

The Club Premier League Competition

A ADMINISTRATION

A1 Entries

The ECB will lay down the date by which Clubs are to submit entries.

A2 The Draw

All details of the Draw are the responsibility of the ECB and can be obtained from there.

A3 Fixtures

- 1 Dates for Premier League matches are prescribed. Clubs shall be responsible for making the arrangements for each of these fixtures, except the Final.
- 2 Before the first Premier League match, the ECB shall circulate to participating Clubs a list of all Clubs in the Competition, together with relevant addresses.
- 3 Where the Home Club for a given Premier League match cannot obtain a suitable ground on the prescribed date, they may, provided the opposing Club agrees, seek permission from the ECB to play the fixture Away.

A4 Rearrangement of Fixtures

- 1 If, on the day of a Premier League match, conditions are unfit, or if for any other reason no play is possible, the match may be rearranged only if express permission is obtained from the ECB to do so. Otherwise the match shall be declared a 'No Result' match. [see also Rule B14]
- 2 Clubs may use any dates for rearrangement of fixtures providing that both Clubs agree. However, the priorities laid down in the Domestic Programme still apply and, if agreement cannot be reached between the Clubs, the original date will stand. Any agreed changes must be notified to the ECB. In any case, all League matches must be completed on or before 25th August 2003.

A5 Eligibility to Play

- 1 Each player must have been listed to the ECB as a member of the Club for which she plays in the Competition. A full list of players must be submitted to the ECB 24 hours prior to the first fixture of the season.
- 2 If a player joins a Club after the list has been sent to ECB, her name must be specifically notified to the ECB before she can play in any Competition matches for that Club. Such notification shall be made, in writing, at least twenty four hours before the first match in which she plays. No player will be eligible to play in the final unless they have played in at least one match in the group stage of the Competition during the current season.
- 3 No player may play in the Competition for more than one Club in one season. For this purpose the Club League Competition and the Premier League Competition are to be regarded as the same Competition.
- 4 No more than one overseas player can play for a club in any one game.
- 5 Failure to comply with any of the requirements in A5.1, A5.2, A5.3 will lead to forfeiture of the match(es).

A6 Umpires and Scorers

- 1 Each Club must appoint one Umpire and one Scorer, capable of performing these duties, for each Club-round match. They need not necessarily be members of the Club concerned. They shall be appointed for the whole match and may not play in it.
- 2 If a Club has no appointed Umpire, and no replacement can be found, then a player must withdraw from playing to perform this role throughout the match. There will also be a deduction of 15 points from that Team's League points total irrespective of the result of the match, with no addition made to their opponent's points.
- 3 If a Club has no appointed Scorer, and no replacement can be found, then a player must withdraw from playing to perform this role throughout the match. There will also be a deduction of 10 points from that Team's League

points total irrespective of the result of the match, with no addition made to their opponent's points.

- 4 The Result Sheets will contain space for reporting on non-appointment of Umpires and Scorers.
- 5 Clubs must supply Umpires and Scorers with copies of the Competition Rules.

A7 Balls

In Premier League matches, each Club shall provide the ball for their fielding innings. [See also Rule B6.]

A8 Premier League Match Results

- 1 At the conclusion of each Premier League match, each side shall complete a Result Sheet as provided by the ECB. The Result Sheets [see Rule B1.] shall be signed by the Captains and the Umpires (unless the teams have not travelled to the venue) and must be posted to the address on the result sheet to arrive not later than the Wednesday immediately following the match. Faxed Results Sheets are acceptable. The ECB Cricket Department will email confirmation of receipt of the Result Sheet to the Club Contact provided to the ECB. If a Result Sheet is not received within this timescale, the Team concerned will be fined two points for each late submission and these points will be deducted from their total points scored before they are averaged. (C3 refers)
- 2 Result Sheets must be fully completed to include details of all the players who have participated in the match, even if they did not bat or bowl. In addition, the names of all four officials must be provided. If any of this detail is not included, the Team concerned will be fined two points for each Result Sheet which is incomplete and these points will be deducted from their total points scored before they are averaged. (C3 refers)
- 3 The Home Team **MUST** enter a full scorecard onto the play-cricket site within 48 hours. It will greatly help the entering of scorecards if every Club enters their selected squads onto Play-cricket before the first match of the season.

