

Some information you need to know ahead of the new season.

New Laws

Changes to the Laws of Cricket effective from October 1 2022, and which will therefore apply in the CWCL for the first time in 2023 include:

- After a dismissal of caught, the new batter will now always face the next delivery, unless the wicket fell off the final ball of an over. Regarding who takes strike for the next delivery, it is now irrelevant whether the batters 'crossed' before the catch was taken. After a run out, the new batter shall still go to the end where the dismissal took place
- A delivery shall only be considered to be a wide if it passes out of reach of the striker in all of these positions: where the striker is standing at the time the ball reaches her, where the striker has stood at any point since the bowler began their run up, and the striker's normal batting position
- If the ball should land away from the pitch, the striker can only play the ball so long as some part of her bat or person remains within the pitch. Should a striker venture beyond the pitch to play the ball, the umpire will call and signal Dead Ball
- Saliva must not be used on the ball in any way. If this occurs, it will now be treated in the same way as other methods of attempting to tamper with the ball
- The umpire shall call and signal Dead Ball if either side is disadvantaged by a person, animal or other object within the field of play, such as a pitch invader or a dog running onto the field
- The batting side will now be awarded five penalty runs in the event of unfair movement by a member of the fielding side. After the ball comes into play and before it reaches the striker, it is unfair if the wicketkeeper significantly alters her position in relation to the striker's wicket, except for the following: movement of a few paces forward for a slower delivery, unless in so doing it brings her within reach of the wicket; lateral movement in response to the direction in which the ball has been delivered; or movement in response to the stroke that the striker is playing or that her actions suggest she intends to play. Any movement by any fielder, excluding the wicket-keeper, after the ball comes into play and before the ball reaches the striker, is unfair except for minor adjustments to stance or position in relation to the striker's wicket; movement by any fielder, other than a close fielder, towards the striker or the striker's wicket that does not significantly alter the position of the fielder; or movement by any fielder in response to the stroke that the striker is playing or that her actions suggest she intends to play
- If a bowler throws the ball in an attempt to run out the striker before entering their delivery stride, it will now be a Dead Ball. This is an extremely rare scenario, which has until now been called as a No Ball

New Competition Regulations 2023

Matters affecting all competitions

Resolutions adopted:

1. Matches can be re-arranged if they clash with a match in the Senior National Knockout for either side. If the club does not enter the Senior National Knockout, then re-arrangements are also possible for clashes with the Under 19 National Knockout
2. Any club that fails to enter a full scorecard on Play Cricket for their home matches within 5 days of each fixture will be docked 5 points for the third and subsequent transgression in this area
3. No player from school year 7 or below can play in a senior competition in any circumstances
4. If a red heat warning is in place for the area where a match is to be played and for the scheduled time of the match; and remains in force 24 hours before the time of the match,

either side shall be entitled to withdraw from the fixture without it being treated as a concession. In these circumstances, it is also permissible to change the match to a morning or evening fixture of no less than 20 overs per side. If the match is not played due to extreme heat, it should be re-arranged if possible, but if this does not occur, the match will be recorded as Cancelled and treated in the same way as a match cancelled due to rain

5. If a match does not take place on the original scheduled date as there is agreement from the League Chair that exceptional circumstances apply, and the match cannot then be re-arranged, the points allocated to each team will be their average points from completed league matches across the season

6. While the restriction on only fielding one elite overseas player remains in force, it is now the case that any overseas player who is permanently resident within 30 minutes travel time of the ground or who has played for the same club at Under 15 level or below, or who has been a member of the club for at least two years, will be exempt from this restriction. (An elite overseas player is a current member of a national senior first or second team squad from a country other than England)

7. Teams are no longer able to select a 12-player squad with the intention of fully flexible rotation of players throughout the game, as per the 2022 rules. Instead, use of a 12th player will only be for injuries, illnesses and other issues covered by the Laws relating to substitutes

8. Teams may wear either coloured clothing or traditional white cricket clothing in all matches

9. The home team shall provide two new balls for each match. These should both be the same brand of ball from the same manufacturer

10. The default shall be a pink ball. Matches can only be played with a red ball where both teams have agreed this in advance; and where both teams are wearing white clothing

Notes:

- There is no automatic right of re-arrangement for Under 19 matches if a club enters both the Senior and Under 19 National Knockouts. Nor is there a right of re-arrangement for junior national competitions, such as the Under 13 and Under 15 Lady Taverners
- If hot weather is forecast, but no red warning is in place, it is expected that division 1 and 2 matches will go ahead as scheduled. Matches in other competitions can only be re-arranged by mutual consent and any club withdrawing from a match in the absence of a red heat warning risks being deemed to have forfeited the match.
- The League wishes to clarify that Law 21.7 applies in all competitions, and deliveries which bounce twice before reaching the batter, or roll along the ground, or land off the pitch, should be called and signalled as 'no balls'
- The away team is no longer required to provide any new balls for matches

Matters affecting divisions 1 and 2

Resolutions adopted:

1. There will be no 8-ball maximum over and all overs should be completed as per the Laws of Cricket, i.e., 6 legitimate deliveries
2. In an abandoned match, bonus points will only be awarded for an innings where there has been at least 20 overs bowled
3. Any club that fails to bowl 40 overs within 2 hours 40 minutes shall be reported by the umpires to the Executive Committee

Matters affecting the senior Knockout and T20 divisional competition

1. There will be no 8-ball maximum over and all overs should be completed as per the Laws of Cricket, i.e., 6 legitimate deliveries
2. If a fielding team is not in a position to commence bowling the 20th over of the innings within 75 minutes of the start time of the innings, they will only be allowed to have three fielders outside the fielding circle for the rest of the innings

Notes:

- These changes do not apply in the Development Knockout

Matters affecting division 4

1. There shall be compulsory retirement of batters on reaching a score of 30. They may resume their innings once all of the team have batted.

