

# NORTHERN CRICKET UNION

## COMPETITION RULES

### (A) ADMINISTRATIVE RULES APPLYING TO ALL COMPETITIONS

**A1.** All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of Cricket, except as varied by Competition Rules or Bye-Laws.

#### Competition Entries

**A2.** Application for entry to competitions for the following season shall be made, in writing, to the General Secretary not later than 31<sup>st</sup> October each year. Each application shall incorporate a signed statement that the club or school will conform to the Union's Rules and the guidelines contained in the *Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport in Ireland*.

**A3.** Any club participating in competitions shall maintain such insurances as shall be prescribed from time to time, shall pay such contributions as may be required towards any insurance effected by the Union on clubs' behalf, and shall provide the General Secretary with such evidence of its insurances as may be required.

**A4.** Any club that withdraws a team from an adult competition after 31<sup>st</sup> January shall be liable to a fine of £50.

#### Responsibility of Captains

**A5.** It is the responsibility of the captain of every team to be thoroughly familiar with the Laws of Cricket and the Rules and Bye-Laws governing the competition in which the team is playing, and to ensure that the team complies fully with them at all times.

## REGISTRATION AND ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

### Registration

**A6.** Each club shall, before 15<sup>th</sup> April, send to the General Secretary, on the form provided, a list of its playing members, including school pupils. The Domestic Cricket Development Directorate may impose upon any club that fails to do so a fine not exceeding £50.

**A7.** A club wishing to register any player who did not play cricket under the auspices of the Union in the previous season and who has, within the past three years:

- played regular first XI club cricket (other than under the auspices of the Union) or
- played representative cricket at Under 19 level or higher

shall also submit a Supplementary Information Form giving full details of the player's performances in competitive cricket over the past three years.'

**A8.** Where the player is not currently eligible to play for Ireland in all ICC men's competitions in which it participates, no such application shall be considered unless the Supplementary Information Form, together with all necessary supporting documentation, is submitted by 15<sup>th</sup> May. The Registrations Committee may allow a replacement player to be

registered on a later date where it is satisfied that the player originally registered has become unavailable as a result of serious injury or international, provincial or state selection by his home country.

**A9.** Clubs are solely and entirely responsible for the accuracy of the information supplied in support of an application for the registration of a player.

## **Starring**

**A10.** On the list of registered players:

- (a) a club with two teams shall star the first eight players normally selected for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI;
- (b) additionally, a club with three teams shall star for its 2<sup>nd</sup> XI the three remaining players normally selected for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI, together with the first seven normally selected for the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI;
- (c) additionally, a club with four teams shall star for its 3<sup>rd</sup> XI the three remaining players normally selected for the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, together with the first six normally selected for the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI;
- (d) additionally, a club with five teams shall star for its 4<sup>th</sup> XI the five remaining players normally selected for the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI, together with the first two normally selected for the 4<sup>th</sup> XI
- (e) additionally, a club with six teams shall star for its 5<sup>th</sup> XI the next seven players normally selected for the 4<sup>th</sup> XI.

**A11** Should a club subsequently wish to register additional players, or to alter its starring list, it shall apply in writing to the General Secretary and send a copy to the Honorary Section Secretary of each Section in which it has a team. Any club failing to notify each Section Secretary shall be liable to be fined by the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate.

**A12.** Details of the player it wishes to de-star and of the player it wishes to star in his place, with analyses of their performances over the previous three matches in competitions organised by the Union, shall be given on the form provided. Such alterations shall be subject to scrutiny by the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate.

**A13.** A player starred for a team and not playing for that team or a higher team for a period of three consecutive matches or three weeks, whichever be the greater, or who sustains an injury sufficiently serious to be likely to prevent him from playing for such a period, or who otherwise becomes unavailable for such a period, shall forthwith be de-starred by his club and another player starred in his place. A player who is de-starred because of absence or injury shall, before playing again, be re-starred at a level appropriate to his playing ability. Where a player is unavailable to play for the team for which he is starred in any match because of his selection for an Irish international squad, he shall be deemed for the purposes of this rule to have played for the team in the match. Failure to comply with starring requirements may result in forfeiture of points and/or elimination from cup competitions at the discretion of the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate or the Competitions Committee.

**A14.** A player may transfer clubs during the season only with the approval of the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate. No transfer shall be approved after 31<sup>st</sup> July.

**A15.** The list of registered players and the starrings in effect on 31<sup>st</sup> August shall remain in force until replaced by a new list for the following season.

## Scrutiny

**A16.** All registrations and starrings shall be scrutinised by the Registrations Committee, which shall:

- in respect of players who are currently eligible to play for Ireland in all ICC men's competitions in which it participates, require the starring for a higher team of any player whom it believes to be of cricketing ability so much in excess of the standard generally obtaining in the competitions for which registration is sought, as to make his participation unfair to other players and teams participating therein;
- in respect of players who are not currently eligible to play for Ireland in all ICC men's competitions in which it participates, refuse or withdraw the registration, or require the starring for a higher team, of any player whom it believes to be of cricketing ability so much in excess of the standard generally obtaining in the competitions for which registration is sought, as to make his participation unfair to other players and teams participating therein.

**A17.** In determining whether or not a player's cricketing ability is appropriate to particular competitions, the Registrations Committee shall take account of any general guidance given to it by the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate.

**A18.** Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Registrations Committee shall not refuse or withdraw the registration of any player who was first registered by the club as a school pupil and has not subsequently played for another club (other than a university club).