- 4 Any dispute on the points awarded for any match must be notified to the ECB within seven days of that match otherwise they will not be considered.
- 5 The ECB shall appoint someone to be responsible for compiling a record of points awarded.
- 6 The ECB will advise competing Clubs of the Premier League points position when all the matches in a given section have been played. As soon as practicable after the completion of all pre-Final matches, the final table of Premier League points shall be published and circulated to participating Clubs. Any disputes about the final positions must be notified to the ECB by 1st September 2003 otherwise they will not be considered.

A9 Final

- 1 The dates for the Final shall be as published in the ECB Domestic Programme for the year. [See Rule B16].
- 2 The ECB will be responsible for arranging the ground and appointing the Umpires and Scorers for the Final. The ECB will supply these officials with copies of the Competition Rules.
- 3 The ECB shall provide two new balls for the Final. They will also supply the scoresheets for this match.
- 4 The ECB will be responsible for supplying the necessary information about ground, opponents, etc, to the two Clubs in the Final of the Competition.

A10 Administrative Penalties

- 1 Clubs may have points deducted from their total, at the discretion of the ECB Cricket Dept., if they fail to meet any of the organisational requirements set out above, other than A5.1 to A5.3, A6.2 and A6.3 for which mandatory penalties are laid down.
- 2 If a team defaults in any match, the provisions of C5.1 will be applied.

B PLAYING CONDITIONS

B1 Nominated Players

- 1 Before the toss for innings, each Captain must give a written list of her nominated players for the match to the Umpires. This must include the age group category, actual age on the date of the match and birthday of every player U20 on the date of the match.
- 2 This list must identify any players under 18 who have permission from their parents or guardian to play without a helmet.

B2 Scoreboard

In all Competition matches, it shall be the responsibility of the batting side to ascertain the details of score, wickets and overs from the Scorers and to see that the scoreboard is brought up to date with this information at least at the end of every over.

B3 Duration

- 1 Unless there is a prior agreement to the contrary, between Captains and Umpires, matches will start at 12-45 p.m., unless delayed by adverse conditions of ground, weather or light.
- 2 Each match will consist of one innings by each side. Each innings shall be not more than 50 overs.
- 3
 - a The playing time allowed for the first innings shall be 170 minutes (2hrs 50mins).
 - b No drinks interval is to count as playing time.
 - c If the full 50 overs are not bowled within the designated playing time, the innings shall continue until the side batting first has received 50 overs. However, the maximum number of overs for the side batting second shall be reduced to the number received by the side batting first within the designated limit, except as detailed in B3.3d.

- d If the Umpires consider that the slowness of play in the first innings was due to matters beyond the control of the side fielding first, they shall be empowered to waive some or all of the penalty in B3.3c.
- 4 If adverse conditions of ground, weather or light interfere with the progress of play, the Umpires shall be empowered to re-arrange the number of overs to be bowled by each side so that, as far as possible, each team shall have the opportunity of batting for the same number of overs (minimum 10 overs). As a rough guide for re-arrangements, a rate equivalent to 3 overs in 10 minutes should be expected. For calculation purposes in interrupted matches only, a finishing time of 7-00 p.m. should be taken.
 - 5 If the number of overs for the first innings has to be thus reduced, the Umpires shall calculate the new time limit for that innings on the basis of 18 overs per hour, rounded up to the next five minutes.
 - 6 In a match in which there have been stoppages for adverse ground, weather or light conditions (and only in such matches):
 - a If at 6-30 p.m. play is in progress, and there is no further interruption, play may continue for 9 more overs after the one in progress or until the agreed number of overs have been completed, whichever is the sooner.
 - b If at 6-30 p.m. an interruption of play is in progress, or if an interruption occurs at or after 6-30 p.m., there shall be no resumption of play unless the Umpires consider there is a prospect of completing the minimum 10 overs before 7-15 p.m.
 - 7 The number of overs for the team batting second shall not be reduced merely because the team batting first has been dismissed in fewer than the agreed number of overs.

