



A Objectives

The Bucks Cricket Board runs these competitions to encourage participation in cricket from an early age and to communicate that cricket is a fun, enjoyable physical team game in which lasting friendships are made.

In adult cricket, the responsibility for maintaining the Spirit of Cricket rests with the captains, but in the development years, that responsibility rests with the Team Managers and Coaches. The Spirit of Cricket applies just as much to spectators as well as players, captains, coaches and Officials. Clubs are encouraged to ensure that supporters of junior teams understand this.

The Spirit of Cricket involves respect for:

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

It is against the Spirit of Cricket to;

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

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



B Eligibility

1. Clubs

Only Clubs affiliated to the Bucks Cricket Board (BCB), *either directly or through the Milton Keynes & District Cricket Association (MKDCA)*, may enter teams. (Clubs based outside Bucks may affiliate to the Bucks Cricket Board and play in the competitions. They may not however represent Bucks in any subsequent National stages of the competitions).

2. Players

- a) All players representing any Club in the competitions must be **bona fide** members of that Club having paid all relevant Club subscriptions.
- b) A player may only play for **one** club in any BCB competition in any one year (e.g. a player **cannot** play for Club A in the Under 14 competition and then for Club B in the Under 15 competition and so on). Players may however play for their Club at more than one age group, providing that they are within the relevant age limits.
- c) If Clubs enter more than one team in any age group (as they are so entitled to do), then no player can play for Team B if he/she has already played for Team A at any stage of the competition in more than 2 matches. Clubs can call any side what they wish if they want to have 2 equal sides. Clubs shall not have two sides in the same division. It is each Club's responsibility to ensure that all players are eligible to represent both the Team and the Club.
- d) If any Club knowingly fields an ineligible player in an age group then that team will be disqualified from the competition. If a Club enters two or more teams in one age group and any team fields an ineligible player, then all teams in that age group will be disqualified. The Cup and League competitions are regarded as separate competitions regarding player eligibility.
- e) Players are eligible by age for the competitions if:
 - For Under 9: they have not reached their 9th birthday by 31st August 2016
 - For Under 10: they have not reached their 10th birthday by 31st August 2016
 - For Under 11: they have not reached their 11th birthday by 31st August 2016
 - For Under 12: they have not reached their 12th birthday by 31st August 2016
 - For Under 13: they have not reached their 13th birthday by 31st August 2016
 - For Under 14: they have not reached their 14th birthday by 31st August 2016
 - For Under 15: they have not reached their 15th birthday by 31st August 2016
- f) Mixed gender sides are allowed. Girls may play in age groups two years under their actual age.



- g) Should a team wish to play an overage player who has mental or physical handicaps, this is permissible provided the opposition coach/manager agrees. Common sense must be applied in the interests of Health and Safety of all the players.

C Organisation of Competitions

1. The competitions are organised by the BCB Youth Organiser. Any queries or disputes regarding the conduct of these competitions should be referred to him. **His/her decisions will be final.**
2. The BCB Youth Organiser will conduct the draw for the competitions. Home and away venues will be shown in the knock out draw and will apply unless a change in venue is mutually agreed between the Clubs. In the Leagues the first named Club shall be at home unless a change in venue is mutually agreed between the Clubs.
3. In the Inter-county stages of the Under 15 & Under 13 Knock out competitions, the ECB Competition Office at Lords stipulates the dates of matches and their venues. **These will not be negotiable.**
4. The Competition matches will be played under the ECB 20 overs regulations (see Match Regulations below). Outside of these Regulations the normal Laws of Cricket shall apply. (Please note that the Board, through the Bucks Association of Cricket Officials can, on request, organise short sessions on the Laws for parent helpers).
5. Arrangement and Timing of Fixtures
 - a) The Home Club (see C 2) shall, at the Annual County Junior Fixture Meeting, provide the Away Club with at least two dates for the fixture before the deadline date specified for the match in the draw. For subsequent matches in knockout competitions, both team managers must cooperate fully to complete the matches by scheduled dates. Being unable to field your strongest side is not a valid reason for declining a fixture.
 - b) The fixture draws will specify the date by which all matches should be played (the “deadline date”). At the annual fixture meeting, the matches should be scheduled to be played before that deadline date. There are no restrictions as to how far in advance of the deadline date a match can be played – the earlier the better as it gives clubs greater flexibility in the event of rain.**
 - c) Should matches not be completed by the deadline date, through continuous bad weather, then a further two week “period of grace” will be allowed for the match to be played. This period of grace will cease on the 30th June after which date no period of grace will be allowed.**
 - d) It is expected that all clubs shall fulfil the fixtures once made, with the only excuse for cancellation being adverse weather/pitch conditions; not having the strongest side desirable shall not be considered a valid reason for a fixture cancellation. After the commencement of the season, in the event that a Club fails to fulfil a fixture on the