**A19.** Where the Registrations Committee becomes aware that a player's registration has been approved on the basis of inaccurate or incomplete information, it may rescind the registration with retrospective effect. Where a registration is so rescinded, the club shall be regarded as having fielded an ineligible player in any match in which the player concerned had played since his registration was originally approved.

**A20.** The Registrations Committee may delegate such powers as it deems appropriate to the General Secretary or an Honorary Officer. After 1<sup>st</sup> June, any power of the Registrations Committee may be exercised by the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate.

## Eligibility

**A21.** No player may play for a club until his registration for the current season has been accepted by the Registrations Committee, or for a team more junior than that for which he is starred.

**A22.** Even if subsequently de-starred, no player shall play in a cup competition more junior than that entered by the team for which he was starred on 31<sup>st</sup> May. Except for players eligible to play in the Under 15 League, or replacement players who have been approved in accordance with A8 above, no player registered after this date may play in the Challenge or Junior Cup, and no player registered after 30<sup>th</sup> June may play in the Intermediate, Minor (Lindsay) or Minor Qualifying Cup.

**A23.** No player who has participated in international cricket, or played in two or more senior inter-provincials within the previous twelve months, may play for a team other than the 1<sup>st</sup> XI without the approval of the Registrations Committee.

- A24.** No player may play for more than one club in cup competitions in any season.
- A25.** In determining whether or not a player is resident in Northern Ireland for purposes unconnected with cricket, the Registrations Committee shall take account of any general guidance given to it by the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate.
- A26.** No player who is not currently eligible to play for Ireland in all ICC men's competitions in which it participates may play, or act as a substitute, in any cup competition other than in a Challenge Cup match against a team from the same Section, or a team from a different Section where both clubs so agree; and not more than one such player may play in the same team in any cup or league match. This restriction shall not apply to players who are serving with HM Forces in Northern Ireland or to a person who, having been resident in Northern Ireland for less than four years, satisfies the Registrations Committee that he was so resident for purposes unconnected with cricket.
- A27.** No player currently registered for a club in another Union affiliated to the Irish Cricket Union may be registered without the prior approval of the Registrations Committee. No player transferring from such a club may be registered without that club's prior written approval.
- A28.** No player joining a club, having previously been registered by another club, may play for his new club until he has satisfied the General Secretary that he has met all financial and/or contractual obligations (apart from those arising from a contract of employment) to his previous club.
- A29.** Any dispute between the clubs and/or between a club and the player arising from the interpretation of A28 shall be adjudicated upon by a suitably qualified and independent third party appointed by the Union, whose decision shall be finding and binding upon all parties to such dispute. The costs of such adjudication shall be borne equally by the parties unless the adjudicator otherwise directs.
- A30.** A player shall normally be registered for only one club at any time. However, where the player's normal club does not participate in the Mid-Week League, or in an age-group competition for which the player is eligible, the player may be registered by another club solely in respect of the competition(s) in question. The competition(s) shall be specified on the registration form, which shall also indicate the player's normal club.
- A31.** If an ineligible player plays or acts as a substitute in any match, his club shall be deemed to have lost the match. In addition, it shall be fined by the Registrations Committee.
- A32.** No player not normally resident in the Union's area may play in league or cup competitions for a club in Section 3 of the Senior League unless the club satisfies the Registrations Committee that the player is in the area for purposes unconnected with cricket.
- A33.** Only one player not normally resident in the Union's area may play in league or cup competitions for a club in Section 1 or 2 of the Senior League. The club must satisfy the Registrations Committee that the player holds a coaching qualification at or equivalent to ECB Level 2. This restriction shall not apply to any player approved by the Registrations Committee as being in the area for purposes unconnected with cricket.
- A34.** Only two players not normally resident in the Union's area may play in league or cup competitions for a club in the Premier League, at least one of whom must be qualified to

play for Ireland. The club must satisfy the Registrations Committee that any non-Irish qualified player registered under this rule holds a coaching qualification at or equivalent to ECB Level 2. If a club registers two Irish qualified players not normally resident in the Union's area, at least one must hold the above-mentioned coaching qualification. This restriction shall not apply to any player approved by the Registrations Committee as being in the area for purposes unconnected with cricket.

## **Grounds**

**A35.** Each club shall submit annually to the General Secretary, not later than 31st October, a list of all the grounds it wishes to have registered for league and cup cricket in the following season.

**A36.** The Domestic Cricket Development Directorate shall, on the recommendation of the Grounds Committee, decide upon the suitability of grounds for each Section of the Senior League. Gradings shall be published in conjunction with the current list of registered grounds by 31<sup>st</sup> August each year.

**A37.** No Senior League match shall be played on an unregistered or unsuitably graded ground. Teams in the Junior League agreeing to play on unregistered grounds shall have no subsequent right to ask for the match result to be set aside because of ground conditions.

**A38.** After each Senior League match at which no official umpire has officiated, the visiting captain shall complete a Ground Report Form and send it to the General Secretary within seven days of the match. Any other captain may submit a Report if he wishes to comment, favourably or unfavourably, on a ground on which his team has played and send it to the General Secretary within seven days of the match.

## **Umpires**

**A39. Appointments:** There shall each year be compiled a list of official umpires. These umpires shall be appointed to officiate in all Challenge Cup matches and, as far as is possible, to the Senior League and Section I of the Junior League. Umpires shall be appointed to Junior and Intermediate Cup semi-finals, and these matches shall receive priority over those in all other competitions except the Challenge Cup.

