**Liverpool Competition**

**A Quick Guide to Key Junior Issues 2024**

**Safeguarding**

The message here from the Junior League is for Junior Coordinators and Junior Team Leaders (Managers and Coaches) to link to your Club Safeguarding Officers to ensure you are operating in accordance with the ECB Clubmark and SHMS requirements.

**Team Subscriptions**

No charge for U9. £20 per team for U11 13 15 18

This is taken care of in the Financial Statement sent out to Clubs in April

**Inter League – Trials and Selection – matches**

123 players for U11 13 15 being trialled on 26 March/2 April. All will be notified of outcome, hopefully by 8 April.

Lancs T20 InterLeague this year: **U13** on Mon 30/Tues 31 May **U15** on Tues 31/Wed 1 April

U11 13 15 Group Matches in August. U18 games one a month on Sundays

**Equity Diversity and Inclusion**

We recommend that all Junior Coordinators Team Leaders, take a look at the ECB’s Action Plan Document: [ECB-EDI-Action-Plan-2021.pdf](https://resources.ecb.co.uk/ecb/document/2021/11/26/fcc98918-3246-4d5c-9d8c-ccee2dc193ba/ECB-EDI-Action-Plan-2021.pdf) and link in to what is happening in your club.

**County Trials U10 U11 U12**

These are being managed by the LCF. (U13 and above are now the responsibility of the County Club) LCF have decided that this year nominations for U10 11 and 12 will only be accepted from Inter League Lead officials and CDO’s

Timescales are very tight. JW will email an update to all Junior Coordinators asap

**Juniors in Adult Cricket**

**A reminder**

“Minimum age requirements: The minimum age for consideration for open age cricket is the U13 age group. Qualifying players must be in Year 8, and 12 years old, on the 1st September of the preceding year. Written parental consent is required.

Players who are selected to play in a County U12 squad (or Regional squad in Wales are also eligible to play open age cricket. This is providing they are in School Year 7, and are at least 11 years old, on the 1st September in the year preceding the season and have written parental consent to play.”

**Pitch Lengths and Balls**

Under 9 – 15 yards – soft ball

Under 11 – 17 yards – 4.75oz

Under 13 – 19 yards – 4.75oz

Under 15 – 22 yards – 5.5oz

Under 18 – 22 Yards – 5.5oz

**The Liverpool Competition Junior Cricket Leagues 2024**

(Changes to 2023 Rules are indicated in *italics* and the *2024* prefix)

1. (a) i The Junior League shall be controlled by a Junior Management Committee, with members being elected at the AGM with the Junior Chairman appointed by the Management Committee.

ii Each year the junior committee will call an annual junior meeting, consisting of representatives from each club, the executive committee and the members of the junior committee. The roll shall be called at 7.30pm at each meeting. Any club not represented during the meeting shall be fined £10.

iii Voting at all meetings shall be by a show of voting cards unless any ten persons present at the meeting and entitled to vote demand a poll. On a vote or poll each member of the junior committee, full executive committee and club representatives present shall have one vote. The Junior Chairman shall be entitled to a casting vote at all meetings.

iv The Junior Chairman may convene a special meeting when occasion requires. Any club desiring a Special Junior Meeting must forward the sum of £25 to cover expenses, at the same time stating the purpose for which the meeting is required. The purpose of Special Meeting shall be stated on the Notices of Meeting sent to all clubs.

v Any club wishing to call a Special Meeting must have the written support of five other member clubs.

(b) The annual subscription to the Junior Divisions in 2024 shall be £15 per team. When a club enters more than one team at a particular age group, the club will be charged half of the above fees for each additional team.

(c) All players are asked to register players on play-cricket.com for the relevant club.

(d) Junior Registrations are not valid in the Senior League and vice-versa.

(e) No player who is a Club’s registered overseas player with any club shall be eligible to play in a Junior League or Cup match.

2. (a) All fixtures, cup draws, venues and dates of play shall be arranged by the Management Committee. Evening matches shall normally commence at 6.00pm but may start later by agreement of both teams.

(b) In the League, if one team only is ready to start at the scheduled time they shall have choice of innings without resorting to the toss of a coin. The above term ‘ready’ to mean having 7 players ready to play.

(c) In the League, if because of weather conditions either play is not possible by 7.30pm or the game cannot be completed it will be treated as a draw.

