



Playing Conditions for Saturday Divisions

(Updated December 2021)

1	Conduct of matches
1.1	All matches will be conducted in accordance with the Laws of Cricket, the Spirit of Cricket and any current ECB directives, except as provided for in these playing conditions.
1.2	All Penalty Runs, as contained within the Laws of Cricket, will apply throughout the League.
1.3	If a fielder leaves the field during play, he will not incur Penalty time for the first 15 minutes of any absence. (Law 24)
1.4	Wide ball (ECB Premier, Championship and First Divisions only)
1.4.1	Any ball passing down the leg side of the batsman and outside the line of the leg stump, which does not come into contact with the bat or any part of the batsman's person, will be called and signalled "wide ball" regardless of any movement on the batsman's part.
1.4.2	As a guideline to the umpires for the calling of wides on the offside, crease markings will be drawn from the bowling crease to the popping crease and 17 inches from the return creases at each end of the pitch.
1.5	Fielding Restrictions (ECB Premier, Championship, First and Second Divisions only)
1.5.1	Throughout the match, the fielding team will have, at the instant of delivery, six fielders (including the bowler and wicket keeper) inside a designated area, which is defined by two semi circles, each with a radius of 30 yards, with their centres being the middle stumps. The ends of each semi-circle will be joined to the other by a straight line drawn on the field on the same side of the pitch.
1.5.2	Either umpire will call and signal 'No Ball' at the instant of delivery if this rule is not observed.
1.5.3	White plastic discs must be used to mark out the designated area.
1.6	Short Pitched Bowling (ECB Premier, Championship and First Divisions only)
1.6.1	No bowler will bowl more than two 'short pitched' deliveries per over irrespective of which batsman is on strike.
1.6.2	'Short pitched' is defined as above shoulder height of the batsman standing upright at the crease.
1.6.3	The bowler's end umpire will inform the bowler and batsmen when a delivery has been deemed 'short pitched' by tapping his shoulder with 'one' or 'two' fingers, as appropriate.
1.6.4	A third or subsequent 'short pitched' delivery in an over will be called 'No ball'.
2	Cancellations
2.1	Home clubs must take all possible steps to ensure that matches take place in accordance with guidance prepared in association with the Institute of Groundsmen. However, if, taking into account the ground conditions and weather forecast, the home team believes that cancellation is advisable before 9.00am (10.00am for Second Division and below) on the day of the match, they may do so only with the agreement of the visiting team and must notify any appointed umpires. The visiting team may insist that the match is not cancelled in advance and insist on travelling, but should they do so and there is subsequently no play, they will be liable for match expenses (i.e. umpires' fees and teas). This liability will not apply where, in the opinion of the umpires, the pitch, surrounding areas and run-ups had not been adequately covered, and the home team will then be liable for all expenses. If the match is not cancelled before 9.00am (10.00am for Second Division and below) it should not be cancelled until the visitors and umpires are on the ground.
2.2	No club may cancel a fixture because of non-availability of players without first cancelling a fixture of a less senior team.

	2.3	Any club that has a 'lower' team in another league must not cancel their YPLN team fixture in order to meet commitments of their lower team without obtaining the prior approval of both Leagues.
	2.4	Any club cancelling a fixture for reasons other than ground or weather conditions will be deemed to have conceded the match and must take the following action:
	2.4.1	Personal contact must be made with the person listed as the opponents' cancellation contact and acknowledgement of the cancellation obtained. (Note – The leaving of a message on an answer-phone or by text message, fax or e-mail is not acceptable).
	2.4.2	In Divisions where neutral umpires operate, the two appointed umpires and the Umpires Appointment's Secretary must be personally informed of the cancellation and their acknowledgements obtained.
	2.4.3	The Secretary or Deputy must be advised of the concession, and the reason, at the earliest opportunity.
	2.4.4	The offending club will suffer a financial penalty and will be required to pay compensation to their opponents in accordance with the League's 'Schedule of Penalties'.