**A40. Fees and Expenses:** In all cup finals, umpires' fees and other expenses shall be borne by the Union. In other cup matches, umpires' fees and expenses shall be shared equally by the clubs playing in each round. The fees and expenses of umpires appointed to league matches shall be shared equally by all clubs in the relevant Section. In Sections to which umpires are not normally appointed, clubs that desire umpires may apply to the Umpires' Appointments Secretary, who shall appoint umpires if they are available: the fees and expenses for any such match shall be shared by the clubs concerned. The Honorary Treasurer shall disburse fees and expenses to umpires. He shall submit accounts to clubs at the end of each season and clubs shall pay these accounts by 16<sup>th</sup> November. Failure to discharge liabilities shall be dealt with as in General Rule 3(d).

**A41. Reports:** Each 1<sup>st</sup> XI captain shall, after each match in which an official umpire or umpires have officiated, complete an Umpires' Report form and dispatch it so as to reach the designated person within seven days of the match. A club failing to fulfil its obligations under this rule shall be fined £10 in the first instance, £15 in the second instance, and so on by increments of £5 in respect of each subsequent breach.

## **Sunday Fixtures**

**A42.** Each Club shall advise the Union before the start of each season whether or not each of its teams is prepared to play fixtures on Sundays.'

## **Alteration to Rules**

**A43.** Competition Rules, including this Rule, may be altered, added to or rescinded only in accordance with Article 14 (7) and shall require the approval of sixty per cent of those attending and voting. Such alterations shall apply from the start of the following season, unless the notice of motion specifies a later date.

## **CUP COMPETITIONS**

### **(B) ADMINISTRATIVE RULES APPLYING TO ALL CUP COMPETITIONS**

#### **General**

**B1.** All cup competitions shall be administered by the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate, which may delegate to the Honorary Competition Secretary or an Honorary Officer such powers in relation thereto as it deems appropriate.

#### **Fixtures**

**B2.** The Domestic Cricket Development Directorate shall fix dates and reserve dates for every round of each competition for the following season.

**B3.** Every match shall be played on or before the date published on the Union's website, but any team wishing to play a match before that date shall first obtain the approval of the Honorary Competition Secretary.

**B4.** Any team failing to fulfil a fixture, except for a reason beyond its control, shall be deemed to have lost the match. In addition, it shall be fined and be liable for any expenses necessarily incurred by its opponents prior to their being notified that the fixture would not be fulfilled. In such circumstances, or if a team fails to fulfil a fixture in an Irish or Ulster competition, any more junior team from the same club shall be deemed to have lost any match played on the same day.

**B5.** The first team drawn in each match shall have choice of ground, except that the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate shall decide the venues of finals. Where the home team's ground is unavailable for any reason (other than the hosting of an international match), and the visiting team is able to host the match on its ground, the venue shall be switched accordingly.

**B6.** If a club has more home matches on the same day than it has grounds available, the most junior match(es) shall be played on the published reserve date(s). Alternatively, the match(es) may, if both clubs agree, be played on the Sunday immediately following the scheduled date.

#### **Ground Unplayable**

**B7.** Should a ground be unfit for play owing to rain or other unavoidable cause, the home team shall inform the visiting team and, where umpires have been appointed, the Umpires' Appointments Secretary. This notification shall be made no earlier than 24 hours or later than two hours before play is due to start.

**B8.** Where umpires have been appointed, such a decision not to play may be taken in advance of the due starting time only if both teams agree.

#### **Continuation**

**B9.** In all finals, the continuation arrangements shall be determined by the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate, which may also vary the continuation arrangements for other matches.

## Rearrangement

**B10.** A match postponed owing to rain or other unavoidable cause shall be played on or before the published reserve date, but any team wishing to play the match before that date shall first obtain the approval of the Honorary Competition Secretary.

## Tied Matches

**B11.** Where a match is tied, the result shall be determined as follows:

(a) where official umpires have been appointed and ground and weather conditions permit, by the playing of one or two Super Overs in accordance with Bye-Law (w);

(b) where official umpires have not been appointed, or ground or weather conditions do not permit a Super Over, or both Super Overs are tied, on the basis of fewer wickets lost in the main match;

(c) in matches other than a final, where (b) applies and each team has lost the same number of wickets, the match shall be played on the reserve date, the visiting team having choice of ground.

**B12.** If a final is tied and a Super Over cannot be played, the teams shall share the trophy.

## Result Reports

**B13.** After each match, whether or not play has taken place, the winning team (the home team where no result has been obtained) shall;

(a) **as soon as possible**, and no later than midnight on the day of the match, send summarised details of the match for publication on the Union's website;

(b) **within four days** of the completion or abandonment of the match, send complete details of the match to the person designated in respect of the particular competition.

The Union will advise clubs annually of the level of detail required in each case, the approved format and method(s) of transmission, and the address to which each should be sent. A club failing to fulfil its obligations under this rule shall be fined.

## Protests and Appeals

**B14.** Protests regarding cup fixtures shall be submitted to the General Secretary within seven days of the completion of the match, a copy being sent to the Match Secretary of the opposing team.