(d) Prior to the commencement of a game, excepting a final, the Team Managers may mutually agree to reduce the number of overs to a minimum of 12 overs per side in order to decide the match

3. Each Club must appoint an umpire to officiate in its matches, where necessary.

4. (a) It is the responsibility of both clubs to input the result of each game on play-cricket.com no later than 5 days after the game has been played. Scorecards must be fully completed in accordance with the details required on both sides. Both clubs must ensure that they confirm the result and scorecards by ticking the relevant box. The Junior Committee will monitor returns and take action including fines if there are regular failures to do this.

(b) Points for each game shall be awarded as follows: - 3 for a win, 2 for level scores/tie and 1 for a draw or no result.

5. (a) In each age group, a knock-out competition shall be organised.

(b) All teams who play in the appropriate age group of the LCJCL. shall be eligible to enter.

(c) Games to be played in accordance with League match rules.

6. (a) In Cup matches, if the game is not started or completed on the scheduled night, then the game should be replayed on a mutually agreeable date before the date set for the next round. The Junior Committee will decide any dispute.

In any cup match that has been abandoned twice before half the number of overs in the second innings, on the second occasion a bowl out will decide a winner if conditions allow. 5 nominated players will bowl at the stumps, and the team that hits the most times will win. To count, the ball must bounce before it hits the stumps. If a bowler bowls a no ball, it will not count even if the ball hits the stumps. If still equal, a sudden death bowl out will take place until one side hits and the other misses. If a bowl out is not possible, the Junior Chairman will toss a coin to decide the winner. In a final or play off the trophy will be shared instead of a toss of a coin.

(b) Any final or play off shall be 20 overs each side. No player may bowl more than 4 overs.

(b) (i) If bad weather delays the start of play off or final, or play is suspended during the first innings, the number of overs will be rearranged so that each side bats for the same number of overs. This shall be calculated by deducting 2 overs for every full period of 7 minutes to be deducted equally from each side. a 20 over game reduced to a minimum of 12 overs per side.

Note: If time allows and by agreement, a period of time can be agreed before overs start being deducted.

(b) (ii) For a cup final, the League will provide the cricket balls

(c) In any cup matches, including cup finals and play offs, if the team batting first has completed its innings and the team batting second has completed half the number of overs or more, the result will be decided by comparing the scores after the last completed over with that of the same over of the first innings. If scores are tied, the team losing the least number of wickets at that point will be the winner. If still undecided, the game will be replayed on a mutually agreeable date. The Junior Committee will decide any dispute.

(d) In a final or play off, if because of weather the game is unable to be started or is abandoned before reaching the point in J7(c) it shall be played on a date decided by the Junior Committee.

(e) In the event of any Cup match being tied with scores level, the following shall be used, in sequence, to determine the winner:

(i) The team losing the lesser number of wickets,

(ii) The team scoring the higher number of runs at the completion of the first half of the number of overs (the number of overs being rounded up in the event of a fractional result).

(iii) The match shall be replayed in accordance with the rules.

**Under 18 League**

7. All players must be 17 years or under on the 1st September of the previous season.

8. In all matches, a game shall consist of 20 overs each side. (See rule 6b for cup) No player may bowl more than 4 overs. All matches played in April shall consist of 16 overs per side with no player bowling more than 3 overs.

9. Batters must retire on reaching 50 runs but may return on the fall of the 9th wicket.

**Under 15 League**

9. All players must be 14 years or under on the 1st September of the previous season. Girls at this age group can play a year behind. They must be 15 years or under on the 1st September of the previous season.

10. In all matches a standard size cricket ball must be used. Pitch length is 22 yards.

11. In all matches, a game shall consist of 20 overs each side (see Rule 6(b)). No player may bowl more than 4 overs. All matches played in April shall consist of 16 overs per side with no player bowling more than 3 overs.

12. Batters must retire on reaching 50 runs but may return on the fall of the 9th wicket.

**Under 13 League**

12. All players must be 12 years or under on the 1st of September of the previous season.

Girls at this age group can play a year behind. They must be 13 years or under on the 1st of September of the previous season.

13. In all games a 4¾ oz size cricket ball must be used.

14. All games should be played on a 19-yard wicket.

15. In all matches, a game shall consist of 20 overs each side (see Rule J6 (b)). No player may bowl more than 4 overs. All matches played in April shall consist of 16 overs per side with no player bowling more than 3 overs.

16. Batters must retire on reaching 30 runs but may return on the fall of the 9th wicket.

**Under 11 League**

**UNDER 11 LEAGUE RULES**

17. All players must be 10 years or under on the 1st September of the previous season.

18. Girls at this age group can play a year behind They must be 11 years or under on the 1st September of the previous season.