B4 Ground, Weather and Light

Law 3, sections 8 and 9 shall apply, that is it is for the Umpires to decide on the fitness of ground, weather or light for play. If they decide that conditions are unreasonable or dangerous, then they will not allow play to take place. If, however, they agree that ground or weather conditions are unsuitable but not dangerous, then the Captains have the right to agree to continue (or commence) play or, in unsuitable light conditions, the batting Captain has the right to decide to continue or commence play. In unsuitable light conditions, the batsmen at the wicket may deputise for the Captain. Appeals against conditions shall be allowed as in Law 3 section 9 (c).

B5 Intervals

There shall be a tea interval of 30 minutes. As far as possible this shall be taken at the conclusion of the first innings; in this case no extra allowance shall be made for the 10 minutes between innings.

B6 Balls

- 1 The balls shall be as specified in Law 5.6(i).
- 2 There shall be one new ball for each innings.
- 3 Law 5.2 shall apply, that is all balls used in the match shall be approved by the Captains and Umpires before the toss.
- 4 The balls, once approved, shall remain in the possession of the Umpires until brought into use.

B7 Wicket-Keeping Gloves

Compliance with Law 40.2, the new regulations on wicket-keeping gloves, is not required in season 2003.

B8 Helmets

Any player under the age of 18 playing in this Competition must wear a helmet when batting and when standing up

to the stumps when keeping wicket unless a parent or guardian has given prior written consent.

B9 Boundaries

It is recommended that, other than in exceptional circumstances, the size of the boundary shall be not less than 60 yards (55m) and not greater than 77 yards (70m). Distances shall be measured from the centre of the pitch being used.

B10 Fielding Restrictions

- 1 The ECB Directives on fielding restrictions for Junior Age Groups will be observed.
- 2 In this Competition;
 - a No young player in the Under 15 age group or younger shall be allowed to field closer than 7.3 metres from the middle stump, except behind the wicket on the off side, until the batsman has played at the ball.
 - b For players in the Under 13 age group and below, the distance is 10 metres.
 - c These minimum distances apply, even if the player is wearing a helmet.
 - d Should a young player in these age groups come within the restricted distance, the Umpire must stop the game immediately and instruct the fielder to move back.
 - e In addition, any young player in the Under 16 to U18 age groups, who has not reached the age of 18, must wear a helmet when fielding within 5.5 metres of the bat, except behind the wicket on the off side. Players should wear appropriate protective equipment whenever they are fielding in a position where they feel at risk.

B11 Limitation of Overs by Any One Bowler

- 1 The ECB Directives on fast bowling for Junior Age Groups will be observed.

- 2 In an uninterrupted match, no bowler may bowl more than one-fifth of the agreed number of overs for the innings.
- 3 If, after revision of the number of overs, the new limit for each bowler is not a whole number, then for the minimum number of bowlers only it shall be interpreted as the next whole number above.
- 4 If a bowler is incapacitated or suspended during an over, another bowler will complete the over, subject to the provisions of Law 22.8. The two part overs shall each count as a full over insofar as each bowler's limit is concerned, but not otherwise.
- 5 If the number of overs has to be revised after the start of the match then:
 - 1 For the first such revision
 - a If the first innings is completed before the revision, all bowlers thereafter, in the second innings, shall be limited to one-fifth (interpreted as in B11.3) of the revised total.
 - b If the revision occurs before the completion of the first innings, or if the first innings has to be prematurely terminated at this point, then all subsequent bowlers, if any, in the first innings shall be limited to one-fifth (interpreted as in B11.3) of the revised total and:
 - i) If the number of overs agreed for the second innings is the number actually bowled in the first innings, the limit for each bowler in the second innings will be one-fifth (interpreted as in B11.3) of the revised total. If, however, one or more bowlers in the first innings exceeded this new limit then a maximum of two bowlers in the second innings may also exceed the limit, matching, each to each, two bowlers in the first innings. The second side may not then use fewer than four bowlers, unless the first side used fewer than four. In that case, the second side may use as few bowlers as the first side insofar as is consistent with the other provisions of the paragraph.