3	Grounds	
	3.1	It is left to Umpires and Captains to mutually agree, before each match, what will constitute 4 or 6 hits.
	3.2	All boundaries must be clearly defined by a continuous white line or an adequate alternative at ground level.
	3.3	Creases must be fully remarked between innings.
	3.4	Suitable sightscreens must be provided at both ends of the ground. Where a sight screen is located within the field of play a rope must be placed in a crescent shape in front of the screen to define the boundary. The roped off area must be adequate to allow the screen to be moved from side to side without adjusting the rope.
4	Toss, nomination of players and pre-match meeting	
	4.1	Before the toss for innings, the captain of each team must nominate his players to the umpires. The ages of all players covered by ECB directives on fast bowling and wearing of helmets must be stated. Such nominations must be provided on the cards provided by the League for this purpose.
5	Late arrival of players	
	5.1	In the event of the late arrival of a team, or major part of a team, the following will apply:
	5.1.1	No match can commence without a minimum of 7 players per team present.
	5.1.2	Any team not available to make the toss 15 minutes prior to the scheduled, or re-scheduled (in the event of inclement weather), start will forfeit the choice of innings.
	5.1.3	Any team not having a minimum of 7 players present and ready to commence play at the scheduled, or re-scheduled (in the event of inclement weather) start time will forfeit the choice of innings.
	5.1.4	In the case of late arrival of players, overs will not be deducted for a late start.
	5.1.5	Where a team is unable to start the match within 30 minutes of the schedule start time, they will be required to submit a written explanation to the Management Board, who will consider the facts and may levy penalties in accordance with the League's Schedule of Penalties.
	5.2	When a player arrives after the official starting time, the following will apply:
	5.2.1	ECB Premier Division – Laws 24 and 25 will apply
	5.2.2	Championship and below Fielding Team: A player arriving late will not be permitted to bowl until he has been on the field of play for an equivalent number of overs to that which had been bowled prior to him appearing on the field of play. Batting Team: A player arriving late will not be permitted to bat until he has been present at the ground for an equivalent number of overs to that which had been bowled prior to his arrival except upon the fall of the ninth wicket. The onus is upon the captain of the batting team to inform the umpires of the arrival of the player.
	5.2.3	'Equivalent number of overs' will be counted from the commencement of the match.

6	Start of Play
	6.1 Unless ground or weather conditions do not permit, matches will commence at 12.00pm in the ECB Premier, Championship and First Divisions and 1.00pm in the Second Division and below, unless otherwise agreed by both clubs without involving the Management Board. The Fixture Secretary must be informed by e-mail of any change in the start time by the home club once agreement has been reached.
	6.2 No match will start at 4.30pm or later, unless tea has been taken, in which case 4.45pm or later (4.10pm and 4.25pm for Second Division and below).
6.3 Umpires are required to ensure that matches commence promptly.	
7	Duration of Play
	7.1 The normal duration of play will be 50 overs (45 overs in Second Division and below) per team, unless reduced due to ground or weather conditions – see rule 10 below. Any unused overs in the first innings will not be carried forward into the second innings.
7.2 In order to achieve a result, both teams must have had the opportunity of batting for a minimum of 20 overs.	
8	Intervals
	8.1 A tea interval of 30 minutes will be taken between innings unless tea is taken during a stoppage due to ground or weather conditions. If the tea interval is not taken between innings, 15 minutes of playing time will be saved and a further interval of 15 minutes will be taken between innings. One drinks interval will normally be taken in each innings; this may be dispensed with or added to only by agreement of both captains.
8.2 Umpires are required to ensure that a tea interval of 30 minutes is strictly enforced.	
9	Teas
9.1 Host clubs are required to provide adequate teas for two full teams plus umpires, scorers and coaches if appropriate.	
9.2 In the ECB Premier Division, the cost of teas will be borne by the host club	
9.3 In the Championship and below, the visiting team will be expected to pay the host club for 11 teas at a maximum charge to be set the Management Board each year.	
10	Matches affected by weather or ground conditions
	10.1 Where it is impossible to commence or re-commence a match due to adverse weather or the state of the pitch, light or ground, the match will be regarded as cancelled/abandoned. However, both teams must be prepared to begin, and continue the match until such time as the umpires agree the state of the weather, pitch, light or ground makes play impossible. Any club failing to attend will be deemed to have conceded the match in accordance with Rule 17.2.5.