19. Matches must be played on the date set, or as agreed with the opposition, unless permission is given by the junior committee. If a match cannot be completed due to adverse weather conditions the match may be rearranged but must be played within 7 days of the original date. Midweek matches to start at 6.30pm, or earlier if agreed, and weekend matches to start at 10.00am unless otherwise agreed between the two teams involved.

20. All results to be received by end of each month played.

U11 score sheet to be used for all league games

21. Pitches are to be 17 yards in length.

A 4¾ oz cricket ball to be used in all U11 games.

Teams are 10 a side with all 10 batting and all 10 fielding.

Each game is a maximum 15 overs per side.

Each team bats in pairs for 3 overs each pair. Pairs shall change at the end of the 3rd, 6th, 9th and 12th overs.

All players (with the exception of the wicket-keeper) must bowl one over and no player may bowl more than 2 overs.

All the overs in the game to be bowled from the same end

No over, other than the last over, shall be of more than 6 deliveries. (see scoring for wides and no balls below)

Each team starts with 200 runs.

Batsmen shall have unlimited lives, but each life shall result in FOUR runs being deducted from the total. No batsman who is out for any reason shall face the next ball. Batsmen shall change ends at the end of each over and at the fall of each wicket except on the last ball of an over.

22. All extras (byes, leg byes, no balls and wides) are credited to the batsmen and debited against the bowler.

In any run out situation, the striker must be the batsman recorded out.

Runs are scored as per the normal rules of cricket, except 2 runs are given for a wide or a no ball.

23. If scores are equal, the game is to be tied and not decided on wickets.

24. In all matches no fielder, except the wicket-keeper, shall be allowed to field nearer than 11 yards, measured from the middle stump, except behind the wicket on the off- side.

Helmets must be worn by players when batting, by wicket-keepers at all times and by close fielders in front of the wicket. For boys, abdominal protectors should also be worn.

25. In the event of the umpires being satisfied that a player is incapacitated his/her place may be taken by a reserve who shall bat/bowl in his/her place. If no reserve is available any over due to be bowled by the injured player shall be bowled by another player without exceeding his/her quota. The team manager of the side in question shall choose one of the players in the first three pairs to bat a second time in the fourth pair.

26. Points are as in U13/15/18 games.

**UNDER 11 CUP RULES**

27. Cup games are to be played under the League rules as set out above.

**Spirit of the LDCC Junior League**

The objective of junior cricket in the Liverpool Competition is to have as many children playing cricket as possible for as long as possible to the highest standard they can all achieve. Thereby promoting health and wellbeing for the children in our communities, the sustainability of our clubs, the growth of our sport and supporting the talent pathway.

To keep children motivated and participating over the long term they need to feel connected to their clubs (and league), appropriately challenged, and valued. When playing and organising games we encourage clubs to consider the following measures in seeking to achieve the goals of connection, appropriate challenge, and valuing children.

* In pairs cricket agree with the opposition coach/manager a system so that your best bowlers bowl against their best batters and vice versa. We encourage umpires in pairs cricket manage the strike, so each batter in the pair faces an equal number of balls during their turn.
* In T20 formats in Development leagues, we recommend limiting the number of overs bowled by any bowler to three overs. In the second half of these games, we would like both teams to ensure those who’s participation in the first half was small given a greater opportunity in the second half. For example, those who didn’t bowl will bat in the top five or those who didn’t bat could bowl in the opening overs.
* in Development leagues, we encourage clubs to be flexible with eligibility and adopt a stage, not age approach. You may have children too old for U13 cricket but who’s ability level makes U15 inaccessible. Provided their ability level does not skew the standard for the U13s then we ask that you communicate with your opponent and let these children play.
* Where you have very strong players rather than allowing them to dominate a game of a standard that is below their level, be imaginative about their role in the game (examples might include hold back the opening batter till the last 5 overs when scoring rate needs to be higher, give them a predominant role in their weaker discipline, make developing leadership or tactical awareness their goal for the season). We encourage clubs in these instances to play the child in an older age group to stretch their dominant discipline.

Do not allow a difficulty in getting eleven players (or your preferred eleven players) to stand in the way of cricket opportunities for children.

