

Playing Rules - Readers Herts Trophy

1. The competition shall be controlled by the Competitions Committee of the Saracens Hertfordshire Premier Cricket League.
2. The decisions of the Competitions Committee in each and every circumstance shall be final.
3. The competitions shall be open to clubs who are members of the Hertfordshire Premier Cricket League and who shall participate by invitation. Any club unable to fulfill a match must advise its opponents by 8 p.m. Friday preceding the game and obtain verbal acknowledgement of the cancellation from an officer of the opposing club. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in a financial penalty of £100, in total, payable to the opposing club and may not be invited to compete again.
4. All players must be bona fide club members who are registered to play under the Hertfordshire Premier Cricket League rules and have not played any Saturday League cricket for any other club in any league in the current season unless approval is given by the League Management Committee. This will normally be given when a bona fide club member is in full time education and the Committee is satisfied that it is not practical for the player to return to play for his/her club at weekends. No player shall represent more than one club in the competitions in any one season. Before the toss of the coin the captains shall hand a written list of their team members for that match to the umpires. Clubs may play overseas players in line with the restrictions detailed in section 13 of the Constitution. After the match, all team sheets shall be countersigned as valid by one non-playing umpire and by the opposition captain. Team sheets must be sent by post, by the umpires, to Paul Blackwell.
5. The dates set for each round, and the draw including home and away venues, shall be determined by the Competition Committee. Balls will be supplied for all matches and sent to the club drawn at home.
6. The club drawn at home shall be responsible for all match arrangements and confirm these with their opponents for that round, well in advance.
7. If a club has a clash of dates with either the Club Cricket Conference Cup, the Cockspur National Knock-out Cup, or the National Village Knock-out Competition, that club may elect to play on the reserve date. In this event it is the responsibility of the club that wishes to change to the reserve date to advise their opponents as soon as possible, but in any case no later than the Monday before the original set date. In the event of bad weather on the original set date the match shall be played on the reserve date. The Match Secretary must be advised of any re-arranged matches. In the event of neither the set date nor the reserve date being available, the decision as to when the match will take place will be made by the Competitions Committee (see also paragraph 4 of the Playing Conditions).
8. The dates for the completion of each round will not be extended under any circumstances, other than under rule 7. Clubs disregarding this rule will be expelled from the competitions for the current season.

9. It shall be the responsibility of the **HOME** club to report the result using same process as for League matches. (See page 63 for full details). The winning club must also send a completed result sheet to the Results Secretary within 48 hours by first class post or fax, or as a scanned document attached to an e-mail. Failure to report the result via text or send in the result sheet will incur a fine of £20, which will increase to £40 for each subsequent offence. Persistent offenders may be excluded from next year's competitions.

Umpires and Scorers

- 10.1 Failure to provide both an umpire and a scorer in accordance with these Rules may result in the Competitions Committee withdrawing the invitation to take part in the competitions in the following year.
- 10.2 From the quarter-finals of the competitions, umpires are to be marked via the League's website as per Saracens Herts League rules. Failure to do so by 11.00pm on the Tuesday after the game will result in a fine of £20.
- 10.3 For the first two rounds non-playing umpires who are preferably members of the ECB Association of Cricket Officials (ECB ACO), are to be appointed by the competing clubs. Clubs are encouraged to contact the Umpires Administrator for help in finding umpires.
- 10.4 For the quarter-finals umpires are to be appointed by the Umpires Committee of the Hertfordshire Cricket League and paid £40 each, to be shared equally between the competing clubs.
- 10.5 For the Semi Finals and Final the cost of the appointed umpires will be borne by the League.
- 10.6 Each club must provide a non-playing scorer in every round.

Guidelines and Discipline

11. The Safety Guidelines (for players under 18 years of age) and the Fast Bowling Directive (for bowlers in the Under 19 age group and below), as published in the Hertfordshire Cricket League Handbook, will apply.
12. Any Disciplinary matters will be dealt with under Rule 12 of the Hertfordshire Cricket League Constitution and the nominated committee.

