the meeting, the Vice-Chairperson will chair the meeting. If the Vice-Chairperson is unwilling to preside, or is not present within ten minutes after the time appointed for the meeting, the directors present must appoint one of their number to chair that meeting.
- (3) The person appointed under sub-article (2) must have no functions or powers except those conferred by the articles or delegated to him or her by the directors.
- (4) The Chairperson shall be appointed for a two-year term and shall, on completion of that term, be eligible to be re-appointed for a further term of one year.

Directors' written resolutions

49. (1) A resolution in writing signed by all the directors on the matter will be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the directors duly convened and held and may consist of several documents in like form each signed by one or more directors. The date of a written resolution will be the date on which the last director entitled to vote signs.
- (2) A resolution which is approved by email in accordance with this clause will be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a directors meeting duly convened and held, provided the following conditions are complied with:
- (a) such a resolution must be approved by email by all the directors entitled to vote on the matter;
 - (b) approval must be received by the person nominated in advance by the directors for that purpose (the "recipient"); and
 - (c) approval from a director must be sent from an email address previously notified in writing (not using electronic means) by that

director to the charity as intended for use by that director for the purpose.

(3) Following receipt of all responses on any resolution, the recipient shall circulate a further email to all of the directors confirming whether the resolution has been formally approved by the directors in accordance with this clause.

(4) The date of a resolution shall be the date of the email from the recipient confirming formal approval.

Delegation

50. (1) The directors may delegate any of their powers or functions to a directorate or sub-committee (the composition of which need not be confined to directors), or to the Chief Executive, but the terms of any delegation must be recorded in the minutes.

(2) The directors may impose conditions when delegating, including the conditions that:

- (a) the relevant powers are to be exercised exclusively by the body or person to whom they delegate;
- (b) no expenditure may be incurred on behalf of the charity except in accordance with a budget previously agreed with the directors.

(3) The directors may revoke or alter a delegation.

(4) All acts and proceedings of any directorate or sub-committee, or of the Chief Executive, must be fully and promptly reported to the directors.

Validity of directors' decisions

51. (1) Subject to article 51(2), all acts done by a meeting of directors, or of a committee of directors, are valid notwithstanding the participation in any vote of a director:

- (a) who was disqualified from holding office;
- (b) who had previously retired or who had been obliged by the articles of association to vacate office;
- (c) who was not entitled to vote on the matter, whether by reason of a conflict of interests or otherwise;
 - (a) if without:
 - (d) the vote of that director; and
 - (e) that director being counted in the quorum;
 - (b) the decision has been made by a majority of the directors at a quorate meeting.

(2) Article 51(1) does not permit a director or a connected person to keep any benefit that may be conferred upon him or her by a resolution of the directors or of a committee of directors if, but for article 51(1), the resolution would have been void, or if the director has not complied with article 8.

President

52. The President:

- (1) Shall be the official Head of the charity.
- (2) Must be elected by ordinary resolution of the charity at an annual general meeting for a maximum term of two years.
- (3) Shall not be a director or a member of the charity.
- (4) Shall be entitled to attend general meetings of the charity and meetings of the directors, but not to vote at either.
- (5) If a casual vacancy in the office of President occurs, the directors must appoint an Acting President to serve until the next annual general meeting.

Vice-President

53. The Vice-President:

- (1) Must be elected by ordinary resolution of the charity at an annual general meeting for a maximum term of two years.
- (2) Shall not be a director or a member of the charity unless so appointed under the terms of Article 35.
- (3) Shall be entitled to be nominated to succeed the President at the end of his term of office.
- (4) If a casual vacancy in the office of Vice-President occurs, the directors may appoint an Acting Vice-President to serve until the next annual general meeting.

Secretary

54. The Secretary:

- (1) May be appointed by the directors for such term as they think fit, and any Secretary so appointed may be removed by them.
- (2) Shall not be a director or a member of the charity.
- (3) Shall be entitled to attend general meetings of the charity and meetings of the directors, but not to vote at either.

Seal

55. If the charity has a seal, it must be used only by the authority of the directors or of a committee of directors authorised by the directors. The directors may determine who must sign any instrument to which the seal is affixed and unless otherwise so determined it must be signed by a director and by the secretary (if any) or by a second director.

Minutes

56. The directors must keep minutes of all:

- (1) appointments of officers made by the directors;
- (2) proceedings at meetings of the charity;
- (3) meetings of the directors and committees of directors including:
 - (a) the names of the directors present at the meeting;
 - (b) the decisions made at the meetings; and
 - (c) where appropriate, the reasons for the decisions.

Accounts

57. (1) The directors must prepare for each financial year accounts as required by the Companies Acts. The accounts must be prepared to show a true and fair view and follow accounting standards issued or adopted by the Accounting Standards Board or its successors and adhere to the recommendations of applicable Statements of Recommended Practice.

(2) The directors must keep accounting records as required by the Companies Act and charity legislation.

Annual Report and Return and Register of Charities

58. (1) The directors must comply with the requirements of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 with regard to the:

- (a) preparation of the statements of account and the transmission of a copy of it to the Commission;
- (b) preparation of an Annual Report and the transmission of a copy of it to the Commission;
- (c) preparation of an Annual Return and its transmission to the Commission.
- (d) the auditing or independent examination of the statement of account of the charity.

(2) The directors must notify the Commission promptly of any changes to the charity's entry on the register of charities.

Means of communication to be used

59. (1) Subject to the articles, anything sent or supplied by or to the charity under the articles may be sent or supplied in any way in which the Companies Act 2006 provides for documents or information which are authorised or required by any provision of that Act to be sent or supplied by or to the charity.

(2) Subject to the articles, any notice or document to be sent or supplied to a director in connection with the taking of decisions by directors may also be sent or supplied by the means by which that director has asked to be sent or supplied with such notices or documents for the time being.

60. Any notice to be given to or by any person pursuant to the articles:

- (1) must be in writing; or
- (2) must be given in electronic form.

61. (1) The charity may give any notice to a member either:

- (a) personally; or
- (b) by sending it by post in a prepaid envelope addressed to the member at his or her address; or
- (c) by leaving it at the address of the member; or
- (d) by giving it in electronic form to the member's address.
- (e) by placing the notice on a website and providing the person with a notification in writing or in electronic form of the presence of the notice on the website. The notification must state that it concerns a notice of a company meeting and must specify the place date and time of the meeting.

(2) A member who does not register an address with the charity, or who registers only a postal address that is not within the United Kingdom, is not entitled to receive any notice from the charity.

62. A member present in person at any meeting of the charity is deemed to have received notice of the meeting and of the purposes for which it was called.

63. (1) Proof that an envelope containing a notice was properly addressed, prepaid and posted is conclusive evidence that the notice was given.

(2) Proof that an electronic form of notice was given is conclusive where the company can demonstrate that it was properly addressed and sent, in accordance with section 1147 of the Companies Act 2006.

(3) In accordance with section 1147 of the Companies Act 2006 notice is deemed to be given:

- (a) 48 hours after the envelope containing it was posted; or
- (b) in the case of an electronic form of communication, 48 hours after it was sent.

Indemnity

64. (1) The charity must indemnify a relevant director against any liability incurred in that capacity, to the extent permitted by sections 232 to 234 of the Companies Act 2006

(2) In this article, a 'relevant director' means any director or former director of the charity.

Byelaws

65. (1) The directors may from time to time make such reasonable and proper byelaws as they may deem necessary or expedient for the proper conduct and management of the charity.

(2) The byelaws may regulate the following matters but are not restricted to them:

- (a) the playing of matches;
- (b) the conduct of members of the charity in relation to one another, and to the charity's employees and volunteers;
- (c) generally, all such matters as are commonly the subject matter of company rules.

(3) The directors must adopt such means as they think sufficient to bring the byelaws to the notice of members of the charity.

(4) The byelaws must be binding on all members of the charity. No byelaw shall be inconsistent with, or shall negate or repeal, anything contained in the articles or in Rules adopted by the charity in general meeting.

General

66. The charity shall be affiliated to the Irish Cricket Union CLG, which is the governing body of cricket in Ireland.

67. The charity is fully committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of its members. Every individual involved in organised cricket must, at all times, show respect and understanding for others' rights of safety and welfare, and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the charity and the guidelines contained in the *Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport in Ireland*.

68. The charity condemns the use of prohibited substances or methods, a practice generally known in sport as doping. The rules of the charity regarding doping are the Irish Anti-Doping Rules 2015, as amended from time to time. These rules are binding on all persons who participate in cricket played under the jurisdiction of the charity.

Disputes

69. If a dispute arises between members of the charity about the validity or propriety of anything done by the members of the charity under these articles, and the dispute cannot be resolved by agreement, the parties to the dispute must first try in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation before resorting to litigation.

Dissolution

70. (1) The members of the charity may at any time before, and in expectation of, its dissolution resolve that any net assets of the charity after all its debts and liabilities have been paid, or provision has been made for them, must on or before the dissolution of the charity be applied or transferred in any of the following ways:

- (a) directly for the Objects; or
- (b) by transfer to any Charity or Charities for purposes similar to the Objects; or
- (c) to any Charity or Charities for use for particular purposes that fall within the Objects.

(2) Subject to any such resolution of the members of the charity, the directors of the charity may at any time before and in expectation of its dissolution resolve that any net assets of the charity after all its debts and liabilities have been paid, or provision made for them, must on or before dissolution of the charity be applied or transferred:

- (a) directly for the Objects; or
- (b) by transfer to any Charity or Charities for purposes similar to the Objects; or
- (c) to any Charity or Charities for use for particular purposes that fall within the Objects.

(3) In no circumstances must the net assets of the charity be paid to or distributed among the members of the charity, (except to a member that is itself a charity) and if no resolution in accordance with article 70(1) is passed by the members or the directors the net assets of the charity must be applied for charitable purposes as directed by the Court or Commission.

GENERAL RULES

Membership

1. (a) All cricket clubs, schools, and cricket organisations in the North of Ireland willing to conform to the Rules shall be eligible for membership.
- (b) Application for membership shall be made in writing to the Union. A copy of the club's constitution and such other documentation as the Union may require shall accompany the application.
- (c) The election of new clubs shall be by the Board and shall require the assent of two-thirds of those members present and voting.
- (d) An applicant club having substantially the same membership as a disbanded club shall not be eligible for membership until it has discharged any financial obligations of the disbanded club to the Union.

Annual Fees

2. (a) The scale of annual fees shall be:

Club affiliation	£100
Adult competition entry fee	£20 per team per competition
Youth competition entry fee	£20 per team per competition
Schools' affiliation	£25
School competition entry fee	£15 per team per midweek cup
Other organisations affiliation	£5
- (b) All the above fees and any advance payments required in respect of umpires' fees and expenses shall be payable on or before 31st May. A club or school that has not paid these fees in full by this date shall be fined 5% of the outstanding sum or £10, whichever be the greater. A club that has not paid these fees in full by 30th June shall lose all league points gained by all its teams prior to receipt of payment by the Union. A club or school that has not paid these fees in full by 31st October shall have its membership suspended until the end of the following season.
- (c) A club that has not paid these fees in full by this date shall be fined 5% of the outstanding sum or £10, whichever be the greater. If payment has not been made one month thereafter, the Board may impose one or more of the penalties set out in Disciplinary Byelaw 3(b).
- (d) A registration fee of £10 shall be payable annually in respect of each player aged 18 and over. Registration fees shall be paid online at the time of registration.

Directorates

3. (a) There shall be Directorates, the number and responsibilities of which shall be determined by the Board from time to time.
- (b) Each Directorate shall comprise:

- (i) a director and one or more Assistant Directors nominated by the Board;
- (ii) up to four members nominated by clubs and elected at the Annual General Meeting;
- (iii) up to four further members co-opted by the Directorate or nominated by the Board, as appropriate.

Appeals

4. (a) A club affected by the decision may appeal against any ruling of a directorate, sub-committee, official or employee of the Union. Any such appeal shall be in writing and shall state the grounds of the appeal. It shall be lodged with the Union within ten days of the ruling's receipt by the club, together with a deposit of £50.
- (b) The Appeals Committee shall consider any such appeal within ten days of its receipt by the Union. During the intervening period, the ruling shall stand. The Appeals Committee's consideration will normally be based solely on the written appeal and a written response from the committee or official responsible for the ruling in question. Alternatively, the club may request an oral hearing, in which case the Appeals Committee shall hear oral evidence from both parties and may ask them questions.
- (c) The Appeals Committee's decision, and the reasons for it, shall be communicated to the club in writing within seven days of its consideration of the appeal. The Appeals Committee shall also have the power, where it considers the appeal to be without merit, to order the deposit to be forfeited.
- (d) If the club, or any other club affected by the decision, is not satisfied with the decision of the Appeals Committee, it may make a further appeal. Any such appeal shall be in writing and shall state the reason(s) why the club considers the decision to be mistaken. It shall be lodged with the Union within ten days of the decision's receipt by the club, together with a deposit of £50.
- (e) The Board shall consider any such appeal within ten days of its receipt by the Union. During the intervening period, the decision of the Appeals Committee shall stand. The Board's consideration will normally be based solely on the written appeals and the written response from the committee or official responsible for the original ruling. Alternatively, the club may request an oral hearing, in which case the Board shall hear oral evidence from both parties and may ask them questions.
- (f) The Board's decision on any such appeal shall be final. The Board shall also have the power, where it considers the appeal to be without merit, to order the deposit to be forfeited.
- (g) The conduct of appeals shall be in accordance with the rules of natural justice.

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 Byelaws.

Competition Entries

A2. Application for entry to competitions for the following season shall be made, in writing, to the Union not later than 15th January each year. Each application shall confirm 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 Union 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 Laws of Cricket and the Rules and Byelaws 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. A player shall self-register for the relevant club on the Union's system each season before being eligible to play in any competition.

A7. A player who wishes to register but 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 through the club a Supplementary Information Form giving full details of the player's performances in competitive cricket over the past three years.'

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A8. Where the player is not currently eligible to play for Ireland in any relevant ICC competition 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 or her 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 seven normally selected for the 2nd XI;
- (c) additionally, a club with four teams shall star for its 3rd XI the next three players normally selected for the 2nd XI, together with the first five normally selected for the 3rd XI;
- (d) additionally, a club with five teams shall star for its 4th XI the next five players normally selected for the 3rd XI, together with the first two normally selected for the 4th XI
- (e) additionally, a club with six teams shall star for its 5th XI the next seven players normally selected for the 4th XI.

A11 Should a club subsequently wish to alter its starring list, it shall submit to the Union, in the prescribed format, details of the player it wishes to de-star and of the player it wishes to star in his or her 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 Directorate or a person or sub-committee duly appointed to act on its behalf. No such application shall be made after 31st July unless required by A12 or A22 below.

A12. 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 or her from playing for such a period, or who otherwise becomes unavailable for such a period, shall forthwith be de-starred by his or her club and another player starred in his or her place. A player who is de-starred because of absence or injury shall, before playing again, be re-starred at a level appropriate to his or her playing ability. Where a player is unavailable to play for the team for which he or she is starred in any match because of his or her selection for an Irish international squad, he or she shall be deemed for

the purposes of this rule to have played for the team in the match. Failure to comply with starring requirements may result in forfeiture of points and/or elimination from cup competitions at the discretion of the Directorate or the Competitions Committee.

A13. A player may transfer between clubs no more than twice per season. No transfer shall take place after 31st July. Each transfer occurring on or after 1st April shall incur a £25 charge, payable by the receiving club.

A14. The starrings in effect on 31st August shall remain in force until replaced by a new list for the following season.

Scrutiny

A15. 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 any relevant ICC competition 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 or her 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 or women'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 or her participation unfair to other players and teams participating therein.

A16. 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 Directorate.

A17. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Registrations Committee shall not refuse or withdraw the registration of any player who was first registered for a club as a school pupil and has not subsequently played for another club (other than a university club).

A18. 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 or her registration was originally approved.

A19. The Registrations Committee may delegate such powers as it deems appropriate to a designated person. After 1st June, any power of the Registrations Committee may be exercised by the Directorate.

Eligibility

A20. No player may play for a club until his or her registration for the current season has been accepted by the Registrations Committee, or for a team more junior than that for which he or she is starred.

A21. Even if subsequently de-starred, no player shall play in a cup competition more junior than that entered by the team for which he or she 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), Minor Qualifying or Development Cup.

A22. No player who has participated in international cricket, or played in two or more matches at senior provincial level within the previous twelve months, may play for a team other than the 1st XI without the approval of the Registrations Committee.

A23. No player may play for more than one club in cup competitions in any season.

A24. 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 Directorate.

A25. No player who is not currently eligible to play for Ireland in any relevant ICC competition 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 a person who, having been resident in Northern Ireland for less than four years, satisfies the Registrations Committee that he or she was so resident for purposes unconnected with cricket.

A26. 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 approval.

A27. No player joining a club, having previously been registered by another club, may play for his or her new club until he or she has satisfied the Union that he or she has met all financial and/or contractual obligations (apart from those arising from a contract of employment) to his or her previous club.

A28. Any dispute between the clubs and/or between a club and the player arising from the interpretation of A27 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.

A29. 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.

A30. If an ineligible player plays or acts as a substitute in any match, his or her club shall be deemed to have lost the match. In addition it shall be fined by the Registrations Committee.

A31. 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 Competition Secretary that the player is in the area for purposes unconnected with cricket.

A32. 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 valid police clearance from his or her country of residence. These restrictions shall not apply to any player approved by the Registrations Committee as being in the area for purposes unconnected with cricket.

A33. 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 and a valid police clearance from his or her country of residence. If two Irish-qualified players not normally resident in the Union's area register for the same club, at least one must hold the above-mentioned coaching qualification and both must hold valid police clearances from their country or countries of residence. These restrictions shall not apply to any player approved by the Registrations Committee as being in the area for purposes unconnected with cricket.

Grounds

A34. Each club shall submit annually to the Union, not later than 31st January, a list of all the grounds it wishes to have registered for league and cup cricket in the following season.

A35. The 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 January each year.

A36. 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.

A37. After any match either captain may, if he or she wishes to comment, favourably or unfavourably on the ground, complete a Ground Report Form and send it to the Union within seven days of the match.

Umpires

A38. 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.

A39. 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 Union Treasurer shall disburse fees and expenses to umpires. The Union 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 2(d).

A40. Reports: Any captain may, after a 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.

Sunday Fixtures

A41. 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

A42. 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.

CUP COMPETITIONS

(B) ADMINISTRATIVE RULES APPLYING TO ALL CUP COMPETITIONS

General

B1. All cup competitions shall be administered by the Directorate, which may delegate such powers in relation thereto as it deems appropriate.

Fixtures

B2. The Directorate shall fix dates and reserve dates for every round of each competition for the following season.

B3. Every match shall be played on or before the date published by the Union, but any team wishing to play a match before that date shall first obtain the approval of the Honorary Competition Secretary.

B4. Any team failing to fulfil a fixture, except for a reason beyond its control, shall be deemed to have lost the match. In addition, it shall be fined and be liable for any expenses necessarily incurred by its opponents prior to their being notified that the fixture would not be fulfilled. In such circumstances, or if a team fails to fulfil a fixture in an Irish or Ulster competition, any more junior team from the same club shall be deemed to have lost any match played on the same day.

B5. The first team drawn in each match shall have choice of ground, except that the Directorate shall decide the venues of finals. Where the home team's ground is unavailable for any reason (other than the hosting of an international match), and the visiting team is able to host the match on its ground, the venue shall be switched accordingly.

B6. If a club has more home matches on the same day than it has grounds available, the most junior match(es) shall, unless switched to the visiting team's ground on the scheduled day in accordance with B5, be played on the following day.

Ground Unplayable

B7. Should a ground be unfit for play owing to rain or other unavoidable cause, the home team shall inform the visiting team and, where umpires have been appointed, the Umpires' Appointments Secretary. This notification shall be made not earlier than 24 hours or later than two hours before play is due to start.