*28.* ***2024 LIVERPOOL COMPETITION JUNIOR LEAGUE***

***“The objective of junior cricket in the Liverpool Competition is to have as many children playing cricket as possible for as long as possible to the highest standard they can achieve”.***

*Extract from the “Spirit of the LDCC Junior League” statement*

***A Pilot Scheme for U11 teams that wish to play Standard Overs Cricket for part of Season 2024.***

*The Junior Management Committee, recognising the recent interest and increased participation of players in the u9 and u11 age groups and the developments in other Lancashire Leagues, including the Wigan Junior League, the Wirral Junior League and the North Wales Junior League, in introducing some form of overs cricket at the u11 age group together with our League’s recent poor performances in the u11 interleague, propose to introduce an opportunity for those clubs that wish to do so to transition from Pairs Cricket to Overs Cricket in 2024.*

*Whilst wishing to increase the quality and experience of cricket at this level the Committee recognises that there are concerns around inclusivity for all the youngsters taking part and that the longstanding pairs game provides this. The offer to clubs and teams is not compulsory. At the half -way point in the season they can choose which ever suits. The Committee will recast the Divisions accordingly and we set out the following proposal as a complete reprint of current u11 rules*

***2024 PROCESS – clubs to choose***

*From season 2024 there will be Competitive and Development Divisions organised on a North/South basis at U11. Clubs decide which to enter as in u13 and u15.*

*Development Divisions will play pairs cricket throughout the season as set out in paragraphs 20 to 26 below.*

*Competitive Divisions will play pairs cricket for the first half of the season (6 weeks) as set out in paragraphs 20 to 26 below*

*Overs Cricket (wyoyo) as set out in paragraph* ***19******will be offered to teams after the first 6 weeks*** *to play in the remaining 6 weeks of the season.* ***Teams may continue with pairs cricket if the wish.***

*An additional Divisional table will be created with points brought forward from the previous 6 pairs games. Those clubs wishing to carry on with pairs cricket will continue to so in their continuing pairs division*

***UNDER 11 LEAGUE RULES***

***29****. All players must be 10 years or under on the 1st September of the previous season.* ***18****. Girls at this age group can play a year behind They must be 11 years or under on the 1st September of the previous season.*

***30****. Matches must be played on the date set, or as agreed with the opposition, unless permission is given by the junior committee. If a match cannot be completed due to adverse weather conditions the match may be rearranged but must be played within 7 days of the original date. Midweek matches to start at* ***6.00pm****, or earlier if agreed, and weekend matches to start at 10.00am unless otherwise agreed between the two teams involved.*

 ***Standard Overs Cricket***

*30.1 Matches are 11 a side and a 4¾ oz size cricket ball must be used. All games should be played on a 17-yard wicket.*

*30.2 In all matches, a game shall consist of 16 overs each side (see Rule J6 (b)). No player may bowl more than 3 overs.*

*30.3 Batters must retire on reaching 25 runs but may return on the fall of the 9th wicket.*

*30.4 All results are to be posted on Play Cricket by the end of each month played.*

*30.5 Rules set out in 31 - 36 below apply****.***

***Pairs Cricket***

***31****. All results to be received by end of each month played. U11 score sheet to be used for all league games*

***32.*** *Pitches are to be 17 yards in length. A 4¾ oz cricket ball to be used in all U11 games. Teams are 10 a side with all 10 batting and all 10 fielding. Each game is a maximum 15 overs per side. Each team bats in pairs for 3 overs each pair. Pairs shall change at the end of the 3rd, 6th, 9th and 12th overs. All players (with the exception of the wicketkeeper) must bowl one over and no player may bowl more than 2 overs. All the overs in the game to be bowled from the same end. No over, other than the last over, shall be of more than 6 deliveries. (See scoring for wides and no balls below). Each team starts with 200 runs. Batsmen shall have unlimited lives, but each life shall result in FOUR runs being deducted from the total. No batsman who is out for any reason shall face the next ball. Batsmen shall change ends at the end of each over and at the fall of each wicket except on the last ball of an over.*

***33****. All extras (byes, leg byes, no balls and wides) are credited to the batsmen and debited against the bowler. In any run out situation, the striker must be the batsman recorded out. Runs are scored as per the normal rules of cricket, except 2 runs are given for a wide or a no ball.* ***23.*** *If scores are equal, the game is to be tied and not decided on wickets.*

***General Rules***

***34.*** *In all matches no fielder, except the wicketkeeper, shall be allowed to field nearer than 11 yards, measured from the middle stump, except behind the wicket on the off- side. Helmets must be worn by players when batting, by wicketkeepers at all times and by close fielders in front of the wicket. For boys, abdominal protectors should also be worn.*

***35****. In the event of the umpires being satisfied that a player is incapacitated his/her place may be taken by a reserve who shall bat/bowl in his/her place. If no reserve is available any over due to be bowled by the injured player shall be bowled by another player without exceeding his/her quota. The team manager of the side in question shall choose one of the players in the first three pairs to bat a second time in the fourth pair.*

***36****. Points are as in U13/15/18 games.*