

Bucks Cricket Junior Competitions 2023 Season

The stated aim of Bucks Cricket is **TO DELIVER MORE & BETTER CRICKET FOR EVERYONE ACROSS BUCKINGHAMSHIRE** – inspiring a generation to say, *‘Cricket is a Game for Me’*

When considering the design of Junior Competitions, our underlying philosophy in relation to junior cricket centres primarily around: Phases of a child’s development + Participation v Competition + The Spirit of Cricket

The 3 PHASES OF A CHILD’S DEVELOPMENT

1. U9-11: FOUNDATION PHASE:
Focus on enjoyment for as many players as possible whilst building core skills. Players should try a bit of ‘everything’ (bat, bowl, field, captain, keep wicket etc) The only purpose of results (team and individual) at this phase is to create opportunities for learning
2. U12-14: DEVELOPMENT PHASE:
Players build on their fundamental skills and begin to build key strengths within each aspect of the game. The focus is on about exploring their own game and learning as much as they can about the game. Players still play lots of different roles, but begin to spend more time focusing on what they do best and enjoy most
3. U15-19: PERFORMANCE PHASE
Players’ results are their currency to further selections and pushing to higher levels of the game. Players will look to make match-winning contributions with their individual key strengths, whilst becoming an all-round cricketer technically, tactically, physically, and mentally. As players’ roles become clearer and their performances have more impact, we must also keep reminding them why they started playing the game in the first place and to relax, enjoy it and keep learning

PARTICIPATION v COMPETITION

Whilst everyone playing competitive sport aims to compete against an opponent, winning games should not be the primary goal of junior cricket. Bucks Cricket organises junior competitions to maximise participation for all junior cricketers. Our competition rules provide flexibility to allow clubs to agree changes to rules to “get the game on”.

THE SPIRIT OF CRICKET

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 and sportsmanship towards:

1. Your opponents, your own captain and team
2. The role of the Umpires and the game’s traditional values

It is against the Spirit of Cricket to:

1. Dispute an umpire’s decision by word, action or gesture or direct abusive language towards an opponent or Umpire
2. Indulge in cheating, sharp practice, appealing knowing the batsman is not out or advance towards an Umpire aggressively when appealing
3. Seek to distract an opponent either verbally or by harassment (there 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)

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Generic Competition Rules

Outside of these Regulations the normal **Laws of Cricket** shall apply: <https://www.lords.org/mcc/the-laws-of-cricket>
 ECB Rules & Regulations: https://bucksricricketcomps.play-cricket.com/doc_details?doc_id=36223&keywords=&page=1
 ECB Recommend Junior Formats: https://bucksricricketcomps.play-cricket.com/doc_details?doc_id=39018&keywords=&page=1
 Competitions running/run last year: <https://bucksricricketcomps.play-cricket.com/Competitions?season=255>