agreed date (other than for adverse weather), the Club shall forfeit the match, which will then be awarded to the opponent Club.

- e) Team Managers must consult the Youth Organiser in the event of any insurmountable problem.
- f) When rearranging fixtures cancelled by bad weather, both sides must use their best endeavours to mutually agree a new date. Having the strongest side available is not a valid reason for declining an offered date. The Home team should give the away team a choice of three dates if at all possible.
- g) Any Cup (knockout) fixtures not completed by their deadlines will be decided by the toss of a coin (see Clause C7). No period of grace will be given.
- h) If any League (Group stage) fixtures are not played by the specified deadlines, then equal points will be awarded to each team. If one team concedes the match, then the other team will be awarded two points and the conceding team none (see Clause C7)

6. **STRUCTURE OF COMPETITIONS**

- a. The Board will run 2 types of competition.
 - i. At U11, U13 & U15 there will be knockout (sudden death) competitions. The winners at U13 & U15 will proceed to represent their Club and Bucks in ECB run National Competitions.
 - ii. At U 9, U10, U11, U12, U13, U14 & U15 there will be League competitions.
 - 1. The competitions will be based on 2 Conferences - North & South. Each conference will be divisionalised. The division that a Club is placed in will be based on its previous finishing position in the previous year's Leagues one age group down – making allowances for Clubs entering a side for the first time – and using self assessment of playing strength and organiser's knowledge to get the best optimal placement. Self assessment will be used by the organiser to structure the U9 and U10 competitions.
 - 2. We will work to a 2 up/2 down promotion and relegation where possible.
 - 3. The top teams in Division 1 South and Division 1 North will play to decide the County Winners – except where there is no Division 1 North when 1st & 2nd place in Division 1 South will contend the final.
 - 4. All sides will play 11-a-side 20 over cricket (see match regulations) except the U9's, U10's, & U11's where 10-a-side Barrington rules cricket will be played (see match regulations).

7. **League/ Knockout Basis**

- a) The matches in the Cup Competitions at Under 11, 13, and 15 and in the North/South play-offs of the Leagues, will be on a "sudden death" (knockout) basis.
- b) In the event of a Club withdrawing from any of the league competitions, then all points scored for or against that Club will deducted from that league.



8. Code of Conduct

The published Code of Conduct stipulated by the BCB and ECB shall apply to all matches - **specifically it is required that all Team Managers ensure that in every circumstance the Umpires decision is unquestionably accepted as final by players, parents and supporters.** The BCB expects all Clubs to educate their players and their parents in the "best traditions of the game". All coaches should refrain from trying to captain their sides themselves. If a coach is also umpiring, advice should be given to the captain between rather than during overs and this should be curtailed above the age of 11.

The BCB encourages all Team Managers and Umpires to actively “keep each game moving”. Slow over rates are the bane of modern cricket. Constantly resetting field placing and “mothers union meetings” should be discouraged. Clubs should stick to a 10 minute interval between innings.