Readers Herts Trophy - Playing Conditions

The Laws of Cricket will apply except where otherwise stated within the Competition Rules and the following Playing Conditions:

1. Duration

- 1.1. Each side shall bat for 50 six-ball overs unless all out earlier. The side batting first shall not be permitted to declare its innings closed.
- 1.2 All matches shall start at 1 p.m. with the exception of the Semi Finals (12.30 p.m.) and Final (12.00 noon).
- 1.3 An interval for tea shall be taken, normally between the innings. Its duration shall be not longer than 30 minutes, at the discretion of the umpires.

2. Shortened Matches

2.1 Delayed Start

If, because of inclement weather or for any other reason, a match starts not more than 15 minutes late it shall remain a match of 50 overs per side. If the start is more than 15 minutes late, one over shall be deducted from each innings for every full 7 minutes lost. (For example, if the match starts at 1.20 p.m. 20 minutes late, two overs shall be deducted from each innings and the match becomes one of 48 overs per innings.) The minimum number of overs per innings remaining after this deduction will be 25. Therefore, if the start is delayed by 182 minutes or more (equivalent to 26 overs per side) a match will be considered abandoned. No variations will be allowed to this rule and it is therefore essential for the captains and umpires to agree on the match clock before the scheduled start time.

2.2. First Innings Interrupted

If the first innings is interrupted because of inclement weather or for any other reason, two overs shall be deducted from the match for every full 7 minutes lost. If there is more than one interruption, the time lost is to be accumulated and the overs reduced accordingly. Overs shall be deducted equally from both innings. If this reduces the match to fewer than 25 overs per side, it shall be abandoned. If the number of overs already completed equals or exceeds the overs per side resulting from the calculation, the first innings shall be closed and provided that at least 25 overs remain in the match, they shall be available for the second innings; otherwise the match shall be abandoned.

2.3 Second Innings Interrupted

If the second innings is interrupted because of inclement weather or for any other reason, one over shall be deducted for every full 3 1/2 minutes lost. If there is more than one interruption, the time lost is to be accumulated and the overs reduced accordingly. Once the side batting second has received 25 overs it is deemed that a match has taken place.

3. Slow Play

3.1 After three and one quarter hours play the umpires will indicate to the fielding captain how many overs have been completed and this will be the number of overs the team batting second will receive. Play will then continue in the first innings of the match until the maximum allowance has been bowled or the team dismissed.

3.2 If the first innings has been reduced in length in accordance with paragraphs 2.1 or 2.2, the time limit in paragraph 3.1 will be reduced by half the total playing time lost.

3.3 The umpires will have sole discretion on the interpretation and implementation of this rule, and may allow additional time in respect of serious injury, frequent lost balls or any Acts of God.

4. Rearranged Matches (see also paragraph 7 of the Rules)

If it is not possible to reach a result of a match on the set date, the first option shall be to re-play the match on the reserve date. The Match Secretary must be informed.

If either the reserve date is not available or a result is not reached on the reserve date, the Match Secretary must be advised which of the following options (listed in order of preference) is proposed by the clubs. If the clubs cannot agree, a decision as to which option shall be adopted and when it shall take place will be made by the Competitions Committee.

- a) a mid-week match,
- b) an evening match of 20 overs per side
- c) a bowl out (see Appendix 2)
- d) the toss of a coin between the two captains, when both are present. In the event of one or both captains being unable to be present, the tossing of the coin shall be referred to the nominated administrator

5. Restriction of Bowlers

5.1 No bowler shall bowl more than ten overs nor more than one fifth of the total number of overs in the innings except where that total is not divisible by 5. If, for example, the match is reduced to 41 overs per side, one bowler may bowl 9 overs and 4 other bowlers may bowl 8 overs each.

6. Result

6.1 A result can be achieved only if the side batting second has received at least 25 overs, or has been dismissed in fewer than 25 overs or has scored enough runs to win in fewer than 25 overs.

