

SECTION 13

GENERAL PLAYING CONDITIONS

1. STARTING TIME

- 1.1 **Defaults:** If a team, for any reason, is unable or unwilling to commence play more than 30 minutes after the time appointed for commencement of play on either day of a two day match or on the day of a one day match, the match shall be lost by that team. If the other team is ready to commence play at the appointed time it may, in lieu of accepting a default, decide to play the match, in which case the time lost shall be made up on the day or days allotted for the match. A team, whether batting or fielding, shall constitute a minimum of seven players ready and willing to take the field.

2. THE TOSS

For all grades except Men's Premier, Premier Reserve and Women's Premier:

- 2.1 **Toss for innings:** The captains of competing teams in a match shall toss for the choice of innings on the field of play not later than 15 minutes before the earlier of the time scheduled for the match to start, or the time agreed upon for play to start. Before the toss is made, the captains shall exchange team lists on the appropriate ACA form. The winner of the toss shall notify his decision to bat or field to the opposing captain not later than 10 minutes before the earlier of the time scheduled for the match to start or the time agreed upon for play to start. This decision shall not be altered once it is notified to the opposing captain.
- 2.2 **No team lists:** Junior grades and men's grades below Senior B grade are not required to exchange team lists.

3. BALLS TO THE OVER

- 3.1 **Number of balls:** Six balls shall be bowled in each over.

4. MODE OF DELIVERY

- 4.1 **No underarm bowling:** No bowler shall deliver the ball underarm.

5. TIME ON GROUND

- 5.1 **Sole arbiters:** Umpires shall be the sole arbiters of time in respect of play. Any clock on the ground may be used as a guide.

6. WIDE BALLS AND NO BALLS

- 6.1 **Wide balls:** The following rules shall apply in respect of wide balls:

- (a) **Two day matches:** If a bowler delivers the ball so wide of the wicket, that, in the sole opinion of the umpire, it passes out of reach of the striker standing in a normal guard position, the umpire shall call and signal "wide" as soon as it has passed the line of the striker's wicket.
- (b) **Limited over matches, one day grade matches, President's grade matches, junior grade matches:** Any offside or leg side delivery which, in the sole opinion of the umpire, does not give the batsman a reasonable opportunity to score shall be called as a wide. As a guide, on the leg side a ball landing clearly outside the leg stump going further away shall be called a wide. Umpires shall consider the level at which the match is being played before such strict enforcement of this rule.

- 6.2 **No balls:** The following rules shall apply in respect of no balls:

- (a) **Premier Men and Women:** In addition to law 24 of the Laws of Cricket, law 42.8 shall also apply. The policy underlying this law is that bowling of fast high full pitches is unfair. In the event of such unfair bowling, the umpire at the bowler's end shall adopt the procedures of caution, final warning and take action against the bowler by calling a no ball. If action should be taken and is not the matter should be reported by a player, club official or umpire to the ACA immediately.
- (b) **All other grades:** Laws 24 and 42.8 of the Laws of Cricket shall apply, and in addition, if a full pitched delivery passes, or would have passed, above the waist height of the striker standing upright at the crease, the umpire shall call and signal "no ball".
- (c) **All other grades:** Laws 24 and 42.8 of the Laws of Cricket shall apply, and in addition, if a ball passes or would have passed above the shoulder

height of the striker standing upright at the crease, the umpire shall call and signal “no ball”.

7. LIGHT

For all grades except Men’s Premier, Premier Reserve and Women’s Premier:

7.1 Light fit for play: The umpires shall decide if the light is fit for play before the commencement of play, provided that:

- (a) The batting team in each session of play shall have one right of appeal against the light. If the players leave the field during the session of play for any reason, and play restarts before the next scheduled adjournment, the batting team shall have another right of appeal in that session of play after any such interruption; and
- (b) A fielding team in any session of play shall have no right of appeal against the umpires’ decision.

