



NCCA 2022 SEASON

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NCCA T20 PLAYING CONDITIONS

All group fixtures will be played with coloured clothing and black sight screens. Group fixtures will have no reserve day.

COMPETITION STRUCTURE

The competition shall be organised on a flexible regional basis as decided from time to time by NCCA. There will be four groups of five counties. Each county shall play two matches on one day against each other county in its group on dates and home or away as decided by NCCA.

During the Group Stage of the competition, two points will be awarded for a win, one point for a tie or No Result and no points for a loss.

Where teams finish on equal points, the team with the higher net run rate in the group matches will be placed in the higher position (see below). If net run rates are equal, the teams will be ordered according to which team achieved the most points in the matches played between them. In the event teams cannot be separated by either of these methods, the Group Winner shall be decided by drawing lots.

The Scoring Rule in Play-Cricket & Match Type in PCS Pro associated with this competition use Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) Professional 2020 v4.

NET RUN RATE

A team's net run rate is calculated by deducting from the average runs per over scored by that team, the average runs per over scored against that team. In the event of a team being all out in less than its full allocation of overs, the calculation of the net run rate of both teams shall be based on the full quota of overs to which the batting team would have been entitled and not on the number of overs in which the team was dismissed. Only those matches where results are achieved will count for the purpose of net run rate calculations.

Where a match is abandoned, but a result is achieved under DLS, for net run rate purposes team 1 will be accredited with team 2's Par Score on abandonment off the same number of overs faced by team 2.

Where a match is concluded but with DLS having been applied at an earlier point in the match, team 1 will be accredited with 1 run less than the final target score for team 2 off the total number of overs allocated to team 2 to reach the target.

The four group winners shall progress to the semi-finals and final, which shall be played on the same day ("Finals Day") at a location and date specified by NCCA.

NCCA shall undertake all arrangements, including financial, for the Finals Day. Any gate receipts shall be a matter for agreement between NCCA and the host venue.

1. LAW 1 – THE PLAYERS

- 1.1 Law 1.1 (Number of players) shall be replaced by: A match is played between two sides, each of eleven players, one of whom shall be captain. If, during the match and for whatever reason, a side is reduced to fewer than the original number of nominated players, the match shall continue as long as it is possible to do so under the Laws
- 1.2 Law 1.2 (Nomination and replacement of players) shall be replaced by:

Each Captain shall nominate his players in writing to one of the umpires before the toss. No player may be replaced after the nomination of teams and before the Umpire has called Play without the consent of the opposing Captain (not to be unreasonably withheld) and NCCA Cricket Operations. No player may be replaced after the Umpire has called Play before the first ball of the match. After a Captain has nominated his players, it is discovered that someone who was not on the list has acted in the match as though a nominated player, then, if consent is not given by the opposing Captain for the original nomination to be changed, the offender shall take no further part in the match and no replacement, including the original nominated player shall be allowed.

2. LAW 2 – THE UMPIRES

- 2.1 Law 2.1 (Appointment and attendance) shall be replaced by: Two umpires shall be appointed, one for each end to control the game as required by the Laws and Playing Conditions with absolute impartiality. They shall report themselves to the Ground Authority no later than 75 minutes before the start of play.
 - 2.2 Law 2.7 – Fitness for play - shall apply with the addition that: The safety of all persons within the ground is of paramount importance to the NCCA. In the event that any threatening circumstance, whether actual or perceived, comes to the attention of any Umpire (including for example weather, pitch invasions, act of God, etc), then the players and officials should immediately be asked to leave the field of play in a safe and orderly manner and to relocate to a secure and safe area (depending on each particular threat) pending the satisfactory passing or resolution of such threat or risk to the reasonable satisfaction of the venue safety officer and/or the Umpire as the circumstances may require.
 - 2.3 Law 2.8 – Suspension of play in dangerous or unreasonable circumstances shall apply with the following additions:
 - 2.4.1 The Umpires shall disregard any shadow on the pitch from the stadium or from any permanent object.
 - 2.4.2 Following any inspection, the Umpires will report their findings immediately to both Captains and to the Ground Authority.
 - 2.5 Changing the Venue for the Match
The venue for a match may only be changed at short notice with the consent of NCCA Operations. Consideration will be given for a change of venue if the change will significantly improve the prospects of play or if there is a genuine concern over the original venue producing a substandard pitch or outfield.
It is the onus of the Home County to ensure that if there is a material likelihood that 72 hours prior to a scheduled match that a venue will be unable to stage any play over the scheduled term of the match due to the prevailing condition of the venue 72 hours prior to the scheduled start of the match (including pitch and/or square and/or outfield) then an alternative venue must be identified under this playing condition and brought to the attention of the visiting County and NCCA and made available should playing conditions not improve.
The venue should preferably be within the County, or a recognised venue used by the County in question. If no such venue is available, then a neutral venue preferably within the Region of the originally scheduled match maybe considered.
A change in venue will only be approved if it meets COVID protocols and is unlikely to be approved if it is considered to make an unreasonable request of the visiting team for logistical reasons. It is unlikely that a change of venue would be approved on the day the match is scheduled to take place.
 - 2.6 Law 2.15 – Correctness of scores - shall apply. For the avoidance of doubt, a team innings score may only be corrected where necessary prior to the commencement of the subsequent team-innings of the match. See also Playing Conditions 3.1 and Law 16.10.
- ## 3. LAW 3 – THE SCORERS
- 3.1 Law 3.2 – Correctness of scores - shall apply. For the avoidance of doubt, a team innings score may only be corrected where necessary prior to the commencement of the subsequent team-innings of the match. See also Playing Conditions 3.1 and Law 16.10.

4. LAW 4 – THE BALL

- 4.1 A new white Tiflex ball shall be used at the start of each innings.
- 4.2 Law 4.5 (Ball lost or becoming unfit for play) shall apply with the addition that:
- 4.2.1 The Umpires may deem a ball that has become wet and soggy or unusually soft to be unfit for play. The Umpires alone will select the replacement ball from the supply of approved replacements and shall inform the batsmen at the wicket and the fielding captain. Either bowler or batsman may raise the matter with the Umpires and the Umpires' decision as to a replacement or otherwise shall be final.
- 4.2.2 The Umpires may use a ball gauge to assist them in their decision as to whether a used ball should be changed because it is out of shape. They shall only do so should the ball visually appear to be out of shape. Additionally, the fielding Captain only may request that the Umpires check the shape of the ball a maximum of one occasion for each ball. If the ball does not pass both ring tests of the ball gauge, it shall be changed.
- 4.3.4 The home side shall take full responsibility in providing spare balls for the match and should be of varying degrees of wear and tear.

5. LAW 5 – THE BAT

- Law 5 shall apply with the addition that only Type A bats shall be used.
- 5.1 A bat gauge shall be used to check the measurements width and depth of bats. Any bats which fail the bat gauge test will have to be changed and NCCA will be informed of the breach.

6. LAW 6 – THE PITCH

- 6.1 All maintenance issues should be carried out with the guiding principle that they should ensure that conditions are as similar as possible for both sides throughout the match.
- 6.2 Law 6.3 (Selection and preparation) shall apply with the following additions: Captains, Umpires and Groundsmen should co-operate to ensure that, prior to the start of any day's play, no-one bounces a ball on the pitch or strikes it with a bat to assess its condition or for any other reason or causes damage to the pitch in any other way.
- 6.3 Law 6.5 – Non-turf pitches – will not apply. However, stitched hybrid pitch systems in which synthetic turf fibres (polyethylene or polypropylene, of beige and/or green colour) are inserted vertically into an entire soil pitch with established natural turf, shall be permitted. Fibre stitches should be at a mean square spacing of 18 to 22 mm parallel to the direction of play and over the whole pitch area as defined by Law 6.1.

7. LAW 7 – THE CREASES

- Law 7 shall apply with the following addition
- 7.1 Additional Crease Markings
As a guideline to the umpires for the calling of wide on the offside, the crease markings detailed in Appendix A shall be marked at each end of the pitch

8. LAW 8 – THE PITCH

Law 8 shall apply

9. LAW 9 – PREPARATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE PLAYING AREA

- 9.1 All maintenance issues should be carried out with the guiding principle that they should ensure that conditions are as similar as possible for both sides throughout the match.
- 9.2 Law 9.1.3 shall not apply and is replaced by: A light roller must be available. Rollers heavier than 254kg are prohibited.

10. LAW 10 – COVERING THE PITCH

- 10.1 All maintenance issues should be carried out with the guiding principle that they should ensure that conditions are as similar as possible for both sides throughout the match, and in line with each venue's COVID guidelines for groundstaff.
- 10.2 Law 10.1 (Before the match) shall apply and accordingly, Umpires shall establish prior to the toss which method of covering of the match pitch shall be used during the course of the match.

10.3 Law 10.2 (During the match) and Law 10.3 (Removal of covers) shall be replaced by:

- 10.3.1 The whole pitch shall be covered:
- 10.3.1.1 The night before the match and, if necessary, until the first ball is bowled; and whenever necessary and possible at any time prior to that during the preparation of the pitch.
- 10.3.1.2 On each night of the match and, if necessary, throughout any rest days.
- 10.3.1.3 In the event of play being suspended on account of rain during the specified hours of play, and at lunch, tea and between innings on account of rain.
- 10.3.1.4 The covers shall be removed before 9.00am provided it is not raining at the time, but they will be replaced if rain falls prior to the commencement of play.
- 10.3.2 The following areas will be covered, in addition to the pitch as in 10.3.1 above, unless the Umpires determine otherwise:
- 10.3.2.1 The bowler's 'run up' to a distance of at least 10 yards. The width of the covering shall be determined by NCCA.
- 10.3.2.2 In addition to 10.3.2.1 and 10.3.2.2 further areas and in particular worn patches should, if possible and practicable, also be covered.
- 10.3.3 Covering During Play
- 10.3.3.1 In order to make play possible, the Umpires may decide to have particularly wet or muddy areas covered by mats or blankets whilst play is in progress.
- 10.3.3.2 Any pitch(es) being prepared for a future match may be protected by a porous mat in order to avoid unnecessary damage.

11. LAW 11 – INTERVALS

- 11.1 If the innings of the team batting first is completed prior to the scheduled time for the interval, the interval shall take place immediately and the innings of the team batting second will commence correspondingly earlier. In circumstances where the side bowling first has not completed the allotted number of overs by the scheduled or re-scheduled cessation time for the first innings, the umpires shall reduce the length of the interval by the amount of time that the first innings over-ran. The minimum time for the interval will be 10 minutes.
- 11.2 On any occasion where the innings of the side batting first is delayed or interrupted, the Umpires will reduce the length of the interval to 10 minutes.
- 11.3 Intervals for Drinks
No drinks intervals are permitted.

12. LAW 12 – START OF PLAY; CESSATION OF PLAY

Hours of Play:

Game 1

Session 1: 11.00am – 12.15am

Interval: 12.15am – 12.30pm

Session 2: 12.30pm – 1.45pm

Interval between games: 1.45pm – 2.30pm

Game 2

Session 1: 2.30pm – 3.45pm

Interval: 3.45pm – 4.00pm

Session 2: 4.00pm – 5.15pm

There are 60 minutes extra time allocated to the first match of each day of group matches. Any unused extra time shall be carried forward to the second game.

Umpires at their discretion can adjust the start time of the second game, should the first game finish earlier than scheduled.

- 12.1 Length of Innings – In uninterrupted matches (i.e. matches which are neither delayed nor interrupted):
- 12.1.1 Each team shall bat for 20 overs unless all out earlier.
- 12.1.2 If the team fielding first fails to bowl the required number of overs by the scheduled time for the cessation of the first innings, play shall continue until the required number of overs has been bowled and Playing Condition 12.3 shall apply.
- 12.1.3 If the team batting first is dismissed in less than 20 overs, the team batting second shall be entitled to bat for 20 overs.
- 12.1.4 If the team fielding second fails to bowl 20 overs by the scheduled time for the cessation of the second innings, the hours of play for the match shall, subject to conditions of ground, weather and light, be extended until the required number of overs has been bowled or a result has been achieved and Playing Condition 12.3 shall apply.
- 12.2 Delayed or interrupted matches – Group Stage Matches.
- 12.2.1 Any revision of the number of overs that may be necessary due to a delayed start or one or more interruptions in play as a result of adverse ground, weather or light conditions or any other reason, shall take no account of the potential existence of a reserve day. To constitute a match, a minimum of 5 overs must be bowled to the side batting second, unless a result has been achieved earlier. Where a reserve day exists, if it is not possible to constitute the match on the first scheduled day then it shall be continued on the reserve day. For the avoidance of doubt any previously effected reduction in the length of the innings in progress (and any applicable DLS target) will still apply at the start of the reserve day.
- 12.2.2 Delay or interruptions to the innings of the team batting first.
- 12.2.2.1 When playing time has been lost, the revised number of overs to be bowled in the match shall be based on a rate of 3.75 mins per over in the total time available for play (that is, time already played added to time remaining though not including the time allocated to the interval). Should calculations regarding numbers of overs result in a fraction of an over, the fraction shall be ignored.
In the event of a suspension occurring in the middle of an over, the number of total overs to be bowled in the match will be calculated as if the over in progress at the time of the interruption had been completed.
The innings of the team batting first will continue from the point of the interruption.
The revision of the number of overs should ensure, whenever possible, that both teams have the opportunity to bat for the same number of overs. (Where this is possible, if the total number of overs in the match thereby calculated results in an odd number of total overs in the match, then one over shall be added and the new total divided in half).
- 12.2.2.2 The team batting second shall not bat for a greater number of overs than the first team unless the latter completed its innings in less than its allocated overs.
To constitute a match, a minimum of 5 overs must be bowled to the side batting second, unless a result has been achieved earlier.
A fixed time will be specified for the commencement of the interval, and also the close of play for the match, by applying a rate of 3.75 mins per over in respect of each over already bowled and/or scheduled to be bowled in each innings. All relative delays, interruptions in play, and the duration of the interval will be taken into account.
If this calculation produces a close of play time that is earlier than the original time for cessation of play on the final scheduled day for play (time for cessation of play shall take into account extra time), then one additional over should be allocated to each team, with the interval and close of play times being recalculated accordingly.
If there is more than one interruption to the innings of the side batting first, the above calculations should always be based on the original scheduled close of play, rather than the rescheduled close resulting from the previous interruption.
- 12.2.2.3 If the team fielding first fails to bowl the revised number of overs by the specified time, play shall continue subject to conditions of ground, weather and light until the required number of overs has been bowled or the innings is completed, and Playing Condition 12.3 shall apply. In all reduced overs matches both teams will be given one over's leeway in addition to anytime that the Umpires might allow for stoppages. Allowances prior to a stoppage are carried forward

for the purposes of the application of Playing Condition 12.3 only – they do not influence the recalculated number of overs or the scheduled close of either innings.