- ii) If the number of overs agreed for the second innings is fewer than the number actually bowled in the first innings, then the minimum number of bowlers for the second side shall be five or the number actually used in the first innings, whichever is fewer. Each shall be limited to one-fifth, one-quarter, one-third or one-half of the total, depending on whether this minimum is five, four, three or two bowlers. In each case a fractional limit shall be interpreted as in B11.3. Once the minimum number of bowlers for the second innings has been set it shall not be changed, even if there are further interruptions.

2 For any further revision

All subsequent bowlers shall be limited to one-fifth (interpreted as in B11.3) of the revised total or, if a reduced minimum number of bowlers is already in operation, to the appropriate fraction thereof, as set out in B11.5.1b.ii).

B12 Wide Ball

However, for guidance purposes, if a ball passes outside the pads of the batsmen in a normal guard position, a leg side wide should be called.

B13 Slowness of Play

Laws 42.9 and 42.10 replace the regulations on "slowness of play" included in previous years and are to be strictly applied.

B14 Result of a Match

- 1
 - a A result can be achieved only if both teams have batted for at least 10 overs, unless either team has been all out in fewer than 10 overs, or unless the team batting second pass their opponents' total in fewer than 10 overs.
 - b A match in which there is some play but in which one or both teams has not had the opportunity of batting for a minimum of 10 overs shall be declared a 'No

Result' match [See also Rule A4.1.].

- 2 Providing the condition in B14.1a is met, and both sides have had the opportunity of batting for the same number of overs, the result shall be determined as follows:
 - a The side scoring the greater number of runs is the winner.
 - b If at the conclusion of both innings, the scores are equal, the side having lost fewer wickets shall be the winner.
 - c If the scores and wickets are all equal, then the match shall be declared a 'Tie'.

- 3 If the number of overs for the team batting second has to be curtailed to fewer than that allocated to the team batting first then their target score shall be reduced in the same ratio as the number of overs has been reduced, calculated to any number of decimal places.
 - a Any part over at the end of either innings shall be included in the calculation.
 - b For the side batting first, the number of overs shall be the number allocated, even though they may have been dismissed in fewer overs. For the side batting second the number of overs shall be the number actually received.

NOTE: This does not affect the calculation of the batting points awarded to a team, which shall be based on the actual number of overs (including any part over) that they have faced. [See Rule C2.1]

B15 Premier League Ranking

- 1 Clubs will be ranked, within their own Premier League or section, by the average number of points gained.

- 2 If two or more teams in the same Premier League or section have equal points, then to distinguish further between these teams the criteria set out below shall be

applied, in the order in which they are stated. In making the calculations,

- a Part overs at the end of an innings are to be included
 - b Calculations are to be taken to as many decimal places as required.
 - i) A Total Run Rate over all matches in that Premier League or section will be calculated as 'total runs scored in all matches divided by the total number of overs faced in all matches'. A team with a higher Total Run Rate shall be placed above one with a lower Total Run Rate;
 - ii) If the teams are still level, the rate for each teams' total wickets taken over all its matches in that Premier League or section, divided by total number of overs bowled' will be calculated. A team with a higher rate will be placed above one with a lower rate;
 - iii) If the teams are still level, the rate for each team 'total wickets lost over all its matches in that Premier League or section, divided by total number of overs faced' will be calculated. A team with a lower rate will be placed above one with a higher rate.
- 3 If there is more than one section in a Premier League, the winner of that league will be determined as laid down in the ECB schedule of matches together with the ranking procedures above.

B16 Final

- 1 The top Clubs in each of the two Premier Leagues will play each other in a Final to determine the League Champions for 2003 [See Rule A9].
- 2 If the Final is a 'No Result' match or a 'Tie' the Trophy shall be shared.

B17 Promotion and Relagation

- 1 The team finishing bottom in each of the Northern and Southern Premier Leagues will play off against the

winners of the Northern League and Southern League - Division 1 respectively. The winner of this match will play in the appropriate Premier League the following season.

- 2 If the play off match cannot be played, the team finishing bottom in each of the Northern and Southern Premier Leagues will be demoted to the Northern League and Southern League - Division 1 respectively. The team finishing top of each of these two Regional Leagues will be promoted to the appropriate Premier League.