## **(C) PLAYING REGULATIONS APPLYING TO THE CHALLENGE CUP**

### **Eligibility**

**C1.** The competition shall be open to teams playing in the Premier League and Senior League Section I.

### **Hours of play**

**C2.** Play may start at any time agreed by both teams, but not later than 1 pm up to 30 June and 12 noon thereafter.

**C3.** Where both teams agree to start a match at a time earlier than that specified above, the home club shall so advise the Umpires' Appointments Secretary as soon as possible and at least 24 hours before the agreed starting time.

**C4.** In the final, play shall start at 11 am; a 40-minute lunch interval shall be taken between innings or, in the event of weather interference or an abnormally early finish to an innings, as determined by the umpires.

### **Duration of innings**

**C5.** All matches shall be of one innings a side. The maximum duration of each innings shall be 50 overs.

**C6.** Where the first innings of a match is delayed or interrupted by ground or weather conditions, the number of overs available to each side shall be reduced by one for each full eight minutes of playing time lost after the designated starting time. From the end of the first innings, a further deduction of one over shall be made for each full four minutes of playing time lost. In the final, no deduction shall be made until one hour has been lost. The number of overs shall not be reduced below 20 overs per side.

**C7.** The Duckworth/Lewis/Stern method shall be used to determine the result of any match in which overs are lost after the start of either innings.

### **Bowling restrictions**

**C8.** No bowler may bowl more than one fifth of the maximum number of overs available for an innings. If a bowler breaks down during an over, the over shall be completed by another bowler and the fractional overs shall count against each bowler's allowance.

**C9.** In a delayed or interrupted match where the overs are reduced for both teams, or for the team bowling second, no bowler may bowl more than one-fifth of the recalculated number of overs (unless the bowler had already done so before the interruption).

**C10.** Where the total number of overs is not divisible by 5, one additional over shall be allowed to the maximum number per bowler as necessary to make up the balance.

## **Rearranged Matches**

**C11.** If, in a match rearranged in accordance with B10, 20 overs are not bowled in the second innings, and a result is not otherwise obtained, there shall be one further rearrangement. This shall be played as a 20 over match on or before the Thursday evening following the reserve date. The playing regulations shall be as for a 20 over Match 2 league match (G27–33) with the exception set out below.

**C12.** In a further rearranged match up to and including a semi-final, if 20 overs are not bowled in the second innings, and a result is not otherwise obtained, a bowl-out shall take place as follows:

- (i) Five members of each team shall each bowl one overarm delivery at an unguarded wicket. Players from each team shall alternate. The team that puts down the wicket the greater number of times shall be the winner.
- (ii) If the teams are level after each designated member has bowled, a sudden-death play-off shall take place, with the same bowlers from each team alternating in their original order until a winner has emerged.
- (iii) A No ball or Wide ball shall count as a ball bowled but shall in no circumstances be regarded as having put down the wicket.

## **(D) PLAYING REGULATIONS APPLYING TO THE JUNIOR CUP**

### **Eligibility**

**D1.** The competition shall be open to teams playing in Senior League Sections 2 and 3 and in Junior League Section 1.

### **Hours of play**

**D2.** Play may start at any time agreed by both teams, but not later than 1 pm (12 noon in July or August).

**D3.** Where both teams agree to start a match at a time earlier than that specified above, the home club shall so advise the Umpires' Appointments Secretary as soon as possible and at least 24 hours before the agreed starting time.

**D4.** In the final, play shall start at 11 am; a 40-minute lunch interval shall be taken between innings or, in the event of weather interference or an abnormally early finish to an innings, as determined by the umpires.

### **Duration of Innings**

**D5.** All matches shall be of one innings a side. The maximum duration of each innings shall be 40 overs.

**D6.** Where the first innings of a match is delayed or interrupted by ground or weather conditions, the number of overs available to each side shall be reduced by one for each full eight minutes of playing time lost after the designated starting time. From the end of the first innings, a further deduction of one over shall be made for each full four minutes of playing time lost. In the final, no deduction shall be made until one hour has been lost. The number of overs shall not be reduced below 15 overs per side. The Duckworth/Lewis/Stern method shall be used to determine the result of a match in which overs are lost after the start of either innings.

### **Bowling restrictions**

**D7.** No bowler may bowl more than one fifth of the maximum number of overs available for an innings. If a bowler breaks down during an over, the over shall be completed by another bowler and the fractional overs shall count against each bowler's allowance.

**D8.** In a delayed match where the overs are reduced for both teams (or a delayed or interrupted final where the overs are reduced for both teams, or for the team bowling second), no bowler may bowl more than one-fifth of the recalculated number of overs (unless the bowler had already done so before the interruption).

**D9.** Where the total number of overs is not divisible by 5, one additional over shall be allowed to the maximum number per bowler as necessary to make up the balance.

## **Rearranged Matches**

**D10.** In a rearranged match up to and including a semi-final, if 15 overs are not bowled in the second innings and a result is not obtained otherwise, a bowl-out shall take place as follows:

- (i) Five members of each team shall each bowl one overarm delivery at an unguarded wicket. Players from each team shall alternate. The team that puts down the wicket the greater number of times shall be the winner.
- (ii) If the teams are level after each designated member has bowled, a sudden-death play-off shall take place, with the same bowlers from each team alternating in their original order until a winner has emerged.
- (iii) A No ball or Wide ball shall count as a ball bowled but shall in no circumstances be regarded as having put down the wicket.