| Ref | Area | Rule |
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| <p>Competitions are organised by Bucks Cricket. Any queries or disputes regarding the conduct of these competitions should be referred to the Competition Admin. Their decisions will be final.</p> <p>The league and its Clubs must comply with the ECB's General Conduct Regulations and Anti-Discrimination Code ALL CLUBS MUST HAVE A PRINTED COPY OF THESE RULES AVAILABLE FOR REFERENCE IN THEIR PAVILION.</p> | | |
| <p>Bucks Cricket will use its competition site https://bucksricricketcomps.play-cricket.com to manage the competitions. Clubs will need to set up junior teams/names, including the team manager's contact details, on their own club Play-Cricket site Clubs should contact Play-Cricket helpdesk play.cricket@bucksrb.org with Play-Cricket technical issues. Bucks Cricket will provide pre-season Play-Cricket training</p> | | |
| <p>Team Entry: Clubs to provide Team Strength, Preferred Ball Type/No. Players per Team/No. Fixtures Competitions to be mapped to demand, but competition structure will default to previous year's and formats will default to ECB recommendations where there is not consensus</p> | | |
| 1.00 | Eligibility - Club | Clubs must be directly affiliated to the Bucks Cricket Clubs based outside Bucks may affiliate to the Bucks Cricket and play in competitions; however, they cannot represent Bucks in any subsequent National stages of the competitions |
| 1.01 | Eligibility - Club | Clubs must enforce all Safeguarding Policies: https://bucksricricket.com/web_pages/safeguarding_resources and be enrolled/90% compliance on ECB Safe Hands Management System on 1st April |
| 1.02 | Eligibility - Club | Clubs can enter more than one team in any age group, and can have more than one team in any single league. Where a club fields more than one team in an age group, it would be considered against the spirit of the game for clubs to strengthen the second team for key matches |
| 1.03 | Eligibility - Club | Clubs own the responsibility for ensuring that players are eligible to represent both the team and the club. If any club fields an ineligible player, then that team will be disqualified from the competition |
| 1.04 | Eligibility - Player | Every player must be a member of that club's play cricket site and have paid all relevant club subscriptions. To play in a League or Cup Final or a Playoff match, all players must have already represented that Club in the junior competitions during the season. Bucks Cricket will not penalise players/clubs for playing for more than one club. That said it would be against the spirit of cricket for clubs to actively pull in 'ringers' from other clubs to win trophies. The priority of each club should be to develop their playing pool and create the best environment to encourage player loyalty. Clubs may wish to police this themselves, e.g. a rule in membership that requires players to ask for approval before representing another Club) |
| 1.04 | Eligibility - Player | - Players may play for their club at more than one age group (providing that they are within the relevant age limits) |
| 1.05 | Eligibility - Player | - In the interests of "getting the game on", the regulations allow for sensible use of a limited number of "over aged" players in a side from one age group up only. These players: - Cannot be in a County pathway this or last season. - Are not allowed at all in the following fixtures: Regional Playoff, League Final or any Cup fixtures All overage players must be added to the Document on the Competitions Website and competitions organiser informed. When requesting this option, we would implore both team managers to have an acute awareness of Health and Safety considerations. In no circumstances can a side play an over aged player from two ages up (except girls). |
| 1.06 | Eligibility - Teams | - Mixed gender sides are allowed. Girls may play in boys/mixed age groups two years under their actual age |

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| 2.00 | Fixtures | Fixtures will be automatically created for all leagues based on a default day of the week for each age group. Home and away venues will be shown for all fixtures and will apply unless a change in venue is mutually agreed between the clubs Club attendance at February Junior Cricket Forums/Fixtures Meetings (in late February) - Mandatory attendance for teams to be entered into leagues (unless fixtures agreed and on Play Cricket before the meeting date) |
| 2.01 | Fixtures | League fixtures to be locked down by 1 st April (i.e. the deadline for clubs to move games from default dates) Any further changes must be within 10 days (5 days before or after) of the date agreed as of 01/04 OR mutually agreed by both teams to move the game - otherwise, the fixture will be conceded. The exception is games called off due to weather which can be rearranged at any point until the fixture deadline. |
| 2.02 | Fixtures | It is expected that all clubs shall fulfil the fixtures once agreed – two strikes and you are out of the Competition |
| 2.03 | Fixtures - Rearrangement | The manager of the home side should provide three alternative dates via email to the manager of the away side. |
| 2.04 | Fixtures | If either side is struggling to field a team on the agreed date a discussion between managers must take place as soon as the problem is identified |
| 2.05 | Fixtures | Options to “get the game on” must be discussed. (The opposition may be able to provide some additional players or agree to lend substitute fielders or allow low scoring batsmen to resume batting. The main objective is to “get the game on”, rather than secure the points) |
| 2.06 | Fixtures | Team Managers must consult the Competition Organiser in the event of any insurmountable problem. |
| 3.00 | Main | All Results - including Cancelled, Abandoned & Conceded - must be entered onto the Competition website by home team 3 days of the completed game |
| 3.01 | Main | In addition to the input of results: Team Managers for both teams must also complete additional reporting of "Fair Play" Report at the end of each month which will be emailed out |
| 3.02 | Main | Grass and Non-Turf Pitches are permitted; where a game is to be played on an NTP the home side should inform the away team via email prior to the game |
| 3.04 | Main | 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 |
| 3.05 | Main | BCB expects all clubs to educate their players and their parents in the "Spirit of Cricket" |
| 3.06 | Main | All coaches should refrain from trying to captain their sides during the game |
| 3.07 | Main | 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/long discussions should be discouraged |
| 4.00 | All Competition Rules | Managers/Umpires to align philosophies/strengths/interpretation of rules (e.g. wides, no balls, enforcement of 1 run penalty for slow over rate) prior to start of each game |
| 4.01 | All Competition Rules | In the event of adverse weather, the game can be reduced to a minimum length of 10 six-ball overs. The number of overs permitted by each bowler shall be reduced in proportion to the overs lost. For T20: 10-13 over-a-side game = 2 overs max per bowler. 14-16 over game = 2 bowlers can bowl 3 overs, rest max. 2 17-19 overs = 4 bowlers bowl 3 overs, rest max. 2 overs. |
| 4.02 | All Competition Rules | 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. If 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. If this is not possible, league matches will go down as abandoned with points shared and in cup matches the match will be decided by a bowl out, or if not possible, a toss of a coin. |