B18 Special Conditions

- 1 A Captain may not declare her innings closed.
- 2 The Umpires have the discretion to consider a stoppage for exceptional circumstances on the same basis as one for conditions of ground, weather or light (Law 3 section 10).
- 3 In this Competition, Law 42 section 11 (b), the protected area will be as defined except that it will only extend 4ft/1.22 m in front of each popping crease.

B19 Other Conditions of Play

Except as specified in Rules B1 to B18 above, the matches will be played in accordance with the Laws of Cricket current in 2003, namely the MCC 2000 Code, except that in Law 2.2, if the wicket-keeper is injured, a substitute shall be allowed to act as wicket-keeper providing the opposing Captain consents.

B20 Disputes

Any dispute arising from the application or interpretation of these Rules shall be referred to a Rules Arbitration Panel appointed for the purpose by the ECB. Any decision of this Panel shall be final and binding on the parties concerned.

B21 Drinks

- 1 Drinks intervals will be arranged and taken on the field of

play in accordance with Law 15, except as in B21.2 and B21.3 below.

- 2 Drinks may be taken on the field of play after not less than 60 minutes without interruption since the last resumption of play, providing that,
 - a Such drinks intervals have been agreed prior to the start of play
 - b At least 10 overs of an innings remain to be bowled and, before lunch, at least 25 minutes remain before the interval.
- 3 If weather conditions warrant it, the Umpires and Captains are permitted to agree that more frequent drinks breaks be taken providing this agreement is made before the start of the match.

C POINTS SYSTEM

C1 Match Points

- 1 For a Win20 points
 For a Tie10 points to each Team
 For a Loss.....0 points
- 3 No points will be awarded for a 'No Result' match.

C2 Bonus Points

- 1 Batting Points
- a a. ..Except as in C2.lb, the number of batting points awarded will be equal to the run rate (runs per over), rounded to the nearest half point.

i.e. 3.25 runs per over = 3.5 points

4.65 runs per over = 5 points

Run rates involving decimal places will be rounded to the nearest half point

i.e. 4 runs per over to 4.24 runs per over = 4 points

4 runs per over to 4.49 runs per over = 4.5 points

4 runs per over to 4.74 runs per over =4.5 points

4 runs per over to 4.99 runs per over = 5 points

- b It is possible that a Team may be bowled out or reach their target in less than 50 overs and the number of overs faced is not a whole number. In this case, the total runs scored should be divided by the following factors to give the run rate as shown in C2.1.a. (where x is the total number of whole overs faced);

x overs + 1 ballx.17

x overs + 2 ballsx.33

x overs + 3 ballsx.5

x overs + 4 ballsx.67

x overs + 5 ballsx.83

i.e. 158 runs scored in 38.2 overs = 158 divided by 38.33 = 4.12 which is rounded to 4

87 runs scored in 17.5 overs = 87 divided by 17.83 = 4.88 which is rounded to 5

c Maximum Batting points shall be 5, even if the run rate exceeds 5.

2 Bowling Points

Each wicket taken earns one half point (see C4).

C3 Averaging of All Points

1 At any point in the Competition, the positions will be determined by totalling the match and bonus points gained by each Team and dividing by the number of matches that they have played, with the figure rounded to the nearest half point. This figure then becomes the "average number of points gained" as defined in Section B15.1.

2 If any points are deducted as a result of fines imposed on a Team, these will be deducted from the total of match and bonus points before the "average number of points gained" is calculated.

C4 Fewer than 11 Players

1 If a player is unable to bat because of illness or injury, sustained during the match, or a batsman is 'Retired Not Out', this shall not count as the fall of a wicket for the award of bonus bowling points (but 'Retired Out' will). This regulation does not invalidate the provisions of Law 2.9.

2 If a team has fewer than eleven batsmen, otherwise than as set out in C4.1, then the opposing team will be awarded 5 points if they dismiss all the batsmen in fewer than the allotted number of overs, but will not otherwise gain extra bowling points.

C5 Teams Defaulting or Withdrawing

- 1 If a team defaults from a Premier League match, they will automatically be withdrawn from the Competition and will be relegated to the appropriate lower Club League in the following season. All points awarded to either side in any matches played by the defaulting team will be expunged.
- 2 If a team withdraws from a Premier League (or section of the Premier League), then all points gained from matches against that team in the League (or section) shall be expunged from the records.