## **(E) PLAYING REGULATIONS APPLYING TO THE INTERMEDIATE, MINOR (LINDSAY) AND MINOR QUALIFYING CUPS**

### **Eligibility**

- E1.** The competitions shall be open to teams playing in the following League Sections:
- |                      |                                    |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Intermediate Cup     | Junior League Sections 2 and 3.    |
| Minor (Lindsay) Cup  | Junior League Sections 4, 5 and 6. |
| Minor Qualifying Cup | Remaining Junior League teams.     |

### **Hours of play**

- E2.** Play may start at any time agreed by both teams, but not later than 1.30 pm in the Intermediate and Minor (Lindsay) Cups and 2 pm in the Minor Qualifying Cup (12 noon in all Cups in July or August).
- E3.** In the final, play shall start at 12 noon.

### **Duration of Innings**

- E4.** All matches shall be of one innings a side. The maximum duration of each innings shall be:
- 40 overs in the Intermediate Cup;
  - 35 overs in the Minor (Lindsay) Cup; and
  - 30 overs in the Minor Qualifying Cup.
- E5.** Where the start of a match is delayed by ground or weather conditions, the number of overs available to each side shall be reduced by one for each full eight minutes of playing time lost after the designated starting time. In the final, no deduction shall be made until the one hour has been lost. The number of overs shall not be reduced below 15 overs per side.
- E6.** Where play is terminated by ground or weather conditions after the team batting second has batted for at least 15 overs, the result shall be determined on the basis of each team's run rate over its entire innings. If play is terminated earlier, the match shall be rearranged.
- E7.** In the final, the Duckworth/Lewis/Stern method shall be used and Rule D6 shall apply.

### **Bowling restrictions**

- E8.** No bowler may bowl more than one fifth of the maximum number of overs available for an innings. If a bowler breaks down during an over, the over shall be completed by another bowler and the fractional overs shall count against each bowler's allowance.
- E9.** In a delayed match where the overs are reduced for both teams, no bowler may bowl more than one-fifth of the recalculated number of overs.
- E10.** Where the total number of overs is not divisible by 5, one additional over shall be allowed to the maximum number per bowler as necessary to make up the balance.

### **Rearranged Matches**

**E11.** In a rearranged match up to and including a semi-final, if a result is not obtained otherwise on the day of the match, a bowl-out shall take place as follows:

(i) Five members of each team shall each bowl one overarm delivery at an unguarded wicket. Players from each team shall alternate. The team that puts down the wicket the greater number of times shall be the winner.

(ii) If the teams are level after each designated member has bowled, a sudden-death play-off shall take place, with the same bowlers from each team alternating in their original order until a winner has emerged.

(iii) A No ball or Wide ball shall count as a ball bowled but shall in no circumstances be regarded as having put down the wicket.

## LEAGUE COMPETITIONS

### (F) ADMINISTRATIVE RULES APPLYING TO ALL LEAGUE COMPETITIONS

#### General

**F1.** All league competitions shall be administered by the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate, which may delegate to the Competitions Committee or Honorary Section Secretaries such powers in relation thereto as it deems appropriate.

**F2.** There shall be a Senior League, open to clubs' first elevens, and a Junior League, open to clubs' second, third and lower elevens.

**F3.** Each League shall be divided into Sections. In the Senior League, the Sections shall be known as the Premier League and Sections 1, 2, 3, etc. In the Junior League they shall be known as Sections 1, 2, 3, etc. The Premier League shall comprise eight teams (ten from 2022). Each other Section shall comprise ten teams in the Senior League and eight teams in the Junior League, except that the last two Sections of each League may comprise more or fewer teams, depending upon the total number of teams competing.

#### Fixtures

**F4.** The Domestic Cricket Development Directorate shall determine the method to be employed for arranging fixtures for the following season. Any club not represented at a fixtures meeting convened for this purpose shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £20.

**F5.** No match shall be played before the penultimate Saturday in April or after the last Saturday or Sunday in September, whichever be the later.

**F6.** Unless the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate grants special permission to the contrary, every match shall be played on or before the date published on the Union's website, but any team wishing to play a match before that date shall first obtain the approval of the Honorary Section Secretary.

**F7.** Any team failing to fulfil a fixture, except for a reason beyond its control, shall be deemed to have lost the match. In addition, it shall be fined and be liable for any expenses necessarily incurred by its opponents prior to their being notified that the fixture would not be fulfilled. In such circumstances, any more junior team from the same club shall be deemed to have lost any match played on the same day (this provision shall also apply where the more senior team has failed to fulfil a fixture in the Irish Senior Cup, Irish National Cup or Ulster Plate). Where a 1<sup>st</sup> XI fails to fulfil a fixture, the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate shall determine the adjustment to be made to its and its opponents' aggregate runs and overs for the purposes of calculating net run rate. In the event of a team's second or subsequent failure to fulfil a fixture, the club shall lose a further four league points. However, if a team in one of the bottom three sections of the Junior League is unable to fulfil a fixture, the game may be arranged for another date if both clubs agree and inform the Honorary Section Secretary in writing.

**F8.** No team may aggregate its home and away fixtures against the same opponents as one match played for double points or arrange to play two matches simultaneously or

consecutively on the same day, except that two 20-over matches may be played consecutively.