Matters affecting divisions 3 and 4

1. Where a club has two teams and a 2nd XI in division 3 or 4, the fixture list will be drawn up so that there are no clashes between their 1st XI and 2nd XI. Where a club has three teams, they should expect to have to field two teams at the same time, but the fixture list will be drawn up so that there are no occasions when all three teams are in action

General conduct

The [General Conduct Regulations](#) were adopted by the league last year. These are a new set of disciplinary regulations and captains are encouraged to update themselves with these regulations via the ECB website. As part of the regulations it is made clear that captains are responsible for the conduct of the team on the pitch. We would encourage all captains to discuss conduct with their team at start of season. It is a good idea for captains to sit down with their team before the beginning of the season and set the ground rules and expectations for the upcoming season.

Any issues regarding conduct can be reported anonymously to any member of the committee. This doesn't have to represent an official complaint. If there's a trend with any particular team it can be discussed with a club before it gets to a point where there may be an official complaint.

Fixture Re-arrangements

In the T20 competitions and divisions 3 and 4, fixtures can be re-arranged by mutual consent at any time up until the match

Division 1 and 2 matches can only be re-arranged by mutual consent until 16th April (seven days prior to the start of the season). After this time, they can only be re-arranged when the ground of the home team becomes unavailable, or when a National Knockout clash occurs.

Please avoid re-arranging for September 3 (Finals Day) and September 17 (Finals Reserve Day), except in the rare cases where neither side has entered a CWCL T20 competition.

Please advise me asap of any new fixture dates.

Please also check that the dates on Play Cricket for your club's fixtures agree with the master spreadsheet that has been issued to all main club representatives; and check that the correct venue is shown on Play Cricket for all of your home matches.

Everyone is now playing more cricket, especially with clubs having more teams and entering more competitions, which makes re-arrangements more difficult. This unfortunately means that when organising rearrangements you can't always rely on being able to play your best team, or maybe even guarantee playing with a full 11. It is important to try to organise a date as quickly as possible and clubs should acknowledge that sometimes you have to arrange a date first and then organise your team, rather than the other way round.

Match Start Times

Please note that the normal start times of 1330 for weekend matches and 1830 for weekday matches can always be altered by mutual consent. Regarding evening matches, fading light and resulting player safety concerns could always be an issue, especially before mid-May and after mid-July, so you need to get started ASAP! If everyone has arrived at the ground, you really need to make a start - no need to wait until the official start time, instead games should start as soon as everyone has arrived and had a quick warm up. There are no official drinks breaks in T20 matches. Unless there is especially hot weather there should be no drinks breaks in the innings, followed by a short break in between the innings with as quick a turnaround as possible. The 10-over 'change round' point is not an interval of any description, and the players and umpires should simply change ends and carry on.

Finals Day

Offers are welcome from clubs wishing to stage the League's Finals Day on September 3. This is likely to involve staging three back-to-back matches, starting at 1000. There is no need to provide teas for players and officials. The event could be staged at any Cheshire cricket club – the host venue does not necessarily need to have a women's team of their own. Please get in touch with Carol Ingham if you are interested in hosting.

DBS checking and other safeguarding issues

A reminder that anyone over the age of 16 holding any of the following positions in a club, league or other cricket organisation must have a valid and current (less than three years old) DBS certificate:

- Safeguarding Officer
- Coach (whether volunteer or paid, assisting or leading)
- Umpire
- Scorer
- Managers of colts or junior sections
- Age group managers
- Open age team captains
- Junior supervisors
- First aiders, physiotherapists & medical support

It is also strongly encouraged that vice-captains also have a DBS check.

Captains (and ideally vice captains) should also be registered on your club's Safe Hands Management System. If you're not in this or if you're not sure, get in touch with your club's Safeguarding Officer

The DBS update service sends a reminder email for auto renewal - look out for it!

The ECB has now introduced its new E-learning safeguarding training level 2. This can be accessed via [Cheshire Cricket Board's website](#). There is a foundation level module which is relevant to everyone and then bolt-on modules relevant to specific roles e.g. captains, coaches etc. It is strongly recommended that everyone completes these modules.

Big Help Out

Organisations that depend on volunteers, such as sports clubs, are able to register their interest in seeking new volunteers via the [Big Help Out scheme](#), an initiative connected to the King's coronation.

AGM

The league holds AGM in mid-November. By this time we need to know which teams clubs intend to enter for the upcoming season. We encourage captains and managers to talk to their teams when the season finishes to try get an idea of what their intentions are for the following season. If we don't know by the AGM which teams we have for the upcoming season it makes it difficult for all clubs to make decisions at the rules meeting in January. The league intends to be stricter about applying these deadlines in the future.

Next Meeting

Please be advised that the next CWCL full committee meeting will take place on Wednesday May 24 at 1930, venue to be confirmed.

Representative Cricket

The annual fixture between the League XI and MCC will take place at Chester Boughton Hall CC's main ground on Friday July 28, as part of the host club's 150th anniversary celebrations. A men's MCC team will take on either the club 1st XI or a President's XI on the second ground at the same time as our showpiece.