- 12.2.3 Delay or interruptions to the innings of the team batting second.
- 12.2.3.1 When playing time has been lost and, as a result, it is not possible for the team batting second to have the opportunity of receiving its allocated, or revised allocation of overs in the playing time available, the number of overs shall be reduced at a rate of 3.75 mins per over in respect of the aggregated lost playing time. However, should the innings of the team batting first have been completed prior to the scheduled, or re-scheduled time for the commencement of the interval, then any calculation relating to the revision of overs shall not be effective until an amount of time equivalent to that by which the second innings started early has elapsed. Should the calculations result in a fraction of an over the fraction shall be ignored. In the event of a suspension occurring in the middle of an over, the number of total overs lost will be calculated as above and the innings of the team batting second will continue from the point of the interruption.
- 12.2.3.2 A rescheduled time for the close of play will be fixed by applying a rate of 3.75 minutes per over in respect of each over already bowled and/or re-scheduled to be bowled in the innings. (The timing and duration of all relative delays and interruptions in play with respect to the second innings will be taken into account in specifying this time.) This calculation should not cause the match to finish earlier than the time that was set for the cessation of play at the commencement of the second innings.
To constitute a match, a minimum of 5 overs must be bowled to the team batting second unless a result has been achieved earlier.
The team batting second shall not bat for a greater number of overs than the first team unless the latter completed its innings in less than its allocated overs.
- 12.2.3.3 If the team fielding second fails to bowl the revised overs by the scheduled or re-scheduled close of play, the hours of play shall be extended subject to conditions of ground, weather and light until the overs have been bowled or a result achieved and Playing Condition 12.3 shall apply. In all reduced overs matches the fielding team will be given one over's leeway in addition to any time that the Umpires might allow for stoppages. Allowances prior to a stoppage are carried forward for the purposes of the application of Playing Condition 12.3 only – they do not influence the recalculated number of overs or the scheduled close of play.
- 12.3 Over-Rate Penalties
All sides are expected to be in position to bowl the first ball of the last of their 20 overs within 1 hr 15 minutes playing time. In the event of them failing to do so, one fewer fieldsmen shall be permitted outside the fielding restriction area in 28.4 than would normally be the case in the Powerplay in progress at the time. All penalties in this regard will be imposed immediately the ball first becomes dead after the scheduled or re-scheduled cessation time for the innings. The full quota of overs will be completed.
If the innings is terminated before the scheduled or re-scheduled cut-off time, no over-rate penalty shall apply. If the innings is interrupted, the over-rate penalty will apply based on the re-scheduled cessation time for that innings.
The Umpire shall inform the fielding team Captain when taking the field for the first time and on every subsequent occasion if play is interrupted by the weather, the scheduled cessation time for that innings. The Umpire at the bowler's end will inform the fielding Captain, the batsman and his fellow Umpire of any time allowances as and when they arise. (This matter will not be subject to retrospective negotiation). In addition, in all reduced overs matches, the fielding team will be given one over's leeway. For the avoidance of doubt, one over's leeway means that the fielding side must be in position to bowl the first ball of the penultimate over by the scheduled or rescheduled cut off time.
Over-rate penalties apply only to innings of 10 overs or more duration unless a penalty has been applied before 10 overs have been bowled.
This is the only penalty for a slow over-rate.

13. LAW 13 – INNINGS

- 13.1 Law 13.1 (Number of innings) shall be replaced by the following:
The match will consist of one innings per side, each innings being limited to a maximum of 20 overs.
- 13.2 Number of Overs Per Bowler
- 13.2.1 No bowler shall bowl more than 4 overs in an innings.
- 13.2.2 In a delayed or interrupted match where the overs are reduced for both teams or for the team bowling second;
- 13.2.2.1 For innings of rescheduled length of at least 10 overs, no bowler may bowl more than one-fifth of the total overs allowed (unless such a number has been exceeded before the interruption). Where the total overs is not divisible by 5, one additional over shall be allowed to the maximum number per bowler necessary to make up the balance.
- 13.2.2.2 For innings of rescheduled length of between 5 and 9 overs, no bowler may bowl more than two overs.
- 13.2.2.3 When an interruption occurs mid-over and on resumption the bowler has exceeded the new maximum allocation, he will be allowed to finish the incomplete over.
- 13.2.3 In the event of a bowler breaking down and being unable to complete an over, the remaining balls will be allowed by another bowler. Such part of an over will count as a full over only in so far as each bowler's limit is concerned.
- 13.2.4 Where possible, the scoreboard shall show the total number of overs bowled and the number of overs bowled by each bowler.

14. LAW 14 – THE FOLLOW ON

Law 14 does not apply

15. LAW 15 – DECLARATION AND FORFEITURE

- 15.1 The Captain of the batting side may not declare his innings closed at any time during the course of a match.

16. LAW 16 – THE RESULT

- 16.1 Laws 16.1, 16.4 and 16.5.2 shall not apply.
- 16.2 When there is no interruption after play has commenced and when both sides have had the opportunity of batting for the same agreed number of overs, the team scoring the higher number of runs shall be the winner. In the event of the scores being tied, the following shall apply:
- 16.2.1 In a Group Stage match, no account shall be taken of wickets lost, the match is tied and each team shall be awarded one point.
- 16.3 If, due to suspension of play after the start of the match, the number of overs in the innings of either team has to be revised to a lesser number than that originally allotted (minimum 5 overs), then a revised target score should be set for the number of overs which the team batting second will have the opportunity of facing, this revised target being calculated by the DLS method. A par score will be set for the second innings. If this is exceeded a win for the team batting second shall result. If the par score is equal then the scores are tied. If after the restart of play it is discovered that the wrong DLS target has been set the faulty target shall stand.
- 16.4 If a match is abandoned before it has been played to a conclusion and before the team batting second has received its allotted number of overs (providing that it has received not less than 5 overs), the result shall be decided by the DLS method.
- 16.5 In the event of the scores being tied in a Group Stage match when the DLS method has been used, the match is tied and each team will be awarded one point.

17. LAW 17 – THE OVER

Law 17 shall apply

18. LAW 18 – SCORING RUNS

- 18.1 Law 18.11 (Batter returning to original end)
Law 18.11.1 shall apply with the addition that if the striker is dismissed Caught, the not out batter shall return to their original end.
- 18.2 Law 18.12 (Batter returning to wicket he/she has left)
Law 18.12 shall apply with the exception of 18.12.1.1 which shall not apply

19. LAW 19 – BOUNDARIES

Law 19 shall apply

20. LAW 20 – DEAD BALL

Law 20 shall apply

21. LAW 21 – NO BALL

Law 21 shall apply with the following additions

- 21.1 Law 21.15 (Penalty for a No ball) shall apply except that the penalty for a No ball will be 2 runs.
- 21.2 Free Hit after a No Ball
In addition to 21.1 above, the delivery following a no ball shall be a free hit for whichever batsman is facing it. Note that this applies for all modes of No ball with the exception of the first short-pitched delivery in the over that passes or would have passed clearly over head-height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease. For the avoidance of doubt, a free hit shall be applied for a No Ball that is called in respect of a breach of playing condition 41.2.1 (exceeding the one short ball over shoulder height in the over)
If the delivery for the free hit is not a legitimate delivery (any kind of no ball or a wide ball), then the next delivery will become a free hit for whichever batsman is facing it.
For any free hit, the striker can be dismissed only under the circumstances that apply for a no ball even if the delivery for the free hit is called wide ball.
Field changes are not permitted for free hit deliveries unless there is a change of striker or the No Ball was the result of a field restriction breach in which case the field may be changed to the extent of correcting the breach. However, in all circumstances, any fielder within 15 yards of the striker may retreat to a position on the same line no more than 15 yards from the striker. The Umpires will signal a free hit by (after the normal No Ball signal) extending one arm straight upwards and moving it in a circular motion.

22. LAW 22 – WIDE BALL

- 22.1 In addition to Law 22, 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.
A penalty of one run for a Wide shall be scored. This penalty shall stand in addition to any other runs which are scored or awarded.

23. LAW 23 – BYE AND LEG BYE

Law 23 shall apply.

24. LAW 24 SUBSTITUTES

- 24.1 Law 24.1 (Substitute fielders) shall apply with the following additions:
- 24.1.1 The opposing Captain shall have no right of objection to any player acting as a substitute.
- 24.1.2 Squad members of the fielding team who are not playing in the match and who are not acting as substitute fielders shall be required to wear a team training bib whilst on the playing area (including the area between the boundary and the perimeter fencing).
- 24.2 Law 24.2 (Fielder absent or leaving the field of play) shall apply except:
- 24.2.1 A player shall only accrue Penalty time if he is absent from the field for longer than 8 minutes. In such cases, the whole of the time that the player is absent from the field shall count as unserved Penalty time (though note 24.2.2 below).
- 24.2.2 A player's unserved Penalty time shall be limited to a maximum of 90 minutes (refer Law 24.2.3).

25. LAW 25 – BATTER’S INNINGS; RUNNERS

Law 25 shall apply; however note 24.2.2 above.

26. LAW 26 – PRACTICE ON THE FIELD

Law 26 shall apply with the following additions:

- 26.1 No practice shall be undertaken on a match pitch during its preparation period.
- 26.2 There shall be no bowling or batting practice on any part of the square or the area parallel to the match pitch during the hours of play except at lunch, tea and between innings.
- 26.3 Practice facilities – Prior to the day’s play, all grounds are to provide a net for ‘throw-downs’ and either a dedicated grass net area or a net on the square. In addition, every effort should be made to provide practice facilities at other times when teams have the opportunity to practise.
- 26.4 Hitting Up
Teams are required to observe Ground Authority Regulations and exercise the utmost care and caution when engaging in practice and pre-match warm-up and ‘hitting up’ activities so as to avoid the risk of injury to members of the public, damage to the centre wicket region and to perimeter fencing.

27. LAW 27 – THE WICKET-KEEPER

Law 27 shall apply.

28. LAW 28 – THE FIELDER

- 28.1 At the instant of delivery there shall not be more than five fieldsmen on the leg side.
- 28.2 For the first 6 overs (powerplay overs) only in a 20-over innings, at the instant of delivery no more than two fielders are permitted to be outside 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 (the fielding circle).
The fielding circle should be marked by painted white ‘dots’ at five-yard intervals, each ‘dot’ to be covered by a white plastic or rubber disc measuring seven inches in diameter.
- 28.3 In circumstances when the number of overs of the batting team is reduced, the powerplay overs in 28.2 shall be reduced in accordance with the table below. For the sake of clarity, it should be noted that the table shall apply to both the 1st and 2nd innings of the match.

Total overs in the innings	No. of powerplay overs.balls for which fielding restrictions in 28.2 shall apply
5	1.3
6	1.5
7	2.1
8	2.2
9	2.4
10	3.0
11	3.2
12	3.4
13	3.5
14	4.1
15	4.3
16	4.5
17	5.1
18	5.2
19	5.4

- 28.4 For the remainder of each innings no more than five fieldsmen are permitted to be outside the fielding circle at the instant of delivery.
- 28.5 If following an interruption, on resumption the total number of powerplay overs for the innings

has already been exceeded, then there will be no further powerplay deliveries bowled in the innings.

- 28.6 In the event of an infringement of any of the above fielding restrictions, the striker’s end Umpire shall call and signal ‘No Ball’.
- 28.7 In the event of the striker’s end Umpire failing to call and signal No Ball when the fielding restrictions in this playing condition have been breached or when Law 28.4 (Limitation of on side fielders) has been breached, immediately the ball becomes dead the striker may draw the matter to that Umpire’s attention. If the striker’s end Umpire is able to verify the breach, he shall call and signal No Ball. If the striker’s end Umpire is unable to verify the breach, he shall confirm that the events of the delivery shall be unchanged.

29. LAW 29 – THE WICKET IS DOWN

- 29.1 Law 29 shall apply except that: Law 29.1.1.4 is replaced by: by the striker’s person or by any part of his/her clothing or equipment being worn, or by any part of the striker’s clothing or equipment becoming detached from his/her person. However, any detached equipment shall not include the striker’s protective helmet, or any part thereof.

30. LAW 30 – BATSMAN OUT OF HIS/HER GROUND

Law 30 shall apply

31. LAW 31 – APPEALS

Law 31 shall apply with the following addition:

- 31.1 Intimidatory Appealing In the event of an appeal, all members of the fielding team must maintain their fielding positions until a decision is given, unless legitimately in the act of fielding or backing up the ball which is not yet dead. For the purposes of this playing condition, a referral to the third umpire will constitute a decision.

32. LAW 32 – BOWLED

Law 32 shall apply.

33. LAW 33 – CAUGHT

Law 33 shall apply (see Law 18 scoring runs)

34. LAW 34 – HIT THE BALL TWICE

Law 34 shall apply.

35. LAW 35 – HIT WICKET

Law 35 shall apply.

36. LAW 36 – LEG BEFORE WICKET

Law 36 shall apply.

37. LAW 37 – OBSTRUCTING THE FIELD

Law 37 shall apply.

38. LAW 38 – RUN OUT

Law 38 shall apply.

39. LAW 39 – STUMPED

Law 39 shall apply.