## **Postponements**

**F9.** Matches may be postponed only where:

- (a) either or both of the teams is scheduled to play a cup match, or has players involved in a Mid-Week league final, on the same date; or
- (b) the Honorary Section Secretary of one of the home club's more senior teams has imposed a rearranged home fixture on the same date; or
- (c) play on the scheduled date has been impossible owing to rain or other unavoidable cause; or
- (d) the fixture is a game in Junior League Section 7 or below and both clubs have informed the Honorary Section Secretary, in writing, that a postponement has been arranged; or
- (e) either or both of the teams are scheduled to play in a Challenge or Junior Cup Final on the preceding day; or
- (f) either or both of the clubs' first elevens are scheduled to play in the final of the Challenge or Junior Cup, the Ulster Cup or Shield, the Irish Senior or National Cup, or the Twenty20 Cup on the same day.

## **Ground Unplayable**

**F10.** Should a ground be unfit for play owing to rain or other unavoidable cause, the home team shall inform the visiting team and, where umpires have been appointed, the Umpires' Appointments Secretary. This notification shall be made no earlier than 24 hours or later than 2 hours before play is due to start.

**F11.** Where umpires have been appointed, such a decision not to play may be taken in advance of the due starting time only if both teams agree.

## **Result Reports**

**F12.** After each match, the winning team where a result has been achieved, or the home team where no play has taken place or the match has been tied or abandoned, shall:

- (a) **as soon as possible**, and no later than midnight on the day of the match, send summarised details of the match for publication on the Union's website;
- (b) **within two days** of the completion or abandonment of a 1<sup>st</sup> XI match, or **four days** in respect of other matches, send complete details of the match to the person designated in respect of the particular competition.

The Union will advise clubs annually of the level of detail required in each case, the approved format and method(s) of transmission, and the address to which each should be sent. A club failing to fulfil its obligations under this rule shall be fined.

## **Protests and Appeals**

**F13.** Protests regarding league fixtures shall be submitted to the Honorary Section Secretary concerned within seven days of the completion of the match, a copy being sent to the Match Secretary of the opposing team.

## Points

**F14.** Points shall be awarded as follows: Win - 4 points, Tie - 2 points, No Result – 0 points.

**F15.** Each Section shall be won by the team with the greatest number of points. Where there is a tie at the top of a section of the Senior League, the trophy shall be awarded to the team with the highest net run rate over the season. In the event of such a tie in the Junior League, the clubs shall share the trophy.

**F16.** A team that withdraws from league competition, or is expelled from the Union, at any time after its fixtures have been made, shall have any matches played before its withdrawal or expulsion declared void. The team shall be placed at the bottom of its Section and shall, for the following season, be relegated to a Section to be determined by the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate.

## Promotion and Relegation

**F17.** There shall be annual promotion and relegation between the Sections of each League.

**F18. Promotion:** The team finishing first in Section 1 of the Senior League (first and second in 2021), the team finishing first in Section 2 of the Junior League, and the teams finishing first and second in each other Section shall be promoted, provided that the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate is satisfied that the ground, pitch, outfield and pavilion of each are suitable for the higher Section and that the general administration and day-to-day running of each club are satisfactory. If these requirements are not satisfied in respect of any such team, but are satisfied by the team finishing in the next lower position, the latter may be promoted.

**F19. Relegation:** The team finishing bottom of the Premier League, the team finishing bottom of Section 1 of the Junior League, and the teams finishing bottom and second from bottom in each other Section shall be relegated only to the extent that is necessary in order to allow teams in the Section below to be promoted. In addition, any team whose ground and pavilion facilities drop below the required standard shall also be liable to relegation. The Domestic Cricket Development Directorate, on the advice of the Grounds Committee, shall decide to which Section any team shall be relegated and shall make any necessary adjustments in the composition of the Sections. There shall be no relegation from the Premier League or any section of the Senior League at the end of the 2021 season.

**F20. Promotion and Relegation following a Tie:** Where there is a tie at the top or bottom of a Section, the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate shall determine which team shall be promoted or relegated on the following basis:

- (i) in the Senior League, on the basis of the teams' net run rate over the season (or, if they are still tied, the immediately previous season, and so on as necessary); and
- (ii) in the Junior League, on the basis of the teams' records in the immediately previous season (or, if they are still tied, the season before that, and so on as necessary).

- F21.** For the purposes of F20(i) above, a team's net run rate shall be calculated as follows:
- (i) a team's net run rate is calculated by deducting from the average runs per over scored by that team throughout the competition, the average runs per over scored against that team throughout the competition.
  - (ii) in the event of a team being all out in less than its full quota of overs, the calculation of its net run rate shall be based on the full quota of overs to which it would have been entitled, and not on the number of overs in which the team was dismissed.
  - (iii) only those matches where results are achieved will count for the purpose of net run rate calculations. Where the second innings is curtailed, but a result is achieved under Duckworth/Lewis/Stern, for net run rate purposes Team 1 will be credited with Team 2's Par Score on curtailment off the same number of overs faced by Team 2. Where a match is concluded, but with Duckworth/Lewis/Stern having been applied at an earlier point in the match, Team 1 will be credited 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.

## **(G) REGULATIONS APPLYING TO THE PREMIER LEAGUE, SENIOR LEAGUE, AND SECTION 1 OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE**

### **REGULATIONS APPLYING TO ALL MATCHES**

#### **Bowling restrictions**

**G1.** No bowler may bowl more than one fifth of the maximum number of overs available for an innings. If a bowler breaks down during an over, the over shall be completed by another bowler and the fractional overs shall count against each bowler's allowance.