	10.2 Once the toss has been carried out, the Umpires are the sole judges with regard to ground and weather conditions. They have sole authority in deciding whether a match continues or is abandoned and will make their decision in line with their responsibilities under “Duty of Care”. In arriving at their decision, they will have considered the safety of the players and, where appropriate, consulted with both captains and ground staff. Any inappropriate attempts to influence their decision will be regarded as a disciplinary issue and may result in penalties being imposed on the offending person or club.
	10.3 Play should not commence or re-commence in rain.
	10.4 At the discretion of the umpires, and with agreement from the two captains, tea may be taken during a period when play is suspended or delayed because of the weather. In this event, overs will not be deducted for a period of 30 minutes and, upon subsequent resumption or start of play, there will be an interval of 15 minutes between innings.
10.5 During the first innings where weather interrupts play in the course of an over and no further play is possible in the innings, it will be regarded as complete to the end of the uncompleted over.	

10.6	ECB Premier, Championship and First Divisions												
10.6.1	Any delay of more than 15 minutes to the start of the match will result in the deduction of two overs per innings for every complete 15 minutes lost.												
10.6.2	All time lost after the start of the match will be aggregated. The first 30 minutes lost will be ignored. Any time lost due to ground, weather or light conditions in excess of 30 minutes (except as in 10.6.4 below) will result in the deduction of four overs for every further complete 15 minutes lost. For example:												
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="355 389 699 418">Time lost in total</th> <th data-bbox="703 389 1054 418">Net loss over 30 minutes</th> <th data-bbox="1059 389 1423 418">Deduction</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="355 425 699 454">20 mins</td> <td data-bbox="703 425 1054 454">Nil</td> <td data-bbox="1059 425 1423 454">Nil</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="355 461 699 490">1 hr 15 mins</td> <td data-bbox="703 461 1054 490">45 mins</td> <td data-bbox="1059 461 1423 490">12</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="355 497 699 526">2 hr 25 min</td> <td data-bbox="703 497 1054 526">1 hr 55 min</td> <td data-bbox="1059 497 1423 526">28 (10 min ignored)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Time lost in total	Net loss over 30 minutes	Deduction	20 mins	Nil	Nil	1 hr 15 mins	45 mins	12	2 hr 25 min	1 hr 55 min	28 (10 min ignored)
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10.6.3	Where overs are reduced after the start of the match, the result will be determined by the DLS method.												
10.6.4	Where, for whatever reason, the first innings lasts for less than 3 hours 10 minutes, the balance of unused time will be added to the 30 minutes that is allowed before overs are reduced in the second innings. For example; when the first innings lasts for 2 hours 30 minutes, there is an unused balance of 40 minutes, which means that in the second innings, 1 hour 10 minutes will be allowed before overs are deducted as above.												
10.7	Second Division and below												
10.7.1	If the start is delayed, or an interruption takes place during the first innings, the number of overs to be bowled will be reduced by one over per team for every complete 7.5 minutes lost to a minimum of twenty overs per team.												
10.7.2	If an interruption occurs after the completion of the first innings that score will stand. The number of overs of the team batting second will be reduced by one over for every complete 3.75 minutes lost. A new target score will be calculated for the team batting second to win the match by multiplying the revised total number of overs in the second innings by the average number of runs per over scored by the team batting first and then rounding up to the next highest whole number. (Note: if a team is dismissed in less overs than the maximum that they were allowed, that maximum number will be used in this calculation). If this calculation leads to a whole number without rounding up, then 1 run should be added to determine the target winning score.												
11	Bowling restrictions												
11.1	In the ECB Premier, Championship and First Divisions, bowlers will be restricted to a maximum of one-quarter of the overs allocated for the innings (fractions of an over to count as one over) with an upper limit of 13 overs. In all other Divisions, bowlers will be restricted to a maximum of one-quarter of the total overs scheduled for the innings, except that, where the total number of overs is not divisible by four, an additional one over will be added to the minimum number of overs. (e.g. in a 45 over innings, 25% of 45 is 11.25, 11+1 = 12 overs maximum per bowler)												
11.2	If the total number of overs in an innings is reduced following an interruption in play, the maximum number of overs should be re-calculated and bowlers restricted to the new figure (unless such a number has been exceeded before the interruption).												