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| 4.03 | All Competition Rules | In hardball competitions balls can be either re-polished or new and should last for both innings. Coloured balls are allowed (orange or pink – white balls shall not be used) Where there are going to be two different playing kits (e.g., White vs Coloured Kit), then the fielding team must provide their own ball |
| 4.04 | All Competition Rules | Clubs should stick to a 10-minute interval between innings and, to speed up the 20/20 games, bowl 5 overs in succession from one end (or 10 if agreed) |
| 4.05 | All Competition Rules | When coloured kit is worn, in the interests of Health and Safety, so that players can see the ball clearly, especially in late evening light, pink or orange balls must be used. Clubs should ensure Girls Teams play in Coloured Trousers |
| 4.06 | All Competition Rules | For the removal of doubt a no ball should be called: .if the ball bounces twice before reaching the batsman .if the ball is a short-pitched delivery over head-height .for a 3rd bouncer in the over which passes between shoulder and head height .for every high full toss over waist height. The player will not receive a warning nor be removed from the attack by an umpire, unless it be deemed to be a deliberate act, whereupon the bowler will be immediately withdrawn by the umpire for the remainder of the match |
| 4.07 | All Competition Rules | 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 |
| 4.08 | All Competition Rules | When a match is played on a knockout 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 |
| 4.09 | All Competition Rules | If 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): 1) If one team has beaten the other(s), then they shall be the League Winners. 2) The team with the best net run rate less the net run rate of their opponents. $NRR = (\text{Runs scored} / \text{entitled overs}) - (\text{runs conceded} / \text{entitled overs})$ |
| 4.10 | All Competition Rules | To create a transition between 'windball/softball cricket' at U9 to hardball, there will also be the option of entering teams into "Incrediball" Leagues. These games will be played with pads (hopefully the combination of incrediball and wearing pads/helmet at this age will decrease the fear of getting hit by the ball) and will primarily play on Non-Turf pitches (or on good outfield strips - but of course can be on the turf square). If both Managers agree the games can be played using a 4.75oz hardball but this will be the exception rather than the rule. |
| 4.11 | All Competition Rules | 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 |
| 5.00 | Rules – T20 | All sides are expected to be in position to bowl the first ball of the last of their 20 overs within 1 hours 15 minutes playing time. 1 run penalty of every over not bowled, excluding the 20th after 75 minutes of the innings Batters should be ready to take strike within 90 seconds of the previous dismissal |
| 5.01 | Rules – T20 | Fielding restrictions: Maximum of 5 fielders on boundary/minimum 4 fielders within approximately 30 yards of the batter across all competitions. Unless agreed by Managers to play T20 rules of max. 2 outside fielding circle first 6 overs, then max, 5 overs 7-20. |
| 5.02 | Rules – T20 | Where the batter must retire, they can return to batting once all others batters have been dismissed (U19: no retire: U14-U17: 50 runs: U13 and below: 25 balls) |
| 6.00 | Rules - Pairs | Each team shall commence their innings with 200 runs The number of overs for each innings will be twice the number of players in the team Each player (excluding the keeper if they are keeping for the whole match innings) must bowl at least two overs. Where the keeper keeps for the whole innings then 2 players may bowl 3 overs The batting team shall be divided into pairs of batsmen and each pair shall bat for four overs |