40. LAW 40 – TIMED OUT

- 40.1 Law 40 shall apply except that the incoming batsman must be in position to take guard or for his partner to be ready to receive the next ball within 60 seconds of the fall of the previous wicket or the retirement of a batsman. The incoming batsman is expected to be ready to make

his way to the wicket immediately and is expected to jog to the wicket. Umpires shall strictly apply Law 41.10 (Batsman wasting time).

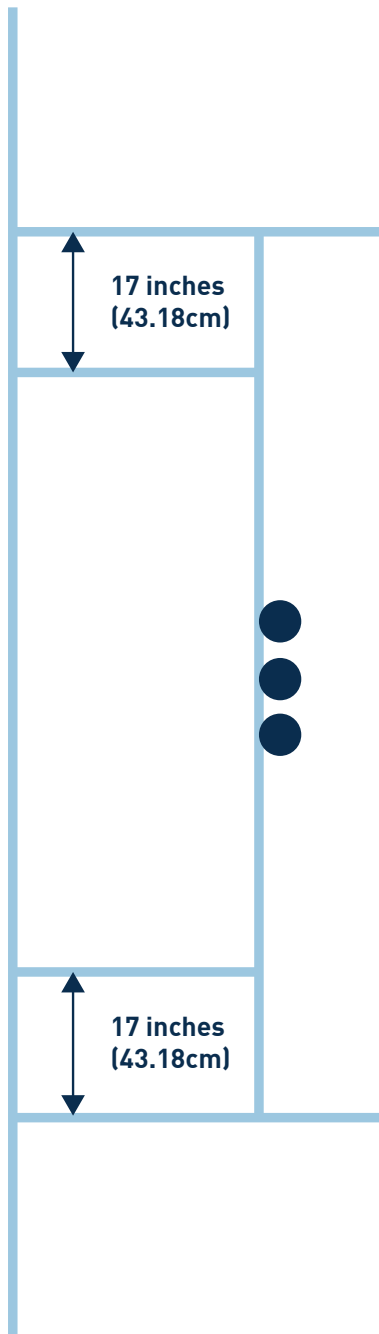
41 LAW 41 – UNFAIR PLAY

- 41.1 Law 41.3 (The match ball – changing its condition) shall be replaced by:
- 41.1.1 The umpires shall make frequent and irregular inspections of the ball. In addition, they shall immediately inspect the ball if they suspect anyone of attempting to change the condition of the ball, except as permitted in 41.2.2.
- 41.1.2 It is an offence for any player to take any action which changes, or which may be perceived as likely to change, the condition of the ball.
Except in carrying out his normal duties, a batsman is not allowed to wilfully damage the ball. See also Law 5.5 (Damage to the ball).
A fielder may, however
- 41.1.2.1 polish the ball on his clothing provided that no artificial substance or saliva is used and that such polishing wastes no time.
- 41.1.2.2 remove mud from the ball under the supervision of an umpire.
- 41.1.2.3 dry a wet ball on a piece of cloth that has been approved by the umpires.
- 41.1.3 The umpires shall consider the condition of the ball to have been unfairly changed if any action by any player does not comply with the conditions in 41.2.2 (except use of saliva – see 41.2.6) or if the umpires consider that the condition of the ball is inconsistent with the use it has received.
The umpires shall then ask the captain of the opposing side if he would like the ball to be replaced. If necessary, in the case of the batting side, the batter at the wicket may deputise for their captain.
- 41.1.3.1 If a replacement ball is requested, the umpires shall select and bring into use immediately, a ball which shall have wear comparable to that of the previous ball immediately prior to the contravention.
- 41.1.3.2 The umpires together shall decide whether they can identify the player(s) responsible for the unfair action.
- 41.1.4 Regardless of whether a replacement ball has been chosen to be used, if it is possible to identify the player(s) responsible, the bowler's end umpire shall:
- Award 5 penalty runs to the opposing side.
 - if appropriate, inform the batter at the wicket and the captain of the fielding side that the ball has been changed and the reason for their action.
 - Inform the captain of the batting side as soon as practicable of what has occurred.
 - Together with the other umpire report the incident to NCCA who shall take action as is appropriate against the player(s) and/or Captain and/or County responsible for the conduct under the NCCA Directives.
- 41.1.5 Regardless of whether a replacement ball has been chosen to be used, if it is not possible to identify the player(s) responsible, the bowler's end umpire shall:
- issue the captain with a first and final warning, and
 - advise him that the incident will be reported to NCCA and that should there be any further incident by that team during the remainder of the match, steps 41.1.4 a) to d) above will be adopted, with the captain deemed under d) to be the player responsible.
- 41.1.6 If the umpires believe that saliva has been applied to the ball, the umpires shall:
- 41.1.6.1 If it is a first instance during an innings, summon the captain of the fielding side and issue a first warning.
- 41.1.6.2 If it is a second instance during an innings, summon the captain of the fielding side and issue a second and final warning and warn the captain of the fielding side that any further such offence by any member of the team during the innings shall result in the award of 5 Penalty runs to the batting side.
- 41.1.6.3 If it is a third or subsequent instance, award 5 Penalty runs to the batting side.
- 41.1.6.4 The ball shall not be changed but the umpires shall sanitise the ball in each instance.
- 41.1.6.5 Use of saliva in breach of clause 41.1.2.1 above shall not, in itself, be considered an offence under ECB Directives.

- 41.2 Law 41.6 (Bowling of dangerous and unfair short pitched deliveries) shall apply with the following additions:
- 41.2.1 Regardless of how wide of the striker a delivery is, there shall be no more than one delivery per over that after pitching pass or would have passed over shoulder height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease.
- 41.2.2 The umpire shall make it clear to the bowler (and any bowler called upon to complete an over) and the batsmen at the wicket when a delivery within the limit in 41.3.1 has been bowled. It is unfair if the limit is exceeded, the umpire shall call and signal No ball on each such occasion and consider it as part of the warning sequence in Laws 41.6.3 and 41.6.4.
- 41.2.3 If a short pitched delivery either:
- 41.2.3.1 Passes or would have passed over head height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease, and in the umpire's opinion so prevents him from being able to hit it with his bat by means of a normal cricket stroke or;
- 41.2.3.2 Passes or would have passed over shoulder height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease, and in the umpire's opinion he is able to hit it with his bat by means of a normal cricket stroke or;
- 41.2.3.3 Passes over shoulder height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease and wide of the striker so that in the umpire's opinion he is unable to hit it with his bat by means of a normal cricket stroke and, although not necessarily threatening physical injury, is deemed dangerous in accordance with Law 41.6.1, it shall be considered as part of the warning sequence in Laws 41.6.3 and 41.6.4.
- 41.2.4 A delivery as described in 41.2.3.1 shall be called No ball in accordance with Law 21.10.
- 41.2.5 A delivery as described in 41.2.3.3, if not a No ball, shall be called and signalled wide. (Refer Law 22).
- 41.2.6 Law 41.6.5 shall not apply. Any warnings applied in Law 41.6.3 shall be added to any warnings applied in Law 41.7 and action taken according to Law 41.6.4.
- 41.3 Law 41.7 (Bowling of dangerous and unfair non-pitching deliveries) shall apply with the following amendment:
- 41.3.1 Law 41.7.5 shall not apply. Any warnings applied in Law 41.7 shall be added to any warnings applied in Law 41.6.3 and action taken according to Law 41.7.4.
- 41.5 Electronic Equipment
With the exception of player movement technology the use of electronic communication devices and equipment of any kind which enables communication between on-field players and anyone not on the field of play shall not be permitted during the scheduled or re-scheduled hours of play.

42. LAW 42 – PLAYERS' CONDUCT

- Law 42 shall apply with the following amendments:
- 42.1 In Laws 42.1.4, 42.2.2.2, 42.3.2.2, the batters at the wicket may deputise for their Captain.
- 42.2 In Laws 42.1.4, 42.4.2.2, 42.5.2.2, a team representative may deputise for their Captain.
- 42.3 ECB Directives shall also apply as appropriate and as separately detailed.

CREASE MARKINGS**NCCA ONE DAY TROPHY PLAYING CONDITIONS**

All group fixtures will be played with coloured clothing and black sight screens. Group fixtures and Quarter Finals will have no reserve day.

COMPETITION STRUCTURE

The competition shall be organised on a flexible regional basis as decided from time to time by NCCA. There will be four groups of five counties. Each county shall play against each other county in its group home or away as decided by NCCA.

During the Group Stage of the competition, two points will be awarded for a win, one point for a Tie or No Result and no points for a Loss.

Where teams finish on equal points, the team with the higher net run rate in the group matches will be placed in the higher position (see below). If net run rates are equal, the teams will be ordered according to which team won the match played between them. In the event that teams cannot be separated by either of these methods, the Group Winner shall be decided by drawing lots.

The Scoring Rule in Play-Cricket & Match Type in PCS Pro associated with this competition use Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) Professional 2020 v4.

NET RUN RATE

A team's net run rate is calculated by deducting from the average runs per over scored by that team, the average runs per over scored against that team. In the event of a team being all out in less than its full allocation of overs, the calculation of the net run rate of both teams shall be based on the full quota of overs to which the batting team would have been entitled and not on the number of overs in which the team was dismissed. Only those matches where results are achieved will count for the purpose of net run rate calculations.

Where a match is abandoned, but a result is achieved under DLS, for net run rate purposes team 1 will be accredited with team 2's Par Score on abandonment of the same number of overs faced by team 2.

Where a match is concluded but with DLS having been applied at an earlier point in the match, team 1 will be accredited with 1 run less than the final target score for team 2 off the total number of overs allocated to team 2 to reach the target.

The four group winners and the group runners-up shall go forward to the Quarter Finals. The pairings for both the Quarter Finals and Semi Finals shall be made prior to the start of the season. All matches shall be played on the dates specified by NCCA.

No matches shall have a Reserve Day except for the Semi-Final and Final.

The home county shall be responsible for the match arrangements and shall retain any gate receipts.

The Final shall be played at a neutral venue. NCCA shall undertake all arrangements, including financial, for the Final. Any gate receipts shall be a matter for agreement between NCCA and the host venue. In the case of the Final, if no play is possible at the original ground and

that ground is not available for a Reserve day, NCCA may (but shall not be obliged to) at its discretion re-arrange the match at an alternative venue which may be either at a neutral venue or one within the boundaries of one of the participant counties.

1. LAW 1 – THE PLAYERS

- 1.1 Law 1.1 (Number of players) shall be replaced by: A match is played between two sides, each of eleven players, one of whom shall be captain. If, during the match and for whatever reason, a side is reduced to fewer than the original number of nominated players, the match shall continue as long as it is possible to do so under the Laws.
- 1.2 Law 1.2 (Nomination and replacement of players) shall be replaced by: Each captain shall nominate his players in writing to one of the umpires before the toss. No player may be replaced after the nomination of teams and before the Umpire has called Play without the consent of the opposing Captain (not to be unreasonably withheld) and NCCA Cricket Operations. No player may be replaced after the Umpire has called Play before the first ball of the match. After a Captain has nominated his players, it is discovered that someone who was not on the list has acted in the match as though a nominated player, then, if consent is not given by the opposing Captain for the original nomination to be changed, the offender shall take no further part in the match and no replacement, including the original nominated player shall be allowed.

2. LAW 2 – THE UMPIRES

- 2.1 Law 2.1 (Appointment and attendance) shall be replaced by: Two umpires shall be appointed, one for each end to control the game as required by the Laws and Playing Conditions with absolute impartiality. They shall report themselves to the Ground Authority no later than 75 minutes before the start of play.
- 2.2 Law 2.7 – Fitness for play - shall apply with the addition that: The safety of all persons within the ground is of paramount importance to the NCCA. In the event that any threatening circumstance, whether actual or perceived, comes to the attention of any Umpire (including for example weather, pitch invasions, act of God, etc), then the players and officials should immediately be asked to leave the field of play in a safe and orderly manner and to relocate to a secure and safe area (depending on each particular threat) pending the satisfactory passing or resolution of such threat or risk to the reasonable satisfaction of the venue safety officer and/or the Umpire as the circumstances may require.
- 2.3 Law 2.8 – Suspension of play in dangerous or unreasonable circumstances shall apply with the following additions:
- 2.4.1 The Umpires shall disregard any shadow on the pitch from the stadium or from any permanent object.
- 2.4.2 Following any inspection, the Umpires will report their findings immediately to both Captains and to the Ground Authority.
- 2.5 Changing the Venue for the Match
The venue for a match may only be changed at short notice with the consent of NCCA Operations. Consideration will be given for a change of venue if the change will significantly improve the prospects of play or if there is a genuine concern over the original venue producing a substandard pitch or outfield.
It is the onus of the Home County to ensure that if there is a material likelihood that 72 hours prior to a scheduled match that a venue will be unable to stage any play over the scheduled term of the match due to the prevailing condition of the venue 72 hours prior to the scheduled start of the match (including pitch and/or square and/or outfield) then an alternative venue must be identified under this playing condition and brought to the attention of the visiting County and NCCA and made available should playing conditions not improve.
The venue should preferably be within the County or a recognised venue used by the County in question. If no such venue is available, a neutral venue preferably within the Region of the originally scheduled match maybe considered.
A change in venue will only be approved if it meets COVID protocols and is unlikely to be

approved if it is considered to make an unreasonable request of the visiting team for logistical reasons. It is unlikely that a change of venue would be approved on the day the match is scheduled to take place.

- 2.6 Law 2.15 – Correctness of scores - shall apply. For the avoidance of doubt, a team innings score may only be corrected where necessary prior to the commencement of the subsequent team-innings of the match. See also Playing Conditions 3.1 and Law 16.10.

3. LAW 3 – THE SCORERS

- 3.1 Law 3.2 – Correctness of scores - shall apply. For the avoidance of doubt, a team innings score may only be corrected where necessary prior to the commencement of the subsequent team-innings of the match. See also Playing Conditions 3.1 and Law 16.10.