11.3	When an interruption occurs mid-over and on resumption the bowler has exceeded the new maximum allocation, they will be allowed to finish the incomplete over.												
11.4	In the event of a bowler breaking down and being unable to complete an over, another bowler will bowl the remaining balls. Such part of an over will count as a full over only in so far as each bowler's limit is concerned.												
12	Over rates												
12.1	Teams in all Divisions are expected to bowl their overs at a minimum rate of 16 overs per hour with an allowance of 3 hours and 10 minutes for a 50 over innings and 2 hours and 50 minutes for a 45 over innings.												
12.2	These targets will be adjusted pro rata in the event of the total number of overs in the innings being reduced as a result of an interruption.												

	12.3	In the event of an innings not being completed within the target time, the batting team will be awarded five penalty runs for each full over remaining to be bowled at this time. The over in progress at this time will not count.
	12.4	The target time for an innings may be extended by the umpires in the case of unavoidable delays such as a lost ball, an injury, time wasting by the batting team or a second drinks break.
	12.5	Over rate penalties will only be applied in matches covered by panel umpires.
	12.6	The umpires are required to advise the fielding captain of the over-rate position at the drinks interval in each innings.
13	Match Day Practice (ECB Premier Division only)	
	13.1	No practice will be allowed on the playing area in the 5 minutes before the scheduled time of start and the five minutes before the resumption of play after any interval.
	13.2	Other than at these times, practice will be allowed on the playing area on the day of the match whilst play is not in progress, except on the strip being used for the match and the two strips to either side of it.
	13.3	The home team should designate an area on the outfield where the opposition can practice and provide a cut strip on the square (ECB Premier Division only), unless ground and weather conditions preclude.
	13.4	Whilst play is in progress, there will be no practice on the playing area, except that a new bowler will be allowed a maximum of two practice deliveries on the outfield before bowling.
14	Covering of Pitches	
	14.1	All clubs with teams in the ECB Premier, Championship and First Divisions must have adequate covers. The covers must be capable of covering the whole of the pitch and should cover a minimum of 81' x 15' (24.69m x 4.57m).
	14.2	Clubs with teams below the First Divisions must inform the League if they do not have or do not intend to use covers during matches.
	14.3	Pitches, including bowlers' run-ups and adjacent pitches, should, wherever possible, be fully covered when there is a likelihood of rain during the week before a match, and should, wherever possible, be covered during the match whenever there is a stoppage due to rain.
15	Entry on to the field of play	
	15.1	The incoming batsman should enter the field of play from the pavilion area and cross on the field with the outgoing batsman.
	15.2	Players should not enter the field of play at the commencement of an innings or following a break in play, in advance of the umpires.
16	Dress Code	
	16.1	No player will be allowed to take part in a league match unless his/her clothing is of a predominantly white appearance. Umpires are required to enforce this rule and report any breach of the rule to the secretary.
	16.2	All umpires (including club umpires & players standing in), when on the field, must wear a white umpire jacket or white shirt and dark coloured trousers.
17	Distribution of Points	
	17.1	A win will be determined in accordance with Law 16.2 (irrespective of the length of the match), by the Duckworth Lewis system (ECB Premier, Championship and First Divisions) or by Average Run Rate (Second Division and below). If the scores are equal or the team batting second equals the DLS/Average Run Rate par score when both innings have been completed, the result will be a tie regardless of wickets lost.