6.2 Where the numbers of overs available to both sides remain equal throughout the match:

- i) the side that scores the most runs shall be the winner.
- ii) if the scores are level, the side which has lost the least number of wickets shall be the winner.
- iii) if still equal, the winner shall be the side with the highest scoring rate over the first 20 overs of its innings.
- iv) if still equal, the winner shall be the side losing the least number of wickets in the first 20 overs of its innings.
- v) if still equal, the winner shall be the side with the highest scoring rate over the first 10 overs of its innings.
- vi) if still equal, the winner shall be the side losing the least number of wickets in the first 10 overs of its innings.
- vii) if still equal, the winner shall be the side with highest scoring rate over the first 9 overs of its innings, if still equal the first 8 overs and so on.

6.3 If the number of overs available to the side batting second is reduced in accordance with paragraph 2.3, a target score shall be calculated by multiplying the reduced number of overs by the overall scoring rate of the side batting first. If the side batting first were all out in fewer overs than were available to them, their overall scoring rate shall be calculated on the assumption that they batted for all the overs available.

7. Covers

If covers are available then the entire pitch should be covered immediately upon rain intervening.

8. Restriction of the Placement of Fielders

- 8.1 Throughout the innings a maximum of five fielders may field on the leg side of the pitch.
- 8.2 For the first fifteen overs of each innings, or less in a shortened innings as determined from Appendix 1, only two fielders may be placed outside the fielding circle. Throughout this period two fielders, in addition to the wicket keeper, must be in stationary catching positions within 15 yards of the bat.
- 8.3 Thereafter, at the instant of delivery a minimum of four fielders (plus the bowler and wicket keeper) must be within an area bounded by two semi circles centred on each middle stump (each with a radius of 30 yards) and joined by a parallel line on each side of the pitch.
- 8.4 In the event of an infringement, the square leg umpire shall call and signal 'No Ball'.
- 8.5 The fielding circle should be marked by painted white dots at five yard intervals, each dot to be marked by a white plastic or rubber (but not metal) disk measuring seven inches in diameter.

9. Interpretation of Wide Ball

Umpires are instructed to apply a very strict and consistent interpretation in regard to this Law in order to prevent negative bowling wide of the wicket.

In addition any ball pitching outside the leg stump and maintaining its line should be called wide unless it is intercepted by the striker or passes between him and the wicket.

Appendix 1 - Fielding Restrictions In A Shortened Innings

Where an innings is shortened in accordance with section 2 (inclement weather, etc.) or paragraph 3.1 (slow play), the fielding restriction specified in paragraph 8.2 shall apply for a lesser number of overs as follows:

Total Overs Available in Innings	Overs of Duration of Fielding Restrictions
25 - 26	7
27 - 29	8
30 - 33	9
34 - 36	10
37 - 39	11
40 - 43	12
44 - 46	13
47 - 49	14

Appendix 2 - Rules For A Bowl-out

1. The following procedure will apply to a bowl-out, either indoors or outdoors, arranged under Playing Condition 4(c).
2. Five players from each side will be nominated to the umpires to take part in the bowl-out, plus a wicket-keeper from each side. If the original match has started (i.e. the toss has taken place), the six players must be selected from the eleven players nominated for the match. The wicket-keeper will stand behind the wicket while his side is bowling, but out of reach of the stumps.
3. The captains will toss up for the choice of which side will bowl first. Players from each side will bowl alternately, i.e. Player 1 from Side A, Player 1 from Side B, Player 2 from Side A, Player 2 from Side B, etc. Each player will bowl two overarm deliveries at a wicket (conforming to Law 8) from a wicket pitched at a distance of 22 yards with, if practicable, bowling, popping and return creases marked (conforming to Law 9). The side which bowls down the wicket (as defined in Law 28.1a) the most times shall be the winner. If the scores are equal, the same players, in the same order, will bowl one ball each, the sides bowling alternately, to achieve a result on a 'sudden death' basis.
4. The same suitably acceptable ball (not a new one) will be used by both teams. If this ball becomes wet, it may be changed subject to the umpires' approval.
5. If a bowler bowls a No ball and the wicket is bowled down, this will not count towards the team's score but the ball will count as one of that bowler's two deliveries.

Competition Organisers

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Trophy Result Reporting

The HOME club must report the result using the Herts Cricket App or on the website at www.hertsleague.co.uk (see page 63 for full details).