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| 6.01 | Rules - Pairs | Batters shall have unlimited "lives", but SIX runs shall be deducted from the total every time a batsman is dismissed (including run outs) A batter cannot be given out LBW in Windball matches No batter who is out should face the next ball; batsmen shall change ends after a dismissal if necessary, to achieve this |
| 6.01 | Rules - Pairs | Should a side (for unforeseen circumstances) take the field with only nine (or 7 if 8 per side) players, then the captain of the opposing side may decide prior to each innings, which of the remaining nine players may bat again 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 |
| 6.02 | Rules - Pairs | 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 |
| 7.00 | League & Cup Finals | Cup Semi Finals and Premier League Fixtures must be completed on/by Sunday 20th August. League and Cup Finals to be played on Sunday 3rd September, with 10th September as backup if 3rd is rained off. Can be brought forward if agreed by both teams. If Team A cannot make the set dates, they will forfeit the Final unless Team B are able to agree another date. If rain prevents completion of the Finals on the stipulated date(s), the teams will share the competition. |
| 7.01 | League & Cup Finals | League and Cup Finals will be played on the ground of the club reaching the final first should they wish , or if equal by the toss of a coin. The exception would be if a Team has qualified for both the League and Cup Final, they become the hosts of both fixtures (should they wish) back-to-back for logistical reasons. If a Club has 4+ teams due to host Finals then they must give up hosting rights to all fixtures beyond 3 of their choosing (which can be played at 10:00, 13:00 & 16:00 assuming no other fixtures are scheduled). |
| 7.02 | Trophies and medals | Provided for League and Cup Finals Division winners enter via form – trophy + 15 medals paid for by Bucks + any others by Club |
| 8.00 | Umpires | 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 |
| 8.01 | Umpires | Clubs reaching the semi-final stages of the knockout competitions are encouraged to seek ACO qualified umpires who are not associated (e.g. not a parent or team manager) with the team playing. |
| 8.02 | Umpires | BCB will arrange Bucks ACO umpires for the Finals and Playoffs. Where this is not possible, Clubs should revert to 8.01 above |
| 9.00 | U13/U15 National Comp | The Teams who have played min. 4 matches who have the highest Net Run Rate from the North and South U13 & U15 Premier leagues by close of play Sunday 11th June will Playoff for the right to represent Bucks in the National Tournament. If no team has played 4 matches by 11/06 then it will be highest NRR from 3 matches, and so on. The fixture is hosted by the team with the higher NRR. 3 dates should be provided to the opposition. Both teams should note the relatively tight turnaround to 1st National Round on Sun 2nd July. |
| 9.01 | U13/U15 National Comp | Teams who qualify for the Playoff, play the fixture on the understanding they could be representing their club and county in the National Tournament and therefore must be committed to play and prioritise all games in that tournament |
| 9.02 | U13/U15 National Comp | The U13 & U15 Regional Playoffs will be played under ECB rules, which will be circulated prior to the fixtures taking place |
| 9.03 | U13/U15 National Comp | Players to prioritise Club over County for the National Rounds, but not for the County Playoff should it be on a Sunday and clash with County fixtures. This is only a guide, and it should be the players choice either way. |