**G2.** In a delayed or interrupted match where the overs are reduced for both teams, or for the team bowling second, no bowler may bowl more than one-fifth of the recalculated number of overs (unless the bowler had already done so before the interruption).

**G3.** Where the total number of overs is not divisible by 5, one additional over shall be allowed to the maximum number per bowler as necessary to make up the balance.

#### **Rearrangements**

**G4.** Matches shall be rearranged as follows:

(a) Premier League:

(i) Match 1 (ie where G11(b) applies) - for a date no later than the fourth Sunday following the postponement or such earlier cut-off date as may be set by the Domestic Cricket Directorate.

(ii) Match 2 – for the Thursday following the postponement or abandonment or, with both clubs' agreement, any other date within eight days thereof.

(b) Other Sections

(i) Match 1 (ie where G11(b) applies) - for a date no later than the fourth Sunday following the postponement.

(ii) Match 2 – for the second Thursday following the postponement or abandonment or, with both clubs' agreement, any other date within fifteen days thereof.

**G5.** The Match Secretary of the home team shall, within four days of the date of postponement or abandonment, inform the Honorary Section Secretary, in writing, of the rearrangement, copying the letter to the Match Secretary of the visiting team and the Umpires' Appointment Secretary.

**G6.** If the Honorary Section Secretary has not been informed of the rearrangement by the fourth day after the postponement or abandonment, he shall set a date, which shall be the date prescribed by G4 above or as early a date as is reasonably practicable, and shall inform the Match Secretaries of both teams and the Umpires' Appointments Secretary of the rearrangement.

#### **Fitness of Ground**

**G7.** It is solely for the umpires together to decide whether either conditions of ground, weather or light, or exceptional circumstances, mean that it would be dangerous or unreasonable for play to take place.

**G8.** Covers shall be used to cover the pitch before the match whenever weather conditions make it appropriate. Once play has started and is interrupted by rain, covers shall be used. The club staging the game shall ensure that the pitch is covered as quickly as possible when required.

## **Result**

**G9.** Where both teams have the same number of overs available:

- (i) the team that scores the greater number of runs shall be the winner;
- (ii) if the scores are equal at the end of a match, the match shall be a tie.

**G10.** Where the number of overs in the innings of either team has to be revised due to suspension of play after the start of the match:

- (i) a revised target score shall be set for the number of overs that the team batting second will have the opportunity of facing, using the current Duckworth/Lewis/Stern method;
- (ii) the team batting second shall be the winner if it achieves the target score;
- (iii) if the team batting second fails to reach target by 1 run, the result shall be a tie;
- (iv) if the team batting second fails to reach the target by more than one run, the team batting first shall be the winner;
- (v) if play is terminated before the team batting second has had the opportunity to bat for its revised allocation of overs, the result shall be determined on the basis of the target score for the number of overs actually faced.

## **MATCH 1 PLAYING REGULATIONS**

### **Definition**

**G11.** Match 1 is:

- (a) the original scheduled fixture, or
- (b) the rearrangement of any fixture that has been postponed for reasons other than ground or weather conditions.

### **Hours of play**

**G12.** Play may start at any time agreed by both teams, but not later than:

- (a) Premier League and Senior League Section 1 – 12 noon from April to August (in April, May or June a club with two or more 1<sup>st</sup> XI players involved in schools' cricket on the same day as a player, coach or teacher may elect to defer the start to 1 pm); or 11.30 am in September.
- (b) Senior League Sections 2 & 3 – 1 pm.
- (c) Junior League Section 1 – 1 pm in April, May or June; 12 noon from July to September.

**G13.** Tea in an uninterrupted match shall normally be taken at the close of the first innings. In the event of weather or other interruptions, the tea interval shall be taken so as to allow as many overs as possible to be bowled in the first innings. In an interrupted game, if play is not in progress 3 hours and 40 minutes after the scheduled starting time, tea shall be taken.

**G14.** By mutual agreement, a Match 1 rearrangement due to be played before 15<sup>th</sup> August may be rearranged for two consecutive nights and may start at any time agreed by both teams, but not later than 6.30 pm in April, May or June, or 5.30 pm in July or August.

**G15.** The latest starting time for a 20-over match shall be as in G25 below.

### **Duration of innings**

**G16.** All matches shall be of one innings a side. The maximum duration of each innings shall be:

(a) Premier League and Senior League Section 1 - 50 overs;

(b) Senior League Sections 2 and 3 and Junior League Section 1 – 40 overs.

**G17.** For a valid result, each team shall bowl at least 20 overs (15 overs in a 40-over match), unless either or both teams are bowled out or the team batting second scores enough runs to win in fewer overs.

### **Interrupted matches**

#### **Day matches**

**G18. First innings** - The number of overs available to each side shall be reduced by one for each full eight minutes of playing time lost after the agreed starting time.

**G19. Second innings** - From the end of the first innings, a further deduction of one over shall be made for each full four minutes of playing time lost.

**G20.** The number of overs shall not be reduced below 20 overs per side in a 50-over match or 15 overs in a 40-over match. If this number are not bowled in the second innings, and a result is not otherwise obtained, a second match (Match 2) shall be arranged.

#### **Two-night matches**

**G21. First innings** - The number of overs available to each side shall be reduced by one for each full eight minutes of playing time lost after the agreed starting time.

**G22. Second innings** - From the end of the first innings, a further deduction of one over shall be made for each full four minutes of playing time lost. The number of overs shall not be reduced below 20 overs per side in a 50-over match or 15 overs in a 40-over match. If this number are not bowled in the second innings, and a result is not otherwise obtained, a second match (Match 2) shall be arranged.