B8. Where umpires have been appointed, such a decision not to play may be taken in advance of the due starting time only if both teams agree.

Continuation

B9. In all finals, the continuation arrangements shall be determined by the Directorate, which may also vary the continuation arrangements for other matches.

Rearrangement

B10. A match postponed owing to rain or other unavoidable cause shall be played on or before the published reserve date, but any team wishing to play the match before that date shall first obtain the approval of the Honorary Competition Secretary.

Tied Matches

B11. Where a match is tied, the result shall be determined as follows:

- (a) where official umpires have been appointed and ground and weather conditions permit, by the playing of Super Overs in accordance with Byelaw (w);
- (b) where official umpires have not been appointed, or ground or weather conditions do not permit Super Overs, on the basis of fewer wickets lost in the main match;
- (c) in matches other than a final, where (b) applies and each team has lost the same number of wickets, the match shall be replayed on the reserve date, the visiting team having choice of ground.

B12. If a final is tied and Super Overs cannot be played, the teams shall share the trophy.

Result Reports

B13. After each match, whether or not play has taken place, the winning team (the home team where no result has been obtained) shall;

- (a) **as soon as possible**, and no later than midnight on the day of the match, send summarised details of the match for publication by the Union;
- (b) **within four days** of the completion or abandonment of the match, upload complete details of the match to the NV Play system.

The Union will advise clubs annually of the level of detail required in each case, the approved format and method(s) of transmission, and the address to which each should be sent. A club failing to fulfil its obligations under this rule shall be fined.

Protests and Appeals

B14. Any affected club may make a protest relating to a particular match. Protests regarding cup fixtures shall be submitted to the Union within seven days of the completion of the match, a copy being sent to the Secretary of the opposing club. Appeals shall be dealt with in accordance with General Rule 4.

(C) PLAYING REGULATIONS APPLYING TO THE CHALLENGE CUP

Eligibility

C1. The competition shall be open to teams playing in the Premier League and Senior League Section I.

Hours of play

C2. Play may start at any time agreed by both teams, but not later than 12 noon.

C3. Where both teams agree to start a match at a time earlier than that specified above, the home club shall so advise the Umpires' Appointments Secretary as soon as possible and at least 24 hours before the agreed starting time.

C4. In the final, play shall start at 11 am; a 40-minute lunch interval shall be taken between innings or, in the event of weather interference or an abnormally early finish to an innings, as determined by the umpires.

Duration of innings

C5. All matches shall be of one innings a side. The maximum duration of each innings shall be 50 overs.

C6. Where the first innings of a match is delayed or interrupted by ground or weather conditions, the number of overs available to each side shall be reduced by one for each full eight minutes of playing time lost after the designated starting time. From the end of the first innings, a further deduction of one over shall be made for each full four minutes of playing time lost. In the final, no deduction shall be made until one hour has been lost. The number of overs shall not be reduced below 20 overs per side.

C7. The Duckworth/Lewis/Stern method shall be used to determine the result of any match in which overs are lost after the start of either innings.

Bowling restrictions

C8. No bowler may bowl more than one fifth of the maximum number of overs available for an innings. If a bowler breaks down during an over, the over shall be completed by another bowler and the fractional overs shall count against each bowler's allowance.

C9. In a delayed or interrupted match where the overs are reduced for both teams, or for the team bowling second, no bowler may bowl more than one-fifth of the recalculated number of overs (unless the bowler had already done so before the interruption).

C10. Where the total number of overs is not divisible by 5, one additional over shall be allowed to the maximum number per bowler as necessary to make up the balance.

Rearranged Matches

C11. If, in a match rearranged in accordance with B10, 20 overs are not bowled in the second innings, and a result is not otherwise obtained, there shall be one further rearrangement. This shall be played as a 20 over match on or before the Thursday evening following the reserve date. The playing regulations shall be as for a 20 over Match 2 league match (G27–33) with the exception set out below.

C12. In a further rearranged match up to and including a semi-final, if 20 overs are not bowled in the second innings, and a result is not otherwise obtained, a bowl-out shall take place as follows:

- (i) Five members of each team shall each bowl one overarm delivery at an unguarded wicket. Players from each team shall alternate. The team that puts down the wicket the greater number of times shall be the winner.
- (ii) If the teams are level after each designated member has bowled, a sudden-death play-off shall take place, with the same bowlers from each team alternating in their original order until a winner has emerged.
- (iii) A No ball or Wide ball shall count as a ball bowled but shall in no circumstances be regarded as having put down the wicket.

(D) PLAYING REGULATIONS APPLYING TO THE JUNIOR CUP

Eligibility

D1. The competition shall be open to teams playing in Senior League Sections 2 and 3 and in Junior League Section 1.

Hours of play

D2. Play may start at any time agreed by both teams, but not later than 1 pm (12 noon in July or August).

D3. Where both teams agree to start a match at a time earlier than that specified above, the home club shall so advise the Umpires' Appointments Secretary as soon as possible and at least 24 hours before the agreed starting time.

D4. In the final, play shall start at 11 am; a 40-minute lunch interval shall be taken between innings or, in the event of weather interference or an abnormally early finish to an innings, as determined by the umpires.

Duration of Innings

D5. All matches shall be of one innings a side. The maximum duration of each innings shall be 40 overs.

D6. Where the first innings of a match is delayed or interrupted by ground or weather conditions, the number of overs available to each side shall be reduced by one for each full eight minutes of playing time lost after the designated starting time. From the end of the first innings, a further deduction of one over shall be made for each full four minutes of playing time lost. In the final, no deduction shall be made until one hour has been lost. The number of overs shall not be reduced below 15 overs per side. The Duckworth/Lewis/Stern method shall be used to determine the result of a match in which overs are lost after the start of either innings.

Bowling restrictions

D7. No bowler may bowl more than one fifth of the maximum number of overs available for an innings. If a bowler breaks down during an over, the over shall be completed by another bowler and the fractional overs shall count against each bowler's allowance.

D8. In a delayed match where the overs are reduced for both teams (or a delayed or interrupted final where the overs are reduced for both teams, or for the team bowling second), no bowler may bowl more than one-fifth of the recalculated number of overs (unless the bowler had already done so before the interruption).

D9. Where the total number of overs is not divisible by 5, one additional over shall be allowed to the maximum number per bowler as necessary to make up the balance.

Rearranged Matches

D10. In a rearranged match up to and including a semi-final, if 15 overs are not bowled in the second innings and a result is not obtained otherwise, a bowl-out shall take place as follows:

(i) Five members of each team shall each bowl one overarm delivery at an unguarded wicket. Players from each team shall alternate. The team that puts down the wicket the greater number of times shall be the winner.

(ii) If the teams are level after each designated member has bowled, a sudden-death play-off shall take place, with the same bowlers from each team alternating in their original order until a winner has emerged.

(iii) A No ball or Wide ball shall count as a ball bowled but shall in no circumstances be regarded as having put down the wicket.

(E) PLAYING REGULATIONS APPLYING TO THE INTERMEDIATE, MINOR (LINDSAY) AND MINOR QUALIFYING CUPS

Eligibility

E1. The competitions shall be open to teams playing in the following League Sections:

Intermediate Cup	Junior League Sections 2 and 3.
Minor (Lindsay) Cup	Junior League Sections 4, 5 and 6.
Minor Qualifying Cup	Junior League Sections 7 and 8.
Development Cup	Remaining Junior League teams.

Hours of play

E2. Play may start at any time agreed by both teams, but not later than 1.30 pm in the Intermediate and Minor (Lindsay) Cups and 2 pm in the Minor Qualifying and Development Cups (12 noon in all Cups in July or August).

E3. In the final, play shall start at 12 noon.

Duration of Innings

E4. All matches shall be of one innings a side. The maximum duration of each innings shall be:

- 40 overs in the Intermediate Cup;
- 35 overs in the Minor (Lindsay) Cup; and
- 30 overs in the Minor Qualifying Cup; and
- 25 overs in the Development Cup.

E5. Where the start of a match is delayed by ground or weather conditions, the number of overs available to each side shall be reduced by one for each full eight minutes of playing time lost after the designated starting time. In the final, no deduction shall be made until the one hour has been lost. The number of overs shall not be reduced below 15 overs per side.

E6. Where play is terminated by ground or weather conditions after the team batting second has batted for at least 15 overs, the result shall be determined on the basis of each team's run rate over its entire innings. If play is terminated earlier, the match shall be rearranged.

E7. In the final, the Duckworth/Lewis/Stern method shall be used and Rule D6 shall apply.

Bowling restrictions

E8. No bowler may bowl more than one fifth of the maximum number of overs available for an innings. If a bowler breaks down during an over, the over shall be completed by another bowler and the fractional overs shall count against each bowler's allowance.

E9. In a delayed match where the overs are reduced for both teams, no bowler may bowl more than one-fifth of the recalculated number of overs.

E10. Where the total number of overs is not divisible by 5, one additional over shall be allowed to the maximum number per bowler as necessary to make up the balance.

Rearranged Matches

E11. In a rearranged match up to and including a semi-final, if a result is not obtained otherwise on the day of the match, a bowl-out shall take place as follows:

- (i) Five members of each team shall each bowl one overarm delivery at an unguarded wicket. Players from each team shall alternate. The team that puts down the wicket the greater number of times shall be the winner.
- (ii) If the teams are level after each designated member has bowled, a sudden-death play-off shall take place, with the same bowlers from each team alternating in their original order until a winner has emerged.
- (iii) A No ball or Wide ball shall count as a ball bowled but shall in no circumstances be regarded as having put down the wicket.

LEAGUE COMPETITIONS

(F) ADMINISTRATIVE RULES APPLYING TO ALL LEAGUE COMPETITIONS

General

F1. All league competitions shall be administered by the Directorate, which may delegate to the Competitions Committee or League Secretaries such powers in relation thereto as it deems appropriate.

F2. There shall be a Senior League, open to clubs' first elevens, and a Junior League, open to clubs' second, third and lower elevens and the first eleven of a new or developing club where this is deemed by the Directorate to be in the interests of the wider development of the game. Such a club's first eleven may be permitted to play in the Junior League, starting in the lowest Section, for a period of up to three seasons or until the club enters a second eleven. Thereafter the club's first eleven shall play in the Senior League.

F3. Each League shall be divided into Sections. In the Senior League, the Sections shall be known as the Premier League and Sections 1, 2, 3, etc. In the Junior League they shall be known as Sections 1, 2, 3, etc. The Premier League shall comprise ten teams. Each other Section shall comprise ten teams in the Senior League and eight teams in the Junior League, except that the last two Sections of each League may comprise more or fewer teams, depending upon the total number of teams competing.

Fixtures

F4. The Directorate shall determine the method to be employed for arranging fixtures for the following season. Any club not represented at a fixtures meeting convened for this purpose shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £20.

F5. The season shall normally run from a date in April determined by the Directorate to the penultimate weekend in September.

F6. Unless the Directorate grants special permission to the contrary, every match shall be played on or before the date published by the Union, but any team wishing to play a match before that date shall first obtain the approval of the League Secretary.

F7. Any team failing to fulfil a fixture, except for a reason beyond its control, shall be deemed to have lost the match. In addition, it shall be fined and be liable for any expenses necessarily incurred by its opponents prior to their being notified that the fixture would not be fulfilled. In such circumstances, any more junior team from the same club shall be deemed to have lost any match played on the same day (this

provision shall also apply where the more senior team has failed to fulfil a fixture in the Irish Senior Cup, Irish National Cup or Ulster Plate). Where a 1st XI fails to fulfil a fixture, the Directorate shall determine the adjustment to be made to its and its opponents' aggregate runs and overs for the purposes of calculating net run rate. In the event of a team's second or subsequent failure to fulfil a fixture, the club shall lose a further four league points. However, if a team in one of the bottom three sections of the Junior League is unable to fulfil a fixture, the game may be arranged for another date if both clubs agree and inform the League Secretary in writing.

F8. No team may aggregate its home and away fixtures against the same opponents as one match played for double points or arrange to play two matches simultaneously or consecutively on the same day, except that two 20-over matches may be played consecutively.

Postponements

- F9.** Matches may be postponed only where:
- (a) either or both of the teams is scheduled to play a cup match, or has players involved in a Mid-Week league final, on the same date; or
 - (b) the League Secretary of one of the home club's more senior teams has imposed a rearranged home fixture on the same date; or
 - (c) play on the scheduled date has been impossible owing to rain or other unavoidable cause; or
 - (d) the fixture is a game in Junior League Section 7 or below and both clubs have informed the League Secretary, in writing, that a postponement has been arranged; or
 - (e) either or both of the teams are scheduled to play in a Challenge or Junior Cup Final on the preceding day; or
 - (f) either team is scheduled to play in an Irish Senior or National Cup match on the following day at a venue more than 150 miles from its home ground; or
 - (g) either or both of the clubs' first elevens are scheduled to play in the final of the Challenge or Junior Cup, the Ulster Cup or Shield, the Irish Senior or National Cup, or the Twenty20 Cup on the same day.

Ground Unplayable

F10. Should a ground be unfit for play owing to rain or other unavoidable cause, the home team shall inform the visiting team and, where umpires have been appointed, the Umpires' Appointments Secretary. This notification shall be made not earlier than 24 hours or later than 2 hours before play is due to start.

F11. Where umpires have been appointed, such a decision not to play may be taken in advance of the due starting time only if both teams agree.

Result Reports

F12. After each match, the winning team where a result has been achieved, or the home team where no play has taken place or the match has been tied or abandoned, shall:

- (a) **as soon as possible**, and no later than midnight on the day of the match, send summarised details of the match for publication by the Union;
- (b) **within two days** of the completion or abandonment of a 1st XI match, or **four days** in respect of other matches, upload complete details of the match to the NV Play system.

The Union will advise clubs annually of the level of detail required in each case, the approved format and method(s) of transmission, and the address to which each should be sent. A club failing to fulfil its obligations under this rule shall be fined.

Protests and Appeals

F13. Any affected club may make a protest relating to a particular match. Protests regarding league fixtures shall be submitted to the League Secretary concerned within seven days of the completion of the match, a copy being sent to the Secretary of the opposing club. Appeals shall be dealt with in accordance with General Rule 4.

Points

F14. Points shall be awarded as follows: Win - 4 points, Tie - 2 points, No Result – 0 points.

F15. Each Section shall be won by the team with the greatest number of points. Where there is a tie at the top of a section of the Senior League, the trophy shall be awarded to the team with the highest net run rate over the season. In the event of such a tie in the Junior League, the clubs shall share the trophy.

F16. A team that withdraws from league competition, or is expelled from the Union, at any time after its fixtures have been made, shall have any matches played before its withdrawal or expulsion declared void. The team shall be placed at the bottom of its Section and shall, for the following season, be relegated to a Section to be determined by the Directorate.

Promotion and Relegation

F17. There shall be annual promotion and relegation between the Sections of each League.

F18. Promotion: The team finishing first in Section 1 of the Senior League, the team finishing first in Section 2 of the Junior League, and the teams finishing first and second in each other Section shall be promoted, provided that the Directorate is satisfied that the ground, pitch, outfield and pavilion of each are suitable for the higher Section and that the general administration and day-to-day running of each club are satisfactory. If these requirements are not satisfied in respect of any such team, but are satisfied by the team finishing in the next lower position, the latter may be promoted.

F19. Relegation: The team finishing bottom of the Premier League, the team finishing bottom of Section 1 of the Junior League, and the teams finishing bottom and second from bottom in each other Section shall be relegated only to the extent that is necessary in order to allow teams in the Section below to be promoted. In addition, any team whose ground and pavilion facilities drop below the required standard shall also be liable to relegation. The Directorate, on the advice of the Grounds Committee, shall decide to which Section any team shall be relegated and shall make any necessary adjustments in the composition of the Sections.

F20. Promotion and Relegation following a Tie: Where there is a tie at the top or bottom of a Section, the Directorate shall determine which team shall be promoted or relegated on the following basis:

- (i) in the Senior League, on the basis of the teams' net run rate over the season (or, if they are still tied, their finishing positions in the league in the immediately previous season, or, if they are still tied, the season before that, and so on as necessary); and
- (ii) in the Junior League, on the basis of the teams' finishing positions in the league in the immediately previous season (or, if they are still tied, the season before that, and so on as necessary).

F21. For the purposes of F20(i) above, a team's net run rate shall be calculated as follows:

- (i) a team's net run rate is calculated by deducting from the average runs per over scored by that team throughout the competition, the average runs per over scored against that team throughout the competition.
- (ii) in the event of a team being all out in less than its full quota of overs, the calculation of its net run rate shall be based on the full quota of overs to which it would have been entitled, and not on the number of overs in which the team was dismissed.
- (iii) only those matches where results are achieved will count for the purpose of net run rate calculations. Where the second innings is curtailed, but a result is achieved under Duckworth/Lewis/Stern, for net run rate purposes Team 1 will be credited with Team 2's Par Score on curtailment off the same number of overs faced by Team 2. Where a match is concluded, but with Duckworth/Lewis/Stern having been applied at an earlier point in the match,

Team 1 will be credited with 1 run less than the final Target Score for Team 2 off the total number of overs allocated to Team 2 to reach the target.

(G) REGULATIONS APPLYING TO THE PREMIER LEAGUE, SENIOR LEAGUE, AND SECTION 1 OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE

REGULATIONS APPLYING TO ALL MATCHES

Bowling restrictions

G1. No bowler may bowl more than one fifth of the maximum number of overs available for an innings. If a bowler breaks down during an over, the over shall be completed by another bowler and the fractional overs shall count against each bowler's allowance.

G2. In a delayed or interrupted match where the overs are reduced for both teams, or for the team bowling second, no bowler may bowl more than one-fifth of the recalculated number of overs (unless the bowler had already done so before the interruption).

G3. Where the total number of overs is not divisible by 5, one additional over shall be allowed to the maximum number per bowler as necessary to make up the balance.

Rearrangements

G4. Matches shall be rearranged as follows:

- (i) Match 1 (i.e. where G11(b) applies) - for a date no later than the fourth Sunday following the postponement,
- (ii) Match 2 – for the second Thursday following the postponement or abandonment or, with both clubs' agreement, any other date within fifteen days;

or such earlier cut-off date as may be determined by the Directorate and published by the Union.

G5. The captain of the home team shall, within four days of the date of postponement or abandonment, inform the League Secretary, in writing, of the rearrangement, copying the letter to the captain of the visiting team and the Umpires' Appointment Secretary.

G6. If the League Secretary has not been informed of the rearrangement by the fourth day after the postponement or abandonment, he shall set a date, which shall be the date prescribed by G4 above or as early a date as is reasonably practicable and shall inform the captains of both teams and the Umpires' Appointments Secretary of the rearrangement.

Fitness of Ground

G7. It is solely for the umpires together to decide whether either conditions of ground, weather or light, or exceptional circumstances, mean that it would be dangerous or unreasonable for play to take place.

G8. Covers shall be used to cover the pitch before the match whenever weather conditions make it appropriate. Once play has started and is interrupted by rain, covers shall be used. The club staging the game shall ensure that the pitch is covered as quickly as possible when required.

Result

G9. Where both teams have the same number of overs available:

- (i) the team that scores the greater number of runs shall be the winner;
- (ii) if the scores are equal at the end of a match, the match shall be a tie.

G10. Where the number of overs in the innings of either team has to be revised due to suspension of play after the start of the match:

- (i) a revised target score shall be set for the number of overs that the team batting second will have the opportunity of facing, using the current Duckworth/Lewis/Stern method;
- (ii) the team batting second shall be the winner if it achieves the target score;
- (iii) if the team batting second fails to reach target by 1 run, the result shall be a tie;
- (iv) if the team batting second fails to reach the target by more than one run, the team batting first shall be the winner;
- (v) if play is terminated before the team batting second has had the opportunity to bat for its revised allocation of overs, the result shall be determined on the basis of the target score for the number of overs actually faced.

