

NoSCA Playing Conditions - Senior Competitions - 2023

GENERAL

- 1) All games will be played using a standard ball as decided at the AGM.
- 2) Matches will be played on the date and at the venue published in the NoSCA handbook unless agreed in writing with the Match Secretary at least 24 hours before the scheduled date. In the event of any dispute the matter will be referred to the Executive whose decision will be final.
Notwithstanding the above, teams can agree (by reason of the weather only and provided they have not already played each other) to 'reverse' the date and venue of their published fixtures. In so doing, each team must confirm their agreement by sending separate e-mail notices to the Match Secretary by 10.00am on the date of the fixture. Any Appointed Umpire for that match can choose not to stand.
- 3) The Cricket Scotland Match Officials Association (CSMOA) will appoint qualified / experienced umpires to NoSCA games wherever possible (Appointed Umpires). In the absence of any Appointed Umpires, each team may appoint one independent umpire for the duration of the game, and, with the approval of the opposition captain, a team may appoint a second independent umpire if available (Independent Umpires). If no Appointed or Independent umpires are available, then the captain of the batting side will ensure that suitably experienced players stand as required (Playing Umpires).
 - 3.1). When umpires are appointed to senior league, senior cup, or senior T20 matches by NoSCA via the recognised umpire's association (currently CSMOA) each umpire is to be paid a fee by the teams participating in the match. The fee is to be paid to each appointed umpire, in cash, no later than tea on the match day. Both the home and away teams are responsible for the fee to be paid in full. The fee is applicable in all circumstances, including weather delayed, shortened, unfinished and abandoned matches. If the match does not start, and no play has taken place, the fee is not applicable. Failure to pay the fee on the match day may result in disciplinary action taken against the non-fee-paying club and will result in withdrawal of appointed umpires for that given team. The fee for the 2023 season is 40p per over (ie £32 for a league game, £24 for a cup game, £16 for a T20 game).
- 4) The toss will take place no later than 15 minutes before the scheduled start time. In the event of a team captain not being available at that time, another member of the team should attend the toss. In the absence of any member of a team being available or willing to attend the toss, the team present may claim the toss.
- 5) In all competitions current ECB directives and guidance relating to young players MUST be adhered to (e.g., fast bowling directive, guidance on the wearing of helmets and minimum ages for young players in adult cricket).
- 6) On any occasion when the Home Ground Authority considers that weather conditions have made their ground unfit for play it must advise the Away Club (by 10.00 am at the latest - preferably earlier depending on travelling distances and/or scheduled start time). The Away Club then has the option of agreeing to the cancellation of the fixture or of travelling. If it decides to travel, both teams and any Appointed Umpires must appear at the ground (n.b. in the absence of Appointed Umpires, an impartial third party may be consulted to help adjudicate on fitness for play). In no event may the Home Club cancel a fixture without the agreement of the Away Club.

7) In the event of a delayed start due to weather, the Appointed Umpire(s) (if any) in conjunction with both team captains should agree to a reduced overs game as per Appendix 1 of these Playing Conditions.

8) In all competitions the MCC 2017 (3rd Edition 2022) Laws of Cricket will apply unless otherwise noted.

9) In all competitions after a game has started no further reduction in overs is permitted.

10) In all competitions a written team sheet must be exchanged with the Umpires before the toss is made (in the absence of at least one Appointed Umpire team sheets will be exchanged between the team captains). Failure to submit a team sheet will be reported to the NoSCA Secretary for possible sanctions. A copy of the team sheet must be left with the home team for ease of data entry into the cricketstats system.

11) In all League and Cup matches a minimum of 15 overs per hour MUST be maintained. Appointed Umpires are required to report any failure to maintain this rate to the NoSCA Secretary for possible sanctions.

EXEMPTION TO LAWS

12) In the absence of at least one Appointed Umpire, 'Penalty Time' will be calculated in terms of elapsed overs NOT time (e.g., a player absent for one complete over (or part thereof) must wait for one over after they have returned to the field before they can bowl).