4. LAW 4 – THE BALL

- 4.1 Two new white Tiflex balls shall be used at the start of each innings, one from each end
- 4.2 Law 4.5 (Ball lost or becoming unfit for play) shall apply with the addition that:
- 4.2.1 The Umpires may deem a ball that has become wet and soggy or unusually soft to be unfit for play. The Umpires alone will select the replacement ball from the supply of approved replacements and shall inform the batsmen at the wicket and the fielding captain. Either bowler or batsman may raise the matter with the Umpires and the Umpires' decision as to a replacement or otherwise shall be final.
- 4.2.2 The Umpires may use a ball gauge to assist them in their decision as to whether a used ball should be changed because it is out of shape. They shall only do so should the ball visually appear to be out of shape. Additionally, the fielding Captain only may request that the Umpires check the shape of the ball a maximum of one occasion for each ball. If the ball does not pass both ring tests of the ball gauge, it shall be changed.
- 4.3.4 The home side shall take full responsibility in providing spare balls for the match and should be of varying degrees of wear and tear.
- 4.3.5 For innings of 25 overs or less, one new ball shall be used.

5. LAW 5 – THE BAT

- Law 5 shall apply with the addition that only Type A bats shall be used.
- 5.1 A bat gauge shall be used to check the measurements width and depth of bats. Any bats which fail the bat gauge test will have to be changed and NCCA will be informed of the breach.

6. LAW 6 – THE PITCH

- 6.1 All maintenance issues should be carried out with the guiding principle that they should ensure that conditions are as similar as possible for both sides throughout the match.
- 6.2 Law 6.3 (Selection and preparation) shall apply with the following additions: Captains, Umpires and Groundsmen should co-operate to ensure that, prior to the start of any day's play, no-one bounces a ball on the pitch or strikes it with a bat to assess its condition or for any other reason, or causes damage to the pitch in any other way.
- 6.3 Law 6.5 – Non-turf pitches – will not apply. However, stitched hybrid pitch systems in which synthetic turf fibres (polyethylene or polypropylene, of beige and/or green colour) are inserted vertically into an entire soil pitch with established natural turf, shall be permitted. Fibre stitches should be at a mean square spacing of 18 to 22 mm parallel to the direction of play and over the whole pitch area as defined by Law 6.1.

7. LAW 7 – THE CREASES

- Law 7 shall apply with the following addition
- 7.1 Additional Crease Markings
As a guideline to the umpires for the calling of wide on the offside, the crease markings detailed in Appendix A shall be marked at each end of the pitch

8. LAW 8 – THE PITCH

Law 8 shall apply

9. LAW 9 – PREPARATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE PLAYING AREA

- 9.1 All maintenance issues should be carried out with the guiding principle that they should ensure that conditions are as similar as possible for both sides throughout the match.
- 9.2 Law 9.1.3 shall not apply and is replaced by: A light roller must be available. Rollers heavier than 254kg are prohibited.

10. LAW 10 – COVERING THE PITCH

- 10.1 All maintenance issues should be carried out with the guiding principle that they should ensure that conditions are as similar as possible for both sides throughout the match, and in line with each venue's COVID guidelines for groundstaff.
- 10.2 Law 10.1 (Before the match) shall apply and accordingly, Umpires shall establish prior to the toss which method of covering of the match pitch shall be used during the course of the match.
- 10.3 Law 10.2 (During the match) and Law 10.3 (Removal of covers) shall be replaced by:
- 10.3.1 The whole pitch shall be covered:
- 10.3.1.1 The night before the match and, if necessary, until the first ball is bowled; and whenever necessary and possible at any time prior to that during the preparation of the pitch.
- 10.3.1.2 On each night of the match and, if necessary, throughout any rest days.
- 10.3.1.3 In the event of play being suspended on account of rain during the specified hours of play, and at lunch, tea and between innings on account of rain.
- 10.3.1.4 The covers shall be removed before 9.00am provided it is not raining at the time, but they will be replaced if rain falls prior to the commencement of play.
- 10.3.2 The following areas will be covered, in addition to the pitch as in 10.3.1 above, unless the Umpires determine otherwise:
- 10.3.2.1 The bowler's 'run up' to a distance of at least 10 yards. The width of the covering shall be determined by NCCA.
- 10.3.2.2 In addition to 10.3.2.1 and 10.3.2.2 further areas and in particular worn patches should, if possible and practicable, also be covered.
- 10.3.3 Covering During Play
- 10.3.3.1 In order to make play possible, the Umpires may decide to have particularly wet or muddy areas covered by mats or blankets whilst play is in progress.
- 10.3.3.2 Any pitch(es) being prepared for a future match may be protected by a porous mat in order to avoid unnecessary damage.

11. LAW 11 – INTERVALS

- 11.1 Interval between innings
- 11.1.1 There shall be a 30 minute interval between innings, taken from the call of Time before the interval until the call of Play on resumption after the interval.
- 11.1.2 If the innings of the team batting first is completed prior to the scheduled time for the interval, the interval shall take place immediately and the innings of the team batting second will commence after the interval.
- 11.1.3 The prescribed interval timing above may be reduced by the Umpires taking into account the intention of not having a prolonged interval after a lengthy interruption close to the conclusion of the innings of the team batting first. However, the minimum interval shall not be less than 10 minutes.

12. LAW 12 – START OF PLAY; CESSATION OF PLAY

- 12.1 Hours of Play
- 12.1.1 Normal hours of play for daytime matches will be 11.00am – 6.30pm.
Session 1: 11:00am – 2.30pm
Interval: 2:30pm – 3:00pm
Session 2: 3:00pm – 6:30pm
- 12.1.2 Up to 60 minutes of extra official playing time is allowed to make up for playing time lost .
- 12.1.3 A scheduled cessation time for each innings shall be fixed prior to its commencement by applying the provisions of 12.2 as appropriate.
- 12.1.4 Play may continue after the scheduled or re-scheduled close of play, subject to conditions

of ground, weather and light, until the required number of overs has been bowled or a result achieved. See Playing Condition 16 below.

12.2 Length of Innings

12.2.1 In Uninterrupted Matches:

- 12.2.1.1 Each team shall bat for 50 overs unless all out earlier.
- 12.2.1.2 If the team fielding first fails to bowl the required number of overs by the scheduled time for the cessation of the first innings, play shall continue until the required number of overs has been bowled and Playing Condition 12.3 will apply.
- 12.2.1.3 If the team batting first is dismissed in less than 50 overs, the team batting second shall be entitled to bat for 50 overs.
- 12.2.1.4 If the team bowling second fails to bowl 50 overs by the scheduled time for the cessation of the second innings, the hours of play shall, subject to conditions of ground, weather and light, be extended until the required number of overs has been bowled or a result has been achieved and Playing Condition 12.3 shall apply.

12.2.2 Delayed or interrupted matches.

- 12.2.2.1 Any revision of the number of overs that may be necessary due to a delayed start or one or more interruptions in play as a result of adverse ground, weather or light conditions or any other reason, shall take no account of the potential existence of a reserve day. To constitute a match, a minimum of 10 overs (20 overs in Semi-Finals and the Final) has to be bowled to the side batting second, unless a result has been achieved earlier. Where a reserve day exists, if it is not possible to constitute the match on the first scheduled day then it shall be continued on the reserve day. For the avoidance of doubt any previously effected reduction in the length of the innings in progress (and any applicable DLS target) will still apply at the start of the reserve day.
- 12.2.2.2 Delay or interruptions to the innings of the team batting first.

- 12.2.2.2.1 When playing time has been lost (see above) the revised number of overs to be bowled in the match shall be based on a rate of 4.2 mins per over in the total time available for play (that is, time already played added to time remaining though not including the time allocated to the interval).

Should calculations regarding numbers of overs result in a fraction of an over, the fraction shall be ignored. In the event of a suspension occurring in the middle of an over, the number of total overs to be bowled in the match will be calculated as if the over in progress at the time of the interruption had been completed. The innings of the team batting first will continue from the point of the interruption.

The revision of the number of overs should ensure, whenever possible, that both teams have the opportunity to bat for the same number of overs. (Where this is possible, if the total number of overs in the match thereby calculated results in an odd number of total overs in the match, then one over shall be added and the new total divided in half).

- 12.2.2.2.2 The team batting second shall not bat for a greater number of overs than the first team unless the latter completed its innings in less than its allocated overs. A fixed time will be specified for the commencement of the interval, and also the close of play for the match, by applying a rate of 4.2 mins per over in respect of each over already bowled and/or scheduled to be bowled in each innings. All relative delays, interruptions in play, and the duration of the interval will be taken into account.

If this calculation produces a close of play time that is earlier than the original time for cessation of play on the final scheduled day for play, then one additional over should be allocated to each team, with the interval and close of play times being recalculated accordingly. If there is more than one interruption to the innings of the side batting first, the above calculations should always be based on the original scheduled close of play, rather than the rescheduled close resulting from the previous interruption.

- 12.2.2.2.3 If the team fielding first fails to bowl the revised number of overs by the specified time, play shall continue subject to conditions of ground, weather and light until the required number of overs has been bowled or the innings is completed, and Playing Condition 12.3 shall apply. In all reduced overs matches both teams will be given one over's leeway in addition to any time

that the Umpires might allow for stoppages. Allowances prior to a stoppage are carried forward for the purposes of the application of Playing Condition 12.3 only – they do not influence the recalculated number of overs or the scheduled close of either innings.

12.2.2.3 Delay or interruptions to the innings of the team batting second.

12.2.2.3.1 When playing time has been lost (see above) and, as a result, it is not possible for the team batting second to have the opportunity of receiving its allocated, or revised allocation of overs in the playing time available, the number of overs shall be reduced at a rate of 4.2 mins per over in respect of the aggregated lost playing time. However, should the innings of the team batting first have been completed prior to the scheduled, or re-scheduled time for the commencement of the interval, then any calculation relating to the revision of overs shall not be effective until an amount of time equivalent to that by which the second innings started early has elapsed.

Should the calculations result in a fraction of an over the fraction shall be ignored. In the event of a suspension occurring in the middle of an over, the number of total overs lost will be calculated as above and the innings of the team batting second will continue from the point of the interruption.

12.2.2.3.2 A rescheduled time for the close of play will be fixed by applying a rate of 4.2 minutes per over in respect of each over already bowled and/or re-scheduled to be bowled in the innings. (The timing and duration of all relative delays and interruptions in play with respect to the second innings will be taken into account in specifying this time.) This calculation should not cause the match to finish earlier than the time that was set for the cessation of play at the commencement of the second innings.

The team batting second shall not bat for a greater number of overs than the first team unless the latter completed its innings in less than its allocated overs.

12.2.2.3.3 If the team fielding second fails to bowl the revised overs by the scheduled or re-scheduled close of play, the hours of play shall be extended subject to conditions of ground, weather and light until the overs have been bowled or a result achieved and Playing Condition 12.3 shall apply.

In all reduced overs matches the fielding team will be given one over's leeway in addition to any time that the Umpires might allow for stoppages. Allowances prior to a stoppage are carried forward for the purposes of the application of Playing Condition 12.3 only – they do not influence the recalculated number of overs or the scheduled close of play.

12.3 Over Rate Penalties

All sides are expected to be in position to bowl the first ball of the last of their 50 overs within 3 hours 30 minutes playing time. In the event of them failing to do so, one fewer fielder shall be permitted outside the fielding restriction area in 28.1.3 than would normally be the case in the Powerplay in progress at the time. All penalties in this regard will be imposed immediately the ball first becomes dead after the scheduled or re-scheduled cessation time for the innings. The full quota of overs will be completed.

If the innings is terminated before the scheduled or re-scheduled cut off-time, no over rate penalty shall apply. If the innings is interrupted, the over-rate penalty will apply based on the re-scheduled cessation time for that innings.

The Umpire shall inform the fielding team Captain when taking the field for the first time and on every subsequent occasion if play is interrupted, the scheduled cessation time for that innings. The Umpire at the bowler's end will inform the fielding Captain, the batsman and his fellow Umpire of any time allowances as and when they arise. (This matter will not be subject to retrospective negotiation). In addition, in all reduced overs matches, the fielding team will be given one over's leeway. For the avoidance of doubt, one over's leeway means that the fielding side must be in position to bowl the first ball of the penultimate over by the scheduled or rescheduled cut off time.

Over-rate penalties apply only to innings of 15 overs or more duration unless a penalty has been applied before 15 overs have been bowled.

This is the only penalty for a slow over-rate.

13. LAW 13 – INNINGS

13.1 Law 13.1 shall be replaced by the following:

The match will consist of one innings per side each innings being limited to a maximum of 50 overs.

13.2 Number of Overs per Bowler

13.2.1 No bowler may bowl more than ten overs, however, in a delayed start, or interrupted match, where the overs are reduced for both sides, or for the side bowling second, no bowler may bowl more than one-fifth of the total overs allowed (unless such a number has been exceeded before the interruption), except that where the total overs are not divisible by five, an additional over shall be allowed to the minimum number of bowlers necessary to make up the balance – e.g. after 16 overs, rain interrupts play and the innings is reduced to 32 overs. Both opening bowlers have bowled 8 overs. Two bowlers can bowl 7 overs and three bowlers can bowl 6. Bowlers 1 and 2 have already exceeded this limit. They count as the two bowlers who were allowed the extra over (7 as opposed to 6) and so any other bowlers are limited to 6 overs.

13.2.2 When an interruption occurs mid-over and on resumption the bowler has exceeded the new maximum allocation, he will be allowed to finish the incomplete over.

13.2.3 In the event of a bowler breaking down and being unable to complete an over, the remaining balls will be bowled by another bowler. Such part of an over will count as a full over only in so far as each bowler's limit is concerned.

13.2.4 Where possible, the number of overs bowled by each individual bowler shall be indicated on the scoreboard, from the commencement of an innings.

14. LAW 14 – THE FOLLOW ON

Law 14 does not apply

15. LAW 15 – DECLARATION AND FORFEITURE

15.1 The Captain of the batting side may not declare his innings closed at any time during the course of a match.

16. LAW 16 – THE RESULT

16.1 Laws 16.1, 16.4 and 16.5.2 shall not apply.

16.2 When there is no interruption after play has commenced and when both sides have had the opportunity of batting for the same agreed number of overs, the team scoring the higher number of runs shall be the winner. In the event of the scores being tied, the following shall apply:

16.2.1 In a Group Stage match, no account shall be taken of wickets lost, the match is tied and each team shall be awarded one point.