MATCH 1 PLAYING REGULATIONS

Definition

G11. Match 1 is:

- (a) the original scheduled fixture, or
- (b) the rearrangement of any fixture that has been postponed for reasons other than ground or weather conditions.

Hours of play

G12. Play may start at any time agreed by both teams, but not later than:

- (a) Senior League – 12 noon from April to August (in April, May or June a club with two or more 1st XI players involved in schools' cricket on the same day as a player, coach or teacher may elect to defer the start to 1 pm); or 11.30 am in September.
- (b) Junior League Section 1 – 1 pm in April, May or June; 12 noon from July to September.

G13. Tea in an uninterrupted match shall normally be taken at the close of the first innings. In the event of weather or other interruptions, the tea interval shall be taken so as to allow as many overs as possible to be bowled in the first innings. In an interrupted game, if play is not in progress 3 hours and 40 minutes after the scheduled starting time, tea shall be taken.

G14. By mutual agreement, a Match 1 rearrangement due to be played before 15th August may be rearranged for two consecutive nights and may start at any time agreed by both teams, but not later than 6 pm in April, May or June, or 5.30 pm in July or August.

G15. The latest starting time for a 20-over match shall be as in G25 below.

Duration of innings

G16. All matches shall be of one innings a side. The maximum duration of each innings shall be:

- (a) Premier League and Senior League Section 1 - 50 overs;
- (b) Senior League Sections 2 and 3 and Junior League Section 1 – 40 overs.

G17. For a valid result, each team shall bowl at least 20 overs (15 overs in a 40-over match), unless either or both teams are bowled out or the team batting second scores enough runs to win in fewer overs.

Interrupted matches

Day matches

G18. First innings - The number of overs available to each side shall be reduced by one for each full eight minutes of playing time lost after the agreed starting time.

G19. Second innings - From the end of the first innings, a further deduction of one over shall be made for each full four minutes of playing time lost.

G20. The number of overs shall not be reduced below 20 overs per side in a 50-over match or 15 overs in a 40-over match. If this number are not bowled in the second innings, and a result is not otherwise obtained, a second match (Match 2) shall be arranged.

Two-night matches

G21. First innings - The number of overs available to each side shall be reduced by one for each full eight minutes of playing time lost after the agreed starting time.

G22. Second innings - From the end of the first innings, a further deduction of one over shall be made for each full four minutes of playing time lost. The number of overs shall not be reduced below 20 overs per side in a 50-over match or 15 overs in a 40-over match. If this number are not bowled in the second innings, and a result is not otherwise obtained, a second match (Match 2) shall be arranged.

G23. If, as a result of play being suspended on the first night of a two-night match, more than 50 overs (40 in a 40-over match) remain to be bowled on the second night, the maximum available overs for both innings shall be 50 (40 in a 40-over match), plus the number of overs already bowled, rounded down to an even number.

MATCH 2 PLAYING REGULATIONS

Definition

G24. Match 2 is any rearranged match not defined as Match 1 in G11 above.

Hours of play

G25. Play may start at any time agreed by both teams, but not later than 6 pm in April, May, June or July, 5.30 pm in August, or 5 pm in September.

G26. There shall be no tea interval. The interval between innings shall be ten minutes.

Duration of innings

G27. All matches shall be of one innings a side. The maximum duration of each innings shall be 20 overs.

G28. For a valid result, each team shall bowl at least 5 overs, unless either or both teams are bowled out in fewer than 5 overs, or unless the team batting second scores enough runs to win in fewer than 5 overs.

Interrupted matches

G29. First innings - The number of overs available to each side shall be reduced by one for each full eight minutes of playing time lost after the latest starting time designated in G25 above.

G30. Second innings - From the end of the first innings, a further deduction of one over shall be made for each full four minutes of playing time lost.

G31. The number of overs shall not be reduced below 5 overs per side. If 5 overs are not bowled in the second innings, and a result is not otherwise obtained, the match shall be recorded as 'No result'.

(H) REGULATIONS APPLYING TO JUNIOR LEAGUE SECTIONS 2 AND BELOW

REGULATIONS APPLYING TO ALL MATCHES

Bowling restrictions

H1. No bowler may bowl more than one fifth of the maximum number of overs available for an innings. If a bowler breaks down during an over, the over shall be completed by another bowler and the fractional overs shall count against each bowler's allowance.

H2. In a delayed or interrupted match where the overs are reduced for both teams, or for the team bowling second, no bowler may bowl more than one-fifth of the recalculated number of overs (unless the bowler had already done so before the interruption).

H3. Where the total number of overs is not divisible by 5, one additional over shall be allowed to the maximum number per bowler as necessary to make up the balance.

MATCH 1 PLAYING REGULATIONS

Definition

H4. Match 1 is:
(a) the original scheduled fixture, or
(b) the rearrangement of any fixture that has been postponed for reasons other than ground or weather conditions.

Hours of Play

H5. Matches may start at any time agreed by both teams, but no later than:
(a) Section 2 - 1 pm in April, May or June; 12 noon in July, August or September;
(b) All other Sections – 1 pm.

Duration of Innings

H6. All matches shall be of one innings a side. Unless adjusted by the teams in accordance with H8 below, the maximum duration of each innings shall be:
40 overs in Section 2;
35 overs in Sections 3, and 4; and
30 overs in all other Sections.



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H7. For a valid result, each team shall bowl at least 15 overs in a 40-over or 35-over match, 10 overs in a 30-over match or 5 overs in a match reduced to 20 overs in accordance with H8, unless either or both teams are bowled out or the team batting second scores enough runs to win in fewer overs.

H8. Teams may agree in advance to reduce the maximum duration of each innings to 20 overs. In addition, where the start of a match is delayed by ground or weather conditions, the number of overs available to each side shall be reduced by one for each full eight minutes of playing time lost after the agreed starting time. The number of overs shall not be reduced below that specified in H7.

H9. A Match 1 in which no valid result is obtained shall be abandoned and rearranged.

Rearrangement

H10. The clubs concerned shall rearrange any Match 1 postponed or abandoned up to 31st August for any date within 22 days. They may agree not to rearrange any such match postponed or abandoned after 31st August.

H11. The captain of the home team shall, within seven days of the date of postponement or abandonment, inform the League Secretary, in writing, of the rearrangement (or, if after 31st August, the agreement not to rearrange), copying the letter to the captain of the visiting team.

H12. If the League Secretary has not been so informed of the rearrangement (or, where applicable, the agreement not to rearrange), he or she shall set a date, which shall be within the period prescribed by H10 above, and shall inform the captains of both teams of the rearrangement.

MATCH 2 PLAYING REGULATIONS

Definition

H13. Match 2 is any rearranged match not defined as Match 1 in H4 above.

Hours of Play

H14. Matches may start at any time agreed by both teams but not later than:

- 6 pm in April, May, June or July
- 5 pm in August or September.

Duration of Innings

H15. All matches shall be of one innings a side. The maximum duration of each innings shall be 20 overs.

H16. Where the start of a match is delayed by ground or weather conditions, the number of overs available to each side shall be reduced by one for each full eight minutes of playing time lost after the designated starting time. The number of overs shall not be reduced below 5 overs per side.

H17. For a valid result, each team shall bowl at least 5 overs, unless either or both teams are bowled out in fewer than 5 overs or the team batting second scores enough runs to win in fewer than 5 overs. A Match 2 in which no valid result is obtained shall be void.

WOMEN'S COMPETITION RULES

(WA) ADMINISTRATIVE RULES APPLYING TO ALL COMPETITIONS

WA1. All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of Cricket, except as varied by Competition Rules or Byelaws.

Competition Entries

WA2. Application for entry to competitions for the following season shall be made, in writing, to the Union not later than 15th January each year. Each application shall confirm that the club 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*.

WA3. 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 Union with such evidence of its insurances as may be required.

WA4. Any club that withdraws a team from an adult competition after 31st January shall be liable to a fine of £50.

Responsibility of Captains

WA5. It is the responsibility of the captain of every team to be thoroughly familiar with the Laws of Cricket and the Rules and Byelaws 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

WA6. A player shall self-register for the relevant club on the Union's system each season before being eligible to play in any competition.

WA7. A player who wishes to register but 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 through the club a Supplementary Information Form giving full details of the player's performances in competitive cricket over the past three years.'

WA8. Where the player is not currently eligible to play for Ireland in any relevant ICC competition 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 her home country.

WA9. 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

WA10. On the list of registered players:

- (a) a club with two teams shall star the first five players normally selected for the 1st XI; Within these starrings all players that have represented the NCU Senior Team or a team in the Future Series (inc. Ireland U17) twice or more in the past 12 months, are automatically to be starred, irrespective of the number of these players that a club may have, creating the possibility that a club may have to star more than five players for its first team. Clubs may apply for an exemption if they feel a player of theirs is not a regular in the Interprovincial set up and was just helping.
- (b) additionally, a club with three teams shall star for its 2nd XI the six remaining players normally selected for the 1st XI, together with the first five normally selected for the 2nd XI;
- (c) additionally, a club with four teams shall star for its 3rd XI the next six players normally selected for the 2nd XI, together with the first five normally selected for the 3rd XI;

WA11. Should a club subsequently wish to alter its starring list, it shall submit to the Union, in the prescribed format, details of the player it wishes to de-star and of the player it wishes to star in her 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 Directorate or a person or sub-committee duly appointed to act on its behalf. No such application shall be made after 31st July unless required by WA12 or WA22 below.

WA12. 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 her from playing for such a period, or who otherwise becomes unavailable for such a period, shall forthwith be de-starred by her club and another player starred in her place. A player who is de-starred because of absence or injury shall, before playing again, be re-starred at a level appropriate to her playing ability. Where a player is unavailable to play for the team for which she is starred in any match because of her selection for an Irish international

squad, she shall be deemed for the purposes of this rule to have played for the team in the match. Failure to comply with starring requirements may result in forfeiture of points and/or elimination from cup competitions at the discretion of the Directorate or the Competitions Committee.

WA13. A player may transfer between clubs no more than twice per season. No transfer shall take place after 31st July. Each transfer occurring on or after 1st April shall incur a £25 charge, payable by the receiving club.

WA14. The starrings in effect on 31st August shall remain in force until replaced by a new list for the following season.

Scrutiny

WA15. 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 any relevant ICC competition 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 her 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 or women'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 her participation unfair to other players and teams participating therein.

WA16. 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 Directorate.

WA17. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Registrations Committee shall not refuse or withdraw the registration of any player who was first registered for a club as a school pupil and has not subsequently played for another club (other than a university club).

WA18. 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 her registration was originally approved.

WA19. The Registrations Committee may delegate such powers as it deems appropriate to a designated person. After 1st June, any power of the Registrations Committee may be exercised by the Directorate.

Eligibility

WA20. No player may play for a club until her registration for the current season has been accepted by the Registrations Committee, or for a team more junior than that for which she is starred.

WA21. Even if subsequently de-starred, no player shall play in a cup competition more junior than that entered by the team for which she 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 WA8 above, no player registered after this date may play in the Challenge Cup or Challenge Plate.

WA22. No player who has participated in international cricket or played in two or more matches at senior provincial level within the previous twelve months, may play for a team other than the 1st XI without the approval of the Registrations Committee.

WA23. No player may play for more than one club in cup competitions in any season.

WA24. 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 Directorate.

WA25. No player who is not currently eligible to play for Ireland in any relevant ICC competition 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 a person who, having been resident in Northern Ireland for less than four years, satisfies the Registrations Committee that she was so resident for purposes unconnected with cricket.

WA26. 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 approval.

WA27. No player joining a club, having previously been registered by another club, may play for her new club until she has satisfied the Union that she has met all financial and/or contractual obligations (apart from those arising from a contract of employment) to her previous club.

WA28. Any dispute between the clubs and/or between a club and the player arising from the interpretation of WA27 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.

WA29. A player shall normally be registered for only one club at any time. However, where the player's normal club does not participate in Senior Women's Cricket, 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.

WA30. If an ineligible player plays or acts as a substitute in any match, her club shall be deemed to have lost the match. In addition, it shall be fined by the Registrations Committee.

WA31. No player not normally resident in the Union's area may play in league or cup competitions for a club in the Junior League unless the club satisfies the Competition Secretary that the player is in the area for purposes unconnected with cricket.

WA32. Only one player not normally resident in the Union's area may play in league or cup competitions for a club in Section 1 of the Senior League. The club must satisfy the Registrations Committee that the player holds a valid police clearance from her country of residence. These restrictions shall not apply to any player approved by the Registrations Committee as being in the area for purposes unconnected with cricket.

WA33. 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 and a valid police clearance from her country of residence. If two Irish-qualified players not normally resident in the Union's area register for the same club, at least one must hold the above-mentioned coaching qualification, and both must hold valid police clearances from their country or countries of residence. These restrictions shall not apply to any player approved by the Registrations Committee as being in the area for purposes unconnected with cricket.

Grounds

WA34. Each club shall submit annually to the Union, not later than 31st January, a list of all the grounds it wishes to have registered for league and cup cricket in the following season.

WA35. The 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 January each year.

WA36. 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.

WA37. After any match either captain may, if she wishes to comment, favourably or unfavourably on the ground, complete a Ground Report Form and send it to the Union within seven days of the match.

Umpires

WA38. 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 Premier League.

WA39. 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 Union Treasurer shall disburse fees and expenses to umpires. The Union 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 2(d).

WA40. Reports: Any captain may, after a 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.

Sunday Fixtures

WA41. 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

WA42. 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.

(WB) PLAYING REGULATIONS APPLYING TO ALL WOMEN'S COMPETITIONS

PLAYING CONDITIONS

RULES AND BYELAWS

WB1. All relevant Byelaws shall apply, except as provided below.

ELIGIBILITY

WB2. The Domestic Cricket Directorate shall decide the clubs that play in all Women's competitions.

WB3. The competitions shall be open to all players registered for those clubs.

HOURS OF PLAY AND INTERVALS

All Matches

WB4. There shall be a 15-minute interval between innings. Where the first innings is completed before the scheduled finishing time, the interval shall take place immediately and the second innings shall start correspondingly earlier.

WB5. No drinks intervals shall be permitted.

All Matches excluding Finals

WB6. The scheduled time for a 20-over innings is 1 hour 20 minutes. Where matches are reduced, the scheduled time for an innings is based on 4 minutes per over. Evening matches must start no later than 6.00 pm. Where matches are scheduled for Sunday the default start time is 10.00am

WB7. Umpires' Appointments Secretary must be informed at least 24 hours in advance.

Finals only

WB8. Each Final shall start at a time specified by the Competition Secretary or their nominee. In the event of delays or interruptions to the Final, the Competition Secretary, or their nominee, may vary the duration of innings and/or specify a reserve date.

LENGTH OF INNINGS

Uninterrupted Matches (i.e. matches that are neither delayed nor interrupted)

WB9. Each team shall bat for 20 overs unless all out earlier.

WB10. If the team fielding first fails to bowl the required number of overs by the scheduled time for the end of the innings, play shall continue until the required number of overs has been bowled, or the innings is complete, and Byelaw (o) shall apply.

WB11. If the team batting first is dismissed in less than 20 overs, the team batting second shall be entitled to bat for 20 overs.

WB12. If the team fielding second fails to bowl the required number of overs by the scheduled time for the end of the innings, play shall continue until the required number of overs has been bowled, or a result has been achieved, and Byelaw (o) shall apply.

Delay or interruption to an innings

WB13. Where the delay or interruption affects the innings of the team batting first, the number of overs available to each side shall be reduced by one for each full eight minutes of playing time lost, down to a minimum of 5 overs per side.

WB14. Where the delay or interruption affects the innings of the team batting second, the number of overs available to it shall be reduced by one for each full four minutes of playing time lost, down to a minimum of 5 overs.

WB15. When overs are reduced umpires shall calculate a new scheduled time for the end of the innings at a rate of 4 minutes per over.

WB16. If the fielding team fails to bowl the revised number of overs by the scheduled time for the end of the innings, play shall continue until the required number of overs has been bowled, or the innings is completed, and Byelaw (o) shall apply.

WB17. Over-rate penalties (Byelaw (o)) shall apply only to innings of 10 or more overs' duration.

THE BALL

WB18. In competitions, except Junior League 1 (see rules section W1), white cricket balls shall be used (see byelaw (f)).

WB19. A new ball shall be provided for each innings, except in the Junior League.

WB20. The participating clubs shall make available an adequate supply of spare cricket balls of the appropriate type.

THE RESULT

WB21. Where both teams had the opportunity of batting for the same number of overs:

- (a) the team scoring the greater number of runs shall be the winner.
- (b) if the scores are tied the result shall be a tie.

WB22. In the Women's Premier League and Women's Challenge Cup where the number of overs in the innings of either team has to be revised due to suspension of play after the start of the match, a revised target score shall be set for the number of overs that the team batting second will have the opportunity of facing using the Duckworth/Lewis/Stern method (see byelaw (r)).

In the Women's Senior League Section One, Women's Junior Leagues and the Women's Challenge Plate the net run-rate method shall be used.

And:

- (a) the team batting second shall be the winner if it achieves the target score;
- (b) if the team batting second fails to reach the target by more than one run, the team batting first shall be the winner; or
- (c) if the team batting second fails to reach target by 1 run, the result shall be a tie.

WB23. In Cup Competitions where both teams do not have the opportunity of batting for 5 overs, the match shall be replayed on the reserve date. Where both teams do not have the opportunity of batting for 5 overs on the reserve date, the result shall be decided by a bowl-out.

WB24. In League Competitions where both teams do not have the opportunity of batting for 5 overs, the match shall be replayed on the reserve date. Where both teams do not have the opportunity of batting for 5 overs on the reserve date, the match shall be deemed a 'No Result'.

Bowl-Outs

WB25. Arrangements:

- (a) five players from each side shall each bowl one over-arm delivery at an unguarded wicket;
- (b) the first bowler from Team A shall bowl one delivery then the first bowler from Team B shall bowl one delivery, then the second bowler from Team A shall bowl one delivery, and so on;
- (c) the side that bowls down the wicket the greater number of times shall be the winner;
- (d) where the scores are equal, the same bowlers, bowling in the same order, shall each bowl one ball alternately to achieve a result on a 'sudden death' basis;
- (e) each side shall use their own used ball; if the ball becomes wet, it may be changed, subject to the Umpires' approval;
- (f) a No Ball shall count as a player's delivery but shall not count towards the score.

Number Of Overs Per Bowler

WB26. No bowler shall bowl more than 4 overs, except in the Women's Challenge Plate and Women's Senior League Section 1 where no bowler shall bowl more than 3 overs. In a match where the overs are reduced, no bowler shall bowl more than one-fifth of the total overs allowed (unless this number has been exceeded before the reduction), except that, where the total number of overs is not divisible by five, an additional over shall be allowed to the minimum number of bowlers necessary to make up the balance.

WB27. Where an interruption occurs mid-over, and on resumption the bowler has exceeded the new maximum allocation, they shall be allowed to finish the uncompleted over.

LAW 40 – TIMED OUT

WB28. Law 40 shall apply, except that the incoming batter shall be in position to take guard, or for their partner to be ready to receive the next ball, within 1 minute 30 seconds of the fall of the previous wicket. The incoming batter is expected to be ready to make their way to the wicket immediately a wicket falls, or a batter retires.

POINTS – GROUP MATCHES WOMENS CHALLENGE CUP

WB29. Win – 4 points, Tie – 2 points, No Result – 2 points, Loss – 0 points

WB30. Where teams finish equal on points at the end of the Group stage placings will be determined by:

- (a) the highest net run rate in Group matches;
- (b) where teams are still equal, the team that took the greatest number of wickets per 100 balls bowled (inclusive of 'No Balls' and 'Wides') in Group matches;
- (c) where teams are still equal, it shall be decided by a bowl-out.

WB31. Where a competition has two groups, the winners of each group will host the runners-up of the other group in the Semi-Finals. Where a competition has only one group, the top two teams will meet in the Final.