**G23.** If, as a result of play being suspended on the first night of a two-night match, more than 50 overs (40 in a 40-over match) remain to be bowled on the second night, the maximum available overs for both innings shall be 50 (40 in a 40-over match), plus the number of overs already bowled, rounded down to an even number.

## **MATCH 2 PLAYING REGULATIONS**

### **Definition**

**G24.** Match 2 is any rearranged match not defined as Match 1 in G11 above.

### **Hours of play**

**G25.** Play may start at any time agreed by both teams, but not later than 6 pm in April, May, June or July, 5 pm in August, or 4.30 pm in September.

**G26.** There shall be no tea interval. The interval between innings shall be ten minutes.

### **Duration of innings**

**G27.** All matches shall be of one innings a side. The maximum duration of each innings shall be 20 overs.

**G28.** For a valid result, each team shall bowl at least 5 overs, unless either or both teams are bowled out in fewer than 5 overs, or unless the team batting second scores enough runs to win in fewer than 5 overs.

### **Interrupted matches**

**G29. First innings** - The number of overs available to each side shall be reduced by one for each full eight minutes of playing time lost after the latest starting time designated in G25 above.

**G30. Second innings** - From the end of the first innings, a further deduction of one over shall be made for each full four minutes of playing time lost.

**G31.** The number of overs shall not be reduced below 5 overs per side. If 5 overs are not bowled in the second innings, and a result is not otherwise obtained, the match shall be recorded as 'No result'.

## **(H) REGULATIONS APPLYING TO JUNIOR LEAGUE SECTIONS 2 AND BELOW**

### **REGULATIONS APPLYING TO ALL MATCHES**

#### **Bowling restrictions**

**H1.** No bowler may bowl more than one fifth of the maximum number of overs available for an innings. If a bowler breaks down during an over, the over shall be completed by another bowler and the fractional overs shall count against each bowler's allowance.

**H2.** In a delayed or interrupted match where the overs are reduced for both teams, or for the team bowling second, no bowler may bowl more than one-fifth of the recalculated number of overs (unless the bowler had already done so before the interruption).

**H3.** Where the total number of overs is not divisible by 5, one additional over shall be allowed to the maximum number per bowler as necessary to make up the balance.

### **MATCH 1 PLAYING REGULATIONS**

#### **Definition**

**H4.** Match 1 is:

- (a) the original scheduled fixture, or
- (b) the rearrangement of any fixture that has been postponed for reasons other than ground or weather conditions.

#### **Hours of Play**

**H5.** Matches may start at any time agreed by both teams, but no later than:

- (a) Section 2 - 1 pm in April, May or June; 12 noon in July, August or September;
- (b) All other Sections – 1 pm.

#### **Duration of Innings**

**H6.** All matches shall be of one innings a side. Unless adjusted by the teams in accordance with H8 below, the maximum duration of each innings shall be:

- 40 overs in Section 2;
- 35 overs in Sections 3, and 4; and
- 30 overs in all other Sections.

**H7.** For a valid result, each team shall bowl at least 15 in a 40-over or 35-over match, 10 overs in a 30-over match or 5 overs in a match reduced to 20 overs in accordance with H8, unless either or both teams are bowled out or the team batting second scores enough runs to win in fewer overs.

**H8.** Teams may agree in advance to reduce the maximum duration of each innings by a maximum of 10 overs. In addition, where the start of a match is delayed by ground or weather conditions, the number of overs available to each side shall be reduced by one for each full eight minutes of playing time lost after the agreed starting time. The number of overs shall not be reduced below that specified in H7.

**H9.** A Match 1 in which no valid result is obtained shall be abandoned and rearranged.

### **Rearrangement**

**H10.** The clubs concerned shall rearrange any Match 1 postponed or abandoned up to 31<sup>st</sup> August for any date within 15 days thereof. They may agree not to rearrange any such match postponed or abandoned after that date.

**H11.** The Match Secretary of the home team shall, within seven days of the date of postponement or abandonment, inform the Honorary Section Secretary, in writing, of the rearrangement (or, if after 31<sup>st</sup> August, the agreement not to rearrange), copying the letter to the Match Secretary of the visiting team.

**H12.** If the Honorary Section Secretary has not been so informed of the rearrangement (or, where applicable, the agreement not to rearrange), he shall set a date, which shall be that prescribed by H10 above, and shall inform the Match Secretaries of both teams of the rearrangement.

## **MATCH 2 PLAYING REGULATIONS**

### **Definition**

**H13.** Match 2 is any rearranged match not defined as Match 1 in H4 above.

### **Hours of Play**

**H14.** Matches may start at any time agreed by both teams but not later than:

- 6 pm in April, May, June or July
- 5 pm in August or September.

### **Duration of Innings**

**H15.** All matches shall be of one innings a side. The maximum duration of each innings shall be 20 overs.

**H16.** Where the start of a match is delayed by ground or weather conditions, the number of overs available to each side shall be reduced by one for each full eight minutes of playing time lost after the designated starting time. The number of overs shall not be reduced below 5 overs per side.

**H17.** For a valid result, each team shall bowl at least 5 overs, unless either or both teams are bowled out in fewer than 5 overs or the team batting second scores enough runs to win in fewer than 5 overs. A Match 2 in which no valid result is obtained shall be void.