16.3 If, due to suspension of play after the start of the match, the number of overs in the innings of either team must be revised to a lesser number than that originally allotted (minimum 10 overs), then a revised target score should be set for the number of overs which the team batting second will have the opportunity of facing, this revised target being calculated by the DLS method. A par score will be set for the second innings. If this is exceeded a win for the team batting second shall result. If the par score is equal then the scores are tied. If after the restart of play it is discovered that the wrong DLS target has been set the faulty target shall stand.

16.4 If a match is abandoned before it has been played to a conclusion and before the team batting second has received its allotted number of overs (providing that it has received not less than 10 overs), the result shall be decided by the DLS method.

16.5 In the event of the scores being tied in a Group Stage match when the DLS method has been used, the match is tied and each team will be awarded one point.

17. LAW 17 – THE OVER

Law 17 shall apply

18. LAW 18 – SCORING RUNS

- 18.1 – Law 18.11 (Batter returning to original end)
Law 18.11.1 shall apply with the addition that if the striker is dismissed Caught, the not out batter shall return to their original end.
18.2 – Law 18.12 (Batter returning to wicket he/she has left)
Law 18.12 shall apply with the exception of 18.12.1.1 which shall not apply

19. LAW 19 – BOUNDARIES

Law 19 shall apply

20. LAW 20 – DEAD BALL

Law 20 shall apply

21. LAW 21 – NO BALL

- 21.1 Law 21.15 (Penalty for a No ball) shall apply except that the penalty for a No ball will be 2 runs.
21.2 Free Hit after a No Ball
In addition to 21.1 above, the delivery following a no ball shall be a free hit for whichever batsman is facing it. Note that this applies for all modes of No ball with the exception of the first short-pitched delivery in the over that passes or would have passed clearly over head-height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease. For the avoidance of doubt, a free hit shall be applied for a No Ball that is called in respect of a breach of playing condition 41.2.1 (exceeding the two short balls over shoulder height in the over)
If the delivery for the free hit is not a legitimate delivery (any kind of no ball or a wide ball), then the next delivery will become a free hit for whichever batsman is facing it.
For any free hit, the striker can be dismissed only under the circumstances that apply for a no ball even if the delivery for the free hit is called wide ball.
Field changes are not permitted for free hit deliveries unless there is a change of striker or the No Ball was the result of a field restriction breach in which case the field may be changed to the extent of correcting the breach. However, in all circumstances, any fielder within 15 yards of the striker may retreat to a position on the same line no more than 15 yards from the striker. The Umpires will signal a free hit by (after the normal No Ball signal) extending one arm straight upwards and moving it in a circular motion.

22. LAW 22 – WIDE BALL

- 22.1 In addition to Law 22, 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.
A penalty of one run for a Wide shall be scored. This penalty shall stand in addition to any other runs which are scored or awarded.

23. LAW 23 – BYE AND LEG BYE

Law 23 shall apply.

24. LAW 24 SUBSTITUTES

- 24.1 Law 24.1 (Substitute fielders) shall apply with the following additions:
24.1.1 The opposing Captain shall have no right of objection to any player acting as a substitute.
24.1.2 Squad members of the fielding team who are not playing in the match and who are not acting as substitute fielders shall be required to wear a team training bib whilst on the playing area (including the area between the boundary and the perimeter fencing).
24.2 Law 24.2 (Fielder absent or leaving the field of play) shall apply except:
24.2.1 A player shall only accrue Penalty time if he is absent from the field for longer than 8 minutes. In such cases, the whole of the time that the player is absent from the field shall count as unserved Penalty time (though note 24.2.2 below).
24.2.2 A player's unserved Penalty time shall be limited to a maximum of 90 minutes (refer Law 24.2.3).
24.3 A substitute shall be allowed by right immediately in the event of a dually registered cricketer

currently playing in a NCCA County Championship match being required to join a First Class team. Such substitute shall be permitted to bat and bowl in that match. The cricketer who is substituted shall take no further part in that match even though he may not be required to play for the First Class county. If he is batting at the time he is required to leave the match, he shall retire "not out" and his substitute shall be permitted to bat later in that innings.

25. LAW 25 – BATTER'S INNINGS; RUNNERS

Law 25 shall apply; however note 24.2.2 above.

26. LAW 26 – PRACTICE ON THE FIELD

Law 26 shall apply with the following additions:

- 26.1 No practice shall be undertaken on a match pitch during its preparation period.
26.2 There shall be no bowling or batting practice on any part of the square or the area parallel to the match pitch during the hours of play except at lunch, tea and between innings.
26.3 Practice facilities – Prior to the day's play, all grounds are to provide a net for 'throw-downs' and either a dedicated grass net area or a net on the square. In addition, every effort should be made to provide practice facilities at other times when teams have the opportunity to practise.
26.4 Hitting Up
Teams are required to observe Ground Authority Regulations and exercise the utmost care and caution when engaging in practice and pre-match warm-up and 'hitting up' activities so as to avoid the risk of injury to members of the public, damage to the centre wicket region and to perimeter fencing.

27. LAW 27 – THE WICKET-KEEPER

Law 27 shall apply.

28. LAW 28 – THE FIELDER

- 28.1 Restrictions on the placement of fieldsmen
28.1.1 At the instant of delivery, there may not be more than 5 fieldsmen on the leg side.
28.1.2 In addition to the restriction contained in clause 28.1.1 above, further fielding restrictions shall apply to certain overs in each innings. The nature of such fielding restrictions and the overs during which they shall apply are set out in the following paragraphs.
28.1.3 The following fielding restrictions shall apply: Two semi-circles shall be drawn on the field of play. The semi-circles shall have as their centre the middle stump at either end of the pitch. The radius of each of the semi-circles shall be 30 yards (27.43 metres). The semi-circles shall be linked by two parallel straight lines drawn on the field. The fielding restriction areas should be marked by continuous painted white lines or 'dots' at 5 yard (4.57metres) intervals, each 'dot' to be covered by a white plastic or rubber (but not metal) disc measuring 7 inches (18 cm) in diameter.
At the instant of delivery:
28.1.3.1 Powerplay 1 – no more than two (2) fieldsmen shall be permitted outside this fielding restriction area. In an innings of 50 overs, these are overs 1 to 10 inclusive.
28.1.3.2 Powerplay 2 – no more than four (4) fieldsmen shall be permitted outside this fielding restriction area. In an innings of 50 overs, these are overs 11 to 40 inclusive
28.1.3.3 Powerplay 3 – no more than five (5) fieldsmen shall be permitted outside this fielding restriction area. In an innings of 50 overs, these are overs 41 to 50 inclusive
28.1.3.4 In circumstances when the number of overs of the batting team is reduced, the number of overs within each phase of the innings shall be reduced in accordance with the following table. For the sake of clarity, it should be noted that the table shall apply to both the 1st and 2nd innings of the match.

Innings duration	Powerplay 1	Powerplay 2	Powerplay 3
10	2	6	2
11	2	7	2
12	3	7	2
13	3	8	2
14	3	8	3
15	3	9	3
16	3	10	3
17	4	10	3
18	4	11	3
19	4	11	4
20	4	12	4
21	4	13	4
22	5	13	4
23	5	14	4
24	5	14	5
25	5	15	5
26	5	16	5
27	6	16	5
28	6	17	5
29	6	17	6
30	6	18	6
31	6	19	6
32	7	19	6
33	7	20	6
34	7	20	7
35	7	21	7
36	7	22	7
37	8	22	7
38	8	23	7
39	8	23	8
40	8	24	8
41	8	25	8
42	9	25	8
43	9	26	8
44	9	26	9
45	9	27	9
46	9	28	9
47	10	28	9
48	10	29	9
49	10	29	10

28.1.4 If play is interrupted during an innings and the table in 28.1.4 applies, the Powerplay takes immediate effect. For the avoidance of doubt this applies even if the interruption has occurred mid- over.

Illustrations of 28.1.5

A 50 over innings is interrupted after 8.3 overs and reduced to 32 overs. The new phases are 7+19+6. Therefore the middle phase fielding restrictions take immediate effect when play resumes and last for a further 17.3 overs. The final phase begins after 26 overs have been bowled.

A 40 over innings is interrupted after 18.5 overs and reduced to 22 overs. The new phases are 5+13+4. When play resumes, the final phase fielding restrictions apply for the remaining 3.1 overs.

- 28.1.5 At the commencement of the middle and final phases of an innings, the umpire shall signal such commencement to the scorers by rotating his arm in a large circle.
- 28.1.6 In the event of an infringement of any of the above fielding restrictions, the square leg umpire shall call and signal 'No Ball'.
- 28.1.7 In the event of the striker's end Umpire failing to call and signal No Ball when the fielding restrictions in this playing condition have been breached or when Law 28.4 (Limitation of on side fielders) has been breached, immediately the ball becomes dead the striker may draw the matter to that Umpire's attention. If the striker's end Umpire is able to verify the breach he shall call and signal No Ball. If the striker's end Umpire is unable to verify the breach then he shall confirm that the events of the delivery shall be unchanged.

29 LAW 29 – THE WICKET IS DOWN

- 29.1 Law 29 shall apply except that: Law 29.1.1.4 is replaced by: by the striker's person or by any part of his/her clothing or equipment being worn, or by any part of the striker's clothing or equipment becoming detached from his/her person. However, any detached equipment shall not include the striker's protective helmet, or any part thereof.

30 LAW 30 – BATSMAN OUT OF HIS/HER GROUND

Law 30 shall apply

31 LAW 31 – APPEALS

Law 31 shall apply with the following addition:

- 31.1 Intimidatory Appealing In the event of an appeal, all members of the fielding team must maintain their fielding positions until a decision is given, unless legitimately in the act of fielding or backing up the ball which is not yet dead. For the purposes of this playing condition, a referral to the third umpire will constitute a decision.

32 LAW 32 – BOWLED

Law 32 shall apply.

33 LAW 33 – CAUGHT

Law 33 shall apply (see Law 18 scoring runs)

34 LAW 34 – HIT THE BALL TWICE

Law 34 shall apply.

35 LAW 35 – HIT WICKET

Law 35 shall apply.

36 LAW 36 – LEG BEFORE WICKET

Law 36 shall apply.

37 LAW 37 – OBSTRUCTING THE FIELD

Law 37 shall apply.

38 LAW 38 – RUN OUT

Law 38 shall apply.

39 LAW 39 – STUMPED

Law 39 shall apply.

40. LAW 40 – TIMED OUT

- 40.1 Law 40 shall apply

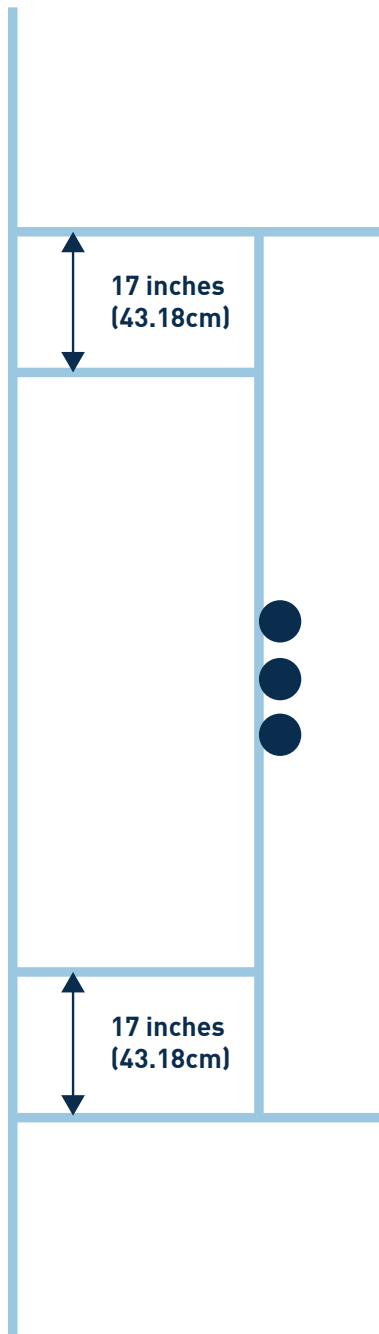
41 LAW 41 – UNFAIR PLAY

- 41.1 Law 41.3 (The match ball – changing its condition) shall be replaced by:
- 41.1.1 The umpires shall make frequent and irregular inspections of the ball. In addition, they shall immediately inspect the ball if they suspect anyone of attempting to change the condition of the ball, except as permitted in 41.2.2.
- 41.1.2 It is an offence for any player to take any action which changes or which may be perceived as likely to change the condition of the ball.
Except in carrying out his normal duties, a batsman is not allowed to wilfully damage the ball. See also Law 5.5 (Damage to the ball).
A fielder may, however
- 41.1.2.1 polish the ball on his clothing provided that no artificial substance or saliva is used and that such polishing wastes no time.
- 41.1.2.2 remove mud from the ball under the supervision of an umpire.
- 41.1.2.3 dry a wet ball on a piece of cloth that has been approved by the umpires.
- 41.1.3 The umpires shall consider the condition of the ball to have been unfairly changed if any action by any player does not comply with the conditions in 41.2.2 (except use of saliva – see 41.2.6) or if the umpires consider that the condition of the ball is inconsistent with the use it has received.
The umpires shall then ask the captain of the opposing side if he would like the ball to be replaced. If necessary, in the case of the batting side, the batter at the wicket may deputise for their captain.
- 41.1.3.1 If a replacement ball is requested, the umpires shall select and bring into use immediately, a ball which shall have wear comparable to that of the previous ball immediately prior to the contravention.
- 41.1.3.2 The umpires together shall decide whether they can identify the player(s) responsible for the unfair action.
- 41.1.4 Regardless of whether a replacement ball has been chosen to be used, if it is possible to identify the player(s) responsible, the bowler's end umpire shall:
- Award 5 penalty runs to the opposing side.
 - if appropriate, inform the batter at the wicket and the captain of the fielding side that the ball has been changed and the reason for their action.
 - Inform the captain of the batting side as soon as practicable of what has occurred.
 - Together with the other umpire report the incident to ECB who shall take action as is appropriate against the player(s) and/or Captain and/or County responsible for the conduct under the ECB Directives.
- 41.1.5 Regardless of whether a replacement ball has been chosen to be used, if it is not possible to identify the player(s) responsible, the bowler's end umpire shall:
- issue the captain with a first and final warning, and
 - advise him that the incident will be reported to NCCA and that should there be any further incident by that team during the remainder of the match, steps 41.1.4 a) to d) above will be adopted, with the captain deemed under d) to be the player responsible.
- 41.1.6 If the umpires believe that saliva has been applied to the ball, the umpires shall:
- 41.1.6.1 If it is a first instance during an innings, summon the captain of the fielding side and issue a first warning.
- 41.1.6.2 If it is a second instance during an innings, summon the captain of the fielding side and issue a second and final warning and warn the captain of the fielding side that any further such offence by any member of the team during the innings shall result in the award of 5 Penalty runs to the batting side.
- 41.1.6.3 If it is a third or subsequent instance, award 5 Penalty runs to the batting side.
- 41.1.6.4 The ball shall not be changed but the umpires shall sanitise the ball in each instance.
- 41.1.6.5 Use of saliva in breach of clause 41.1.2.1 above shall not, in itself, be considered an offence under ECB Directives.
- 41.2 Law 41.6 (Bowling of dangerous and unfair short pitched deliveries) shall apply with the following additions:
- 41.2.1 Regardless of how wide of the striker a delivery is, there shall be no more than two deliveries

per over that after pitching pass or would have passed over shoulder height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease.