Run Rate

WB32. A team's net run rate is calculated by deducting from the average runs per over scored by that team throughout the competition, the average runs per over scored against that team throughout the competition.

WB33. In the event of a team being all out in less than its full quota of overs, the calculation of its net run rate shall be based on the full quota of overs to which it would have been entitled, and not on the number of overs in which the team was dismissed.

WB34. Only those matches where results are achieved will count for the purpose of net run rate calculations. Where the second innings is curtailed, but a result is achieved under Duckworth/Lewis/Stern, for net run rate purposes Team 1 will be credited with Team 2's Par Score on curtailment off the same number of overs faced by Team 2. Where a match is concluded, but with Duckworth/Lewis/Stern having been applied at an earlier point in the match, Team 1 will be credited with 1 run less than the final Target Score for Team 2 off the total number of overs allocated to Team 2 to reach the target.

Forfeited Matches

WB35. Any team failing to fulfil a fixture, except for a reason beyond its control, shall be deemed to have lost the match. In addition, it shall be fined and be liable for any expenses necessarily incurred by its opponents prior to their being notified that the fixture would not be fulfilled.

WB36. For each competition, or part thereof, to which net run rate applies, the Directorate shall determine the adjustment to be made to the aggregate runs and overs of the defaulting team and its opponents for the purposes of calculating net run rate.

CUP COMPETITIONS

(WC) ADMINISTRATIVE RULES APPLYING TO ALL CUP COMPETITIONS

General

WC1. All cup competitions shall be administered by the Directorate, which may delegate such powers in relation thereto as it deems appropriate.

Fixtures

WC2. The Directorate shall fix dates and reserve dates for every round of each competition for the following season.

WC3. Every match shall be played on or before the date published by the Union, but any team wishing to play a match before that date shall first obtain the approval of the Honorary Competition Secretary.

WC4. Any team failing to fulfil a fixture, except for a reason beyond its control, shall be deemed to have lost the match. In addition, it shall be fined and be liable for any expenses necessarily incurred by its opponents prior to their being notified that the fixture would not be fulfilled. In such circumstances, or if a team fails to fulfil a fixture in an Irish or Ulster competition, any more junior team from the same club shall be deemed to have lost any match played on the same day.

WC5. The first team drawn in each match shall have choice of ground, except that the Directorate shall decide the venues of finals. Where the home team's ground is unavailable for any reason (other than the hosting of an international match), and the visiting team is able to host the match on its ground, the venue shall be switched accordingly.

WC6. If a club has more home matches on the same day than it has grounds available, the most junior match(es) shall, unless switched to the visiting team's ground on the scheduled day in accordance with B5, be played on the following day.

Ground Unplayable

WC7. Should a ground be unfit for play owing to rain or other unavoidable cause, the home team shall inform the visiting team and, where umpires have been appointed, the Umpires' Appointments Secretary. This notification shall be made not earlier than 24 hours or later than two hours before play is due to start.

WC8. Where umpires have been appointed, such a decision not to play may be taken in advance of the due starting time only if both teams agree.

Continuation

WC9. In all finals, the continuation arrangements shall be determined by the Directorate, which may also vary the continuation arrangements for other matches.

Rearrangement

WC10. A match postponed owing to rain or other unavoidable cause shall be played on or before the published reserve date, but any team wishing to play the match before that date shall first obtain the approval of the Honorary Competition Secretary.

Tied Matches

WC11. Where a match is tied, the result shall be determined as follows:

- (a) where official umpires have been appointed and ground and weather conditions permit, by the playing of Super Overs in accordance with Byelaw (w);
- (b) where official umpires have not been appointed, or ground or weather conditions do not permit Super Overs, on the basis of fewer wickets lost in the main match;
- (c) in matches other than a final, where (b) applies and each team has lost the same number of wickets, the match shall be replayed on the reserve date, the visiting team having choice of ground.

WC12. If a final is tied and Super Overs cannot be played, the teams shall share the trophy.

Result Reports

WC13. After each match, whether or not play has taken place, the winning team (the home team where no result has been obtained) shall;

- (a) **as soon as possible**, and no later than midnight on the day of the match, send summarised details of the match for publication by the Union;
- (b) **within four days** of the completion or abandonment of the match, upload complete details of the match to the NV Play system.

The Union will advise clubs annually of the level of detail required in each case, the approved format and method(s) of transmission, and the address to which each should be sent. A club failing to fulfil its obligations under this rule shall be fined.

Protests and Appeals

WC14. Any affected club may make a protest relating to a particular match. Protests regarding cup fixtures shall be submitted to the Union within seven days of the completion of the match, a copy being sent to the Secretary of the opposing club. Appeals shall be dealt with in accordance with General Rule 4.

(WD) PLAYING REGULATIONS APPLYING TO THE CHALLENGE CUP

Eligibility

WD1. The competition shall be open to teams playing in the Premier League.

Hours of play

WD2. Play may start at any time agreed by both teams-

WD3. Where both teams cannot agree to start a match at a particular time, the default starting time shall be 10:00am on a Sunday morning. The home club shall so advise the Umpires' Appointments Secretary as soon as possible and at least 24 hours before the agreed starting time.

WD4. In the final, play shall start at 11 am; a 15-minute interval shall be taken between innings or, in the event of weather interference or an abnormally early finish to an innings, as determined by the umpires.

Duration of innings

WD5. All matches shall be of one innings a side. The maximum duration of each innings shall be 20 overs.

WD6. Where the first innings of a match is delayed or interrupted by ground or weather conditions, the number of overs available to each side shall be reduced by one for each full eight minutes of playing time lost after the designated starting time. From the end of the first innings, a further deduction of one over shall be made for each full four minutes of playing time lost. In the final, no deduction shall be made until one hour has been lost. The number of overs shall not be reduced below 5 overs per side.

WD7. The Duckworth/Lewis/Stern method shall be used to determine the result of any match in which overs are lost after the start of either innings.

Bowling restrictions

WD8. No bowler may bowl more than one fifth of the maximum number of overs available for an innings. If a bowler breaks down during an over, the over shall be completed by another bowler and the fractional overs shall count against each bowler's allowance.

WD9. In a delayed or interrupted match where the overs are reduced for both teams, or for the team bowling second, no bowler may bowl more than one-fifth of the recalculated number of overs (unless the bowler had already done so before the interruption).

WD10. Where the total number of overs is not divisible by 5, one additional over shall be allowed to the maximum number per bowler as necessary to make up the balance.

Rearranged Matches

WD11. If, in a match rearranged in accordance with WB23, up to and including a semi-final, if 5 overs are not bowled in the second innings, and a result is not otherwise obtained, a bowl-out shall take place as follows:

- (i) Five members of each team shall each bowl one overarm delivery at an unguarded wicket. Players from each team shall alternate. The team that puts down the wicket the greater number of times shall be the winner.
- (ii) If the teams are level after each designated member has bowled, a sudden-death play-off shall take place, with the same bowlers from each team alternating in their original order until a winner has emerged.
- (iii) A No ball or Wide ball shall count as a ball bowled but shall in no circumstances be regarded as having put down the wicket.

Fielding Restrictions

WD12. The following shall apply:

- (a) For the first 6 overs of each 20 over innings there shall be a minimum of 7 fielders (plus the bowler and wicketkeeper) within the fielding 'circle,' as defined in Byelaw (h), at the instant of delivery.
- (b) For the remainder of each innings, there shall be a minimum of 5 fielders (plus the bowler and wicketkeeper) within the fielding 'circle' at the instant of delivery.
- (c) Where the number of overs for both teams is reduced, the number of overs specified at (a) above shall be reduced proportionately in accordance with the table below.

Total overs in innings	No. of overs for which restrictions apply
5-8	2
9-11	3
12-14	4
15-18	5
19-20	6

- (d) Where the number of overs of the team batting second is further reduced, the aim shall be to maintain the fielding restrictions for the same proportion of the second innings as in the first innings.
- (e) In the event of an infringement of these restrictions, the striker's end umpire shall call and signal 'No Ball.'

(WE) PLAYING REGULATIONS APPLYING TO THE CHALLENGE PLATE

Eligibility

WE1. The competition shall be open to teams playing in Senior League Section 1 and in Junior League 1.

Hours of play

WE2. Play may start at any time agreed by both teams.

WE3. Where both teams cannot agree to start a match at a particular time or on a particular day, the default starting time shall be 6:00 pm on a Monday evening. The home club shall so advise the Umpires' Appointments Secretary as soon as possible and at least 24 hours before the agreed starting time.

WE4. In the final, play shall start at 6pm; a 15-minute interval shall be taken between innings or, in the event of weather interference or an abnormally early finish to an innings, as determined by the umpires.

Duration of Innings

WE5. All matches shall be of one innings a side. The maximum duration of each innings shall be 20 overs.

WE6. Where the first innings of a match is delayed or interrupted by ground or weather conditions, the number of overs available to each side shall be reduced by one for each full eight minutes of playing time lost after the designated starting time. From the end of the first innings, a further deduction of one over shall be made for each full four minutes of playing time lost. In the final, no deduction shall be made until one hour has been lost. The number of overs shall not be reduced below 5 overs per side. Run rate shall be used to determine the result of a match in which overs are lost after the start of either innings.

Bowling restrictions

WE7. No bowler may bowl more than one fifth of the maximum number of overs available for an innings. If a bowler breaks down during an over, the over shall be completed by another bowler and the fractional overs shall count against each bowler's allowance.

WE8. In a delayed match where the overs are reduced for both teams (or a delayed or interrupted final where the overs are reduced for both teams, or for the team bowling second), no bowler may bowl more than one-fifth of the recalculated number of overs (unless the bowler had already done so before the interruption).

WE9. Where the total number of overs is not divisible by 5, one additional over shall be allowed to the maximum number per bowler as necessary to make up the balance.

Rearranged Matches

WE10. In a rearranged match up to and including a semi-final, if 5 overs are not bowled in the second innings and a result is not obtained otherwise, a bowl-out shall take place as follows:

- (i) Five members of each team shall each bowl one overarm delivery at an unguarded wicket. Players from each team shall alternate. The team that puts down the wicket the greater number of times shall be the winner.
- (ii) If the teams are level after each designated member has bowled, a sudden-death play-off shall take place, with the same bowlers from each team alternating in their original order until a winner has emerged.
- (iii) A No ball or Wide ball shall count as a ball bowled but shall in no circumstances be regarded as having put down the wicket.

Fielding Restrictions

WE11. There are no fielding restrictions.

LEAGUE COMPETITIONS

(WF) ADMINISTRATIVE RULES APPLYING TO ALL LEAGUE COMPETITIONS

General

WF1. All league competitions shall be administered by the Directorate, which may delegate to the Competitions Committee or League Secretaries such powers in relation thereto as it deems appropriate.

WF2. There shall be a Premier League, open to clubs' first elevens, a Senior League open to clubs first and second elevens, and a Junior League, open to clubs' second, third and lower elevens and the first eleven of a new or developing club where this is deemed by the Directorate to be in the interests of the wider development of the game.

WF3. Each League shall be divided into Sections. In the Senior League, the Sections shall be known as the Premier League and Sections 1, 2, 3, etc. In the Junior League they shall be known as Sections 1, 2, 3, etc. The Premier League shall comprise a maximum of eight teams. Each other Section shall comprise a maximum of eight teams except that the last League may comprise more or fewer teams, depending upon the total number of teams competing.

Fixtures

WF4. The Directorate shall determine the method to be employed for arranging fixtures for the following season. Any club not represented at a fixtures meeting convened for this purpose shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £20.

WF5. The season shall normally run from a date in April determined by the Directorate to the penultimate weekend in September.

WF6. Unless the Directorate grants special permission to the contrary, every match shall be played on or before the date published by the Union, but any team wishing to play a match before that date shall first obtain the approval of the League Secretary.

WF7. Any team failing to fulfil a fixture, except for a reason beyond its control, shall be deemed to have lost the match. In addition, it shall be fined and be liable for any expenses necessarily incurred by its opponents prior to their being notified that the fixture would not be fulfilled. In such circumstances, any more junior team from the same club shall be deemed to have lost any match played on the same day (this provision shall also apply where the more senior team has failed to fulfil a fixture in the Irish Senior Cup, Irish National Cup or Ulster Plate). Where a 1st XI fails to fulfil a fixture, the Directorate shall determine the adjustment to be made to its and its opponents' aggregate runs and overs for the purposes of calculating net run rate. In the event of a team's second or subsequent failure to fulfil a fixture, the club shall lose a further four

league points. However, if a team in one of the bottom three sections of the Junior League is unable to fulfil a fixture, the game may be arranged for another date if both clubs agree and inform the League Secretary in writing.

WF8. No team may aggregate its home and away fixtures against the same opponents as one match played for double points or arrange to play two matches simultaneously or consecutively on the same day, except that two 20-over matches may be played consecutively.

Postponements

WF9. Matches may be postponed only where:

- (a) either or both of the teams is scheduled to play a cup match, or
- (b) the League Secretary of one of the home club's more senior teams has imposed a rearranged home fixture on the same date; or
- (c) play on the scheduled date has been impossible owing to rain or other unavoidable cause; or
- (d) the fixture is a game in the Junior League and both clubs have informed the League Secretary, in writing, that a postponement has been arranged; or
- (e) either or both of the teams are scheduled to play in a Challenge Cup or Challenge Plate Final on the preceding day; or
- (f) either team is scheduled to play in an All-Ireland T20 Cup match on the previous day at a venue more than 150 miles from its home ground; or
- (g) either or both of the clubs' first elevens are scheduled to play in the final of the All-Ireland Twenty20 Cup on the same day.

Ground Unplayable

WF10. Should a ground be unfit for play owing to rain or other unavoidable cause, the home team shall inform the visiting team and, where umpires have been appointed, the Umpires' Appointments Secretary. This notification shall be made not earlier than 24 hours or later than 2 hours before play is due to start.

WF11. Where umpires have been appointed, such a decision not to play may be taken in advance of the due starting time only if both teams agree.

Result Reports

WF12. After each match, the winning team where a result has been achieved, or the home team where no play has taken place or the match has been tied or abandoned, shall:

- (a) **as soon as possible**, and no later than midnight on the day of the match, send summarised details of the match for publication by the Union;

- (b) **within two days** of the completion or abandonment of a 1st XI match, or **four days** in respect of other matches, upload complete details of the match to the NV Play system.

The Union will advise clubs annually of the level of detail required in each case, the approved format and method(s) of transmission, and the address to which each should be sent. A club failing to fulfil its obligations under this rule shall be fined.

Protests and Appeals

WF13. Any affected club may make a protest relating to a particular match. Protests regarding league fixtures shall be submitted to the League Secretary concerned within seven days of the completion of the match, a copy being sent to the Secretary of the opposing club. Appeals shall be dealt with in accordance with General Rule 4.

Points

WF14. Points shall be awarded as follows: Win – 4 points, Tie – 2 points, No Result – 0 points.

WF15. Each Section shall be won by the team with the greatest number of points. Where there is a tie at the top of a section of the Senior League, the trophy shall be awarded to the team with the highest net run rate over the season. In the event of such a tie in the Junior League, the clubs shall share the trophy.

WF16. A team that withdraws from league competition, or is expelled from the Union, at any time after its fixtures have been made, shall have any matches played before its withdrawal or expulsion declared void. The team shall be placed at the bottom of its Section and shall, for the following season, be relegated to a Section to be determined by the Directorate.

Promotion and Relegation

WF17. There shall be annual promotion and relegation between the Sections of each League.

WF18. Promotion: The team finishing first in Section 1 of the Senior League (where it is a 1st XI) and the team finishing first in Section 1 of the Junior League, shall be promoted, provided that the Directorate is satisfied that the ground, pitch, outfield and pavilion of each are suitable for the higher Section and that the general administration and day-to-day running of each club are satisfactory. If these requirements are not satisfied in respect of any such team or teams but are satisfied by the team finishing in the next lower position, the latter may be promoted.

The Directorate may offer promotion to any other teams as it sees fit in order to increase the number of teams in any league to a maximum of 8 teams.

WF19. Relegation: Where a league consists of 8 teams, the team finishing bottom of that league shall be relegated only to the extent that is necessary in order to allow teams in the Section below to be promoted. Where a league does not consist of 8 teams there will be no relegation. In addition, any team whose ground and pavilion facilities drop below the required standard shall also be liable to relegation. The Directorate, on the advice of the Grounds Committee, shall decide to which Section any team shall be relegated and shall make any necessary adjustments in the composition of the Sections.

WF20. Promotion and Relegation following a Tie: Where the top or bottom place is tied after rule WF15 is considered, a play-off or play-offs shall be organised as necessary to determine the teams to be promoted and relegated. Where this is not possible, the winner shall be decided by the head-to-head results during the season. Where this does not determine a winner, it shall be decided on the basis of the teams' finishing position in the immediately previous season, and so on as necessary.

(WG) REGULATIONS APPLYING TO THE WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE

Bowling restrictions

WG1. No bowler may bowl more than one fifth of the maximum number of overs available for an innings. If a bowler breaks down during an over, the over shall be completed by another bowler and the fractional overs shall count against each bowler's allowance.

WG2. In a delayed or interrupted match where the overs are reduced for both teams, or for the team bowling second, no bowler may bowl more than one-fifth of the recalculated number of overs (unless the bowler had already done so before the interruption).

WG3. Where the total number of overs is not divisible by 5, one additional over shall be allowed to the maximum number per bowler as necessary to make up the balance.

Rearrangements

WG4. Matches shall be rearranged for a date no later than 22 days following the postponement, or such earlier cut-off date as may be determined by the Directorate and published by the Union.

WG5. The captain of the home team shall, within four days of the date of postponement or abandonment, inform the League Secretary, in writing, of the rearrangement, copying the letter to the captain of the visiting team and the Umpires' Appointment Secretary.

WG6. If the League Secretary has not been informed of the rearrangement by the fourth day after the postponement or abandonment, he shall set a date, which shall be the date prescribed by WG4 above or as early a date as is reasonably practicable and shall inform the captains of both teams and the Umpires' Appointments Secretary of the rearrangement.

Fielding Restrictions

WG7 The following shall apply:

- (a) For the first 6 overs of each 20 over innings there shall be a minimum of 7 fielders (plus the bowler and wicketkeeper) within the fielding 'circle,' as defined in Byelaw (h), at the instant of delivery.
- (b) For the remainder of each innings, there shall be a minimum of 5 fielders (plus the bowler and wicketkeeper) within the fielding 'circle' at the instant of delivery.

- (c) Where the number of overs for both teams is reduced, the number of overs specified at (a) above shall be reduced proportionately in accordance with the table below.

Total overs in innings	No. of overs for which restrictions apply
5-8	2
9-11	3
12-14	4
15-18	5
19-20	6

- (d) Where the number of overs of the team batting second is further reduced, the aim shall be to maintain the fielding restrictions for the same proportion of the second innings as in the first innings.
- (e) In the event of an infringement of these restrictions, the striker's end umpire shall call and signal 'No Ball.'

Fitness of Ground

WG8. It is solely for the umpires together to decide whether either conditions of ground, weather or light, or exceptional circumstances, mean that it would be dangerous or unreasonable for play to take place.

WG9. Covers shall be used to cover the pitch before the match whenever weather conditions make it appropriate. Once play has started and is interrupted by rain, covers shall be used. The club staging the game shall ensure that the pitch is covered as quickly as possible when required.

Result

WG10. Where both teams have the same number of overs available:

- the team that scores the greater number of runs shall be the winner;
- if the scores are equal at the end of a match, the match shall be a tie.

WG11. Where the number of overs in the innings of either team has to be revised due to suspension of play after the start of the match:

- a revised target score shall be set for the number of overs that the team batting second will have the opportunity of facing, using the current Duckworth/Lewis/Stern method;
- the team batting second shall be the winner if it achieves the target score;
- if the team batting second fails to reach target by 1 run, the result shall be a tie;
- if the team batting second fails to reach the target by more than one run, the team batting first shall be the winner;

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- (v) if play is terminated before the team batting second has had the opportunity to bat for its revised allocation of overs, the result shall be determined on the basis of the target score for the number of overs actually faced.

