

CHESHIRE WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Important information ahead of the season

The Women's League Executive Committee has been notified that all Cheshire County League men's 1st and 2nd XI club matches scheduled for Saturday April 20 have been re-arranged to Sunday September 15, due to the extended period of wet weather. The Cheshire League programme for April 20 has been re-arranged to September 21.

This means that there is a high possibility that any clubs due to host women's club matches on Sunday April 21 will not be able to do so.

The Cheshire Women's League does not intend to apply a similar blanket re-arrangement of the April 21 programme. This is firstly because our regulations already allow considerable flexibility over re-arranging matches. In addition, if there are any clubs who expect their grounds to be ready by April 21, we do not intend to stop these matches going ahead as scheduled.

A reminder that in all competitions except for Division 1, existing league regulations already allow you to re-arrange any match where no play is possible due to ground or weather conditions. I would like to take the opportunity to remind you once again of the potentially tight schedule in the Development Knockout and would request that any re-arrangements in this competition do not result in an undue delay in the next round of matches being played.

In Division 1, you are allowed to re-arrange any match by mutual consent up until seven days prior to the start of the season. The League Executive is now happy to extend this to two days prior to the scheduled start to adapt to this changing situation. This means that, if you receive advance notice that your ground will not be ready by April 21, you have until April 19 to agree to any new date with your opposition.

The re-arrangement of the men's league programme to September 15 has been noted by the CWCL Executive, but in any case, most women's teams have already been asked not to re-arrange for this day as it is marked in the calendar as our reserve day for the cup finals.

Several CWCL clubs are due to play in the National Knockout on April 21. If these matches are unable to go ahead, guidance will need to be sought from the National competition organisers.

A final plea to let me know ASAP of any agreed re-arrangements, whether or not they concern this situation relating to the start of the season.

New and amended regulations

There have been minor amendments to the ECB Recreational Code of Conduct, which applies in all matches under the jurisdiction of the CWCL.

All competitions

1. Clubs shall only field a maximum of one player in each match who meets the definition of an 'overseas player'. An overseas player is any player who is not qualified to play for England or Scotland's national team; and who does not benefit from one of the 'ordinarily resident' exemptions.

An 'ordinary resident' is defined as someone:
who has been legally resident in the UK for at least 210 days prior to their first match of the season, without having been out of the country for a continuous 21-day period during that time; or who has been resident in the UK for a continuous period of two years prior to

their first match of the season, without having been out of the country for a continuous 35-day period during that time or 70 days in total within the previous 24 months.

Clubs will be wholly responsible for obtaining copies of passports with relevant visas together with evidence proving residence for 210 days when registering such players with the League.

No club is permitted to play more than one overseas player in a season unless the club can satisfy the League Executive Committee that the player has left the country for compassionate reasons or is unavailable due to serious injury and not available to play for the rest of that season. No application to register an overseas player will be considered after 31st May.

Clubs with overseas players must complete the special registration form and return it to the League Secretary prior to the player's first match. Clubs with players that satisfy the ordinarily resident exemption must also notify the League Committee.

2. When a scheduled match does not take place, then the home team is responsible for notifying this to the Fixture Secretary within five days, giving the reason why the match did not take place. This applies whether the fixture did not take place due to weather conditions, ground unavailability, either side being unable to raise a team, or any other reason.
3. Bonus points shall be awarded in an abandoned match for any innings where at least one-quarter of the full allocation of overs are completed:
 - 10 in Division 1
 - 9 in Division 2
 - 5/8 in Division 3 20/30 over matches
 - 5 in Division 4
4. If teams declare their innings, their batting points will be based on their run rate over the number of overs they could have batted for, not the number of overs they completed prior to the declaration. If the team batting second sees its number of overs reduced due to a weather interruption, their target will be reduced based on the assumption that their opponents would have scored the same number of runs in the full allocation of overs. (This means that a losing team in division 1 declaring on 125 after 30 overs will receive just four batting points. If their opponents were only able to bat for 20 overs in reply due to weather conditions, they would only need to score 63 to win.)
5. Any team which does not send a representative to a pre-season captains' meeting shall be docked two league points.

Division 1

1. Batting points shall be awarded for losing teams as follows:
 - 50 – 1 point (1.25 per over)
 - 75 - 2 points (1.875 per over)
 - 100 - 3 points (2.5 per over)
 - 125 - 4 points (3.125 per over)

- 150 - 5 points (3.75 per over)
- 175 - 6 points (4.375 runs per over)

Bowling points shall be awarded for losing teams as follows:

- 1 wicket - 1 point
- 3 wickets - 2 points
- 5 wickets - 3 points
- 7 wickets - 4 points
- 9 wickets - 5 points
- 10 wickets - 6 points

(Note: in the event that the batting side does not field 11 batters, or batters retire hurt, then the bowling side will be awarded six bowling points if they take all available wickets).