- 41.2.2 The umpire shall make it clear to the bowler (and any bowler called upon to complete an over) and the batsmen at the wicket when a delivery within the limit in 41.3.1 has been bowled. It is unfair if the limit is exceeded and the umpire shall call and signal No ball on each such occasion and consider it as part of the warning sequence in Laws 41.6.3 and 41.6.4.
- 41.2.3 If a short pitched delivery either:
- 41.2.3.1 Passes or would have passed over head height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease, and in the umpire's opinion so prevents him from being able to hit it with his bat by means of a normal cricket stroke or;
- 41.2.3.2 Passes or would have passed over shoulder height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease, and in the umpire's opinion he is able to hit it with his bat by means of a normal cricket stroke or;
- 41.2.3.3 Passes over shoulder height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease and wide of the striker so that in the umpire's opinion he is unable to hit it with his bat by means of a normal cricket stroke and, although not necessarily threatening physical injury, is deemed dangerous in accordance with Law 41.6.1, it shall be considered as part of the warning sequence in Laws 41.6.3 and 41.6.4.
- 41.2.4 A delivery as described in 41.2.3.1 shall be called No ball in accordance with Law 21.10.
- 41.2.5 A delivery as described in 41.2.3.3, if not a No ball, shall be called and signalled wide. (Refer Law 22).
- 41.2.6 Law 41.6.5 shall not apply. Any warnings applied in Law 41.6.3 shall be added to any warnings applied in Law 41.7 and action taken according to Law 41.6.4.
- 41.3 Law 41.7 (Bowling of dangerous and unfair non-pitching deliveries) shall apply with the following amendment:
- 41.3.1 Law 41.7.5 shall not apply. Any warnings applied in Law 41.7 shall be added to any warnings applied in Law 41.6.3 and action taken according to Law 41.7.4.
- 41.5 Electronic Equipment
With the exception of player movement technology the use of electronic communication devices and equipment of any kind which enables communication between on-field players and anyone not on the field of play shall not be permitted during the scheduled or re-scheduled hours of play.
- ## **42 LAW 42 – PLAYERS' CONDUCT**
- Law 42 shall apply with the following amendments:
- 42.1 In Laws 42.1.4, 42.2.2.2, 42.3.2.2, the batters at the wicket may deputise for their Captain.
- 42.2 In Laws 42.1.4, 42.4.2.2, 42.5.2.2, a team representative may deputise for their Captain.
- 42.3 ECB Directives shall also apply as appropriate and as separately detailed.

CREASE MARKINGS



3 DAY CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYING CONDITIONS

Except as varied hereunder in all NCCA competitions, the laws of cricket 2017 Code (2nd edition 2019) shall apply

1 LAW 1 – THE PLAYERS

- 1.1 Law 1.1 (Number of players) shall be replaced by: A match is played between two sides, each of eleven players, one of whom shall be captain. If, during the match and for whatever reason, a side is reduced to fewer than the original number of nominated players, the match shall continue as long as it is possible to do so under the Laws
- 1.2 Law 1.2 (Nomination and replacement of players) shall be replaced by: Each Captain shall nominate his players in writing to one of the umpires before the toss. No player may be replaced after the nomination of teams and before the Umpire has called Play without the consent of the opposing Captain (not to be unreasonably withheld) and NCCA Cricket Operations. No player may be replaced after the Umpire has called Play before the first ball of the match. After a Captain has nominated his players, it is discovered that someone who was not on the list has acted in the match as though a nominated player, then, if consent is not given by the opposing Captain for the original nomination to be changed, the offender shall take no further part in the match and no replacement, including the original nominated player shall be allowed.

2 LAW 2 – THE UMPIRES

- 2.1 Law 2.1 (Appointment and attendance) shall be replaced by: Two Umpires shall be appointed, one for each end to control the game as required by the Laws and Playing Conditions with absolute impartiality. They shall report themselves to the Ground Authority by 10.00am at the latest on the first day of the match and, by mutual agreement with each other, one Umpire shall report by 9.30am at the latest and the other by 10.00am on succeeding days. Before leaving the ground after Cessation of Play, the Umpires shall ensure that the minimum covering of the pitch and surrounding areas as laid down in the Playing Conditions, and any necessary renovation of foot holes, have been carried out to their satisfaction.
- 2.2 Law 2.7 – Fitness for play - shall apply with the addition that: The safety of all persons within the ground is of paramount importance to the NCCA. In the event that any threatening circumstance, whether actual or perceived, comes to the attention of any Umpire (including for example weather, pitch invasions, act of God, etc), then the players and officials should immediately be asked to leave the field of play in a safe and orderly manner and to relocate to a secure and safe area (depending on each particular threat) pending the satisfactory passing or resolution of such threat or risk to the reasonable satisfaction of the venue safety officer and/or the Umpire as the circumstances may require.
- 2.3 Law 2.8 – Suspension of play in dangerous or unreasonable circumstances shall apply with the following additions:
- 2.4.1 The Umpires shall disregard any shadow on the pitch from the stadium or from any permanent object.
- 2.4.2 Following any inspection, the Umpires will report their findings immediately to both Captains and to the Ground Authority.
- 2.5 Changing the Venue for the Match
The venue for a match may only be changed at short notice with the consent of NCCA Operations. Consideration will be given for a change of venue if the change will significantly improve the prospects of play or if there is a genuine concern over the original venue producing a substandard pitch or outfield.
It is the onus of the Home County to ensure that if there is a material likelihood that 72 hours prior to a scheduled match that a venue will be unable to stage any play over the scheduled term of the match due to the prevailing condition of the venue 72 hours prior to the scheduled

start of the match (including pitch and/or square and/or outfield) then an alternative venue must be identified under this playing condition and brought to the attention of the visiting County and NCCA and made available should playing conditions not improve.

The venue should preferably be within the County or a recognised venue used by the County in question. If no such venue is available then a neutral venue preferably within the Region of the originally scheduled match may be considered.

A change in venue will only be approved if it meets COVID protocols and is unlikely to be approved if it is considered to make an unreasonable request of the visiting team for logistical reasons. It is unlikely that a change of venue would be approved on the day the match is scheduled to take place.

- 2.6 Law 2.15 – Correctness of scores - shall apply. For the avoidance of doubt, a team innings score may only be corrected where necessary prior to the commencement of the subsequent team-innings of the match. See also Playing Conditions 3.2, 19.2 and Law 16.10.

3 LAW 3 – THE SCORERS

- 3.1 Law 3.2 – Correctness of scores - shall apply. For the avoidance of doubt, a team innings score may only be corrected where necessary prior to the commencement of the subsequent team-innings of the match. See also Playing Condition 2.7 and Law 16.10

4 LAW 4 – THE BALL

- 4.1 Balls to be used Grade 1 Dukes red cricket balls conforming to the specifications laid down by the NCCA, shall be used, and spare used balls for changing during a match shall also be of the same brand and specification. Spare balls may be of 2021 or 2022 manufacture. All spare balls shall pass both ring tests of the ball gauge. Except as provided for in Law 4.5 and 4.1.2, the fielding Captain, or his nominee, may select the ball with which he wishes to bowl which shall be from the whole of the supply of new balls provided by the Ground Authority. Such selection must take place in the presence of the Umpires, and the ball shall not be marked in any way.
- 4.2 Law 4.3 (New ball) shall not apply. A new ball shall be used at the start of each innings.
- 4.3 Law 4.5 (Ball lost or becoming unfit for play) shall apply with the addition that:
- 4.3.1 The Umpires may deem a ball that has become wet and soggy or unusually soft to be unfit for play. The Umpires alone will select the replacement ball from the supply of approved replacements and shall inform the batsmen at the wicket and the fielding captain. Either bowler or batsman may raise the matter with the Umpires and the Umpires' decision as to a replacement or otherwise shall be final.
- 4.3.2 The Umpires may use a ball gauge to assist them in their decision as to whether a used ball should be changed because it is out of shape. They shall only do so should the ball visually appear to be out of shape. Additionally, the fielding Captain only may request that the Umpires check the shape of the ball a maximum of two occasions for each ball. If the ball does not pass both ring tests of the ball gauge, it shall be changed.
- 4.3.3 If a new ball is lost or becomes unfit within eight overs and there is no used spare ball available in a condition more in keeping with the original ball then the umpires may, at their absolute discretion, allow another new ball to be used as a replacement. If the original ball is found within a further six overs then it may be reused unless, in the opinion of the umpires, it is in a significantly better condition than the current ball.
- 4.3.4 The home side shall take full responsibility in providing spare balls for the match and should be of varying degrees of wear and tear.
- 4.4 Law 4.4 shall not apply. A new ball can be demanded by the captain after 90 overs of the second innings. The umpire shall inform the other umpire and indicate to the batsmen and the scorers whenever a new ball is taken into play
- 5 LAW 5– THE BAT**
- Law 5 shall apply with the addition that only Type A bats shall be used.
- 5.1 A bat gauge shall be used to check the measurements width and depth of bats. Any bats which fail the bat gauge test will have to be changed and NCCA will be informed of the breach.

6 LAW 6 – THE PITCH

- 6.1 All maintenance issues should be carried out with the guiding principle that they should ensure that conditions are as similar as possible for both sides throughout the match.
- 6.2 Law 6.3 (Selection and preparation) shall apply with the following additions: Captains, Umpires and Groundsmen should co-operate to ensure that, prior to the start of any day's play, no-one bounces a ball on the pitch or strikes it with a bat to assess its condition or for any other reason, or causes damage to the pitch in any other way.
- 6.3 Law 6.5 – Non-turf pitches – will not apply

7 LAW 7 – THE CREASES

Law 7 shall apply

8 LAW 8 – THE WICKETS

Law 8 shall apply

9 LAW 9 – PREPARATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE PLAYING AREA

- 9.1 All maintenance issues should be carried out with the guiding principle that they should ensure that conditions are as similar as possible for both sides throughout the match.
- 9.2 Law 9.1.3 shall not apply and is replaced by: A light roller must be available. If more than one roller is available, the captain of the batting side shall choose which roller, if any, is to be used. Before the toss, the umpires shall establish what rollers are available and shall advise the captains accordingly at the toss. The heavy roller shall only be allowed to be used twice in the match by either side.
- 9.3 Drying of Pitch and Ground
- 9.3.1 Prior to tossing for choice of innings the artificial drying of the pitch and outfield shall be at the discretion of the Groundsman. Thereafter and throughout the match the drying of the outfield may be undertaken at any time by the Groundsman, but the drying of the pitch shall be carried out only on the instructions and under the supervision of the Umpires. The Umpires shall be empowered to have the pitch dried without reference to the Captains at any time they are of the opinion that it is unfit for play.
- 9.3.2 The Umpires may instruct the Groundsman to use any available equipment, including any roller (other than an absorbent roller), for the purpose of drying the pitch and making it fit for play. An absorbent roller may be used to remove water from the covers including, where absolutely necessary, the cover on the match pitch.
- 9.3.3 Following the artificial drying of the pitch, the Captain of the batting side shall not have the right to select the roller prior to the resumption of play, but the Umpires may decide on the use of a roller if they think fit.

10 LAW 10 – COVERING THE PITCH

- 10.1 All maintenance issues should be carried out with the guiding principle that they should ensure that conditions are as similar as possible for both sides throughout the match, and in line with each venue's COVID guidelines for groundstaff.
- 10.2 Law 10.1 (Before the match) shall apply and accordingly, Umpires shall establish prior to the toss which method of covering of the match pitch shall be used during the course of the match.
- 10.3 Law 10.2 (During the match) and Law 10.3 (Removal of covers) shall be replaced by:
- 10.3.1 The whole pitch shall be covered:
- 10.3.1.1 The night before the match and, if necessary, until the first ball is bowled; and whenever necessary and possible at any time prior to that during the preparation of the pitch.
- 10.3.1.2 On each night of the match and, if necessary, throughout any rest days.
- 10.3.1.3 In the event of play being suspended on account of rain during the specified hours of play, and at lunch, tea and between innings on account of rain.
- 10.3.1.4 The covers shall be removed before 9.00am provided it is not raining at the time, but they will be replaced if rain falls prior to the commencement of play.
- 10.3.2 The following areas will be covered, in addition to the pitch as in 10.3.1 above, unless the Umpires determine otherwise:

- 10.3.2.1 The bowler's 'run up' to a distance of at least 10 yards. The width of the covering shall be determined by NCCA.
- 10.3.2.2 In addition to 10.3.2.1 and 10.3.2.2 further areas and in particular worn patches should, if possible and practicable, also be covered.
- 10.3.3 Covering During Play
- 10.3.3.1 In order to make play possible, the Umpires may decide to have particularly wet or muddy areas covered by mats or blankets whilst play is in progress.
- 10.3.3.2 Any pitch(es) being prepared for a future match may be protected by a porous mat in order to avoid unnecessary damage.