PLAYING REGULATIONS

Definition

WG12. A Match is:

- (a) the original scheduled fixture, or
(b) the rearrangement of any fixture that has been postponed for any reason.

Hours of play

WG13. Play may start at any time agreed by both teams. Where both teams cannot agree to start a match at a particular time, the default starting time shall be 10:00am on a Sunday morning.

Duration of innings

WG14. All matches shall be of one innings a side. The maximum duration of each innings shall be 20 overs.

WG15. For a valid result, each team shall bowl at least 5 overs unless either or both teams are bowled out or the team batting second scores enough runs to win in fewer overs.

Interrupted matches

WG16. First innings - The number of overs available to each side shall be reduced by one for each full eight minutes of playing time lost after the agreed starting time.

WG17. Second innings - From the end of the first innings, a further deduction of one over shall be made for each full four minutes of playing time lost.

WG18. The number of overs shall not be reduced below 5 overs per side. If this number are not bowled in the second innings, and a result is not otherwise obtained, a second match shall be arranged.

(WH) REGULATIONS APPLYING TO WOMEN'S SENIOR LEAGUE 1

Bowling restrictions

WH1. No bowler may bowl more than 3 overs. If a bowler breaks down during an over, the over shall be completed by another bowler and the fractional overs shall count against each bowler's allowance.

WH2. In a delayed or interrupted match where the overs are reduced for both teams, or for the team bowling second, no bowler may bowl more than one sixth of the recalculated number of overs (unless the bowler had already done so before the interruption).

WH3. Where the total number of overs is not divisible by 6, one additional over shall be allowed to the maximum number per bowler as necessary to make up the balance.

PLAYING REGULATIONS

Definition

WH4. A Match is:

- (a) the original scheduled fixture, or
- (b) the rearrangement of any fixture that has been postponed for any reason.

Hours of Play

WH5. Matches may start at any time agreed by both teams. Where both teams cannot agree to start a match at a particular time, the default starting time shall be 6:00pm on a Monday evening.

Duration of Innings

WH6. All matches shall be of one innings a side. Unless adjusted by the teams in accordance with WH8 below, the maximum duration of each innings shall be 20 overs.

WH7. For a valid result, each team shall bowl at least 5 overs in a match, unless either or both teams are bowled out or the team batting second scores enough runs to win in fewer overs.

WH8. Teams may agree in advance to reduce the maximum duration of each innings to 15 overs. In addition, where the start of a match is delayed by ground or weather conditions, the number of overs available to each side shall be reduced by one for each full eight minutes of playing time lost after the agreed starting time. The number of overs shall not be reduced below that specified in WH7.

WH9. An original scheduled Match in which no valid result is obtained shall be abandoned and rearranged.

Rearrangements

WH10. The clubs concerned shall rearrange any originally scheduled Match postponed or abandoned up to 31st August for any date within 22 days. They may agree not to rearrange any such match postponed or abandoned after 31st August.

WH11. The captain of the home team shall, within seven days of the date of postponement or abandonment, inform the League Secretary, in writing, of the rearrangement (or, if after 31st August, the agreement not to rearrange), copying the letter to the captain of the visiting team.

WH12. If the League Secretary has not been so informed of the rearrangement (or, where applicable, the agreement not to rearrange), she shall set a date, which shall be within the period prescribed by WH10 above and shall inform the captains of both teams of the rearrangement.

Wides and no-balls

WH13. In Senior League Section One wides and no balls shall both be a one run penalty. The first two wides or no balls per over, shall be re-bowled. However, thereafter, they shall count as a ball, and the batting team will just be awarded with the extra run.

Additionally, the ball after all wides and no balls will be a Free Hit.

Mandatory Retirement

WH14. In Senior League Section One any batter whose score reaches or passes 30 shall retire immediately and may return only on the dismissal or retirement (under this Regulation or because of illness, injury or any other unavoidable cause) of the last batter.

Fielding Restrictions

WH15. There are no fielding restrictions.

(WI) REGULATIONS APPLYING TO WOMEN'S JUNIOR LEAGUES

The following are the Union's recommendations in relation to rules for all matches played in Women's Junior League Section One, and clubs are strongly encouraged to follow these recommendations. However, if clubs feel these do not suit the needs of their team involved, the Union is happy with clubs adopting rules and regulations that they feel do satisfy the team's needs. It should be remembered that Women's Junior League Section One is a developmental league and matches should be played in this spirit. If clubs cannot agree on a matchday as to what will be most beneficial for both teams, the following will be used as "the default" rules and regulations for the match.

WI1. Regulation of Play

The Women's Junior League Section One will be a pairs cricket competition. It will be up to clubs involved to agree the finer details of the pairs or other ruling they would like to adopt. This shall be decided based on the standard of both teams involved and shall apply to both teams during the match.

WI2. Balls

Any of the balls, listed below, can be used in Women's Junior League Section One. However, this needs to be communicated by both teams beforehand, and both teams are required to use the same ball, unless otherwise agreed upon:

- Quartered white/pink 5oz Cricket ball (default)
- Senior White/Pink Incrediball
- Indoor Cricket ball
- Taped up tennis ball
- Kwik Cricket ball
- Tennis ball

WI3. Team Size

Teams shall comprise of anywhere between 8 and 12 players. This should be communicated beforehand between captains and/or coaches, so both teams can field the same number of players.

In such circumstances where pairs cricket is not being played, and there are less than 11 players, the team's innings shall end when one of the two batters involved in the last batting pair is dismissed.

WI4. Number of Overs per Bowler

In games where pairs cricket is not being played, bowlers will be allowed to bowl a maximum of 3 overs.

WI5. Wides and no-balls

Wides and no balls shall both be a one run penalty. The first two wides or no balls per over, shall be re-bowled. However, thereafter, they shall count as a ball, and the batting team will just be awarded with the extra run.

Additionally, the ball after all wides and no balls will be a Free Hit.

W16. Fielding Restrictions

No Fielding restrictions will be enforced in the Women's Junior One League. However, Umpires and coaches are asked to use their discretion with regards to fielding restrictions, as this league is a development league and should be seen as an opportunity for players to learn about the laws without being penalised for making mistakes. We would encourage all teams not to adopt the tactic of using more than four boundary riders.

W17. Mandatory Retirement

In the instances where pairs cricket is not being played, any batter whose score reaches or passes 30 shall retire immediately and may return only on the dismissal or retirement (under this Regulation or because of illness, injury or any other unavoidable cause) of the last batter.

W18. Pitch

Matches are permitted to take place on grass or synthetic surfaces including hockey pitches. For instance, if the match is to take place on a hockey pitch, we would advise to use $\frac{3}{4}$ of the pitch, setting the cricket pitch (area between the wickets) in the middle third which is being used and using the pitch markings as the boundary.

The pitch length shall be dependent on the ball used. Below are the relevant recommendations with each ball used:

- 19.5 Yards = Quartered white/pink 5 oz Cricket ball
- 17 Yards = Senior White/Pink Incrediball
- 17 Yards = Indoor Cricket ball
- 15 Yards = Tennis ball or other softer ball

W19. Boundaries

There are no boundary restrictions, as we understand different surfaces will be used throughout the league. However, we would encourage boundaries to be no smaller than 35 yards and no bigger than 50 yards (measured from the middle stump of each end).

W10. Umpires

Each team shall supply its own umpire, who should if possible be the team coach, and the umpires may offer verbal support and advice to the players during the match.

TWENTY20 COMPETITIONS

PLAYING CONDITIONS

RULES AND BYELAWS

1. Sections A and B of Competition Rules and all relevant Byelaws shall apply, except as provided below.

ELIGIBILITY

2. The Domestic Cricket Directorate shall decide the clubs that play in the Cup, Trophy, Bowl, and Plate.
3. The competitions shall be open to all players registered for those clubs.

DURATION OF MATCHES

4. Matches shall consist of one innings per side, each innings being limited to a maximum of 20 overs.

HOURS OF PLAY AND INTERVALS

All Matches

5. There shall be a 15-minute interval between innings. Where the first innings is completed before the scheduled finishing time, the interval shall take place immediately and the second innings shall start correspondingly earlier.
6. No drinks intervals shall be permitted.

All Matches excluding Finals

7. The scheduled time for a 20-over innings is 1 hour 20 minutes. Where matches are reduced, the scheduled time for an innings is based on 4 minutes per over. Evening matches must start no later than **6.00 pm**.
8. Times may be brought forward if both clubs agree, in which event the Umpires' Appointments Secretary must be informed at least 24 hours in advance.

Finals only

9. Each Final shall start at a time specified by the Competition Secretary or their nominee. In the event of delays or interruptions to the Final, the Competition Secretary, or their nominee, may vary the duration of innings and/or specify a reserve date.

LENGTH OF INNINGS

Uninterrupted Matches (ie matches that are neither delayed nor interrupted)

10. Each team shall bat for 20 overs unless all out earlier.
11. If the team fielding first fails to bowl the required number of overs by the scheduled time for the end of the innings, play shall continue until the required

number of overs has been bowled, or the innings is complete, and Byelaw (o) shall apply.

12. If the team batting first is dismissed in less than 20 overs, the team batting second shall be entitled to bat for 20 overs.
13. If the team fielding second fails to bowl the required number of overs by the scheduled time for the end of the innings, play shall continue until the required number of overs has been bowled, or a result has been achieved, and Byelaw (o) shall apply.

Delay or interruption to the innings of the team batting first

14. Where the delay or interruption affects the innings of the team batting first, the number of overs available to each side shall be reduced by one for each full eight minutes of playing time lost, down to a minimum of 5 overs per side.
15. Where the delay or interruption affects the innings of the team batting second, the number of overs available to it shall be reduced by one for each full four minutes of playing time lost, down to a minimum of 5 overs.
16. When overs are reduced umpires shall calculate a new scheduled time for the end of the innings at a rate of 4 minutes per over.
17. If the fielding team fails to bowl the revised number of overs by the scheduled time for the end of the innings, play shall continue until the required number of overs has been bowled, or the innings is completed, and Byelaw (o) shall apply.
18. Over-rate penalties (Byelaw (o)) shall apply only to innings of 10 or more overs' duration.

THE BALL

19. In all competitions white cricket balls shall be used (see Byelaw (f)).
20. A new ball shall be provided for each innings.
21. The participating clubs shall make available an adequate supply of spare cricket balls of the appropriate type.

THE RESULT

Group Stage

22. Where both teams had the opportunity of batting for the same number of overs:
 - (a) the team scoring the greater number of runs shall be the winner;
 - (b) if the scores are tied the result shall be a tie.
23. Where the number of overs in the innings of either team has to be revised due to suspension of play after the start of the match, a revised target score shall be set for the number of overs that the team batting second will have the opportunity of facing using the Duckworth/Lewis/Stern method (see Byelaw (r)).

And:

 - (a) the team batting second shall be the winner if it achieves the target score;
 - (b) if the team batting second fails to reach the target by more than one run, the team batting first shall be the winner; or

- (c) if the team batting second fails to reach target by 1 run, the result shall be a tie.
- 24. Where both teams do not have the opportunity of batting for 5 overs, the match shall be deemed a 'No Result'.

All Other Matches

- 25. Where both teams had the opportunity of batting for the same number of overs the team scoring the greater number of runs shall be the winner.
Where the scores are tied, the result shall be determined as follows:
 - (a) where official umpires have been appointed and ground and weather conditions permit, by the playing of Super Overs in accordance with Byelaw (w);
 - (b) where official umpires have not been appointed, or ground or weather conditions do not permit Super Overs, on the basis of fewer wickets lost in the main match;
 - (c) in matches other than a final, where (b) applies and each team has lost the same number of wickets, the match shall be played on the reserve date, the visiting team having choice of ground;
 - (d) If a final is tied and Super Overs cannot be played, the teams shall share the trophy.
- 26. Where the number of overs in the innings of either team has to be revised due to suspension of play after the start of the match, a revised target score shall be set for the number of overs that the team batting second will have the opportunity of facing, using the current Duckworth/Lewis/Stern method (See Byelaw (r)).
And:
 - (a) the team batting second shall be the winner if it achieves the target score;
 - (b) if the team batting second fails to reach the target by more than one run, the team batting first shall be the winner;
 - (c) If the team batting second fails to reach target by 1 run, the result shall be decided by Super Overs in accordance with Byelaw (w);
 - (d) where the latter applies, and it is not possible to play Super Overs, the result shall be decided by a bowl-out.
- 27. Where both teams do not have the opportunity of batting for 5 overs, the match shall be replayed on the reserve date. Where both teams do not have the opportunity of batting for 5 overs on the reserve date, the result shall be decided by a bowl-out.

Bowl-Outs

- 28. Arrangements:
 - (a) five players from each side shall each bowl one over-arm delivery at an unguarded wicket;
 - (b) the first bowler from Team A shall bowl one delivery then the first bowler from Team B shall bowl one delivery, then the second bowler from Team A shall bowl one delivery, and so on;

- (c) the side that bowls down the wicket the greater number of times shall be the winner;
- (d) where the scores are equal, the same bowlers, bowling in the same order, shall each bowl one ball alternately to achieve a result on a 'sudden death' basis;
- (e) each side shall use their own used ball; if the ball becomes wet, it may be changed, subject to the Umpires' approval;
- (f) a No Ball shall count as a player's delivery but shall not count towards the score.

POWERPLAYS

- 29 (a) For the first 6 overs of each innings, there shall be a minimum of 7 fielders (plus, the bowler and wicket-keeper) within the fielding 'circle,' as defined in Byelaw (h), at the instant of delivery.
- (b) For the remainder of each innings, there shall be a minimum of 4 fielders (plus the bowler and wicketkeeper) within the fielding 'circle' at the instant of delivery.
- (c) Where the number of overs for both teams is reduced, the number of overs specified at (a) above shall be reduced proportionately in a ratio of 6:20 in accordance with the table below.

Total overs in innings	No. of overs for which restrictions apply
5 – 8	2
9 – 11	3
12 – 14	4
15 – 18	5
19 – 20	6

- (d) Where the number of overs of the team batting second is further reduced, the aim shall be to maintain the fielding restrictions for the same proportion of the second innings as in the first innings.
- (e) In the event of an infringement of these restrictions, the striker's end umpire shall call and signal 'No Ball.'

NUMBER OF OVERS PER BOWLER

30. No bowler shall bowl more than 4 overs. In a match where the overs are reduced, no bowler shall bowl more than one-fifth of the total overs allowed (unless this number has been exceeded before the reduction), except that, where the total number of overs is not divisible by five, an additional over shall be allowed to the minimum number of bowlers necessary to make up the balance.
31. Where an interruption occurs mid-over, and on resumption the bowler has exceeded the new maximum allocation, they shall be allowed to finish the uncompleted over.

LAW 40 – TIMED OUT

32. Law 40 shall apply, except that the incoming batter shall be in position to take guard, or for their partner to be ready to receive the next ball, within 1 minute 30 seconds of the fall of the previous wicket. The incoming batter is expected to be ready to make their way to the wicket immediately a wicket falls, or a batter retires.

POINTS – GROUP MATCHES

33. Win – 4 points, Tie – 2 points, No Result – 2 points, Loss – 0 points
34. Where teams finish equal on points at the end of the Group stage placings will be determined by:
- (a) the highest net run rate in Group matches;
 - (b) where teams are still equal, the team that took the greatest number of wickets per 100 balls bowled (inclusive of 'No Balls' and 'Wides') in Group matches;
 - (c) where teams are still equal, it shall be decided by a bowl-out.
35. Where a competition has two groups, the winners of each group will host the runners-up of the other group in the Semi-Finals. Where a competition has only one group, the top two teams will meet in the Final.

RUN RATE

36. A team's **run rate** shall be the average number of runs per over scored by the team (including any penalties awarded under Byelaw (o)).
37. Where a team is all out, its run rate shall be based on the maximum total number of overs available to it when its innings ended, and not on the actual length of its innings.
38. A team's **net run rate** shall be the average number of runs per over scored by that team, less the average number of runs per over scored by its opponents (including any penalties awarded under Byelaw (o)).

FOREFITED MATCHES

39. Any team failing to fulfil a fixture, except for a reason beyond its control, shall be deemed to have lost the match. In addition, it shall be fined and be liable for any expenses necessarily incurred by its opponents prior to their being notified that the fixture would not be fulfilled.
40. For each competition, or part thereof, to which net run rate applies, the Directorate shall determine the adjustment to be made to the aggregate runs and overs of the defaulting team and its opponents for the purposes of calculating net run rate.

MIDWEEK LEAGUE RULES

The competition shall be governed by the Competition Rules (E) and (F). In addition:

1. The competition shall be open to players who are eligible to play in the Lindsay (Minor) Cup.
2. The Domestic Cricket Directorate shall appoint a Competition Secretary to run the competition on its behalf.
3. Fixtures published at the start of the season may be altered only in exceptional circumstances and with the approval of the Competition Secretary.
4. Matches shall be played on one evening. The visiting team shall bat first. Each innings shall be limited to 20 overs. No bowler may bowl more than 4 overs. When a batter's score reaches or passes 30, they shall retire.
5. Umpires shall be provided by the batting team.
6. There shall be no fielding restrictions.
7. In the event of the League being played in more than one Section there shall be knock-out play-offs amongst the highest placed teams in each Section to determine an overall winner. The dates and format of the play-offs shall be determined by the NCU, who will provide neutral umpires if at all possible.
8. In the play-off matches there shall be a toss for the right to bat or field first.
9. The Competition Secretary shall determine the timeframe and format for the rearrangement of play-off matches initially postponed or abandoned.

BYELAWS

The following Byelaws shall apply, all Laws or parts of Laws inconsistent with the Byelaws being suspended:

(a) Start of Match

The umpires shall ring a bell (where one is available) or otherwise advise both teams 5 minutes before the time arranged for the match to start and 5 minutes before the re-start after any interval or stoppage where the players leave the field.

(b) Declarations

Law 15 shall not apply: no innings may be declared closed.

(c) Tea Interval

The tea interval shall not exceed 30 minutes and should, preferably, be taken between innings. However, if the innings of the team batting first is completed more than 60 minutes prior to the latest finishing time for the innings as prescribed in (o) below, a 10-minute break will occur, after which the team batting second will start its innings and the interval will be taken at the latest finishing time for the first innings. Where the layout of the ground makes a 30-minute interval impracticable, an extension to 40 minutes may be agreed by the captains and umpires prior to the toss.

(d) Boundary Markings

A continuous rope, or white line with flexible plastic flags if a rope is not available, shall mark the boundary on all grounds. Runs awarded for boundaries shall be standardised as 4 runs and 6 runs respectively.

It is recommended that a safety margin of at least three yards (2.74 m) beyond the boundary should be maintained. This safety zone should be clear of any hard or injurious material/object (for example seating, sight screens, advertising boards, fencing etc) or any significant change of slope or ground condition that could cause a player injury whilst they are fielding near to or beyond the boundary.

(e) Scoreboard

The number of completed overs and/or the number remaining to be bowled shall be shown on the scoreboard and updated at the end of each over. In matches in the Challenge Cup, Junior Cup, Senior League, Twenty20 Cup, Trophy, Bowl and Plate, the number of overs bowled by each bowler shall be displayed clearly and kept up to date.

(f) Balls

(1) White Dukes balls shall be used in club competitions. The minimum standard to be used is as follows:

Premier League, Challenge Cup and T20 Cup – **County International**

Senior Leagues 1 & below, Junior League 1, Junior Cup and T20 Trophy, Bowl and

Plate – **Match**

Junior Leagues 2 to 6, Intermediate Cup and Minor (Lindsay) Cup - **Club Match 5½oz**

Junior Leagues 7 and below, Minor Qualifying Cup, Development Cup and open U17 and U15 competitions – **Century**

Women’s competitions and girls’ U17 and U15 competitions - **Club Match 5oz**

Youth competitions up to and including U13 - **Tiger 142 gm (4½oz)**

- (2) Each team shall provide three spare balls of the above required standard to the umpires at the toss for use during the match.