9. Umpires

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

10. Reporting Results

- a) Results should be entered onto the Board's result website by the winning team's manager. The Website address is: www.buckscb.org. Anybody with difficulty entering the site contact Richard Burden on support@buckscb.org
- b) Fixtures that are not played due to weather etc. must be reported on the results website by the **Home Team's Manager**.
- c) Failure to enter results may result in:
 - (i) In the Cup competition, the award the match to the Away team by default.
 - (ii) In the Leagues, the match being treated as abandoned.

11. **Leagues - Teams finishing on equal points**

In the event that two or more teams finish on equal points after the full programme of (league) matches, the final placings will be determined as follows (in order of priority):

- a) If one team has beaten the other(s), then they shall be the League Winners.



- b) The team with the best "Net run rate less the net run rate of their opponents (in all completed matches)".
- (i) Matches that have been won by the other team's default (ceded/ walkover) will not count in the net run rate.
 - (ii) Where a team has been "all out" when batting, their total number of runs scored will be divided by 20 overs (or the lesser maximum number where the match has been played to a reduced number of overs).

12. Finals

- a) Finals shall be played on grass pitches.
- b) League Finals will be played by the end of July, grounds being decided by the toss of a coin. . The Knockout Cup Finals will be played on the ground of the Club reaching the Final first or if equal by the toss of a coin.



D Match Regulations

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

1 Pitches

- a) Pitch Lengths shall be as proscribed by the Laws of Cricket for each age group. Namely: Under 9 – 18 yards; Under 10 - 19 yards; Under 11 – 20 yards; Under 12 – 21 yards; Under 13 – 21 yards; Under 14 and above 22 yards.

(The BCB recognises the practical difficulties faced by Clubs in preparing pitches of non-standard length and a different length of the pitch may be mutually agreed between two competing Clubs.)

2. Balls

- a) At Under 14, 15, one 5 1/2oz re-polished or new ball should be used and should last for both innings.
- b) At Under 10, 11, 12 and 13, one 4 3/4oz re-polished or new ball should be used and should last for both innings.
- c) Orange or Pink coloured balls may be used. White balls may **not** be used.
- d) At Under 9 managers may mutually decide to play either with a 4 3/4 oz repolished hard ball or with an Incrediball. In the event of non agreement, then the Incrediball shall be used

3. Wickets

At Under 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13, the stumps should be 27 inches above the ground and the wickets 8 inches wide overall.

4. Fielding distances

The Umpires shall not allow play to proceed if any player is within 8 yards (Under 17) or 11 yards (Under 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15) from the middle stump at the striker's end, except behind the wicket on the off side.

5. ECB – Double Bouncing Ball Regulations

For the removal of doubt a no ball should be called if the ball bounces more than twice before reaching the popping crease. To ensure matches are not extended in time, at U11 and below no extra ball shall be bowled

6. **11-a-side 20 Overs Cricket (Ages 12 upwards)**



- a) Matches shall consist of one innings per side.
- b) The length of each innings shall be 20 six-ball overs. In the event of adverse weather this may be reduced to a minimum length of 10 six-ball overs. The number of overs permitted by each bowler shall be varied in proportion to the total overs bowled. The Finals will be played to 20 overs per innings.
- c) No bowler shall bowl more than 3 overs. If the number of overs in the match is reduced, the number of overs per bowler shall be reduced pro rata.
- d) At Under, 12 and 13, when a batsman reaches or passes a total of 30 runs he must retire unless 9 wickets have already fallen in the innings. Retired batsmen may **not** bat again. Batsmen at U14 & U15 shall retire at 50 runs unless 9 wickets have already fallen in the innings. Retired batsmen may **not** bat again.
- e) The Umpires shall not call "time" after the last ball of any innings until the ball has indisputably become dead.

7. Wides, No Balls & LBW's

In all competitions, the Laws of Cricket relating to Wides, No Balls & LBW will be applied. Club Umpires should discuss and agree how they will apply the wide laws prior to each match to ensure consistency and communicate their policy to both Team Managers. To ensure matches are not extended in time, at U11 and below no extra ball shall be bowled

8. Results

The winner in all matches shall be the team with the greater score at the end of the match.