11 LAW 11 – INTERVALS

- 11.1 Lunch Interval
- 11.1.1 The lunch interval on all days shall be 1.20pm – 2.00pm
- 11.1.2 Law 11.7 (Lunch or tea interval – 9 wickets down) shall apply except that the Lunch Interval shall be taken after a further three overs or ten minutes, whichever is the later.
If 87 or more overs of the first innings of either team have been bowled at the scheduled time for commencement of the Lunch Interval then unless play is suspended by reason of the weather or ground conditions play shall continue until the end of that innings and the Interval shall be rescheduled accordingly.
- 11.2 Tea Interval
- 11.2.1 The tea interval on all days shall be at 4:20pm – 4.40pm
- 11.2.2 If 85 or more overs of the first innings of either team have been bowled at the scheduled time for commencement of the Tea Interval then unless play is suspended by reason of the weather or ground conditions play shall continue until the end of that innings and the Interval shall be rescheduled accordingly.
- 11.2.3 If nine wickets are down at the scheduled or rescheduled time for the tea interval tea will not be taken until either 8 more overs have been bowled or until the end of the over that is in progress 30 minutes after the originally agreed time for tea whichever is the later, unless the players have cause to leave the field of play or the innings is completed earlier.
- 11.3 Timings of Intervals
- 11.3.1 Timing of the luncheon and/or tea intervals may be varied by the umpires owing to the weather or the state of the ground but neither the luncheon nor the tea interval may be dispensed with. Where any intervals are rearranged the umpires shall give priority to ensuring that the sessions of play are as near equal as is practicable.

12 LAW 12 – START OF PLAY; CESSATION OF PLAY

- 12.1 Scheduled hours of play
- 12.1.1 The normal hours of play shall be as follows: on each of the first two days 11.00 am – 7.00pm, or after 110 overs have been bowled, whichever is the later; on the third day 11.00 am to 5.30 pm or after 93 overs have been bowled whichever is the later, from which point there shall be a further hour's play or 17 overs whichever is the later. The total number of hours of actual scheduled playing time in each match shall be 20½.
- 12.1.2 On the first and second days no play shall take place after 7.30pm (irrespective of the starting time) except to complete an over in progress at that time unless a batsman is out, or retires, either within 3 minutes of, or after, that time.
- 12.2 Making up for lost time
- 12.2.1 Time lost on Days 1 and / or 2 will be aggregated and carried forward to the next day.
- 12.2.2 In the event of play being suspended on one or more occasions on the first or second day by reason of the weather or ground conditions the actual playing time lost shall be made good by extending the scheduled closing time, subject to a total maximum of 30 minutes or 8 overs whichever is the later, and subject also to the cut off time referred to hereafter.
- 12.2.3 If 30 minutes or more of the time lost on the first day remain outstanding then the starting time for play on the second day shall be advanced to 10.30 am. After 110 overs have been bowled (subject to any permitted reduction in overs for change of innings) play shall then continue (so far as possible) until the time brought forward from the first day has been utilised, subject to the

cut off time of 7.30pm as referred to in 12.1.2. In such cases the umpires may re-schedule the intervals in accordance with 11.3.1.

Note: in applying the carry forward provisions to the second and third day referred to in this clause account shall only be taken of "time lost" on the first and/or second day and not "overs not bowled".

- 12.2.4 Where there is a change of innings during a day's play (except during the lunch or tea interval or during a suspension of play due to ground, weather or light conditions or exceptional circumstances or during the last hour when Playing Condition 12.2.5 below shall apply), three overs will be deducted from the minimum number of overs to be bowled plus any over in progress at the end of the completed innings. No overs shall be deducted for forfeited innings.
- 12.2.5 If interruptions for ground, weather or light occur, other than in the last hour of the match for which Playing Condition 12.2.5 makes provision, the minimum number of overs shall be reduced by one over for each full 3 minutes 30 seconds of the aggregate playing time lost.
- 12.2.5 Laws 12.6 (Last hour of match – number of overs), 12.7 (Last hour of match – interruptions of play), 12.8 (Last hour of match – intervals between innings) shall apply with the following clarifications:
- 12.2.6.1 The last hour shall commence when one hour of playing time of the match remains.
- 12.2.6.2 On the last day, if any of the daily minimum requirement of 93 overs, or as recalculated, have not been bowled at the commencement of the last hour, those overs shall be completed. A minimum of 17 overs shall then be bowled – the Umpires shall signal such to the players and scorers and these shall be deemed to be the minimum number of overs to be bowled in the last hour as referred to in Law 12.9 (Conclusion of match).
Laws 12.7 (Last hour of match – interruptions of play) and 12.8 (Last hour of match – intervals between innings) shall only apply after this minimum number of overs has commenced.
- 12.2.6.3 References to 20 overs shall be amended to 17 overs and references to 3 minutes shall be amended to 3 minutes 30 seconds.
- 12.2.6.4 If, however, both captains (the batsmen at the wicket may act for their captain) accept that there is no prospect of either side achieving a victory, they may agree to finish the match at any time after the scheduled time for the commencement of the last hour has been reached (regardless of the number of overs remaining to be bowled).
- 12.2.7 The Captains may agree or, in the event of disagreement, the Umpires may decide to play 30 minutes extra time or 8 overs, whichever is the later at the end of the first and second day, if, in their opinion, there was a reasonable prospect that it would bring about a definite result on that day. For the avoidance of doubt, should a wicket fall within 3 minutes of the scheduled or rescheduled close of play, the extra 30 minutes is added to the scheduled or re-scheduled time of close of play, not to the time at which the wicket fell. If it is decided to play extra time on any or all of these days, the whole period shall be played out even though the possibility of finishing the match may have disappeared before the full period has expired.
The scheduled time by which play is extended on any day shall be deducted from the total number of hours of play remaining in the match, and the match shall end earlier on the last scheduled day by the actual amount of scheduled time by which play was previously extended in aggregate (i.e. the time for the commencement of the last hour will be adjusted accordingly and the minimum number of overs prior to the last hour will be correspondingly reduced at a rate of one over for each full 3 minutes 30 seconds of aggregate scheduled extra time).
For the avoidance of doubt, if there is a change of innings immediately prior to the start of, or during the period of extra time, then three overs shall be deducted in respect of the change of innings.
- 12.2.8 With the exception of the circumstances in 12.2.6, there shall be no further play on any day, other than the last scheduled day, if a wicket falls or a batsman retires or if the players have occasion to leave the field during the last minimum over within 3 minutes of the scheduled or re-scheduled cessation time or thereafter.
- 12.2.9 The umpires may decide to play 15 minutes (a minimum of four overs) extra time at the scheduled lunch or tea interval of any day if requested by either captain if, in the umpires' opinion, it would bring about a definite result in that session. If the umpires do not believe a result can be achieved no extra time shall be allowed.

If it is decided to play such extra time, the whole period shall be played out which may include, if applicable, 10 minutes for a change of innings.

Only the actual amount of playing time up to the maximum 15 minutes extra time by which play is extended on any day shall be deducted from the total number of hours of play remaining, and the following session of play shall be reduced by the amount of time by which play was previously extended under this clause.

For the avoidance of doubt, if there is a change of innings immediately prior to the start of, or during the period of extra time, then three overs shall be deducted in respect of the change of innings. This clause shall not apply when either 11.1.2 or 11.2.3 has already been applied to this interval.

12.2.10 A previously started over that has to be completed on resumption of a new day's play shall be disregarded in calculating minimum overs for that day.

12.2.11 The scoreboard shall show:

The number of completed overs bowled in the current innings shall be shown on the scoreboard. If possible, the minimum number of overs remaining to be bowled in the day shall also be shown.

12.3. First and Second Day Abandonments

If play has not started by 4.40pm on the second day the match shall become a 1 innings per side match. If the match has not started by 12 noon on the third day the match shall be abandoned.

The match referee or, if there is no match referee, the umpires shall (after such consultations as the match referee or umpires as the case may be shall consider appropriate) decide the total number of overs likely to be left in the game. They shall base their calculation on an over rate of 17 overs per hour and finish times of 7.30pm on the penultimate day and 6.30pm on the final day and shall take into account weather prospects, ground conditions, lunch and tea intervals and the deduction of 3 overs for the changeover of innings; their decision shall be final. The game will then proceed on the basis that this recalculated figure will be the maximum number of overs to be bowled. Play shall cease when the maximum number of overs have been bowled, notwithstanding that this may be before 6.30pm. Fractional overs shall count as completed overs.

The team batting first shall not exceed 60% of the available overs left in the game (as previously determined). If there are any further interruptions in play the scheduled number of overs shall not be re-calculated. In no circumstances shall play continue after 7.00pm on the final day except to complete an over in progress at that time. In the event that the game becomes a 1 innings match a new toss shall take place before the start (replacing any previous toss that may have taken place).

12.4 Ringing of the Bell

The bell will be rung five minutes before the start of play and before the termination of an interval, when the Umpires shall go to the wickets.

12.5 National Counties Championship Over Rate Penalties

The minimum over-rate to be achieved by Counties will be 17 overs per hour. When calculating the over-rate, three minutes will be allowed for each wicket taken which results in the subsequent batsman immediately commencing his innings. For the avoidance of doubt, no allowance shall be given for the final wicket in an innings or for a wicket that falls prior to any interval.

No allowances shall be given for drinks intervals. Any suspension of play for an injury to a player or for hygiene breaks or for any other reason beyond the control of the players shall be a deductible allowance. The Umpire at the bowler's end will inform the fielding Captain, the batter and his fellow Umpire of any time allowances as and when they arise and the scorers at the earliest opportunity. (This matter will not be subject to retrospective negotiation).

Overs will be calculated at the end of the match and penalties applied on a match by match basis.

"With the exception of the Final, a team which, in the course of a match, has bowled 75 overs or more, shall suffer a deduction of points (to be adjudicated by the umpires, and with no right of appeal) should its over rate, measured over the entire match, be less than 17 overs per

hour. For rates of 16 or above, but below 17, there shall be a deduction of 2 points, and for rates below 16, a deduction of 5 points."

A spreadsheet is provided for calculation of over rates but manual calculation is as follows:

Duration in minutes – (wkts x 3) – intervals - umpire's allowance = Net Time

(Complete Overs Bowled x 6)+remaining balls = Balls Bowled

(Balls Bowled/Net Time) x 10 = Over Rate

Example calculation:

Team A has bowled 43.2 overs from 11:00-14:17 and taken 4 wickets with 40 minute lunch break and no allowances.

3rs 17mins = 197 mins less 12 mins for wickets taken less 40 mins lunch = 145 mins Net Time

43.2 overs = 260 Ball Bowled

260/145 = 1.793 x 10 = 17.93 over rate

In the event of sightscreens having continually to be moved (i.e. for a bowler changing regularly for whatever reason from over to round the wicket and vice versa) then in the absence of requisite ground staff/helpers the batting side shall assume responsibility for their movement. This also applies to the Final.

13 LAW 13 – INNINGS

13.1 Duration

13.1.1 Matches shall be of two innings per side and scheduled to be of three days' duration. The first innings of each team shall be limited to a maximum of 90 overs.

13.2 ECB Fast Bowling Guidelines (as varied from time to time) shall apply. It shall be the responsibility of the Captain of any player to whom the ECB Fast Bowling Guidelines apply to inform the Umpires of such and to apply the Guidelines.

Any deviation from the Fast Bowling Guidelines shall have no implications on the course of the match or competition in question.

14 LAW 14 – THE FOLLOW-ON

Law 14 shall apply.

15 LAW 15 – DECLARATION AND FORFEITURE

15.1 Extraordinary Declarations

An Extraordinary Declaration for the purposes of this rule is usually a declaration aimed primarily at denying the bowling side the opportunity to acquire further bonus points in that innings, but without enhancing the batting side's prospects of winning or saving the match. Such a declaration may, depending on the particular circumstances, be deemed as bringing the game into disrepute, penalties for which may include the deduction of points from the offending team.

A captain who is contemplating a declaration which has potential to be deemed an Extraordinary Declaration may, if he wishes, first approach the Officiating Umpires, providing due notice of his intention, in order to request an indicative ruling as to whether or not such a declaration is likely to be deemed an Extraordinary Declaration with the potential for bringing the game into disrepute.

The Officiating Umpires shall then request advice from NCCA Cricket Operations (Richard Logan) who will (in liaison with the Cricket Discipline Commission and time permitting) provide an indicative ruling to the captain. NCCA Cricket Operations may ask the Match Referee, or appoint an official to such matches where no Match Referee is available, to facilitate good communication between all relevant parties.

16 LAW 16 – THE RESULT

16.1 Law 16 shall apply with the exception of Law 16.4 (Matches in which there is an agreement shall not apply)

16.2 Scoring of Points – National Counties Championship

16.2.1 For a win, 16 points, plus any points scored in the first innings.

16.2.2 In a tie, each side to score 8 points, plus any points scored in the first innings.

16.2.3 In a drawn match, each side to score 4 points, plus any points scored in the first innings (see also paragraph 16.2.5).

16.2.4 First Innings Points (awarded only for performances in the overs of each first innings and retained whatever the result of the match).

16.2.4.1 First innings bonus points

Runs Scored	Bonus Points	Wickets Taken	Bonus Points
175-224	1	3	1
225-274	2	5	2
275-324	3	7	3
325+	4	9	4

For the avoidance of doubt, “wickets taken” shall relate exclusively to batter dismissed under Laws 32 to 40 inclusive and to batsmen retired out.

If penalty runs are awarded to a team which at that time had faced less than 90 overs in their first innings, or completed their first innings before they had faced 90 overs, those penalty runs will be considered as counting towards the total as far as the award of bonus points is concerned.

If penalty runs are awarded to a team which had already faced 90 overs or more in their first innings, or had previously completed their first innings after they had faced 90 overs, those penalty runs will not be considered as counting towards the total as far as the award of bonus points is concerned.