(g) Covers

Where covers are available, the pitch shall be completely covered during a match when the umpires so direct. In addition, where possible the bowlers’ run-ups and the pitches either side of the match pitch shall also be covered.

(h) Fielding Circles

For all matches in the Challenge, Junior and Intermediate Cups, the Senior League, Sections 1 - 3 of the Junior League, Women’s Challenge Cup and Women’s Premier League, two semi-circles shall be marked on the field of play. The semi-circles shall have as their centre the middle stump at either end of the pitch. The radius of each of the semi-circles shall be 30 yards (25 yards in women’s matches). The semi-circles shall be linked by two parallel straight lines marked on the field. The areas shall be marked by continuous painted white lines or ‘dots’ at 5-yard intervals, each ‘dot’ to be covered by a white plastic or rubber (but not metal) disc measuring 7 inches in diameter. These discs shall not be fixed to the ground by means of a nail/pin or any other dangerous sharp object.

At the instant of delivery, a minimum of four fielders in matches in the Challenge, Junior and Intermediate Cups, the Senior League and Sections 1 – 3 of the Junior League, or five fielders in the Women’s Challenge Cup and Women’s Premier League, (plus the bowler and wicketkeeper) shall be within this circle.

In the event of an infringement, the striker’s end umpire shall call and signal ‘No ball’.

(i) Powerplays

In the Challenge Cup, Premier League and Section 1 of the Senior League, the following fielding restrictions shall apply:

At the instant of delivery:

- (a) Powerplay 1 - no more than two fielders shall be permitted outside the fielding restriction area defined in (h) above. In an innings of 50 overs, these are overs 1 to 10 inclusive.
- (b) Powerplay 2 - no more than four fielders shall be permitted outside this area. In an innings of 50 overs, these are overs 11 to 40 inclusive.
- (c) Powerplay 3 - no more than five fielders shall be permitted outside this area. In an innings of 50 overs, these are overs 41 to 50 inclusive. Where the number of overs of either innings is reduced, the number of overs within each phase of the innings shall be reduced in accordance with the table below.

Innings Duration	PP 1	PP 2	PP 3
5	1	3	1
6	1	3	2
7	2	3	2
8	2	4	2
9	2	5	2
10	2	6	2
11	2	7	2
12	3	7	2
13	3	8	2
14	3	8	3
15	3	9	3
16	3	10	3
17	4	10	3
18	4	11	3
19	4	11	4
20	4	12	4
21	4	13	4
22	5	13	4
23	5	14	4
24	5	14	5
25	5	15	5
26	5	16	5
27	6	16	5
Allowed Outside Circle	2	4	5

Innings Duration	PP 1	PP 2	PP 3
28	6	17	5
29	6	17	6
30	6	18	6
31	6	19	6
32	7	19	6
33	7	20	6
34	7	20	7
35	7	21	7
36	7	22	7
37	8	22	7
38	8	23	7
39	8	23	8
40	8	24	8
41	8	25	8
42	9	25	8
43	9	26	8
44	9	26	9
45	9	27	9
46	9	28	9
47	10	28	9
48	10	29	9
49	10	29	10
50	10	30	10
Allowed Outside Circle	2	4	5

If play is interrupted during an innings and the above table applies, the Powerplay take immediate effect. For the avoidance of doubt this applies even if the interruption has occurred in mid-over.

Illustrations

A 50-over innings is interrupted after 8.3 overs and reduced to 32 overs. The new phases are 7+19+6. Therefore, the middle phase fielding restrictions take immediate effect when play resumes and last for a further 17.3 overs. The final phase begins after 26 overs have been bowled.

A 40-over innings is interrupted after 18.5 overs and reduced to 22 overs. The new phases are 5+13+4. When play resumes, the final phase fielding restrictions apply for the remaining 3.1 overs.

At the start of the middle and final phases of an innings, the umpire shall signal this to the scorers by rotating their arm in a large circle. The scoreboard shall indicate the current Powerplay in progress. In the event of an infringement of any of the above fielding restrictions, the striker's end umpire shall call and signal "No ball".

(j) On Side Fielders

At the instant of delivery there shall not be more than five fielders on the on side. In the event of an infringement, the striker's end umpire shall call and signal 'No ball'.

(k) Free Hit

In the Challenge Cup, Premier League and Section 1 of the Senior League, the Twenty20 Cup and Trophy, Women's Challenge Cup and Women's Premier League, in addition to the penalty prescribed by Law 21, the delivery following a No ball shall be a free hit for whichever batter is facing it.

If this delivery is not a legitimate delivery (i.e., it is any kind of No ball or a Wide ball), then the next delivery shall become a free hit for whichever batter is facing it.

Off any free hit delivery, the striker can be dismissed only under the circumstances that apply for a No ball (even where the free hit delivery is called 'Wide ball'). Field changes are not permitted for free hit deliveries unless there is a change of striker (where they are permitted because of a change of striker, any other fielding restrictions in place shall continue to apply). However, in all circumstances, any fielder within 15 yards of the striker may retreat to a position on the same line no more than 15 yards from the striker.

Where field changes that are not permitted take place, either umpire shall call and signal 'Dead ball'.

The umpires shall signal a free hit (after the normal No ball signal) by extending one arm straight upwards and moving it in a circular motion.

(l) Bowler Incapacitated or Suspended During an Over

Where a bowler is incapacitated or suspended during an over and another bowler completes the over in accordance with Law 17.8, each part of the over shall count as a full over only in so far as each bowler's limit is concerned.

(m) Under-arm Bowling

Under-arm bowling is not permitted.

(n) Wides

Umpires shall apply a very strict and consistent interpretation of Law 22 in judging leg-side wides. As a guideline to the umpires for the calling of wides on the offside, the crease markings detailed in Appendix 1 shall be marked in white at each end of the

pitch. The guideline markings for wides- may be marked in a colour other than white where this would assist their visibility.

Players or coaches umpiring matches involving teams from the Junior League, Women's Section 1 and Women's Junior League should apply a somewhat less strict interpretation, remembering that the purpose of the Byelaw is to prevent deliberate negative bowling rather than to over-penalise young or inexperienced bowlers for lack of control.

(o) Time of Innings

In the Senior League, Challenge Cup, the Twenty20 Cup, Trophy, Bowl and Plate, Junior Cup, Junior League Section 1, Women's Challenge Cup and Women's Premier League, fixtures to which umpires have been appointed, each team shall bowl its overs at a rate no less than 15 overs per hour (inclusive of one drinks interval in matches where one is due to be taken).

At the start of each innings, and on the resumption of play after any stoppage, the umpires shall advise the fielding captain of the latest finishing time for the innings. The fielding side must be in a position to bowl the first ball of the last over by this time. Where overs have been lost after the start of the innings, one over's grace shall be allowed, and the fielding side must be in a position to bowl the first ball of the penultimate over by the revised latest finishing time. If a team fails to do so, the umpires shall award the batting team 6 penalty runs (3 penalty runs in the women's competitions) for each over not started by then. The award shall be made immediately after the ball first becomes dead following the latest finishing time. Play shall continue until the normal end of the innings.

In the second innings, if the penalty runs awarded to the side batting second take its score past its victory target, the match shall be over.

If an innings ends before the latest finishing time, no time penalties shall apply to it. The umpires shall have discretion to allow extra time for events beyond the control of the fielding side (eg injuries, lost balls, extra authorised drinks intervals).

The decision of the umpires on all matters relating to this Byelaw shall be final.

(p) Non-Turf Pitches

Non-turf pitches on appropriate graded/registered grounds may be used for the following matches:

- (1) 'Match 2' fixtures in the Senior League and Junior League Section 1;
- (2) Matches rearranged following postponement due to weather in the Challenge, Junior and Intermediate Cups;
- (3) Any match in Junior League Section 2 and below, the Lindsay (Minor) Cup, Minor Qualifying Cup and Development Cup, and all women's matches; and
- (4) Any match in the Twenty20 Cup, Trophy and Bowl.

Teams should travel prepared to play on non-turf pitches.

(q) Penalty Runs and Disciplinary Sanctions

In the absence of at least one officially appointed umpire, penalty runs shall be awarded only in respect of Law 28 (illegal fielding, including the ball striking a fielder's helmet on the ground) and none of the disciplinary sanctions provided for in Law 42 shall be applied.

(r) Duckworth/Lewis/Stern

In any competition in which the Duckworth/Lewis/Stern method is to be used to determine the result of matches curtailed by adverse weather, the following provisions shall apply:

- (1) the home team shall ensure that there is available at the ground a computer loaded with the current DLS software, a compatible and operational printer with a sufficient supply of paper, and a proficient operator and shall ensure before the start of the match that the hardware and software are operating correctly by printing a test page and presenting to the umpires;
- (2) before the scheduled start of the second innings, and at any subsequent interruption that results in overs being lost, the operator shall produce an up-to-date par score printout, and shall provide copies to each captain, the umpires and the scorers;
- (3) at each interruption of play in the second innings where overs are lost, the umpires shall inform the operator of the number of overs lost, allowing sufficient time before play is due to resume for the production and distribution of the par score printouts (the time allowed for this purpose shall not exceed 15 minutes); and
- (4) where overs have been lost in either innings, and the home club fails to provide the par score printouts as required above, the umpires shall award the match to the visiting team;

(s) Scorers

- (1.1) In each match in the Premier League and Section 1 of the Senior League, and in the Challenge Cup, when the teams are nominated to the umpires, each captain shall also designate a suitably competent and experienced person (who shall not be one of the nominated players or the twelfth player) as the team's scorer. The designated scorer shall officiate throughout the match. In the event of illness or sudden emergency, or where the match is continued on another day, the designated scorer may be changed, subject to the approval of the umpires. If this Byelaw is breached, the umpires shall inform the Union. The offending club(s) shall be fined £25 for the first occurrence in any season, £50 for the second occurrence and £75 for every subsequent occurrence.
- (1.2) In each match in Section 2 of the Senior League, the Women's Challenge Cup and the Women's Premier League when the teams are nominated to the umpires, each captain shall also confirm that at all times a suitably competent and experienced person will act as the team's scorer throughout the match. The designated scorer may be changed throughout the match. If this Byelaw is

breached, the umpires shall inform the Union. The offending club(s) shall be fined £25 for the first occurrence in any season, £50 for the second occurrence and £75 for every subsequent occurrence.

- (2) Wherever possible, the scorers shall agree that one will score the match live on NV Play and the other will record it on paper (scorebook or scoresheets). Where this is not possible, and both scorers have to score electronically, one shall also maintain a sufficiently detailed written ball-by-ball record to enable the full scorecard to be produced in the event of an IT system failure. All paper scoring records shall be retained until after the end of the season to facilitate scrutiny by the Union if any issue regarding the match arises.

(t) Bats

Only Type A, B or C bats may be used in adult competitions.

(u) Short-pitched Bowling

Law 41.6 shall apply to all competitions. In addition, in the specified competitions only:

- (1) Regardless of how wide of the striker a delivery is, there shall in any over be:
- In the Premier League, Section 1 of the Senior League and the Challenge Cup, no more than two deliveries, or
 - In the Twenty20 Cup and Trophy, no more than one delivery that, after pitching, passes, or would have passed clearly over shoulder height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease.
- (2) The umpire shall make it clear to the bowler (and any bowler called upon to complete an over) and the batters at the wicket when a delivery within the above limits has been bowled. It is unfair for the relevant limit to be exceeded and the umpire shall call and signal 'No ball' on each such occasion and shall carry out the other parts of the procedures in Law 41.6.3 (final warning) where the limit has been exceeded for the first time or 41.6.4 (suspension from bowling) where it has been exceeded for a second time.
- (3) In addition, a ball passing above head height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease that prevents the striker from being able to hit it with the bat by means of a normal cricket stroke and is not being called 'No ball' under the above provisions, shall be called and signalled 'Wide ball'. Any such delivery shall count as one of the allowable short-pitched deliveries in that over.

(v) Player or Coach Umpires

Players or coaches acting as umpire in the absence of officially appointed umpires shall be dressed in a manner that distinguishes them clearly from the players on the field.

(w) Super Overs

Where the regulations for any competition require the use of one or more Super Overs, the following procedure shall apply:

- (1) Subject to weather conditions, the Super Over shall take place at a time to be determined by the umpires. In normal circumstances it shall start 10 minutes after the end of the main match.
- (2) The Super Over shall take place on the pitch allocated for the main match unless otherwise determined by the umpires in consultation with the ground authority.
- (3) The umpires shall stand at the same ends as at the end of the main match.
- (4) In both innings of the Super Over, the fielding side shall choose from which end to bowl.
- (5) Only players nominated for the main match may participate in the Super Over. Should any player (including the batters and bowler) be unable to continue to participate in the Super Over due to injury, illness or other wholly acceptable reason, the relevant Laws relating to replacement players and substitutes shall apply.
- (6) Any penalty time being served in the main match shall be carried forward to the Super Over.
- (7) Each team's Super Over shall be played with the same fielding restrictions as applied to the final over of the main match.
- (8) The team batting second in the main match shall bat first in the Super Over.
- (9) The same ball (or a ball of a similar age if the original ball is out of shape or lost) as used at the end of the team's innings in the main match shall be used for the Super Over.
- (10) The loss of two wickets in the Super Over ends the team's one-over innings.
- (11) The team with the greater score after the Super Over shall win the match.
- (12) If both teams have the same score at the end of the Super Over, and providing the umpires are satisfied that conditions allow, then further Super Overs shall be played until a winner has been determined.
- (13) In normal circumstances subsequent Super Overs shall start 5 minutes after the previous Super Over ends.
- (14) The team batting first in successive Super Overs shall alternate.
- (15) All other playing conditions shall be the same as for the first Super Over.

(x) Pitch Preparation

Home clubs are required to ensure, to the best of their ability, that pitches are prepared to a standard appropriate to the level of cricket to be played on them and that the pitch and its surrounds are adequately protected from rain prior to the match and during any breaks in play.

Where the umpires are of the opinion that a club has failed adequately to meet either or both of these requirements, they shall report the matter to the Union. If the Competitions Committee, having considered the umpires' report and any representations from the clubs involved in the match, deems the home club to have failed to comply with this obligation it shall impose one or more of the following penalties:

- i. award of the match to the visiting team if the latter did not win it (in which event the home club shall, for net run rate purposes (see Rule F7), be deemed not to have fulfilled the fixture);
- ii. deduction of League points;
- iii. a fine of up to £100.

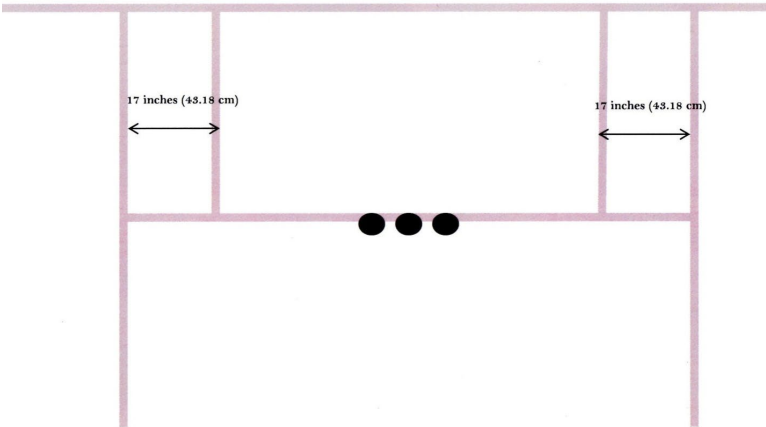
(y) Clothing

Coloured clothing and pads shall be worn in all competitions.

(z) Non-striker leaving their ground early

Law 38.3, relating to the running out of the non-striker by the bowler before delivering the ball, shall apply only where officially appointed umpires are standing. Where this is not the case, no such appeal shall be considered, and dead ball shall be called and signalled as soon as possible after the non-striker's wicket has been broken.

APPENDIX



DISCIPLINARY BYELAWS

1. JURISDICTION OF NORTHERN CRICKET UNION

These Byelaws replace all previous versions of the Disciplinary Byelaws and subsume the internal disciplinary responsibilities set out in the Cricket Ireland Safeguarding Pack. They apply to all forms of cricket under the auspices of the Union in respect of the following disciplinary matters:

- 1.1 Alleged commission of the Disciplinary Offences set out in Byelaw 3 below which occur on or off the field in connection with any fixtures or competitions under the auspices of the Union;
- 1.2 Alleged abusive behaviour towards children by Managers, Coaches, Selectors, Parents, Carers, or Players, as defined in the Cricket Ireland Safeguarding Pack.

2. CRICKET IRELAND

Any disciplinary penalty in relation to club cricket imposed by Cricket Ireland shall automatically apply to matches organised by Cricket Ireland. There shall be no right of appeal against such a penalty other than to Cricket Ireland.

Cricket Ireland will be responsible for adjudication upon any of the following types of disciplinary matters:

- a) Any allegation that may arise regarding corruption in connection with all cricket played under the auspices of Cricket Ireland and the Union in any context.
- b) Any allegation that may arise regarding allegations of breach of the Byelaws in relation to taking of or supplying drugs, where such allegations are in breach of the ICC Anti-Drug Doping Policy and the statement "Drugs Abuse in Sport" published by Sport NI, as they may exist from time to time, and parties against whom such allegations are made are under the auspices of Cricket Ireland or the Union.

3. DISCIPLINARY OFFENCES

(a) Players and Team Officials

- 3.1 Players and team officials shall conduct themselves in accordance with the Spirit of Cricket as well as within the Laws of Cricket and team captains are responsible for ensuring that these Byelaws, the Spirit of Cricket, and the Laws of Cricket are adhered to.

3.2 Players and team officials shall not engage in conduct which brings them or the game of cricket into disrepute.

3.3 Where the facts of, or the gravity or seriousness of, the alleged incident are not adequately or clearly covered by Level 1 - 4 Offences, the complainant may allege an offence under Byelaw 3.1 or 3.2 above. The penalty for such an offence shall range from written reprimand to a suspension of up to ten matches, or in the case of particularly serious offences, a suspension ranging from three months to a lifetime ban.

3.4 Offences

The four levels of offence that may be committed by a player or team official are set out below, together with the range of penalties that may be imposed in respect of any breach.

3.4.1 Level 1 Offences

The penalty for a Level 1 offence shall be a written reprimand and/or a one-match suspension.

- 1.1 Wilfully mistreating any part of the cricket ground, equipment or implements used in the match.
- 1.2 Showing dissent at an Umpire's decision by word or action.
- 1.3 Using language that, in the circumstances, is obscene, offensive, or insulting.
- 1.4 Making an obscene gesture.
- 1.5 Appealing excessively.
- 1.6 Advancing towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing.
- 1.7 Any other misconduct, the nature of which is, in the opinion of the umpire, equivalent to a Level 1 offence.
- 1.8 Inappropriate comment in relation to an incident occurring in a match or criticism of any player, match official or team participating in a match, irrespective of when such criticism or inappropriate comment is made. This shall include criticism or comments made on any of the social media.

3.4.2 Level 2 Offences

The penalty for a Level 2 offence is a suspension for two or three matches, or a comparable period of time.

- 2.1 Showing serious dissent at an Umpire's decision by word or action.
- 2.2 Making inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with another player.
- 2.3 Throwing the ball at a player, umpire or another person in an inappropriate and dangerous manner.
- 2.4 Using language or gesture to another player, umpire, team official or spectator that, in the circumstances, is obscene or of a seriously insulting nature.
- 2.5 Any other misconduct, the nature of which is, in the opinion of the umpire, equivalent to a Level 2 offence.

- 2.6 Any attempt by a captain to manipulate the result of a match for reasons of league position, net run rate, bonus points or otherwise.
- 2.7 Commission of two Level 1 offences within 12 months (including offences arising from separate incidents in the same match).

