

## OVER 40's MATCH REGULATIONS

*(no rule changes made in 2022)*

1. (a) The object of the competition shall be to increase the interest in, and popularity of, the game of cricket as well as to encourage the late developer and delay imminent retirements.

(b) Membership shall be restricted to Full or Associate Member of the League unless otherwise determined by the Management Committee.

2. All players must be over the age of 40.
3. Only balls approved by the Cricket Committee shall be used in matches. Clubs will bowl with their own ball in each match. If a team does not use a League-approved ball the League may take action against that team, including a fine and/or deduction of points.

Pink balls must be used for the first two weeks, for the last week of the season and from the quarter-finals onwards. They may also be used in **all** other game, by mutual agreement.

4. All matches shall be of 20 overs per innings and shall start by 6.15 p.m. with bowlers restricted to a maximum of four overs. Matches that start at 6.30 p.m. shall still comprise 20 overs per innings. In matches which begin after 6.30 p.m. the captains may either agree to play the full 40 overs or reduce the number of overs per innings by one for every seven minutes lost. A minimum of 10 overs per innings must be bowled. In reduced games, the number of overs bowled by each bowler shall be reduced accordingly. Clubs are strongly urged not to cancel matches after 5 p.m. when visiting teams are normally en route.
5. When rain intervenes in a match after the game has started then if 10 overs or more are bowled in the second innings then the result is determined by average run rates. If ten overs are not possible then the match is abandoned unless the side batting second have already reached the target that would have been set for an innings of 10 overs in which case they are deemed the winners.
6. (a) Games which are cancelled due to rain may be re-arranged by mutual agreement provided they take place within 14 days of the original date and

no other League fixtures are affected. The Competition Secretary must be informed of all agreed new dates.

(b) In exceptional circumstances, fixtures may be reversed or played on an alternate day during the same week or the following week, by mutual agreement, in which case the Competition Secretary must be informed.

7. No player shall be permitted to play unless suitably attired for cricket. Teams may play in coloured clothing.
8. All matches shall be played under MCC rules except where otherwise provided for in these regulations.
9. Batsmen shall retire upon completion of the runs which take their score to 30 or more. They are not permitted to return to the crease later in the innings.
10. The results of all games must be recorded on Play Cricket no later than the Saturday after the match.. Failure to comply will result in a £15 fine.
11. Points shall be awarded as follows:
  - For a win: 4
  - For a tie: 3.
  - For a cancelled or abandoned game: 2.
  - For a defeat: 0.

Any match that finishes with level scores, regardless of wickets lost is to be classed as a tie.

Where a fixture is conceded the defaulting club shall forfeit the points, with 4 going to their opponents.

In the event of all matches being called off due to bad weather, the team defaulting shall receive no points and their opponents 2 points.

12. In the event of two (or more) teams having identical records that cannot be split using the criteria in Organisational & Admin matters then in order to establish the league order the average run rate in matches between the clubs will be used to determine positions.

13. Quarter-final games shall be played between the top two teams in each group, the group winners having home advantage. These games to be played on the Wednesday after the end of the group fixtures or by a later date to be agreed annually. The Competition Secretary to be notified of all agreed dates.
14. There shall be play-offs between the four quarter-final winners. These teams shall meet in the semi-final and final on a ground to be agreed annually on a Sunday date to be set by the Cricket Committee. A trophy shall be awarded to the play-off winners.
15. In the play-off semi-finals and final, should the scores finish level regardless of the number of wickets which have fallen, a Golden Over shall be bowled. Each team shall select three batsmen and one bowler; each team bats for one six-ball over with the team batting second in the original game batting first. The loss of two wickets shall end the innings. If the scores finish level, the team with most six hits in their two combined innings shall be the winners. If still level, the team which has lost fewest wickets in the two combined innings shall be the winners. If still level, there shall be a toss of the coin to decide the winners,
16. In the semi finals and final, when matches are being officiated by two Panel Umpires normal fielding circles at a radius of 30 yards centred on the two middle stumps will be applied. At the instant of delivery, a minimum of four fielders plus the bowler and wicket-keeper must be within the fielding circle. In the event of an infringement, the striker's end umpire shall call and signal no ball. Additionally a harsh interpretation will be applied to wides especially down the leg side.
17. The Management Committee shall agree to a League format proposed by clubs on a season-by-season basis. The champion team in each group shall be awarded a trophy. If two teams finish level on points in their group, they shall toss a coin once all the clauses in Organisation and Administrative Matters item 3 ii have been observed.
18. The home club in group fixtures and quarter-finals shall be responsible for providing adequate refreshments, preferably at the close of play.