Batting bonus points for teams in weather-curtailed matches will be awarded for scoring at 1.25, 1.875, 2.5, 3.125, 3.75 and 4.375 runs per over. (Note: if teams are bowled out points will be based on the number of overs they could have batted for).

Bowling points will be awarded as for losing teams, as set out above.

2. The default start time for matches in September shall be 12.30pm, wherever possible.

Divisions 2, 3 and 4

It shall be permitted to re-arrange matches which commence, but where sufficient play for a result is not possible. If the match is weather affected once again on a re-arranged date, the official match points shall be determined from the play that took place on the occasion where the most overs were bowled.

Divisions 3 and 4 and Development KO

When selecting players for 2nd, 3rd and 4th XIs, clubs are required to consider the Spirit of Cricket as well as the League's Code of Conduct on this subject. When players are selected for these teams who regularly play for the club's higher ranked teams, it is important that the club communicates with the opposing captain prior to the match and explains the reasons for their selection. Where a club believes that their opposition has selected an inappropriate player, they should refer the matter to the League Committee, who can take appropriate action, which can include the deduction of points.

Senior Knockout and T20 Divisional

All deliveries that pass to the leg side of the batter's normal stance, and where the ball does not make contact with the bat or the batter's person, shall be called as 'wide'.

Division 4

1. Three regional division 4s shall be formed. Clubs are asked to note that the final placings in these three regional divisions may be used to determine in which division the club is placed in the following season.
4 West: Oakmere 2nd, Kingsley, Wistaston Village, Grappenhall, Lymm, Toft
4 East: Lindow 3rd, Heaton Mersey & Cheadle, Stockport, Stockport Georgians 3rd, Hawk Green, Didsbury 3rd
4 South East: Lindow Development XI, North East Cheshire, Langley, Macclesfield, Buxton 3rd, New Mills & High Peak North
2. Where a team does not field 11 players, retired batters will not be permitted to return to the crease.
3. The maximum number of overs per bowler in each match shall be reduced to four.

Development KO

The retirement score for batters shall be raised from 25 to 30.

Fixtures

The matches will take place on the default dates shown on the master fixture list and on Play Cricket, unless re-arranged as permitted under league regulations.

Until two days before the start of the season, i.e. until April 19, matches in all competitions can be re-arranged by mutual consent. Please advise me of any new dates. Please do not re-arrange for August 11 (Finals Day) or September 15 (Finals Reserve Day) unless it is known that neither team will be involved in a CWCL cup final.

After April 19, matches in division 1 can only be re-arranged due to ground unavailability or National Knockout involvement.

Division 2 clubs will also be allowed to re-arrange their August 11 fixtures if they are involved in the Senior Knockout final.

As the league intends to hold Finals Day as early as August 11 this year, it is important that clubs do not postpone Development Knockout Cup matches for more than a few weeks past the default dates. Because of this, some of the second round matches will be played at the same time as the first round this year.

May 5 and July 7 are the weekend dates on which county Under 18 competitions are scheduled, and no fixtures in divisions 1 and 2 are scheduled for this date. At present, league rules will not allow you to re-arrange a fixture at short notice should Cheshire (or any other applicable county) progress in the Under 18 knockout and thus have matches on subsequent Sundays.

Please can home teams ensure all match venues shown on Play Cricket are correct.

A reminder that there is a five-point penalty for not posting scorecards, applied on the third occasion that a team fails to post a full card for a home match within five days of the match. This is still a fairly new regulation, so is to be re-iterated here.

OTHER LEAGUE NEWS

The annual fixture between the League XI and MCC will be at another new venue this year, with Lindow CC to host the match on Tuesday August 6.

Finals Day will be at Hale Barns CC on Sunday August 11.

Volunteers are still invited for the sub-committee that will examine the implications for cricket in Cheshire of the Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket report. Many thanks to anyone who has already agreed to participate in this.

Please mark Wednesday May 22 in your diaries for the next meeting of the League Committee.

Grace Potts has become the latest player with Cheshire League experience to make it to the national second team of a top-ranked cricketing nation. Potts, who played for Porthill Park in the league in 2020 and 2021, bowled a number of respectable spells for England A in the recent series against New Zealand A.

NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Senior county cricket will make a return (of sorts) to Cheshire this summer. Neston CC has been chosen as the venue for the finals of the senior county T20 competition, with the matches to be played on the Sunday and Monday of the August Bank Holiday weekend (August 25 & 26).

SENIOR WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

There will be a comprehensive series of women and girls' softball festivals across Cheshire this summer.

Cheshire continues to offer its wide range of umpiring and scoring courses.