	17.2	Points will be awarded as follows:
	17.2.1	Win: The winning team will be awarded 10 points.
	17.2.2	Tie: Each team will be awarded 5 points.

	<p>17.2.3 Losing Teams: The team which loses the match will be awarded bonus points as follows; 0 points if, in the 2nd innings, they fail to achieve 75% of the 1st innings score or, in the 2nd innings they fail to take 6 or more wickets. 2 points if, in the 2nd innings, they score 75% or more, but less than 90% of the 1st innings score or, in the 2nd innings they take 6 or 7 wickets. 4 points if, in the 2nd innings, they score 90% or more of the 1st innings score or, in the 2nd innings they take 8 or 9 wickets.</p>
	<p>17.2.4 Cancelled/Abandoned matches: In a match where no play is possible or the full or revised number of overs cannot be bowled due to ground or weather conditions, each team will be awarded 4 points.</p>
	<p>17.2.5 Conceded matches: The failure to fulfil a match due to any reason other than adverse weather or ground conditions will be regarded as ‘conceding the match’. The offending club will be subject to penalties in accordance with the schedule of penalties. Where a team is handed victory via a conceded match, they will receive 10 points providing at least two other matches in the same Division has been completed on the same day, otherwise they will only receive the points relating to an abandoned match. The conceding team will receive no points.</p>
18	Cricket Balls
	<p>18.1 The League will negotiate for the bulk buying of balls of approved standard on an annual basis and present their recommendations to the Annual General Meeting. All clubs must purchase a minimum of 6 cricket balls per team.</p>
	<p>18.2 Clubs will agree, by a vote, which specific ball is to be regarded as the official league ball for use in the ECB Premier Division and also in the Championship and First Divisions.</p>
	<p>18.3 In the ECB Premier, Championship and First Divisions, each team must use an official league approved new ball as in Rule 18.2. In all other Divisions each team must provide a ball, which need not be new, but must be a quartered leather ball, conforming in all aspects, to the M.C.C. Laws of Cricket and must be a Grade ‘A’ ball of British manufacture, as approved by the Management Board.</p>
	<p>18.4 Each team must provide a spare ball which conforms to the specification operative within that Division.</p>
	<p>18.5 Umpires and Captains will be held responsible for seeing that this rule is enforced.</p>
19	Umpires
	<p>19.1 Two umpires will be appointed from the Yorkshire Premier League Umpires’ Association to each ECB Premier Division match.</p>
	<p>19.2 Two umpires will be appointed from the Yorkshire Premier League North Umpires’ Panel to matches in the Championship and wherever possible below that.</p>
	<p>19.3 Where umpires are not appointed from either Umpires’ Panel, clubs will be responsible for providing umpires for their teams and must satisfy themselves as to the ability of such umpires.</p>
	<p>19.4 Teams in Divisions not covered by Panel Umpires who do not have a non-playing umpire may designate a specific team member to umpire.</p>
	<p>19.5 Umpire fees in the ECB Premier Division will include travelling costs and will be determined annually by the Board. They must be paid prior to the resumption of play after tea. Each team will be responsible for paying one umpire. Once umpires have arrived at the ground the full fee will be payable, irrespective of whether or not play takes place.</p>
	<p>19.6 Fees for umpires from the YPLN Panel will be collected from clubs and paid to the umpires after the end of the season. There will be a fixed fee, determined annually by the Board and a mileage allowance.</p>
	<p>19.7 In the case of a duly appointed umpire being absent, the captains of the respective teams must mutually agree the appointment of an umpire during such absence, and they will be recognised by the League as official umpires.</p>

20	Scorers
20.1	Each team is required to provide a competent scorer who must ensure that the match details are recorded accurately.
20.2	Live scores for matches in the ECB Premier Division must be maintained on Play-Cricket using an ECB approved system. Live scores in matches in the Championship and First Divisions should also be maintained wherever possible.
20.3	Should a team fail to provide a scorer, they must nominate a scorer for the whole match from their eleven nominated players. This acting scorer may only be relieved if a suitable alternative scorer is provided. An acting scorer will be allowed to bowl immediately on taking the field.
