**Oxfordshire Youth Cricket League (OYCL)**

**Rules & Playing Regulations 2021**

**Note:** throughout these rules, options shown in emboldened italics separated by an oblique (‘/’) shall indicate the options for Under 13 and Under 15 age groups, respectively. Where an option applies to one age groups only, this will be made clear in the preceding text.

**Preamble:** Matches are to be played under MCC laws and particular note should be taken of the full extent of the section on 'The Spirit of Cricket'. Based on the success of the Gloucestershire Youth Cricket League and the growing demand for youth summer cricket, during 2021 we will be running a Pilot of the Leagues to learn from the experience, and appreciate the support of all clubs, coaches, and team managers for the development of a long-term future for these leagues. Clubs are encouraged to use other club members as umpires rather than the team managers or coaches, though it is recognised that this is often not possible. The county will look to appoint experienced independent umpires for all finals.

**Purpose of the OYCL:** The OYCL is looking to offer clubs and young cricketers the chance to play a longer form of cricket than the local Twenty20 leagues. This is to provide existing District and County players, and those aspiring to reach this level with the relevant playing opportunities and experience to play representative cricket. The competition is also being used to close the gap between club cricket and the Performance Pathway. For this to happen, clubs should not retire batters, allow bowlers to bowl as much as they can, within ECB guidelines and for players to face up to the best players. This way young cricketers get to experience the feeling of scoring big scores such as centuries, taking 5 or more wickets in a game and testing themselves against the best players in their age group.

1. **Player / Club qualification** 
   1. Each player must be a member of the club they represent, and no player shall play for more than one club across any age range in the competition. Any club fielding an ineligible player shall forfeit all points gained from all matches in which that player plays and a penalty of 9 points will apply to that club in that age group.
   2. All players must be registered with their club so eligible for selection prior to the first match of the season. Any player transfer between clubs during the season is NOT allowed.
   3. Players who are playing for teams which combine a number of clubs or an alternate club from their local leagues, for the purpose of playing in the OYCL, must register with one of the constituent clubs of that team.
   4. All players (with exceptions allowed in 1e below) must be under the age of 13/15 at midnight on 31st August in the year prior to the competition, normally in school year 8/10 or below as appropriate for the age group concerned. Clubs must be completely satisfied that players who are more than two years younger than the appropriate upper age limit at midnight on 31st August in the year prior to the competition, have the ability to perform in the age group for which they have been selected.
   5. Girls will be allowed to play in this competition and can play in lower age groups. Following ECB rules, this is two years i.e., year 10 in U13 and year 12 in U15.
   6. Competing Clubs must have effective Personal Accident Insurance that adequately covers junior players; all clubs in the league must have a Child Welfare Officer.
2. **Playing Regulations** 
   1. All matches shall be played in accordance with the MCC Laws of Cricket except for the specific provisions in these rules.
   2. Each team shall consist of eleven players. Smaller sided games can be agreed between clubs instead of cancelling fixtures.
   3. The pitch shall be 19/22 yards in length for U13/15.
   4. The ball to be used shall be 4 ¾ oz/full size for U13/15.
   5. Matches shall consist of one innings per side. Each innings shall be 35/40 overs in duration for U13/15.
   6. No bowler shall bowl more than 7/8 overs for U13/15. Team managers should ensure that ECB directives are observed regarding the age and type of bowler.
   7. No fielder except the wicket keeper and those behind the wicket on the offside shall be nearer than eleven yards measured from the middle stump of the striker’s wicket in U13 matches and eight yards in U15 matches.
   8. Umpires and Team Managers may only give guidance to all age groups team members during breaks in play, so it does not impede the progress of the match unnecessarily.
   9. In Under 13 and Under 15 matches there shall be a tea interval of 25 minutes between innings.
   10. In all matches, it is mandatory for all players to wear a helmet with a faceguard when batting and wicket keepers must wear a helmet with a faceguard when standing up to the wicket, and there is no option for parents to give consent for their child not to wear a helmet.
3. **Fixtures** 
   1. Matches will be played on the date specified unless the teams involved mutually agree an alternative time/date. Rearrangement will be permitted if an Under 13 or Under 15 team is required to fulfil a match in the later stages of the National Knock-Out Cups on a date that clashes with the league fixture.
   2. Rearrangement will also be permitted for unexpected senior cup commitments on home grounds e.g., Senior Cup matches where notification of the game is made at short notice. Matches cancelled because of inclement weather SHOULD be rearranged during the season and during August school holidays - it may be possible to have these matches during mid-week. The home Team Manager is responsible for notifying the Age Group Administrator of the new date by email, copying in the opposition team manager within 48 hours of the agreement.
   3. Normal starting times are 13.00 for afternoon U13 and U15 games. These start times can be changed by agreement of the clubs involved.
4. **Provision of Teas** 
   1. For the current season refreshments remain the responsibility of the individual player.
5. **Penalties** 
   1. Any team cancelling a match for non-weather-related reason other than those covered in rule 3a above, the opposing side will be awarded the maximum point scored on that game day as being deemed to have been conceded to. The decision to award conceded points will be under the sole discretion of the Age Group Administrator based on evidence that a side has made every reasonable effort to re-arrange matches cancelled because of weather.
6. **Inclement Weather** 
   1. It will be the responsibility of the home Team Manager or appointed umpires to decide whether the match should start if the playing area has been affected by inclement weather.
   2. The number of overs will not be reduced until 30 minutes have been lost. After that 6c)-f) applies for U13 and U15 games.
   3. Weather interference before the match – for every 6 minutes lost after the initial 30 minutes reduce the aggregate overs by 2 overs. The resultant number of overs is divided equally between the two sides. A minimum of 20 each shall constitute a game.
   4. Weather interference during the innings of the team batting first - for every 3 minutes lost after the initial 30 minutes, one over is taken from the maximum allowed for the side batting second. The team batting first will complete its allotted overs i.e., 35 or 40. The side batting second must be allowed a minimum of 20 overs to constitute a match. The run rate of the team batting first will be calculated. The team batting second must score the run rate of the team batting first times the number of allotted overs plus one run (ignoring decimals) to win.
   5. Weather interference during innings of the team batting second - for every 3 minutes lost after the initial 30 minutes, one over is taken from the side batting second. The side batting second must be allowed to bat 20 overs to constitute a game. The run rate of the team batting first is multiplied by the overs allowed to the team batting second plus one run (ignoring decimals). If the team batting second has already passed the total calculated using the run rate multiplied by 20 overs but has not batted 20 overs, they will be awarded the match.
   6. The number of overs allowed for each bowler will be reduced in proportion to the total number of overs agreed.