3.4.3 Level 3 Offences.

The penalty for a Level 3 offence is a suspension of a minimum of four to a maximum of nine matches, or a comparable period of time up to three months.

- 3.1 Intimidating an Umpire by language or gesture.
- 3.2 Threatening to assault a player or any other person except an umpire (see Level 4.1).
- 3.3 Commission of two Level 2 offences within 12 months (including offences arising from separate incidents in the same match).

3.4.4 Level 4 Offences.

Where a Level 4 Offence has been alleged, the Chair of the Disciplinary Committee (or in their absence, the Vice Chair) shall, if they see fit, suspend the person against whom the complaint has been made from involvement in cricket pending the determination of the complaint by the Disciplinary Committee or Appeal Committee. In determining whether or not to impose any interim suspension, the Chair shall have regard to:

- The level of seriousness of the alleged offence; and
- Whether it is necessary or desirable to impose such suspension to facilitate any investigation or procedure

The penalty for a Level 4 offence is a suspension of a minimum of 10 matches or a comparable period of time from three months to a lifetime ban.

- 4.1 Threatening to assault an umpire.
- 4.2 Making inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with an umpire.
- 4.3 Physically assaulting a player or any other person.
- 4.4 Committing any other act of violence.
- 4.5 Commission of two Level 3 offences within 12 months (including offences arising from separate incidents in the same match).

(b) Child Safeguarding

- 3.5 Abusive behaviour by Managers, Coaches, Selectors, Parents or Carers and Players is defined in the Cricket Ireland Safeguarding Pack. *Such behaviour* shall constitute a disciplinary offence.



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- 3.6 If the complaint involves suspected abuse or a criminal offence, the Designated Person (or where they are unable to act, a deputy appointed by the Union) shall be consulted and, if they so determine, the matter shall be reported to the statutory authorities and removed from the jurisdiction of the Disciplinary Committee pending the outcome of any investigation and ensuing action by them. The Designated Person may, if they see fit, suspend the person against whom the complaint has been made from involvement in cricket pending the outcome of such investigation or the determination of the complaint by the Disciplinary Committee or Appeal Committee. In determining whether or not to impose any interim suspension, the Designated Person shall have regard to:
- The safety and welfare of young people;
 - The level of seriousness of the alleged offence; and
 - Whether it is necessary or desirable to impose such suspension to facilitate any investigation or procedure
- 3.7 The penalty for abusive behaviour that has not been removed from the jurisdiction of the Disciplinary Committee shall be one or more of the following:
- a written reprimand and warning as to future conduct;
 - in the case of a Player, suspension from such matches or for such a period as may be specified;
 - in the case of a Manager, Coach or Selector, suspension from that role for such a period as may be specified;
 - in the case of a Parent or Carer, suspension from attendance at matches and/or coaching sessions for such a period as may be specified.

(c) Clubs

- 3.8 The following disciplinary offences may be committed by a club:

- 8.1 Failing adequately to control its players' behaviour.
- 8.2 Failing adequately to control its supporters' behaviour.
- 8.3 Failure of the club or its members to comply with their obligations under the Cricket Ireland Child Safety Policy and Guidance.
- 8.4 Acting in a manner calculated to prejudice the good name or interests of the Union.

- 3.9 The penalty for such an offence shall be any one or more of:

- 9.1 expulsion from the Union;
- 9.2 expulsion from any cup competition;
- 9.3 deduction of league points;
- 9.4 a fine of not more than £200;
- 9.5 a written reprimand and warning as to future conduct.

(d) Union officials

3.10 The following disciplinary offences may be committed by a Union official:

- 10.1 Contravening the Union's Code of Conduct for Managers/Coaches/Volunteers in respect of teams selected to represent the Union.
- 10.2 Acting at any time in a manner calculated to prejudice the good name or interests of the Union.

3.11 The penalty for such an offence shall be:

- 11.1 a written reprimand and warning as to future conduct;
- 11.2 removal from the official position in connection with which the offence occurred, for the current season or for some other prescribed period; or
- 11.3 declaration of ineligibility for future appointment in the same, or a similar capacity.

4. DISCIPLINARY AND APPEALS COMMITTEES

4.1 The Union shall establish a Disciplinary Committee to which responsibility for disciplinary issues is allocated. It shall consist of at least five members, including a Chair and Vice- Chair.

4.2 The Union shall appoint an Appeals Committee to hear appeals against decisions of a Disciplinary Panel. It shall consist of at least five members including a Chair and Vice- Chair. No member of the Appeals Committee shall be a current member of the Union's Board.

5. DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

The person or club against whom a Complaint (as defined below) is made shall be "the Respondent".

The Complaint

(a) Complaints against Players, Union Officials or Clubs under Byelaw 3.8

5.1 The statement setting out the alleged offence ("the Complaint") shall be in writing and must be sent to a person appointed by the Union no later than seven days after the end of the match at which the alleged offence occurred. It may be sent by letter or email.

- 5.2 Where the alleged offence took place on the field of play or elsewhere within the sight and hearing of the Umpires, only the Umpires may make the Complaint. Where the alleged offence was not so witnessed by the Umpires, the Complaint may be made by a duly authorised officer of the opposing club or of the Union.

Level 1 Offence

- 5.3 If the Complaint relates only to a Level 1 Offence by a player, the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Disciplinary Committee shall deal with the matter on the basis of the documentation as follows, without a hearing:

5.3.1 A person appointed by the Union shall provide a copy of the Complaint to the player and invite a written submission from them. It shall normally be sufficient to send such Complaint to the Hon Secretary of the player's club.

5.3.2 Any such submission shall be received not more than seven days from the date that the player receives a copy of the Complaint.

5.3.3 The Disciplinary Panel, at the request of the Respondent or on its own initiative, may require the Respondent and/or the person making the Complaint to supply it, within such time as it determines, with further particulars of the incident(s) and the Respondent and/or the person making the Complaint shall comply with that direction.

5.3.4 Having received the player's written submission or any other submission requested under Byelaw 5.3.3, or if none is forthcoming, the Chair or Vice-Chair shall reach a decision on the Complaint and advise the player in writing by letter or email of their decision and of any penalty.

5.3.5 There shall be no appeal from such a decision.

b) Complaints under the Cricket Ireland Safeguarding Pack

- 5.4 The Complaint shall be in writing and must be sent to the person appointed by the Union within a reasonable time after the end of the match, coaching session or tournament at which the alleged offence occurred. It may be sent by letter or email. In determining whether the Complaint has been submitted within a reasonable time, the Disciplinary Panel shall have regard to the nature of the allegation, the circumstances in which it is alleged to have occurred and the age of any party involved.

5.5 The following shall have authority to make a Complaint:

Against a Manager, Coach or Selector – Another Manager, Coach or Selector, or a Parent or Carer, or a duly authorised officer of the opposing team or Union official.

Against a Parent or Carer – A Manager, Coach or Selector, or another Parent or Carer, or a duly authorised officer of the opposing team

Against a Player – A Manager, Coach or Selector, or the Parent or Carer of another Player, or a duly authorised officer of the opposing team

Hearing

The following shall apply to all offences other than Level 1 offences by a player dealt with under Byelaw 5.3:

- 5.6 An individual panel (“Disciplinary Panel”) comprised of a chair, who shall be a member of the Disciplinary Committee, and at least two other members, shall be appointed by the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Disciplinary Committee to adjudicate on the Complaint or Complaints. Where the Complaint relates to abusive behaviour as defined by Bye Law 3.5, the Designated Person (or where they are unable to act, a deputy appointed by the Union) shall attend the hearing and shall give advice to the Disciplinary Panel on any matters relating to Child Safeguarding. The Designated Person’s role shall be advisory only.
- 5.7 The Disciplinary Panel shall have a quorum of three but may proceed with fewer with the agreement of the Respondent.
- 5.8 Each member shall have one vote. In the event of an equality of votes for any reason, the Chair shall have a casting vote.
- 5.9 In appointing the Disciplinary Panel, the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Disciplinary Committee shall, insofar as is practical, endeavour to ensure that no person is appointed who has a conflict of interest in relation to the Complaint or the Respondent.
- 5.10 The Disciplinary Panel shall have all powers necessary for, and incidental to, the exercise of its functions and, subject to these Byelaws, it shall have the power to regulate its procedures.
- 5.11 The hearing shall be held as soon as reasonably practical and shall be confidential and held in private, unless the Disciplinary Panel decides otherwise.

- 5.12 The Disciplinary Panel may postpone or adjourn a hearing if appropriate, including if it considers it necessary to call evidence that was not available at the hearing.
- 5.13 The Respondent, or in the case of a club a duly authorised officer of the club, shall be invited by the person appointed by the Union to attend the hearing. It shall normally be sufficient to send such invitation through the Hon Secretary of the Respondent's club.
- The Respondent shall be sent a copy of the Complaint and notified in writing of:
- (i) Their entitlement to have the matter dealt with under Byelaw 5.14.
 - (ii) the place and time of the hearing;
 - (iii) Their entitlement to be accompanied to the hearing, at their own cost, by a supporter. The supporter may be a work colleague, fellow player, family member or friend. They are not entitled to be legally represented;
 - (iv) where applicable, the requirement that any Respondent aged under 18 shall be accompanied at the hearing by a responsible adult (preferably their parent or Carer); and
 - (v) Their entitlement to call witnesses to give evidence at the hearing.

Where the Respondent is aged under 18, the Hon Secretary of their club should notify the Respondent's parent or Carer.

- 5.14 For all offences other than Level 1 Offences, a Respondent may admit to the offence in writing to the Secretary and submit in writing any statement they wish to make as regards the appropriate penalty. In such circumstances, the Disciplinary Panel shall decide the penalty without the need for a hearing.
- 5.15 The Disciplinary Panel, at the request of the Respondent or on its own initiative, may require the Respondent and/or the person making the Complaint to supply it, within such time as it determines, with further particulars of the incident(s) giving rise to the Complaint, including details of all witnesses whom the Respondent intends to call at any hearing together with details of the evidence to be given by those witnesses, and the Respondent and/or the person making the Complaint shall comply with that direction.
- 5.16 Any failure by a Respondent or Complainant to comply with any requirement or direction of the Disciplinary Panel, including those requirements or directions to be complied with within a time period, shall not prevent the Disciplinary Panel from proceeding and such failure may be taken into consideration by the Disciplinary Panel when making its decision.

- 5.17 The Disciplinary Panel shall have the power to decide on the admissibility, relevance and weight of any evidence and shall not be bound by any legal rules in relation to such matters. Facts may be established by any reliable means, including admissions.
- 5.18 The Respondent's supporter may advise the Respondent during the hearing, may question witnesses and make representations on the Respondent's behalf, and may seek procedural guidance from the Disciplinary Panel. They shall not answer questions on the Respondent's behalf.
- 5.19 If the matter proceeds to a hearing, it will be expected that the Complainant(s) and Respondent will attend the hearing. Any failure by the Complainant(s) or Respondent (or their supporter) to attend a hearing after notification shall not prevent the Disciplinary Panel from proceeding with the hearing in their absence, and such failure may be taken into consideration by the Disciplinary Panel when making its decision. Where the Complaint relates to abusive behaviour as defined in Bye Law 3.5, the Disciplinary Panel may, in its discretion, dispense with the requirement that the Complainant attend the hearing.
- 5.20 A note shall be taken of all hearings by a person appointed by the Disciplinary Panel, normally a member of the panel.

6. THE DECISION AND PENALTY

- 6.1 For the avoidance of doubt, although a Complaint may categorise an offence as a Level 1 or other category of offence, a Disciplinary Panel shall not be bound by that categorisation and may decide that another category of offence, and therefore penalty, is appropriate.
- 6.2 The standard of proof shall be whether the Disciplinary Panel is comfortably satisfied, bearing in mind the seriousness of the allegation that is made, that the alleged offence has been committed. This standard of proof shall be determined on a sliding scale from a mere balance of probability (for the least serious offences) up to a very high probability (for the most serious offences).
- 6.3 In deciding a penalty, the Disciplinary Panel shall have regard to any prior disciplinary record of the Respondent.

6.4 The decision of the Disciplinary Panel shall be given to the Respondent (in the case of a Respondent aged under 18, their parent or Carer) within three days by letter or email through the Honorary Secretary of the Respondent's club. Where the Complaint was made by the Umpires, a copy of the decision shall also be sent to the Honorary Secretary of the Northern Ireland Association of Cricket Umpires and Scorers. Where the decision relates to abusive behaviour as defined in Bye Law 3.5, or otherwise gives rise to issues of child safeguarding, a copy shall be sent to the Designated Person.

7. APPEAL PROCESS

7.1 A Respondent may appeal from the decision of the Disciplinary Panel as to the finding of liability, the penalty imposed or both, other than as provided in Byelaw 5.3.

7.2 Any appeal must be made in writing and sent to the person appointed by the Union by letter or email no later than five working days after receipt of the written decision of the Disciplinary Panel and:

7.2.1 must be accompanied by a deposit of £50, which may be lodged into the NCU Bank Account within the five working days timeframe; and

7.2.2 must set out the grounds for the appeal.

7.3 The Chair of the Appeals Committee shall, once an appeal has been received, appoint an Appeal Panel and forward to them details of the Complaint, any witness statements, the decision of the Disciplinary Panel and the note of the hearing.

7.4 An individual panel ("Appeal Panel") comprised of a Chair, who shall be a member of the Appeals Committee, and at least two other members, shall be appointed by the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Appeals Committee to adjudicate on the appeal or appeals. Where the Complaint relates to abusive behaviour as defined by Bye Law 3.5, the Designated Person (or where they are unable to act, a deputy appointed by the Union) shall attend the hearing and shall give advice to the Appeal Panel on any matters relating to Child Safeguarding. The Designated Person's role shall be advisory only.

7.5 The Appeal Panel shall have all powers necessary for, and incidental to, the exercise of their functions and, subject to these Byelaws, they shall have the power to regulate the procedures of matters which come before them. They shall conduct the appeal hearing in accordance with Byelaws 5.10-5.19 with such adjustments as they deem necessary in order to reflect the different context.

- 7.6 The Appeal Panel shall deal with appeals in respect of Level 1 offences (other than those by a player, where 5.3.5 applies) and Level 2 offences purely on the basis of the documentation and there shall be no hearing.
- 7.7 Appeals in respect of all offences other than Level 1 or Level 2 offences shall proceed by way of a *de novo* hearing (i.e., a fresh hearing of the evidence and/or submissions on penalty as may be applicable) by the Appeal Panel.
- 7.8 The Appeal Panel may confirm, vary, or reverse the decision of the Disciplinary Committee, and may increase or reduce any penalty imposed. The Appeal Panel shall also have the power, where it considers the appeal to be without merit, to order the deposit to be forfeited.
- 7.9 The Appeal Panel shall give their decision within seven days of the hearing. If the Panel considers that there are circumstances which require a period longer than seven days, they shall so advise the Respondent (in the case of a Respondent aged under 18, their parent or Carer).
- 7.10 If the Appeal Panel considers that they require further information, then they may request such information from the person(s) from whom they need it. They may stipulate the time within which it must be forwarded to them and the time for the determination of the appeal shall be suspended.
- 7.11 The Appeal Panel may direct that the deposit may be returned if the appeal is successful or if they consider that there were valid grounds for the making of the appeal which justify the return of part or all of the fee.
- 7.12 The decision of the Appeal Panel shall be given to the Respondent (in the case of a Respondent aged under 18, their parent or Carer) by letter or email through the Honorary Secretary of the Respondent's club. Where the Complaint was made by the Umpires, a copy of the decision shall also be sent to the Honorary Secretary of the Northern Ireland Association of Cricket Umpires and Scorers. Where the decision relates to abusive behaviour as defined in Bye Law 3.5, or otherwise gives rise to issues of child safeguarding, a copy shall be sent to the Designated Person (or where they are unable to act, a deputy appointed by the Union).
- 7.13 The decision of the Disciplinary Panel or, on appeal, the Appeal Panel shall be final and binding.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

POLICY OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE

Social media is a vital means of communication of information about cricket in the Union; it serves to inform and to promote the game. This policy seeks to encourage the use of social media whilst providing guidance to minimise risk and protect those involved.

This policy is complementary to the NCU's core values of fair play, equality, integrity and respect and accords with the safeguarding principles of Cricket Ireland's Safeguarding Pack. It should be read together with the Social Media Guidance already published for age grade players, parents, guardians, coaches, managers and volunteers.

The Union considers that each individual member club should adopt its own social media policy to further ensure adherence to these guidelines.

COVERAGE

This policy applies to all persons who are involved with the activities of the Union, whether they are in a paid or unpaid capacity, including:

- Persons appointed or elected to the board, directorates or any sub-committee
- Employees of the Union
- Coaches, assistants and managers
- Officials, including umpires and scorers
- Affiliated clubs
- Players representing the Union at any level
- Players representing member clubs
- Members of any club in the Union

SCOPE

Social media refers to any online tools or platforms that allow communication or content sharing via the internet. This includes:

- Social networking sites (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc)
- Video and photo sharing websites or apps (e.g YouTube, Instagram, Flickr, TikTok, etc)
- Blogs and microblogging platforms (e.g. Tumblr, Wordpress, etc)
- Union and club websites
- Live broadcasting apps (e.g. Periscope, etc)
- Podcasting
- Online encyclopaedias (e.g. Wikipedia)
- Instant messaging (e.g. WhatsApp, Snapchat, etc)
- Public and private discussion boards and forums
- Any other technologies that permit the uploading and sharing of content

This policy is applicable when using social media:

As an officially designated individual representing the Union on social media; or

To post content in relation to the game of cricket within the Union.

USING SOCIAL MEDIA IN AN OFFICIAL CAPACITY

Before posting any content on social media in relation to the Union you must be authorised either by the Chairman or the General Manager so to do.

GUIDELINES

You must adhere to these guidelines when using social media relating to the Union or cricket within the Union.

Use common sense. If you are unsure as to whether to post content, refrain from doing so until you have sought advice from others.

Protect privacy. Refrain from posting any content (even where only intended to be shared privately) unless you are sure that you would be happy for anyone to see it.

Be honest. Do not say anything which is untrue or misleading. If you are in doubt, check the source of the information and if you remain unsure, do not post.

Respect confidential information. Do not post content where consent has not been sought and given.

Seek permission to use images from the owner of the copyright.

Do not post anything which contains illegal or indecent content, including anything which is defamatory or vilifying.

Do not post any content which is offensive, harassing, intimidating, bullying, racist, sexist, sectarian, hateful or otherwise inappropriate.

If you make an error in posting content, correct it without delay and accept responsibility for the mistake.

POLICY BREACHES

Breaches of this policy include, but are not limited to:

Posting or sharing any content which is abusive, harassing, threatening, demeaning or defamatory.

Posting or sharing any content which includes obscene, insulting, offensive or hateful language.

Posting or sharing any content which if said in person during a game would constitute a breach of the Disciplinary Bye-Laws.

Posting or sharing any content which is illegal.

Posting or sharing any content which gives rise to or condones discrimination on the grounds of sex, sexual orientation, race, religion or political belief.

Posting or sharing any material which infringes the intellectual property rights of others.

Posting or sharing any information which was provided by the Union on a confidential basis.

Posting or sharing any content which brings the Union, its officials, members or sponsors into disrepute.

REPORTING A BREACH

If you notice inappropriate content online in relation to any matter pertaining to the Union and/or its member clubs, you should report this immediately to the Chairman or General Manager of the Union.

INVESTIGATION

Any breach of this policy may be investigated in accordance with the Disciplinary Bye Laws and, if considered necessary, may be reported to the police. In the case of any employee of the Union, any breach may be investigated under the NCU's Disciplinary Procedure.

