

## **PRE-SEASON CLUBS' BRIEFING**

### **Regulations**

The following proposals have been adopted into the CWCL regulations after the debates and the subsequent votes:

(Division 2)

The same fielding restrictions as Division 1 will be adopted

Owing to the reduction of the division to five teams, they will play each other three times

(Division 3)

The cross-divisional element of the fixture list has been withdrawn and teams will now only play the others in the West or East division, as applicable

Owing to the reduction of the West division to four teams, they will play each other three times

(Division 4)

The default start time for all Sunday and Bank Holiday matches is now clarified as 1330

(T20 Divisional Competition)

If fewer than eight teams enter this, which is the case, then the teams will be placed in a single division and will play each other once. There will be no final and the team finishing top of the division will be the champions.

(Development KO)

Clarification that the final will be played with the maximum eight-ball over relating to no balls and wides

(Divisions 2-4 and Development KO)

All clubs with multiple teams in the League's hardball competitions will nominate 'starred' players who are restricted in their ability to play in the club's lower ranked teams:

1<sup>st</sup> XIs must nominate six starred players in clubs with two teams

2<sup>nd</sup> XIs must nominate five starred players in clubs with three teams

3<sup>rd</sup> XIs must nominate five starred players in clubs with four teams

- Starred players are unable to play down for any team as a rule. If, in exceptional circumstance, a starred player is required to make the minimum viable numbers for a game, this is permitted as long as the opposition and League Chair are notified in advance. If no advance notice is given, the league will issue a warning after the first offence and reserves the right to punish the second offence with either a forfeit or a replayed match (if the offending team won the game)
- In the circumstances where a starred player is required to play down, they are unable to bowl or keep wicket and must bat in one of the last two batting slots.
- Clubs must submit their starred players to the League Chair prior to the first match of the season.
- The submissions will be reviewed and the League Committee reserve the right to challenge any player for whom the starring appears inappropriate for any reason. This could happen at any point of the season and the League Committee can request that a club makes a change to their starred players should there be concerns over any player's status as a starred player.
- Clubs will have the opportunity to make three swaps per season in their starred player submission to cater for unexpected changes in circumstances, e.g. removing a player from the list to give them the opportunity to find some form. Swaps enforced by the league will not count towards this limit. Clubs will not be penalized and made to swap players on the list if a starred player is made long term unavailable or injured after the starred players list is submitted.
- Clubs are reminded in the Spirit of Cricket, regular 1<sup>st</sup> XI (non-starred) players should not be appearing in a 3<sup>rd</sup> XI and regular 2<sup>nd</sup> XI players (non-starred) shouldn't be appearing in a 4<sup>th</sup> XI.

### **Action Required – Starred Players**

The above regulation now requires all clubs with more than one team in the league's hardball divisions to send a list of their starred players for their 1<sup>st</sup> XI. Where a club has a 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> XI, they must also do this for their 2<sup>nd</sup> XI/3<sup>rd</sup> XI as appropriate. These lists must be with me by April 27 at the latest, which is the first day on which 2<sup>nd</sup> XI matches are scheduled.

### **Action Required – Overseas and Overseas Exempt Players**

All clubs that intend to field an overseas player in 2025 must complete the appropriate registration form prior to the player's first appearance. The league committee will also need to be informed of any other players who would not be eligible for England, but who qualify for an 'exemption' and would not be classed as overseas.

## **Fixture Management**

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 14, 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 31 (Finals Day) or September 21 (Finals Reserve Day) unless it is known that neither team will be involved in a CWCL cup final.

After April 14, matches in division 1 can only be re-arranged due to ground unavailability or National Knockout/Thunder Cup involvement. Matches in division 2 can only be re-arranged due to ground unavailability, weather conditions or National Knockout involvement.

Clubs that have entered both the National Knockout and the Thunder Cup are reminded that they are expected to fulfil all CWCL games and that any league matches not played due to commitments in other competitions will be recorded as a concession, with the loss of 10 points.

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.

The league executive does not have the resources to check all scorecards, so it is the responsibility of the participating clubs to ensure a full scorecard is entered on Play Cricket, including the correct bonus points. Another important issue is to check that all player names are linked to their PC statistics record, as end of season awards are handed out based on the performance statistics on the site. The home team should enter the full details and the away team needs to check it.

Clubs in divisions 3 and 4 also have five days to inform the league when a fixture is not played for any reason, such as weather conditions or either side being unable to fulfil the fixture. It is important that the league is informed as soon as possible of the exact reason why a match does not take place.

Please continue to direct all fixture-related communications to Martin Saxon for divisions 1, 2 and 4 and for the knockout competitions. Fixture communications for division 3 should now be directed to Nichola Halford.

## **Team Sheets**

Although many team cards have not been reprinted yet to take account of the latest change, clubs are asked to note that they should no longer record a player's age group on their team sheet submitted to the umpire. Instead, they should record the player's age on the date the match takes place.