*There is a general presumption that in the event of inclement weather, common sense and agreement between the clubs will prevail to ensure that the safety of players is upheld. In addition, clubs should make timely and sensible decisions on abandonment to avoid games continuing after a suggested finishing time of 8.00pm for afternoon games. Team managers can agree an earlier time, but both must agree.*

1. **Notification of Results** 
   1. It will be the responsibility of the home team to enter the result and the full scorecard on their Play-Cricket website. The result should be entered the SAME day as the match and the full scorecard within 48 hours of the game being played.
   2. Where possible clubs should look to use the Play-Cricket app to score the games which will upload scorecards automatically to Play-Cricket.
   3. Full details of notable performances including full names should be included in the highlights section as this aids information to those reading the site.
2. **Points Scoring** 
   1. League positions shall be decided on the final points gained during the season. If two or more teams are level on points, the total number of wins will determine their position. If still equal the result between the two teams (points scored) will be the determinant. In an ideal world which concentrates on providing cricket; it is hoped clubs make use of alternative dates to rearrange weather cancelled games (for example mid-week during the summer holiday months). The Age Group Administrator decision as to whether to award points based on conceded games will be final and will be minded to implement Rule 5 if no demonstrable effort to re-arrange matches has been made where applicable. All points are calculated automatically by Play-Cricket.
   2. Result Points:

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| U13/U15  Win = 6 points  Tied = 4 points (must be played)  Loss = 2 points  Abandoned = 3 points (must be started) \*Cancelled = 0 points  Conceding = 0 points  Conceded to = Max points on match day |

\* There are 0 points for a cancelled fixture to encourage the rearranging of the game.

1. Batting Bonus Points (First Innings):

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| U13/U15  For scoring 100 runs = 1 point  For scoring 150 runs = 2 points  For scoring 200 runs = 3 points |

1. Bowling Bonus Points:

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| U13/U15  3 wickets taken = 1 point  6 wickets taken = 2 points  All Out = 3 points |

1. Batting Bonus Points (Second Innings):

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| U13/U15  3 or less wickets lost = 3 points  6 or less wickets lost = 2 points  9 or less wickets lost = 1 point  All Out = 0 points |

1. **Finals for Leagues** 
   1. *Given this season is a Pilot for the Leagues, the number of leagues and the format of the finals will be decided once the number of entries have been collated, and these rules will then be updated to reflect.*
   2. It is intended the venue for the Finals in 9(a) above will rotate on annual basis. All Clubs participating in the various age group sections must make careful note of their potential responsibility to host finals. The Age Group Administrator for their Age Group will liaise with the relevant clubs over the arrangements for the semi-finals and finals including the appropriate dates.
   3. The winner of each individual league for all age groups will be determined by the number of points scored during the season. In all cases where teams are level on points the team with the most wins (excluding conceded matches); and after that (where applicable) the result between the two teams will be the deciding factor.
2. **Trophies** 
   1. Each year the winners receive a perpetual trophy that they retain for the year. During this period, it is the responsibility of the winning club to have the trophy engraved and ensure its safety for the following season.
   2. All trophies must be returned to the Age Group Administrator, engraved, by the start of August each year.
3. **Contacts for OYCL in 2021**

• ***U13/15 – Paul Short*** [***pshort@oxoncb.com***](mailto:pshort@oxoncb.com)

**APPENDIX A**

**What is expected of clubs/teams entering our competitions** (Extract from Youth Handbook):

1. All Clubs/Teams entering Competitions **must** be affiliated to Oxfordshire Cricket. Oxfordshire Cricket reserve the right to refuse entries made after the entry deadline.
2. All Clubs/Teams should recognise and comply with the[**ECB Safe Hands Policy**](https://www.ecb.co.uk/safeguarding/policy-and-procedures) (available on ECB and Oxfordshire Cricket’s Websites).
3. All Clubs/Teams entering Oxfordshire Cricket Competitions must ensure a Safeguarding Officer is in place and nominated on their entry.
4. All Clubs/Teams must have a nominated responsible adult in charge of each team who holds a current DBS check (formerly CRB). We recommend the individual be a qualified coach and member of the ECBCA.
5. Such persons identified to the Competition organiser prior to the Competition beginning, or on entry (although it would not necessarily be the Contact person for administration purposes).
6. All Clubs/Teams should ensure that they have appropriate changing facilities on their own ground to accommodate both girls and boys. It is recommended where clubs play girls in boys’ teams, the team is accompanied to the game by female adult supervisor.
7. All Clubs/Teams should ensure that they obtain the appropriate consent from parents and/or guardians of the children likely to play in competitions regarding the provision of emergency medical assistance, travel arrangements, photography, and the videoing of games, prior to the season commencing (form available from Competition Administrator).

**Please Note:** For Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Process please refer to the main Youth Competition Handbook.