13) In the absence of at least one Appointed Umpire, the awarding of Penalty Runs under Laws 41 and 42 is NOT available. Similarly, the sanction of suspending players for Level 3 and Level 4 offences under Law 42 are NOT available. However, all instances of such events MUST be reported to the NoSCA Secretary for possible sanctions.

14) In ALL NoSCA senior games (League, cup and T20) a no ball will be penalised with the award of 1 run to the batting side with the following ball being deemed a 'FREE HIT'. (n.b. no change to the field is allowed to a free hit unless the batsmen change ends). A batsman can only be given out 'run out' or 'obstructing the field' from a free hit.

FORFEITS

15) Failure to honour a fixture will automatically lead to forfeiture of the match.

16) With respect to a club not having a team available, a call-off must be made on or before 20.00 on the day preceding the scheduled fixture.

17) Failure to honour a fixture without notice will automatically be referred to the Executive for sanction.

18) Should a Senior Club forfeit 4 matches or more during a season, the Executive has the right to request the team withdraw from the Senior League and other Senior competitions with effect from the following season and be entered into the Development League. Should they already have a Development side it would remain their only team.

RESULTS

19) The home team Captain is responsible for entering the result of each game on the CS Live scoring platform before 8pm on the day of the game (or within 15 minutes of the end of the game if later than 8pm).

20) Club Secretaries are responsible for completing an electronic match return within seven days of the match being completed.

21) Failure to enter results and/or match returns in a timely manner may result in a fine and/or a points deduction to be decided by the Executive.

WEATHER INTERRUPTIONS

22) For a match abandoned as a result of the weather or light before the completion of 50% of the scheduled second innings overs, the game shall be declared null and void (e.g., a 45 over game is not 'live' until the 3rd legal delivery of the 23rd over has been completed).

23.a) In the event of a match being abandoned as a result of the weather or light after the completion of 50% of the scheduled second innings overs, the game shall be decided by the Rain Calculator (Appendix 2 of the Playing Conditions).

23.b) In the event of the submitted team sheet not having 11 players, the missing player/s will automatically count as OUT at the start of the match. Example - if you submit a team sheet with only 9 players you automatically start your batting innings at 2 wickets down.

ELIGIBILITY

24) Only bona fide members of a Club are eligible to play in NoSCA competitions. Players should be registered with NoSCA as per the guidelines in the NoSCA Player Registration Directive – 2023.

25) No player may play for more than one Club in NoSCA Senior competitions in the same season unless a written transfer request has been agreed by the Executive as per the NoSCA Player Registration Directive - 2023 for details).

26) Only amateur cricketers who are normally resident within the UK are eligible to play in NoSCA competitions (i.e., no Professional or Overseas Amateur cricketers, as defined by Cricket Scotland). With the prior approval of the Executive this rule may be relaxed for amateur players who are in the UK to study or to work and where the primary purpose of their visit is not to play cricket. This decision will rest solely with the Executive.

COMPLAINTS

27) If a team is concerned as to the composition of the opposition team or their behaviour, they should inform the opposition that they will play on 'Under Protest' and will be forwarding a complaint to the Executive.

28) Complaints concerning the eligibility of a member of the opposing team, or the behaviour of the opposing team or an individual player must be made in writing to the Secretary by midnight three days after the game finishing (i.e., midnight on Tuesday for a game played on Saturday). The Disciplinary procedure as detailed in the NoSCA Constitution will then be followed.

LEAGUE FIXTURES

29) The normal playing day for NoSCA Senior League fixtures is Saturday.

30) The normal start time for League fixtures is 12noon. This may be changed by agreement between the teams and the prior written consent of the Match Secretary and Umpire's co-ordinator at least 24 hours before the scheduled start of the match.

FORMAT

- 31) Teams are scheduled to play each other twice in the season, once at home, and once away.
- 32) In the event of any fixture being called off, a new fixture will be scheduled by the match secretary. (Note: priority will be given to matches where both home and away fixtures are called off).
- 33) In the event that the rescheduled fixture is unplayed, it will be again rescheduled subject to a cut-off date of 30th September.
- 34) Scheduled games will be of 40 six ball overs per side (n.b. declarations are allowed but unused overs are not carried forward to the second innings).
- 35) No more than 8 overs will be bowled by any one bowler, unless a reduced overs game is played when this number will be adjusted accordingly (see Appendix 1).
- 36) A 25 metre circle will be marked with a maximum of 2 fielders allowed outside this circle in the first 8 overs, and a maximum of 5 fielders outside the circle in the remaining 32 overs (see Appendix 1 for reductions applicable to reduced overs games).