16.2.5 If a match is abandoned without a ball being bowled, each side to score 8 points.

16.2.6 In the event of a match being abandoned due to a pitch that has been rated unfit in accordance with pitch regulations, the visiting team shall be awarded 16 points plus bonus points already achieved or 20 points whichever is the greater at the time of abandonment. The home team shall be awarded 0 points and any bonus points already achieved shall be rescinded. The visiting team shall be credited with a win and the home team a loss for tiebreaker purposes. Note that this does not preclude further action being taken against the home team through the disciplinary process. For the avoidance of doubt, over-rate penalties shall apply.

16.3 Competition Structure NCCA Championship

16.3.1 Group Stage

16.3.1.1 The 20 National Counties will be split into 2 sections, East and West. Each section will have a Division 1 and 2.

16.3.1.2 The county finishing bottom of Divisions 1 will be relegated to Division 2 for the following season

16.3.1.3 The county finishing top of Divisions 2 will be promoted to Divisions 1 for the following season

16.3.1.4 Should any teams in a Division be equal on points when all matches have been completed, the following tie-breakers will be applied in the order stated: most wins, fewest losses, team achieving most points in contests between teams level on points, most wickets taken, most runs scored.

16.3.1.3 Should any match in a group be cancelled due to COVID, all group positions shall be determined on an average points per completed match basis. The tiebreaker in such a case shall be Net Runs per Wicket, defined as runs per wicket scored by a team minus runs per wicket scored against that team.

16.4 The top teams in Divisions 1 shall compete in a 4-day match for National Counties Championship Trophy. If the match is drawn, and if both first innings are completed, the winner shall be the team that scored most runs in the first innings. Should the scores in completed first innings be equal or if both first innings are not completed, the trophy shall be shared. If the match is tied, the trophy shall be shared.

17 LAW 17 – THE OVER

Law 17 shall apply

18 LAW 18 – SCORING RUNS

Law 18 shall apply

19 LAW 19 – BOUNDARIES

Law 19 shall apply

20 LAW 20 – DEAD BALL

Law 20 shall apply

21 LAW 21 – NO BALL

Law 21 shall apply with the following additions:

21.1 Law 21.1 (Mode of Delivery) - there shall be no special agreement under Law 21.1.2 that a ball may be delivered underarm.

21.2 Law 21.2 (Fair Delivery – the Arm) and 21.3 (Ball thrown or delivered underarm – action by umpires) shall be read in conjunction with the ECB Regulations for the Review of Bowlers reported with Suspected Illegal Bowling Actions.

21.3 Law 21.15 (Penalty for a No ball) shall apply except that the penalty for a No Ball will be 2 runs.

In the event of the striker's end Umpire failing to call and signal No Ball when Law 28.4 (Limitation of onside fielders) has been breached, immediately the ball becomes dead the striker may draw the matter to that Umpire's attention.

If the striker's end Umpire is able to verify the breach he shall call and signal No Ball. If the striker's end Umpire is unable to verify the breach then he shall confirm that the events of the delivery shall be unchanged.

22 LAW 22 – WIDE BALL

Law 22 shall apply but in addition:

22.1 For bowlers attempting to utilise the rough outside a batter's leg stump, not necessarily as a negative tactic, the strict Limited Over Wide interpretation shall be applied.

22.2 For bowlers whom Umpires consider to be bowling down the leg side as a negative tactic, the strict Limited Over Wide interpretation shall be applied.

23 LAW 23 – BYE AND LEG BYE

Law 23 shall apply.

24 LAW 24 SUBSTITUTES

24.1 Law 24.1 (Substitute fielders) shall apply with the following additions:

24.1.1 The opposing Captain shall have no right of objection to any player acting as a substitute.

24.1.2 Squad members of the fielding team who are not playing in the match and who are not acting as substitute fielders shall be required to wear a team training bib whilst on the playing area (including the area between the boundary and the perimeter fencing).

24.2 Law 24.2 (Fielder absent or leaving the field of play) shall apply except:

24.2.1 A player shall only accrue Penalty time if he is absent from the field for longer than 8 minutes. In such cases, the whole of the time that the player is absent from the field shall count as unserved Penalty time (though note 24.2.2 below).

24.2.2 A player's unserved Penalty time shall be limited to a maximum of 120 minutes (refer Law 24.2.3).

24.3 A substitute shall be allowed by right immediately in the event of a dually registered cricketer currently playing in a NCCA County Championship match being required to join a First Class team. Such substitute shall be permitted to bat and bowl in that match. The cricketer who is substituted shall take no further part in that match even though he may not be required to play for the First Class county. If he is batting at the time he is required to leave the match, he shall retire “not out” and his substitute shall be permitted to bat later in that innings.

25 LAW 25 – BATTER’S INNINGS; RUNNERS

Law 25 shall apply; however note 24.2.2 above.

26 LAW 26 – PRACTICE ON THE FIELD

Law 26 shall apply with the following additions:

- 26.1 No practice shall be undertaken on a match pitch during its preparation period.
- 26.2 There shall be no bowling or batting practice on any part of the square or the area parallel to the match pitch during the hours of play except at lunch, tea and between innings.
- 26.3 Practice facilities – Prior to the day’s play, all grounds are to provide a net for ‘throw-downs’ and either a dedicated grass net area or a net on the square. In addition, every effort should be made to provide practice facilities at other times when teams have the opportunity to practise.
- 26.4 Hitting Up
Teams are required to observe Ground Authority Regulations and exercise the utmost care and caution when engaging in practice and pre-match warm-up and ‘hitting up’ activities so as to avoid the risk of injury to members of the public, damage to the centre wicket region and to perimeter fencing.

27 LAW 27 – THE WICKET-KEEPER

Law 27 shall apply.

28 LAW 28 – THE FIELDER

Law 28 shall apply with the following additions:

- 28.1 In order to eliminate any waste of playing time caused by the removal from the field of fieldsmen’s protective equipment other than helmets (e.g. shin pads, etc.) such equipment, once taken on to the field, must be worn until the fall of a wicket or until the next interval. The exchanging of equipment between members of the fielding side on the field shall be permitted, subject to COVID protocols and provided that the Umpires do not consider that it constitutes a waste of playing time.
- 28.2 Umpires are not to hold helmets or any fielder’s clothing or equipment.
- 28.3 Head Protector Regulations shall apply. If the non-striker chooses not to wear his helmet, he must carry it personally all the time while play is in progress.
- 28.4 A batsman may only change an item of protective equipment at the fall of a wicket or at the next interval, unless the equipment is clearly damaged or unserviceable and then only with the approval of the Umpires.

29 LAW 29 – THE WICKET IS DOWN

- 29.1 Law 29 shall apply except that: Law 29.1.1.4 is replaced by: by the striker’s person or by any part of his/her clothing or equipment being worn, or by any part of the striker’s clothing or equipment becoming detached from his/her person. However, any detached equipment shall not include the striker’s protective helmet, or any part thereof.

30 LAW 30 – BATSMAN OUT OF HIS/HER GROUND

Law 30 shall apply

31 LAW 31 – APPEALS

Law 31 shall apply with the following addition:

- 31.1 Intimidatory Appealing In the event of an appeal, all members of the fielding team must maintain their fielding positions until a decision is given, unless legitimately in the act of fielding or backing up the ball which is not yet dead. For the purposes of this playing condition, a referral to the third umpire will constitute a decision.

32 LAW 32 – BOWLED

Law 32 shall apply.

33 LAW 33 – CAUGHT

Law 33 shall apply.

34 LAW 34 – HIT THE BALL TWICE

Law 34 shall apply.

35 LAW 35 – HIT WICKET

Law 35 shall apply.

36 LAW 36 – LEG BEFORE WICKET

Law 36 shall apply.

37 LAW 37 – OBSTRUCTING THE FIELD

Law 37 shall apply.

38 LAW 38 – RUN OUT

Law 38 shall apply.

39 LAW 39 – STUMPED

Law 39 shall apply.

40 LAW 40 – TIMED OUT

Law 40 will apply except that the incoming batter must be in position to take guard or for his partner to be ready to receive the next ball within 2 minutes 30seconds of the fall of the previous wicket or the retirement of a batsman.

41 LAW 41 – UNFAIR PLAY

- 41.1 Law 41.3 (The match ball – changing its condition) shall be replaced by:
 - 41.1.1 The umpires shall make frequent and irregular inspections of the ball. In addition, they shall immediately inspect the ball if they suspect anyone of attempting to change the condition of the ball, except as permitted in 41.2.2.
 - 41.1.2 It is an offence for any player to take any action which changes or which may be perceived as likely to change the condition of the ball.
Except in carrying out his normal duties, a batsman is not allowed to wilfully damage the ball.
See also Law 5.5 (Damage to the ball).
A fielder may, however
 - 41.1.2.1 polish the ball on his clothing provided that no artificial substance or saliva is used and that such polishing wastes no time.
 - 41.1.2.2 remove mud from the ball under the supervision of an umpire.
 - 41.1.2.3 dry a wet ball on a piece of cloth that has been approved by the umpires.
 - 41.1.3 The umpires shall consider the condition of the ball to have been unfairly changed if any action by any player does not comply with the conditions in 41.2.2 (except use of saliva – see 41.2.6) or if the umpires consider that the condition of the ball is inconsistent with the use it has received.
The umpires shall then ask the captain of the opposing side if he would like the ball to be replaced. If necessary, in the case of the batting side, the batter at the wicket may deputise for their captain.
 - 41.1.3.1 If a replacement ball is requested, the umpires shall select and bring into use immediately, a ball which shall have wear comparable to that of the previous ball immediately prior to the contravention.
 - 41.1.3.2 The umpires together shall decide whether they can identify the player(s) responsible for the unfair action.
 - 41.1.4 Regardless of whether a replacement ball has been chosen to be used, if it is possible to identify the player(s) responsible, the bowler’s end umpire shall:
 - a) Award 5 penalty runs to the opposing side.

- b) if appropriate, inform the batter at the wicket and the captain of the fielding side that the ball has been changed and the reason for their action.
 - c) Inform the captain of the batting side as soon as practicable of what has occurred.
 - d) Together with the other umpire report the incident to ECB who shall take action as is appropriate against the player(s) and/or Captain and/or County responsible for the conduct under the ECB Directives.
- 41.1.5 Regardless of whether a replacement ball has been chosen to be used, if it is not possible to identify the player(s) responsible, the bowler's end umpire shall:
- a) issue the captain with a first and final warning, and
 - b) advise him that the incident will be reported to NCCA and that should there be any further incident by that team during the remainder of the match, steps 41.1.4 a) to d) above will be adopted, with the captain deemed under d) to be the player responsible.
- 41.1.6 If the umpires believe that saliva has been applied to the ball, the umpires shall:
- 41.1.6.1 If it is a first instance during an innings, summon the captain of the fielding side and issue a first warning.
- 41.1.6.2 If it is a second instance during an innings, summon the captain of the fielding side and issue a second and final warning and warn the captain of the fielding side that any further such offence by any member of the team during the innings shall result in the award of 5 Penalty runs to the batting side.
- 41.1.6.3 If it is a third or subsequent instance, award 5 Penalty runs to the batting side.
- 41.1.6.4 The ball shall not be changed but the umpires shall sanitise the ball in each instance.
- 41.1.6.5 Use of saliva in breach of clause 41.1.2.1 above shall not, in itself, be considered an offence under ECB Directives.
- 41.2 Law 41.6 (Bowling of dangerous and unfair short pitched deliveries) shall apply with the following additions:
- 41.2.1 Regardless of how wide of the striker a delivery is, there shall be no more than two deliveries per over that after pitching pass or would have passed over shoulder height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease.
- 41.2.2 The umpire shall make it clear to the bowler (and any bowler called upon to complete an over) and the batsmen at the wicket when a delivery within the limit in 41.3.1 has been bowled. It is unfair if the limit is exceeded and the umpire shall call and signal No ball on each such occasion and consider it as part of the warning sequence in Laws 41.6.3 and 41.6.4.
- 41.2.3 If a short pitched delivery either:
- 41.2.3.1 Passes or would have passed over head height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease, and in the umpire's opinion so prevents him from being able to hit it with his bat by means of a normal cricket stroke or;
- 41.2.3.2 Passes or would have passed over shoulder height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease, and in the umpire's opinion he is able to hit it with his bat by means of a normal cricket stroke or;
- 41.2.3.3 Passes over shoulder height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease and wide of the striker so that in the umpire's opinion he is unable to hit it with his bat by means of a normal cricket stroke and, although not necessarily threatening physical injury, is deemed dangerous in accordance with Law 41.6.1, it shall be considered as part of the warning sequence in Laws 41.6.3 and 41.6.4.
- 41.2.4 A delivery as described in 41.2.3.1 shall be called No ball in accordance with Law 21.10.
- 41.2.5 A delivery as described in 41.2.3.3, if not a No ball, shall be called and signalled wide. (Refer Law 22).
- 41.2.6 Law 41.6.5 shall not apply. Any warnings applied in Law 41.6.3 shall be added to any warnings applied in Law 41.7 and action taken according to Law 41.6.4.
- 41.3 Law 41.7 (Bowling of dangerous and unfair non-pitching deliveries) shall apply with the following amendment:
- 41.3.1 Law 41.7.5 shall not apply. Any warnings applied in Law 41.7 shall be added to any warnings applied in Law 41.6.3 and action taken according to Law 41.7.4.
- 41.5 Electronic Equipment
With the exception of player movement technology the use of electronic communication

devices and equipment of any kind which enables communication between on-field players and anyone not on the field of play shall not be permitted during the scheduled or re-scheduled hours of play.

42 LAW 42 – PLAYERS' CONDUCT

Law 42 shall apply with the following amendments:

- 42.1 In Laws 42.1.4, 42.2.2.2, 42.3.2.2, the batters at the wicket may deputise for their Captain.
- 42.2 In Laws 42.1.4, 42.4.2.2, 42.5.2.2, a team representative may deputise for their Captain.
- 42.3 ECB Directives shall also apply as appropriate and as separately detailed.



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