8. BOUNDARIES

8.1 Interference by person: Unless arrangements are made to the contrary, where a ball, which in the sole opinion of the umpire would have reached or crossed the boundary, is stopped by a spectator or by a player from an adjacent game, then, if such interference is intentional, it shall be deemed to have reached the boundary, but if such interference is unintentional, the ball shall not be deemed to have reached the boundary. The action of a spectator or player from another match in picking up the ball shall be deemed to be an intentional action for the purposes of this clause.

8.2 Obstructions overhanging the field of play: Where trees or other permanent structures grounded outside the field of play overhang the field of play, unless the team captains agree to the contrary (and communicate such arrangements to the umpires prior to the start of play), as soon as the ball strikes the overhanging obstruction, the umpire shall award a boundary six to the striker.

8.3 Permanent obstructions within the field of play: Where there are permanent obstructions within the field of play, unless the team captains agree to the contrary (and communicate such contrary arrangements to the umpires prior to the start of play), as soon as the ball strikes such obstruction, the umpire shall

award a boundary four to the striker, regardless of whether or not the ball strikes the obstruction on the full.

9. FITNESS OF GROUND AND WEATHER

For all grades except Men's Premier, Premier Reserve and Women's Premier:

9.1 **Fitness:** An umpire shall decide if the pitch, the ground and the weather are fit for play before any session of play, provided that:

- (a) An umpire shall first establish whether both captains, or if necessary the batsmen at the wicket, want to continue to play in unfit conditions and, if so play shall continue;
- (b) If, after agreeing to play in unfit conditions, either captain subsequently wants play to be suspended, he may appeal to the umpire who shall uphold the appeal only if, in his sole opinion, conditions have deteriorated since such agreement.
- (c) Where no official umpires are appointed, the fitness of the pitch, ground and light shall be decided by mutual agreement between team captains who shall comply with the requirements contained in clause 4 of section 2 of these Playing Conditions, in respect of dealing with ground officials and groundsmen.

9.2 **No spiked footwear:** Spiked footwear shall not be worn on artificial pitches while batting or bowling, in case of damage. Clubs whose players use such footwear in these circumstances shall reimburse the ACA for the cost of repairs.

10. COVERING OF PITCHES

10.1 **Mandatory covers:** Covers are mandatory for pitches used for Premier Men's and Women's Grade matches and must be available to cover the pitch and surrounds for a minimum of two nights and days before the commencement of a match on that pitch. The home team shall cover the pitch and remove the covers whenever and wherever necessary. If two teams are playing at a venue other than either of their home grounds the first named team in the official ACA draw shall ensure that the covers are of a standard acceptable to the ACA at that venue.

10.2 **Minimum size:** The minimum size of the area to be covered for Premier Grade matches is 27 x 9 metres. Where covers are used for matches other than Premier Grade their use must be for the duration of the match and not just for a part thereof. The area to be covered for these lower grades shall be 27 x 3.6 metres.

11. PRACTICE ON PITCHES

For all grades except Men's Premier, Premier Reserve and Women's Premier:

11.1 **No practices:** If, in respect of any ground, the condition of the pitch or ground is deemed to be such that a match shall not be commenced or played on a pitch, practices shall not be allowed on that pitch. Practice within the boundaries shall cease 10 minutes before the time of commencement of play. No person may test a pitch for bounce before the commencement of play by bowling or bouncing a ball on it.

12. ALLOCATION OF PITCHES FOR MATCHES

12.1 **Allocation:** The allocation of pitches and grounds shall be determined, from time to time, by the Board of Control or its authorised official. If a local body ground is allocated to the ACA, a club shall not apply for an allocation of grounds in competition with the ACA.

12.2 **Pitch:** A match shall be played on the pitch allocated in the ACA draw.

13. ALTERNATIVE PITCHES

13.1 **Unfit pitches:** If, for any reason, a ground official or ground authority deems a pitch to be unfit for play during a match, or that undue delay would occur as a result of the pitch's condition before the commencement of play, an alternative pitch may be used with the prior consent of the Board of Directors or its authorised official. The alternative pitch may be at the same ground or any other ground under the control of the ACA. The suitability of the alternative pitch shall be determined by a majority decision of the ground official of the ground where the alternative pitch is situated, the captains of the teams to play on such alternative pitch and the official umpires, if any.