POINTS SYSTEM

- 37) The team with the higher number of runs will be the winners and will receive 20 points.
- 38) The team with the lower number of runs will receive bonus points as follows.
When batting: 1 point for reaching 75 runs plus 1 point for each subsequent 25 runs, to a maximum of 5 batting points.
When bowling: 1 point for taking the 2nd, 4th, 6th, 8th, and 10th wickets to a maximum of 5 bowling points. However, if the opposition are all out, regardless of how many wickets have actually fallen, then the bowling side will receive 5 bonus points.
- 39) In the event of both teams having the same number of runs at the end of play, the game shall be declared a tie and each team will receive 5 points in addition to any bonus points accrued.
- 40) In the event of a team forfeiting a match, the result will be a win to the side forfeited against. The side forfeiting shall gain no points and the match will be deemed to have been played.

NO BALLS

- 41) A no ball will be penalised with the award of 1 run to the batting side with the following ball being deemed a 'free hit'. (n.b. no change to the field is allowed for a free hit unless the batsmen change ends). A batsman can only be given out 'run out' or 'obstructing the field' from a free hit.

COMPLETION OF LEAGUE MATCHES.

- 42) The league competition is decided when all league matches have been played, or on the 1st of October whichever is earlier.
- 43) Matches lost to weather must be replayed, in their original order, on the first available Saturday where no other official NoSCA fixture is scheduled for the teams involved. (For example, matches lost in May should be played before matches lost in June). If both clubs agree, then the match can be played on the first available Sunday. If the home team's ground is unavailable on the first available Saturday, then they are required to find another ground in order to fulfil the replayed match, or failing that, cede home advantage. In the event of a dispute the matter can be referred to the NoSCA executive for a ruling, and whose decision will be final.

LEAGUE WINNERS

44) The method of determining league positions shall be based on points obtained expressed as a percentage – calculated by dividing the total number of points gained by the total number of points available in games not deemed null and void.

45) To qualify as league winners a team must have played at least 60 % of the scheduled fixtures.

46) If two teams finish with the same percentage, the final position will be determined by.

1- the most wins, or if still equal

2- the most away wins, or if still equal

3- the highest run rate throughout the season calculated by dividing runs scored by wickets lost (where a team has scratched a match 10 wickets should be added to their total of wickets lost).

47) In the event of a team withdrawing/being banned after the start of any season all their previous matches will be declared null and void.

SENIOR KNOCKOUT CUP

48) Playing days for the Senior Knockout Cup (the 'Cup') will be decided by the Match Secretary.

49) The normal start time for Cup fixtures is 12noon. This may be changed by agreement between the teams and the prior written consent of the Match Secretary and Umpire's coordinator at least 24 hours before the scheduled start of the match.

FORMAT

50) The Cup will be played by all Senior Clubs in a straight knock-out format. The draw will be made in full by the Executive at the start of the season.

51) Scheduled games will be of 30 six ball overs per side.

52) No more than 6 overs will be bowled by any one bowler unless a reduced overs game is played when this number will be adjusted accordingly (see Appendix 1).

53) Failure to fulfil a fixture will result in a loss, and progression to the opposing team in each round.

54) Uncompleted games are to be played at the same venue at a date to be decided by the Match Secretary.

55) A 25 metre circle will be marked with a maximum of 2 fielders allowed outside this circle in the first 7 overs, and a maximum of 5 fielders outside the circle in the remaining 23 overs (see Appendix 1 for reductions applicable to reduced overs games).

WIDES AND NO BALLS

56) A delivery which passes behind the legs of a Batter standing in their normal position will be called a 'Wide Ball' with a one run penalty and an extra ball to be bowled (n.b. a Batter cannot 'make' a wide delivery by moving to the off-side after the ball has been delivered).