20.4	<p>In divisions where DLS is to be used in the event of interruptions, the ideal scenario is that all scorers are in possession of and competent in the use of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A laptop with Windows operating system and Play-Cricket Scorer Pro installed • An internet connection (wi-fi, USB dongle or mobile phone hotspot connection) • A printer (optional) • Walkie Talkies for communication with the umpires (optional) <p>Where the two scorers are scoring using different platforms (eg a laptop and a tablet) they must agree with the umpires before the toss which platform is to be used for DLS calculations if required. Ideally, that should be the laptop and the latest version of DLS should be used.</p> <p>Scorers will be expected to display the DLS par score from the commencement of the second innings.</p> <p>If there is no facility to use DLS and there is an interruption, due to inclement weather or other unavoidable cause, calculations of target scores will be based on average run rate as per Playing Condition 10.7 in the Second Division and below.</p>
20.5	In divisions where DLS is to be used in the event of interruptions, scorers will be expected to display the DLS Par Score from the commencement of the second innings.
20.6	In all league and cup matches, the scoreboard must be updated as a minimum at the end of each over and display the over in progress.
20.7	Scorers must agree details of the first innings prior to the commencement of the second innings and ensure that the correct first innings total is correctly displayed on the scoreboard, and agree details at the end of the match.
20.7	Any discrepancies evident at the end of either innings must be resolved in conjunction with the umpires.
20.9	Scorers in all Divisions must be in an enclosed area away from the public. Portable scoreboards and tables in public areas for scorers are not acceptable unless dispensation is approved due to work on improvements etc.
20.10	All umpires and scorers officiating regularly under the auspices of the League must hold a current DBS certificate.
21	Submission of results and reports
21.1	Home teams must submit summary match details on the day of the match in accordance with the procedures published on the League Website.
21.2	Home teams are responsible for submitting full detailed results in accordance with the procedures published on the League Website.
21.3	All teams must submit Captain's Reports in accordance with the procedures published on the League Website.
21.4	Failure to meet the above requirements will attract a penalty.
22	Junior Players
22.1	The regulations issued by the England & Wales Cricket Board relating to junior players in respect of the wearing of helmets, fielding distances and bowling restrictions will apply in all matches played under the League's jurisdiction. The Umpires will be the sole judges, after consultation with the captain, as to whether a junior bowler is deemed to be 'fast' from a bowling restriction viewpoint.

23	First Division Play Off
23.1	As per League Management Rule 10.1.2 the runners up in the two First Divisions will contest a play-off to determine which team will be promoted to the Championship Division for the following season
23.2	The play-off will take place on the Saturday following the last league matches of the season at a neutral venue with an 11.00am start.
23.3	Umpires will be provided by the Yorkshire Premier League North Umpires' Panel
23.4	The match will be played under the current playing conditions for the First Divisions with the following exceptions
23.5	In the event of the score being level at the end of the match, the team losing the fewest wickets will be declared the winner.
23.6	<p>In the event of the scores and wickets lost being equal a bowl-out will take place;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The bowl out will be supervised by the umpires (ii) Five bowlers from each nominated team will each bowl two consecutive overarm deliveries at a wicket (conforming to Law 8) from a wicket pitched at a distance of 22 yds with, if practicable, bowling, popping and return creases marked (conforming to Law 7) (iii) The same suitably acceptable ball (not a new one) will be used by both teams. If this ball becomes wet, it may be changed subject to the umpires' approval (iv) Bowlers from each team will alternate. (v) No extra delivery will be granted in the case of a wide or no-ball – there is no requirement for the ball to 'pitch' (vi) Each team will provide a wicket-keeper who must stand back (vii) The team which bowls down the wicket (as defined in Law 29.1.1) the most times from fair deliveries, will be declared the winner <p>In the event of a tie after each team has bowled ten deliveries a sudden death bowl-out will take place with the same bowlers each bowling one delivery in the same order</p>
23.7	In the event of conditions preventing the match being completed or it not being possible to commence a match once all players and officials are present, a bowl-out using the above rules will, if conditions allow, take place. The umpires will be the sole judges of whether conditions are suitable for a bowl out to take place.
23.8	In the event of it not being possible to determine a winner by any of the above methods, the winner will be determined by the toss of a coin under circumstances to be arranged by the league secretary.
24	Discipline
24.1	All disciplinary matters will be dealt with in accordance with the League's published disciplinary rules, which are in line with ECB disciplinary regulations for Premier Leagues.