## **Safeguarding**

Important issues in this area that clubs should take note of:

- Adults in positions of responsibility (e.g. coach, manager) should not be transporting junior players to matches, unless another adult is present in the vehicle
- Under 18 and adult players must change separately, except for 16 and 17-year-olds, who can share the changing room with adults provided parental consent has been obtained
- All Under 18s must have parental consent before they can feature in a live stream or any other filming
- A single adult and single junior cannot score together if they are in a remote scoreboard that is out of sight of other people who may be present
- All holders of positions of responsibility at clubs are encouraged to take appropriate Safe Hands and Safeguarding courses
- All junior players who feature in senior cricket must have parental consent to do so
- All junior players who feature in senior cricket must be in school year 8 or above at the start of the season in question
- Adults in positions of responsibility cannot follow juniors on social media, unless this has been thoroughly risk assessed
- All adults who carry out positions of responsibility on a regular basis (e.g. umpire, coach, manager) must hold an up to date DBS certificate

## **Fast Bowling Directive**

The ECB restrictions on the number of overs that can be bowled by a fast bowler have been revised. A bowler is defined as 'fast' if it would be expected that an average wicketkeeper would normally stand back to their bowling.

Under 15 bowlers can only bowl five overs in a spell, with those in the Under 13 age group also restricted 10 overs in a day. Under 14 and Under 15 bowlers can bowl 12 overs in a day – remember that these are 'per day' restrictions and not 'per match', which may be relevant if a player features in two matches on the same day.

Under 16 and Under 17 bowlers can bowl six overs in a spell and 15 in a day.

Under 18 and Under 19 bowlers can bowl six overs in a spell and 18 in a day.

In any seven-day period, it is recommended there should be a maximum of four bowling days with only one instance of bowling on consecutive days.

The target maximum overs per week is 20 for an Under 13, 24 for an Under 15, 26 for an Under 17 and 28 for an Under 19.

## **OTHER LEAGUE NEWS**

Finals Day will be on Sunday August 31. It will comprise just two matches this year – the finals of the Senior Knockout and the Development Knockout. Any club wishing to host this event is asked to make contact with the league by the end of April.

Volunteers are still sought for divisional representatives, who can act as a liaison point between the clubs in their division and the Executive Committee.

Anyone wishing to make an argument – either for or against – as to whether the league should continue to admit clubs from outside the borders of Cheshire is asked to make their views known to the Executive Committee. We are not conducting a vote at this stage, simply collecting arguments on each side of the debate.

The next meeting of the full League Committee will be on Wednesday June 4 at 1930, venue to be confirmed.

## **EXTERNAL COMPETITIONS**

### **Thunder Cup**

Group A of this competition will comprise Didsbury, Stockport Georgians, Ramsbottom and Edgworth. Three CWCL clubs - Lindow, Leigh and Leyland – are in Group B alongside Sefton Park.

As promised, a number of members of Lancashire's professional Tier One squad have been allocated to the eight participating clubs, along with several members of the Thunder Academy. Where possible, these allocations respect existing player links to the clubs.

- Didsbury – Hannah Jones, Phoebe Graham, Fi Morris
- Edgworth – Tara Norris, Liberty Heap, Alice Clarke, Eliza Cottam
- Leigh – Danielle Collins, Grace Potts, Olivia Brinsden
- Leyland – Summer Carrington, Emma Lamb, Darcy Carter, Olivia Cunliffe
- Lindow – Eve Jones, Hannah Rainey, Grace Hemsted, Tilly Kesteven
- Ramsbottom – Grace Johnson, Seren Smale, Maeve Jones, Holly Brown, Venus Weerappuli
- Sefton Park – Ellie Threlkeld, Sophie Morris, Martha Rimmer, Emilia Lamb
- Stockport Georgians – Liv Bell, Ailsa Lister, Amelia Sammons, Skye Thomas

## **REPRESENTATIVE CRICKET**

The annual fixture between the League XI and MCC will take place on Thursday August 28 at 1130 at Alvanley CC.

## **OTHER NEWS**

The Cheshire County League – the top-ranked men's league in the county – has published its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary book, containing a wealth of information about the history of the league since its foundation in 1975. It includes honourable mentions for women players in Cheshire where they have been involved in significant men's league milestones, e.g. Sarah Collyer's international appearances, Lauren Griffiths' appearances for Chester BH alongside other members of her family, Sophie Ecclestone's five-wicket hauls for Alvanley men's 1<sup>st</sup> XI and Vicky Downes' hat-trick for Bredbury St Mark's.

A number of women who have played in this league and who have represented their country are also named in the Internationals section.

Copies are available to members of the Cheshire cricket family for £10 (including postage), providing a discount on the cover price of £15. To request a copy, send your name and postal address by [email](mailto:geoff@cheshirecricket.co.uk) to the author, Geoff Wellsted. Geoff will then post a copy to the address provided and enclose an invoice, so no upfront payment is required.

## **SENIOR WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES**

Cheshire continues to offer its wide range of umpiring and scoring courses. These include a course on May 6 and 8, at Lindow CC, which will be a special women-only course. This interactive course comprises both 'classroom' work and practical experience of laws, decision making and umpiring in general. The course is designed for those wishing to umpire at any level, and it is ideally timed to apply your increased expertise in the new season for your own team or to help any other team in your club. And if you want to use this to start your journey into umpiring at a national or international level, that's possible too!

The Board also offers a number of safeguarding courses. These do not take a long time to complete but are very important for anyone in a position of responsibility in grassroots cricket.