When a match is played on a League (group stage) basis if the match ends with scores level, then it shall be deemed a tie and the points shared. The match shall not be replayed.

When a match is played on a knock out basis (including League semi finals and finals), if the match ends with scores level, the winner shall be the side which has taken the greater number of wickets. If still equal, the side with the higher score at the end of the penultimate over shall win and so on back through the wickets. If still equal, the side with the higher score at the end of the penultimate ball shall win (and so on back through the balls). It is therefore essential that those scoring agree on the number of runs scored throughout the match.

In all knockout matches when a result is precluded by bad weather or light, provided that 10 overs of the second innings have been completed, then the match shall be deemed to be concluded. The result shall be calculated by the scoring rate per completed over of the side batting second as compared with the overall scoring rate of the side batting first. In the event that the side batting first did not bat for their full allocation of overs, their scoring rate shall be calculated on the assumption that they did bat for their full allocation. If less than 10 overs of the second innings have been



bowled, the match may be replayed on a mutually agreed date provided this is before the deadline date specified in the draw. If this is not possible:

- the match will be decided by a toss of a coin or any other method of resolving the match (eg a bowl out)

9. Points system

In 2013 we introduced a bonus point system to encourage sides of all abilities:

- 15 Points for the winning team - No bonus points.
- 10 Points for each team for a tied match (both teams ending on the same number of runs, regardless of the wickets lost) – No bonus points.
- 7 Points for a game that has been abandoned, no bonus points even if the match has been partially played with no result (eg the team batting second has not had 10 overs or more)
- 0 Points for a loss but with the following bonus points being awarded to the losing team: 1 point for each 20 runs scored + 1 point for every 2 wickets taken

10 Under 9, 10 & 11

These **competitions will be played under the ECB “Ken Barrington” regulations, except that each side shall consist of 10 players.**

- Match Regulations 2.b), 3, 4, and 5.a) above apply plus the following:
- Each team shall commence their innings with 200 runs.
 - Each innings shall consist of 20 six ball overs. Each player except the wicket-keeper must bowl at least two overs but not more than three overs.
 - The batting team shall be divided into five pairs of batsmen and each pair shall bat for four overs.
 - Batsmen shall have unlimited "lives" but **SIX** runs shall be deducted from the total every time a batsman is dismissed (including run outs). No batsman who is out should face the next ball; batsmen shall change ends after a dismissal if necessary to achieve this.
 - The Umpires shall not call "time" after the last ball of any innings until the ball has indisputably become dead.
 - In the event that the Umpires are satisfied that a player is incapacitated during the course of a match, his place may be taken by a reserve who shall bat and/or bowl in his place. If no reserve is available, another player shall, without exceeding his/her quota, bowl any overs due to be bowled by the injured player. The captain of the fielding side shall choose one of the batsmen in the batting side's first three pairs to bat a second time in the fourth pair.
 - Should a side (for unforeseen circumstances) take the field with only nine players, then the captain of the opposing side may decide prior to each innings, which of the remaining nine players may bat again as the tenth man and which should be allowed



to bowl the quota of overs of the missing player. It is expected that all Team Managers will use their best endeavours to prevent such events occurring.

- g) Wides and No balls will be awarded 2 extra runs (plus boundaries if applicable). There will be no extra ball, excepting in the last over of an innings when extra balls shall be awarded.

D National Stages of the Under 13 and Under 15 Cup Competitions

At Under 15, the BCB Cup winner will be eligible and be expected to represent Bucks in the inter- county stages of the Under 15 National championship. At Under 13, the BCB Cup winner will be eligible and be expected to represent Bucks in inter-county stages of the Under 13 National Championship.

The National stages of the Under 15 Cup operates under slightly different rules to these Regulations.