14. COMPETITION POINTS

- 14.1 **Men's Premier and Premier Reserve two day:** The competition points for the men's Premier and Premier Reserve Grade two day championship competition shall be:

	Points
Outright win	4
First innings lead (added if team wins outright)	6
Outright tie	2
First innings tie (added if team wins outright)	3
Draw (no result achieved on first innings)	3
First innings or outright loss	0
Outright victory by an innings	1
	(Plus all other points gained)
Outright victory by seven or more wickets	0.5
	(Plus all other points gained)
Bonus points	0.01 per run) over the entire 0.25 per wicket) match

- 14.2 **Other two day grades:** The competition points for all other two day grades shall be:

	Points
Outright win	6
First innings lead and limited over win (added/retained if side consequently wins/loses outright)	3
Outright tie	3
First innings and limited overs tie	1.5
Draw (no result achieved on first innings)	1.5
First innings lead in two day fixture if match becomes limited over	3 (plus bonus)
First innings, limited over or outright loss	0
Outright victory by an innings in a two day match or victory by ten wickets in a limited overs match	1
	(Plus all other points gained)
Outright or limited overs victory by seven or more wickets	0.5
	(Plus all other points gained)
Bonus points	0.01 per run) over the entire 0.25 per wicket) match
Default win (see Default definition in Section 2, Clause 7)	Equivalent to points gained by the team scoring the most points in the same round
Abandoned match (two-day or limited over)	Equivalent to the average number of points gained by teams that completed matches in the same round, or 1.5 points, whichever is higher.

- 14.3 **Limited Overs:** The competition points for all limited overs grades (including Twenty20 grades and women's grades) shall be:

Points	
Win	3
Tie (Does not apply to Premier & Premier Reserve Grades for Twenty20 matches – refer bowl off rule)	1.5
No Result	1.5
Loss	0

14.4 **Champion:** The team which gains the highest aggregate of points at the end of each round shall be the champion of the competition for its grade unless a final must be played. For all two day grades other than Premier and Premier Reserve grades, the champion shall be the side with the highest combined total of match and bonus points gained in all limited overs and two day matches with the exception of any points gained from the semi final and final limited overs matches.

14.5 **Equal points:** In the Premier and Premier Reserve Grade Limited Overs and Twenty20 Competitions the first method for determining a superior side when two or more teams are tied on points at the end of a competition stage shall be determined by net run rate as detailed in Section 4 Clause 8.4. In the extremely unlikely event that this method does not provide a superior side then the result of the match between the sides that are tied shall determine the superior side.

Should two or more teams in a two day grade be equal on points, the team with the most outright wins will be the winner and if the teams have the same number of outright wins, the team with the better run rate per wicket for and against average will be the winner of the grade.

Should two or more teams in a one day grade (with the exception of the Premier and Premier Reserve Grade) or in the President's grade be on equal points at the end of any competition stage, the higher finishing side will be the team that had the most victories over the entire season over the team(s) with which it is tied. Where this method does not provide a superior team, the side with the better net run rate at the end of the competition stage in which the two teams are tied calculated in accordance with the formula set out in section 4, clause 8.4., shall be the higher finishing side.

Should two or more teams in a Twenty20 grade (with the exception of the Premier and Premier Reserve Grade) be on equal points at the end of any

competition stage, the higher finishing side will be the team that had the most victories over the entire season over the team(s) with which it is tied. Where this method does not provide a superior team, the side with the better runs per wicket differential at the end of the competition stage in which the two teams are tied shall be the higher finishing side.

14.6 **Automatic promotion/relegation:** Automatic promotion/relegation applies in each grade from Senior A Grade down to Senior C Grade at the end of the season in men's grades except where the ACA Bylaws or a ruling from the Board of Directors would restrict such promotion or relegation. (Refer bylaw 4.6 – Competitions)

15. **BALLS**

15.1 **Use of balls:** Law 5 of the Laws of Cricket and the instructions to umpires issued by the MCC shall apply to the use of balls in any match except:

- (a) In all matches a new ball shall be used in each innings.
- (b) A new ball may be requested by the fielding team in men's Premier and Premier Reserve Grade during the course of either innings after the completion of 80 overs with one ball in that innings.
- (c) A four-piece ball shall be used in all men's Premier, Premier Reserve and Senior A grade and Women's Premier grade matches, but in all other matches a two-piece ball shall be used.
- (d) The Board of Control shall approve the quality and type of ball for all competitions and notify every club of its decision before the commencement of the season.