57) A no ball will be penalised with the award of 1 run to the batting side with the following ball being deemed a 'free hit'. (n.b. no change to the field is allowed for a free hit unless the batsmen change ends). A batsman can only be given out 'run out' or 'obstructing the field' from a free hit.

WINNERS

58) The winner will be the team who scores the most runs. In the event of the scores being level at the end of the match, irrespective of how many wickets have fallen the winners will be decided by a 'super over' of six balls to be conducted as per Appendix 3 of these Playing Conditions.

SENIOR T20 COMPETITION

59) The T20 competition will be played by all Senior teams in groups of 3 or 4 to be decided by the Executive. Group winners will qualify for the finals.

60) T20 days will normally consist of 3 games starting at 10:30, 1:30 and 4:30 respectively. The two nearest teams should play in the first game, with the loser 'staying-on' for the second game in a 3-team contest.

61) Scheduled games will be of 20 six-ball overs per side.

62) No more than 4 overs will be bowled by any one bowler unless a reduced overs game is played when this number will be adjusted accordingly (see Appendix 1).

63) A 25-metre circle will be marked with a maximum of 2 fielders allowed outside this circle in the first 6 overs, and a maximum of 5 fielders outside the circle in the remaining 14 overs (see Appendix 1 for reductions applicable to reduced overs games).

WIDES & NO BALLS

64) A delivery which passes behind the legs of a Batter standing in their normal position will be called a 'Wide Ball' with a one run penalty and an extra ball to be bowled (n.b. a Batter cannot 'make' a wide delivery by moving to the offside after the ball has been delivered).

65) A no ball will be penalised with the award of 1 run to the batting side with the following ball being deemed a 'free hit'. (n.b. no change to the field is allowed for a free hit unless the batsmen change ends or the no ball was called due to contravention of Clause 62 above). A batsman can only be given out 'run out' or 'obstructing the field' from a free hit.

WINNERS

66) The winner will be the team who scores the most runs. In the event of the scores being level at the end of the match, irrespective of how many wickets have fallen the winners will be decided by a 'super over' of six balls to be conducted as per Appendix 3 of these Playing Conditions.

67) For a 3 team T20 day the winners will be decided by.

1 - the team who wins most matches, or if still equal

2 - the team with the highest run-rate (runs scored (excluding super overs) / overs faced (1)), or if still equal

3 - the teams who took most wickets (excluding super overs), or if still equal

4 - by a bowl out between the 3 teams, conducted as per Appendix 4 of these Playing Conditions

(1) A team which is 'All Out' in an innings is deemed to have faced their full quota of overs

TIMINGS AND PENALTIES

68) At the fall of a wicket the incoming batsman has 90 seconds to make their way to the wicket and be ready for the next delivery. Failure to be ready will result in the batsman being 'Timed Out' on appeal.

69) There will be an allotted time of 75 minutes set aside for each innings of 20 overs (n.b. umpires will pay specific attention to time wasting).

70) If an over is started within the 75 minutes it will be completed without penalty.

71) The innings length will be adjusted for reduced overs games as per the details in Appendix 1.

72) A penalty of 10 runs per over will be awarded for any overs not bowled within the allotted time.

WEATHER DISRUPTIONS

73) If, in the opinion of the umpire(s) (in consultation with the team captains) the prevailing weather is likely to result in an unfinished game, they may decide to start a reduced overs game before the times outlined in Appendix 1. If no appointed umpire(s) are available, then the team captains may decide on this course of action if they both agree. If no appointed umpire(s) are available and agreement cannot be reached, then match timings as per Appendix 1 will prevail.

74) A game which has not started 2 hours after the scheduled start time OR which remains unfinished and play is not in progress 2½ hours after the scheduled start time, shall be declared void and replayed at a date and venue to be decided by the Match Secretary, UNLESS:-

75) In a 20 over game, 10 or more of the 2nd innings overs have been completed, in which case the result will be determined by the NoSCA Rain Calculator (Appendix 2) using the 'Cup' option. For the avoidance of doubt, T20 games reduced to less than 20 overs from the start may not use the Rain Calculator to determine the result.