YOUTH CRICKET

GENERAL RULES

1. ELIGIBILITY

- 1.1. Only players registered via Gameday shall be eligible to play in NCU Competitions.
- 1.2. The age eligibility criteria for age groups competitions are as follows:
 - 1.2.1. UNDER 11 – Boys in primary school, or under 11 on 1 July in the year before the competition; and girls in first form (year 8) or below, or under 12 on 1 July in the year before the competition
 - 1.2.2. UNDER 13 – Boys in second form (year 9) or below, or under 13 on 1 July in the year before the competition; and girls in third form (year 10) or below, or under 14 on 1 July in the year before the competition
 - 1.2.3. UNDER 15 – Boys in fourth form (year 11) or below, or under 15 on 1 July in the year before the competition; and girls in fifth form (year 12) or below, or under 16 on 1 July in the year before the competition. No players under the age of 12 on the day of the match can play in U15 Competitions.
 - 1.2.4. UNDER 17 – Pupils in sixth form (year 13) or below, or under 17 on 1 July in the year before the competition; and girls in upper-sixth form (year 14) or below, or under 18 on 1 July in the year before the competition. No players under the age of 14 on the day of the match can play in U17 Competitions.
- 1.3. Boys are not permitted to play in girls' competitions, and girls can only play in boys' competitions where their club does not have a girls team entered in a competition at the same age group.
- 1.4. Any team found to have played a player who does not meet the required eligibility criteria will be deemed to have lost the league match in question or disqualified from the cup competition.

2. PITCH SIZE

- 2.1. Under 11 cricket is to be played on a 17.5-yard pitch with a 4.75 oz ball. Boundaries to be a maximum of 30 yards.
- 2.2. Under 13 cricket is to be played on a 19.5-yard pitch with a 4.75 oz ball. Boundaries to be a maximum of 40 yards.
- 2.3. Under 15 cricket and older is to be played on a 22-yard pitch with a 5.50 oz ball. Boundaries to be a maximum of 50 yards.

3. In Under 11 Boys Development Leagues and Under 13 Girls Leagues the match will be played in the pairs cricket format unless both clubs agree otherwise. See rules below specifically for this format.

4. In all U11, U13, U15 and U17 leagues, where the match is not played in the pairs cricket format, each innings shall be a maximum of 20 overs. Each bowler is limited to a maximum of 1/5 of the agreed overs. See rules below regarding pairs cricket format.
5. When a batter's score reaches or passes 30 in the U11 matches and 50 in all other matches they shall retire. At the fall of the last wicket retired batters may resume their innings in the order of retirement.
6. No fielder who is under 13 years of age on the day of the game, except the wicketkeeper, shall be allowed to field nearer than 11 yards measured from the middle stump except behind the wicket on the offside, until the batter has played at the ball.
7. Where a club has two teams in the same age-group, the club shall star 6 players who can only play for the 'A' team. A list of starred players shall be provided to the NCU by 9 May in the season in question and, on request, to the coaches or managers of opposing teams. These should be sent via email to harry.lockhart@ncucricket.org
8. Results are to be notified by the **WINNING TEAM** via NV Play and to the Competition Secretary within 2 days of the scheduled date of the match. **Failure to so notify will result in the match being declared void. [A full match report form will only be required if specifically sought by the Competition Secretary, and in such instance shall be required within four days of the request. In such a case, the failure to properly notify shall result in the match being awarded to the losing team]**
9. Any section matches not completed by the Monday week following the due date shall be deemed void unless both teams agree to play it on a later date and the Competition Secretary is so informed. Any team failing to fulfil a match, except for legitimate reason shall be deemed to have lost the match. The Competition Secretary will rule on whether the reason was 'legitimate'. There is no appeal from that decision.
10. Four points for a win and 2 for a tie. No points will be awarded for a void game.
11. In the event of equal points at the top of a section between two teams the result between the two teams shall decide the winner. If still tied or there are more than two teams tied the winner shall be the tying team which has played the greater/greatest number of matches. If there is still a tie the winner shall be decided by the drawing of lots by the Competition Secretary.

12. Where a match ends prematurely due to weather interruptions, the result will be calculated on the basis on run rate per over, achieved by each side provided each innings has reached a minimum of 10 overs. This rule shall apply to all league games only.
13. Abandoned games, if at all possible, should be re-arranged by agreement. The Competition Secretary may impose a date if necessary.

KNOCK-OUT STAGES OF LEAGUES AND CUP COMPETITIONS

The following rules are applicable in addition to the General Rules above.

14. Cup competitions will be played with the eligibility criteria:
 - 14.1. Quoile Cup (and associated Development Cups) – Under 11 per rule 1.2.1
 - 14.2. Banoge Cup (and associated Development Cups) – Under 13 per rule 1.2.2
 - 14.3. Graham Cup (and associated Development Cups) – Under 15 per rule 1.2.3
15. The first named team in any match shall be the home team except in a final where the venue shall be determined by the NCU. In the event a Final is delayed, the Competition Secretary shall set a date for the re-arrangement. In the event of undue delay, the teams shall be declared joint winners.
16. All matches shall be played on the dates published, except that:
 - 16.1. If both teams agree, a match may be played on an earlier date; and
 - 16.2. A match not started owing to rain or other unavoidable cause shall be played on the following Friday (or earlier if both teams agree), the visiting team if it has travelled having choice of ground.
 - 16.3. It is the responsibility of the Home team to arrange a fixture. If the clubs cannot agree a date the Competition Secretary will set a date.
17. All matches shall consist of one innings per side and each innings shall be a maximum of 20 overs. Where the match has been interrupted by weather, both clubs may agree to reduce the match to a minimum of 5 overs.
18. A fielding circle as described in byelaw (h) shall be marked on the field of play. The radius of the fielding circle shall be 20 yards for Under 11 and Under 13 games and 30 yards for U-15 games. At the instant of delivery, a minimum of four fielders (plus the bowler and wicketkeeper) shall be within this area.
19. In matches other than the Final a responsible official of each team shall act as Umpires. In the Final official Umpires shall be appointed.

20. The winner of a tied match (where both teams finish with same number of runs regardless of wickets lost) will be decided by a 'super over(s)' in line with byelaw (w).
21. A knock-out cup game not played by reason of weather or another reason with the agreement of the Competition Secretary shall be re-arranged for a date on, or before, the following Monday. If the original 'away' team have travelled and the match is not completed, the away team shall then have home advantage in the reply. In the event of a second postponement the result shall be decided by bowl-out - five players from each team shall bowl at a set of unguarded stumps. The side scoring the greater number of hits from legitimate deliveries shall be the winner. In the event of a tie the bowl out shall continue with the same bowlers bowling alternate deliveries on a sudden death basis from an equal number of deliveries

PAIRS CRICKET

22. Aim: enjoyment, fun and fair play for all players.
23. Each team may have a squad of up to 10 players.
24. Batting and scoring
 - 24.3 The batting side shall be divided into pairs, each pair batting for four overs, with a new pair starting at the end of the fourth, eighth, twelfth and sixteenth overs.
 - 24.4 Each team starts batting with a score of 200 runs, each time a batter is out five runs are deducted and the other batter of the pair faces the next ball.
 - 24.5 A batter may be out bowled, caught, run out, stumped, or hit wicket. When a batter is out they switch to the non-strikers end before the next ball is bowled.
 - 24.6 There is no LBW law unless the batter deliberately blocks the ball with a leg or foot.
 - 24.7 Runs will be scored in the normal way as will byes, leg-byes, etc.
 - 24.8 Byes and leg byes – if a batter misses the ball, or if it hits their body, they may still run and score byes.
 - 24.9 Two runs will be awarded to the batting team for each wide ball and no-ball bowled plus any additional runs that are taken but no extra ball will be allocated, except in the final over of each innings when, in addition to the two runs, an extra ball will be bowled.

25. Bowling and Fielding
- 25.3 Bowling will take place from one end only, ten overs to be bowled, with each player bowling one over, each game to consist of one innings per team. An over consists of six balls.
 - 25.4 Bowling should be over arm where possible.
 - 25.5 Wides – a ball that is bowled too far from the batter to hit it will be called a wide. See rule 24.9 above.
 - 25.6 No Balls – any ball that either bounces more than once before reaching the batter or passes above shoulder height without bouncing will be called a no ball. See rule 24.9 above.
 - 25.7 All fielders, including the wicketkeeper, must rotate fielding positions at the end of each over.
26. The result - The team with the higher score wins, in the event of a tie the team taking more wickets will be the winner. If this is still equal, each player bowls one ball at the wickets with the winner being the team scoring the higher number of strikes.

The Competition Secretary shall rule on any dispute, and their decision shall be final.

NOTE: ALL CLUBS ENTERING NCU COMPETITIONS SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE FULLY AWARE OF THE APPLICABLE RULES.

YOUNG CRICKETER DIRECTIVES

These Directives are applicable to all club competitions played under the Union's auspices, and to schools' competitions where not otherwise covered by their own regulations. Age groups are based on the age of the player on 1 September in the year preceding the competition.

It must be noted that the Directives are aimed at an individual's age as opposed to the age group of the match being played. For example, a player who because of their age, falls into the under 15 group, must abide by the restrictions laid down for that age group. This will apply even though they may be playing in an under 17 match. They cannot bowl/field using the under 17 restrictions, they are still bound by the under 15 restrictions.

FIELDING DIRECTIVE

Fielders

No young player in the under 15 age group or younger shall be allowed to field closer than 8 yards (7.3m) from the middle stump, except behind the wicket on the offside, until the batsman has played at the ball. For those in the under 13 age group and below, the distance is 11 yards (10m). These minimum distances apply even if the player is wearing a head protector.

Should a player in these age groups come within the restricted distance the umpire must stop the game immediately and instruct the fielder to move back. Any player in the under 16 to under 18 age groups who has not reached the age of 18, must wear a head protector, and for boys, an abdominal protector (box) when fielding within 6 yards (5.5m) of the bat, except behind the wicket on the offside.

Non-compliance with this Directive will result in the umpires stopping the game and instructing the fielder to put on a head protector and/or abdominal protector, and/or stand back from the stumps. If non-compliance continues, the umpire should not allow the match to continue.

Wicketkeepers

Any wicketkeeper under the age of 18 (on the day of the match) must wear a head protector when standing up to the stumps. This applies to all speeds of bowling. Non-compliance with this Directive will result in the umpires stopping the game and instructing the wicketkeeper to put on a head protector or stand back from the stumps. If non-compliance continues, the umpire should not allow the match to continue.

BOWLING DIRECTIVE

For the purpose of this Directive, a fast bowler is defined as a bowler to whom a wicketkeeper in the same age group would, in normal circumstances, stand back to take the ball. This does not preclude the umpires from insisting that these Directives apply even though the ability of the wicketkeeper means that they are capable of standing up to what they consider to be a fast bowler.

Directives for matches

Up to U13	5 overs per spell	10 overs per day
U14, U15	6 overs per spell	12 overs per day
U16, U17	7 overs per spell	18 overs per day
U18, U19	7 overs per spell	18 overs per day

In addition to these, it is recommended that in any 7-day period a fast bowler should not bowl more than 4 days in that period and for a maximum of 2 days in a row. For example: in a tournament lasting 5 days, a fast bowler would bowl on days 1 and 2: not bowl on day 3: bowl on days 4 and 5. Having completed a spell, a bowler cannot bowl again, from either end, until an equivalent number of overs to the length of their spell has been bowled from the same end. If a bowler only completes part of their permitted spell, the above restriction still applies. For example, if they are allowed 7 overs, but only bowls 4, they cannot bowl again, until 4 overs have been bowled from the same end. they cannot resume their `spell' after 2 overs from the same end, claiming that they are allowed another 3 overs to make up their 7. However, a bowler is allowed to change ends during a spell without taking a rest. This can only be done provided that they bowl the next permissible over from the other end.

If there is an interruption in play, whether scheduled or not, they will be allowed to count time off the field as part of their `rest time'. During this interruption, the bowler may count every 7 minutes of the interruption as being equivalent to 1 over at each end. If play is interrupted for any reason for less than 40 minutes, any spell in progress at the time of the interruption can be continued after the interruption up to the maximum number of overs per spell for the appropriate age group. In this case, the bowler cannot claim any time off the field as rest time and their spell will still be in progress even though play is suspended. 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 has been bowled from the same end. If the interruption is of 40 minutes duration 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 overs per day for their age group even if they subsequently bowl spin. They can exceed the maximum of overs per spell if bowling spin only but cannot then revert to bowling fast until an equivalent number of overs to the length of their spell has been bowled from the same end. Any spell that includes fast bowling must not exceed the maximum number of overs per spell even if some of the spell is of spin.

Umpires' responsibility

The umpires are expected to monitor these players and keep records of the overs such players' bowl. Once the maximum allowance for any one spell has been reached, they will inform the player and the captain accordingly, and will not allow the player to bowl again until the requisite rest period has been fulfilled. Prior to the game, the manager / coach / captain will inform the umpires in writing, of any player who comes under this Directive. If during the game, the umpires consider that any other players come under this Directive, they shall inform the manager / coach / captain as soon as is practical, that these players shall be subject to the above Directives. The umpire has final say in what constitutes fast bowling / a fast bowler.

BATTING DIRECTIVE

Any batsman under the age of 18 (on the day of the match) must wear a helmet when batting. Non-compliance with this Directive will result in the umpires stopping the game immediately and instructing the batsman to put on a helmet. If non-compliance continues, the umpire should not allow the match to continue.

MINIMUM AGE

For young cricketers to play adult cricket they must be in second year of secondary education. The only exception would be that they are in the NCU's U13 Talent Pathway and have trained and/or played in either a Talent or a Development Squad during the winter prior to the season commencing.

If a club wishes to select any young cricketer in first year of secondary education to play in adult cricket (including women's cricket) the club must obtain prior approval from the Union. The club must also ensure that all aspects of its Safeguarding guidelines are adhered to.

It is strongly recommended that a parent, carer, or other identified responsible adult is present whenever a player in the Under 13 age group or younger plays in an adult match. This could include the captain or other identified adult player taking responsibility for the young player.

Introduction

This policy sets out the overriding principles as to how umpires, players, scorers, ground staff, etc. should act in relation to lightning. Consideration should also be given to sections 2.7 and 2.8 of the Laws of Cricket. This policy has been developed collaboratively by the NCU and NIACUS.

Matches with Officially Appointed Umpires

1. If at any point after the toss has taken place the threat of lightning, whether actual or perceived, comes to the attention of either umpire, the umpires should consult and agree a course of action in line with this policy.
2. If either umpire feels that there is lightning or a lightning threat is imminent, both umpires should immediately suspend play and direct the players to leave the field of play along with the umpires and relocate to a secure and safe location. Scorers should similarly ensure that they are in a secure and safe location.
3. Once play is suspended, no person, including ground staff, should be on the field of play until both umpires agree that the threat has passed, and that it is safe to resume play having regard to all relevant information. For clarity, no activity should be undertaken on the field of play once play has been suspended save for ground staff (and their helpers) who may briefly enter the field of play immediately after play is suspended to install covering to the pitch and surrounding areas. This should be done in the swiftest manner possible. Ground staff are prohibited from using metal framed covers during lightning or the threat of lightning. Covers should not be removed until the umpires have indicated that the threat has passed.
4. When making a decision regarding the suspension or resumption of play, the umpires must err on the side of caution and must prioritise the safety of those within the ground over and above the maximisation of play, irrespective of the state of the match. If there is any doubt as to the likely threat of lightning, then the umpires should either suspend play or, if that has happened already, not resume play until they have agreed that the threat has passed.
5. The 30/30 guidelines as below must be considered by the umpires:

Lightning Management Policy



- a. Play should be suspended, and shelter immediately sought when there is 30 seconds or less between the flash of lightning and any associated thunder.
- b. It is generally safe to return to the field of play a minimum of 30 minutes after the final flash of lightning or clap of thunder has been seen or heard. For clarity, returning to the field of play includes for warm-ups and other such activity.
- c. It might be possible to return to the field of play earlier than 30 minutes, but only if it is clear and agreed by the umpires that the storm has moved on and there is no remaining threat of lightning.
- d. For clarity, the final decision remains in the hands of the umpires.

Matches without Officially Appointed Umpires

Where possible, team captains should apply the 30/30 guidelines (para 8 above) by agreement.

This Policy has been agreed and adopted by the NCU Domestic Directorate on 26 March 2024.

Signed *Alan Waite*
Print Alan Waite
Role Head of NCU Domestic Directorate

Introduction

This policy sets out guidelines as to how umpires, coaches, captains, players, parents, and guardians should act in relation to the identification and management of concussion during matches or training sessions. Consideration should also be given to Cricket Ireland's Concussion Management Guidelines for Cricket in the Community (April 2023) and 'If in doubt sit them out' – the UK Government's Concussion Guidelines for Non-Elite (Grassroots) Sport. This policy has been developed collaboratively by the NCU and NIACUS.

Matches with Officially Appointed Umpires

It is unlikely that umpires at matches will have in depth knowledge or experience of dealing with concussion. Their role will be to manage any situation that occurs to ensure the safety of those involved. The following guidelines should be followed:

1. Stop the game immediately after seeing an incident that could lead to a concussion for an assessment of the player(s) to be made.
2. Where medical assistance is available at the ground their advice around concussion should be followed implicitly.
3. When medical assistance is not present at a ground during a match, and the umpires believe that there are any signs leading to a suspicion of a concussion for a player, at any level or any age, the player should be removed immediately from play, and not return to play until they have sought medical advice from a suitably qualified person.

Umpires have the authority to remove the player from the field of play for further assessment and immediate care and should not experience opposition from any party when a medical professional is not present to advise on or supersede such a decision.

Matches without Officially Appointed Umpires or Club Training Sessions

1. Where medical assistance is available at the ground their advice around concussion should be followed implicitly.
2. When medical assistance is not present at a ground during a match, and a team captain believes that there are any signs leading to a suspicion of a concussion for

a player, at any level or any age, the player should be removed immediately from play, and not return to play until they have sought medical advice from a suitably qualified person.

3. The team captains should always exercise caution when an event that may lead to concussion occurs. Stop the game and check the player with the captain of the opposing team.

Events that may lead to a concussion

What you may see:

- A cricket ball strike to the head or neck, with or without wearing a helmet
- An on-field collision between 2 or more players
- A player diving and impacting their head on the ground or seeing their head be thrown in any direction, or subsequently hitting their head on the ground.

Signs and symptoms

If any of the following signs or symptoms are present following a head injury the player should at least be suspected of having concussion and be immediately removed from play or training. Note that the signs are not always visible.

Clear Indicators of concussion/suspected concussion - what you may see or hear immediately:

Any one or more of the following clearly indicate a concussion:

- Seizure (fits).
- Loss of consciousness – confirmed or suspected.
- Unsteady on feet or balance problems or falling over or poor coordination.
- Confused.
- Disorientated – not aware of where they are or who they are or the time of day.
- Dazed, blank or vacant look.
- Behavioural changes e.g. more emotional or more irritable.

Concussion Management Policy



Other signs of concussion/suspected concussion – what you see:

Any one or more of the following may suggest a concussion:

- Lying motionless on ground.
- Slow to get up off the ground.
- Grabbing or clutching of head.

Establishing if a player is concussed

Without the presence of a medical professional, umpires and team captains can use the following questions to establish whether a player may be concussed.

What questions you ask adults and adolescents - Modified Maddocks questions

Failure to answer any of these questions correctly is a strong indication of concussion or at least suspected concussion:

“What venue are we at?”

“What sessions of the game are we in?”

“Who is bowling/batting at the moment in the game?”

“What team did you play last week/last game’?”

“What was your score in the last game/figures in the last game?”

What questions you ask children (12 years and under)

Failure to answer any of these questions correctly is a strong indication of concussion or at least suspected concussion:

“Where are we now?”

“Is it before or after lunch?”

“What was your last game’?”

“What is your coach’s name?”

This Policy has been agreed and adopted by the NCU Domestic Directorate on 26 March 2024.

Signed *Alan Waite*

Print Alan Waite

Role Head of NCU Domestic Directorate



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