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| | U19 | U17 | U15 | U14 | U13 | U13 | U12 | U12 | U10 + U11 | U10 + U11 | U9 | LONG FORMAT U12-14-16? |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Competition Type | Hardball | Hardball | Hardball | Hardball | Hardball | Hardball, Incredi, Windball | Hardball | Incredi, Windball | Hardball | Incredi, Wind | Windball | Hardball |
| Structure | League | League | League & Cup | League | League & Cup | League | League | League | League | League | League | League |
| Format | 20/20 | 20/20 | 20/20 | 20/20 | 20/20 | Girls Pairs | 20/20 | Pairs | Pairs | Pairs | Pairs | 35 over |
| Default Day | Tuesday | Wednesday | Boys/Mix=Thursday Girls=Sunday | Thursday | Tuesday | Friday | Tuesday | Friday | Monday | Monday | Sunday | Sundays (or School Holidays) |
| #Players/Team | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 10 Hardball; 8 incredi/wind | 11 | 8 or 10 | 8, or 10 where agreed | 8, or 10 where agreed | 6, or 8 where agreed | 11 |
| Batter Retires at: | No max | 50 RUNS | 50 RUNS | 50 RUNS | 25 BALLS | N/A | 25 BALLS | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | No max |
| Max Overs/ Bowler | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 7 |
| Competition Start | 20-Jun | 20-Jun | 24-Apr | 24-Apr | 24-Apr | 24-Apr | 24-Apr | 24-Apr | 24-Apr | 24-Apr | 24-Apr | 24-Apr |
| Competition End | 31-Aug | 31-Aug | Prem Lgs & SFs=20-Aug; Rest 31-Aug | 31-Aug | Prem Lgs & SFs=20-Aug; Rest 31-Aug | 31-Aug | 31-Aug | 31-Aug | 31-Aug | 31-Aug | 31-Aug | 31-Aug |
| Pitch (yds) | 22 | 22 | Boys/Mix=22 Girls=20 | 22 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 17 | 17 | 15 | ← as |
| Boundaries | 60m | 60m | 55m | 55m | 50m | 50m | 50m | 45m | 40m | 35m | 30m | ← as |
| Balls (oz) | Boys = 5.5 Girls = 5.0 | Boys = 5.5 Girls = 5.0 | Boys = 5.5 Girls = 5.0 | Boys = 5.5 Girls = 5.0 | 4.75 | 4.75 | 4.75 | 4.75 | 4.75 | | | ← as |
| Points-Win | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Points-Lose | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Points-Tie | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Points-Abandoned | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Points-Conceded | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Point/Runs | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Point/Wkt | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fieldingrestriction (reg 5.02) | Max. 5 on boundary | Max. 5 on boundary | Max. 5 on boundary | Max. 5 on boundary | Max. 5 on boundary | Max. 5 on boundary | Max. 5 on boundary | n/a | Max. 5 on boundary | n/a | n/a | Max. 5 on boundary |
| Bowl extra ball for NoBall/Wide | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Hardball=Y; I/W=Last ov only | Yes | Last over only | Last over only | Last over only | Last over only | Yes |
| Stumps Height | 28x9 in | 28x9 in | 28x9 in | 28x9 in | 27x8in | 27x8in | 27x8in | 27x8in | 27x8in | 27x8in | 27x8in | ← as |
| Free Hits | Yes | Yes | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No |

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| Competitions Main Point of Contact | Bucks Cricket Junior Cricket Management Group | Bucks Cricket Disputes & Discipline Panel |
|--|---|--|
| Joseph Rance joseph.rance@buckscb.org | Joseph Rance George Morris Emma Boswell-Harris Rich Hudson | Ian Hodgson Stuart Beck Yolanda Harris Martin Watts |
| MONTH | WHAT HAPPENS | |
| September | Feedback from Clubs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In-person Forums - Online Forms | |
| October | Management Group review feedback and propose rules/structure amendments back to Clubs Following feedback on proposed amendments, final rules/structure is determined and communicated to Clubs by month end | |
| November | Entry Form goes out to Clubs. Clubs have option to enter at any age group from U9-U19 Girls and Boys, indicating strength of team, preferred number of games & preferred ball type (wind, incredi, hardball) | |
| December | Demand is mapped into competitions, utilising information provided and checked again previous year's performance. Sent to Clubs to sense-check | |
| January | Amendments made following feedback. Final structure finalised and sent out. Competitions/fixtures setup on Play-Cricket | |
| February | Club Junior Cricket Forums held, including opportunity for fixture amendments between Club Junior Coordinators (who will make any changes on Play-Cricket themselves) | |
| March | Scoring & Umpiring workshops held for Team Managers | |
| April | 1 st April: Fixtures Locked In & ECB Safe Hands compliance checked Last week of April: Fixtures begin. Many club issues with scoring/results will need to be forwarded to Play-Cricket helpdesk play.cricket@ecb.co.uk | |
| August | Trophies ordered 20 th August: Prem Leagues & Cup Semi Final deadlines 31 st August: All other Leagues deadline | |
| September | League and Cup Finals held. Process begins again | |