15.2 **Approved balls:** The schedule of approved balls is as follows:

- (a) Men's Premier, Premier Reserve and Senior A Grade in two day and limited over matches:
 - Kookaburra (Regulation 156g)
 - Kookaburra (Club Match 156g - Senior A Only)
 - Platypus (Special Turf 156g)

- Platypus (Match 156g - Senior A Only)
- (b) Men's Premier Grade in Twenty20 matches
- Kookaburra Senator – White (Premier Grade Only)
- (c) Men's Premier Reserve Grade in Twenty20 matches
- Platypus Diamond
- (d) All other Men's two day and limited over grades
- Kookaburra (Tuf Pitch, Red King, Practice and Kooka Crown 156g)
 - Platypus (Googly Longlife, Club Special, Gem and Esteem 156g)
- (e) Under 18 and Year 9-10 matches:
- Kookaburra (Tuf Pitch, Red King, Practice and Kooka Crown 156g)
 - Platypus (Googly Longlife, Club Special and Esteem 156g)
- (f) Year 8 Post-Christmas matches:
- Kookaburra (Tuf Pitch, Red King, Practice and Kooka Crown 142g)
 - Platypus (Googly Longlife, Club Special, Esteem 142g)
- (g) Women's Premier and Premier Reserve grade limited over matches:
- Kookaburra (Club Match and Senator) 142 grams
 - Platypus (Match) 142 grams
- (h) Women's First and Premier Youth grade limited over matches:
- Kookaburra (Red King, Practice and Kooka Crown 142g)
 - Platypus (Googly Longlife, Club Special, Gem and Esteem 142g)
- (i) Other Women's grades in limited over matches:
- Any leather two-piece (142 g)

15.3 **Changing a ball:** A ball may only be changed during an innings in the following circumstances:

- (a) on the direction of umpires appointed by the ACA to control the match; or
- (b) following agreement by the captains; or

- (c) where the ball has clearly lost its spherical shape; or
- (d) where the string is coming out of the seam.

16. TEAMS FIELDING LESS THAN ELEVEN PLAYERS

16.1 **Side deemed all out:** Where a team in a two day grade has less than eleven players that team will be, and is deemed to be, dismissed by the fielding side when only one of its players remains who has not been dismissed. For the avoidance of doubt, such a team may only declare its innings closed in the following circumstances:

- (a) where that team has seven players, before the fall of its sixth wicket;
- (b) where that team has eight players, before the fall of its seventh wicket;
- (c) where that team has nine players before the fall of its eighth wicket; and
- (d) where that team has ten players before the fall of its ninth wicket.

17. GRADES WHERE TWELVE PLAYERS CAN BE USED

17.1 Any team in a Senior B, Senior C, One Day 1-7 Grade, President's, Sunday Social, Under 18, Year 9-10 or Year 8 Post-Christmas Grade, may select twelve players to play in any match.

17.2 In any situation where twelve players are being used by any team, the captain of a team which has an additional player must advise the opposition captain of the name of the player in his side who will bat but not bowl and the name of the player who will bowl but not bat. Neither of these players shall be allowed to be the wicket-keeper. This advice must be provided prior to the commencement of the match. In the case of a two day fixture, the advice must be provided before the start of play on the first day.

17.3 A team with twelve players must only have eleven players on the field at any one time.

17.4 There will be no "stand down" time on a player who comes into the game and wishes to bowl after being on the sideline.

This playing condition has been included for the purposes of allowing clubs to avoid entering teams which they may be unable to fill every week, but still provide cricket for most or all of their registered players.

18. PENALTY RUNS

- 18.1 Penalty runs (except under rules 41.2 and 41.3) shall apply only in Premier Men's and Women's Grade competitions.