



# GYCL North 2026

## Rules & Recommendations

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### 1. Player Eligibility

- a. Players need to be under the age of the relevant age group by 31<sup>st</sup> August in the year before the relevant season. However, players who do not meet this criterion but are in the traditional school year groups of Years 4, 6, 8, or 10 may be classified as Under-9, Under-11, Under-13, or Under-15 respectively. If a team fields over age players, they shall concede the fixture. If both teams field over age players, then no points will be awarded for the match in question.
- b. No player may represent more than one club at junior level in the same season without the agreement of the GCF Management Team. Players will not be given permission to play for two clubs in the same division at the same age group or in two divisions that play on the same fixed day. Players will not be given permission to represent more than one club in any GYCL cup competition. If a player does represent more than one club in a season without permission, the GCF reserves the right to impose a penalty in the form of a points deduction, fine and/or removal of offending team/s from the competition.
- c. All competitions are open to boys and girls. In GYCL North competitions, girls are permitted to play 2 years below their actual age.
- d. The GCF advises managers to carefully consider the age and ability of players when considering if a player can play up an age group in hardball junior matches. In every circumstance, juniors playing up an age group should not create a situation where correct age players are not able to play to their full ability.
- e. The GCF advises clubs to make sensible decisions regarding selection and to avoid situations where high ability players can dominate lower tiers. For example, no player that has played in a Performance League is permitted to play in a Foundation League in the same age group and season.
- f. There will be restrictions on the selection of current season County or Zonal players from Gloucestershire or other counties within certain tiers. This has been introduced to prevent higher ability players from dominating games to the detriment of developing players. However, clubs with one team per age group should still be able to provide playing opportunities for all their players. Restrictions for male performance players and female players playing down an age group are:



- i. Performance – no restrictions
  - ii. Participation – no more than 2 county players, providing they do not have a Performance team in the same age group
  - iii. Foundation – no county or zonal players
- g. The GCF will review results and scorecards and recommend, or if appropriate insist, to teams that dominate leagues to play in a tier above for the following season.
- h. The GCF management team reserves the right to grant exceptions to these rules.

## **2. Fixture Organisation**

- a. League fixtures will be published on Play-Cricket by GCF.
- b. All GYCL North age groups will be allocated a fixed evening date (e.g. Under-11 Cricket will be played on a Monday) and it is expected of the teams to play on that allocated day.
- c. Clubs are expected to make every reasonable effort for the match to go ahead on the scheduled day. For example, if the home team cannot host but is still able to play, they should work with the opposition to switch the venue to the away club. If the match cannot be played on the scheduled day, it must be rearranged within seven days. If teams cannot agree on a new date for the fixture, then the original fixture date should stand.
  - i. If a team is unable or unwilling to fulfil a fixture they must concede or ask the opposition team if they are willing to reschedule (within seven days). Where there is no agreement to rearrange the match within seven days of the scheduled fixture, the team unable or unwilling to fulfil the fixture shall be deemed to have conceded the match.
  - ii. If a fixture is unable to go ahead on the original date due to situations outside of both teams control (e.g. weather or pitch conditions), the match can be rescheduled if agreed by both teams within seven days of the original fixture date. If clubs cannot agree to reschedule, then the match is abandoned and 2 points awarded to each team.

## **3. Matches**

- a. Hospitality:



- i. Home teams should provide water and or squash for both sets of players. The GCF also encourages clubs to provide snacks but appreciate that in some cases this is not possible.
  - ii. Toilet and running water facilities must be available at the ground.
  - iii. A working scoreboard must be provided for all matches.
- b. Please refer to the GYCL North Playing Conditions for information on formats, recommended pitch and boundary sizes, match rules, etc.
- c. Matches will be scheduled for a 6PM start time.
- d. Any team not ready to play at the agreed start time shall forfeit the toss.
- e. In the event of a late start of an evening match, managers may agree to shorten the game based on the available light and safety of the players. In the event of a team not being ready to play 30 minutes after the agreed start time the late team will forfeit unless the managers agree otherwise.
- f. For all hardball matches, it is recommended that the same player keeps wicket for the entire innings. However, if teams do wish to change the wicketkeeper, the incoming wicketkeeper must pad up during a break in play.
- g. Each team will supply an Umpire who shall be competent, responsible, and appropriately vetted. Where possible, this should not be the team manager.
- h. All teams, coaches, volunteers, parents/guardians and supporters must comply with the guiding principles, culture and values of the Gloucestershire Youth Cricket League and the code of conducts of their own club.

#### **4. Clothing and Equipment**

- a. Coloured clothing is recommended to be worn for all GYCL matches. If not possible, traditional white clothing is still permitted. If it is not possible for either coloured or white kits, any clothing appropriate for cricket is permitted.
- b. As part of the entry fee for these competitions, the GCF will supply all GYCL North fixtures with match balls, and it is preferred that these balls are used wherever possible.
- c. Helmets must be worn by all players whilst batting in matches where a hard cricket ball is used. All wicketkeepers must wear a helmet when standing up to the stumps, even if a soft cricket ball is being used. It is strongly advised that neck protectors are worn with a helmet.



- d. The GCF advises everyone involved in the game to read the ECB's Recreational Cricket Safety Regulations and Guidance documents carefully.

## **5. Uploading squads and reporting results on Play-Cricket**

- a. For every team, all clubs must add player names to the relevant squad in Play-Cricket before the start of the season. It is expected that clubs continue updating the squads throughout the season.
- b. All league results and scores must be entered on the Play-Cricket website by the home team within seven days of the original scheduled fixture, unless it has been agreed that the away team will enter the result. The opposing team should check the result and, if dissatisfied, report it to the Leagues and Competitions Officer within seven days of the result being posted. Failure to report a result within the seven-day window will result in the fixture being marked as cancelled.
- c. In addition to the match result and team scores all matches must have full scorecards added with correct full player names for both sides. It is each team's responsibility to ensure their full batting and bowling scoresheets are entered on time and are correct.
- d. If Play Cricket Scorer is used, the home team scorer should be the primary live scorer. Teams should liaise to deal with any technical issues.

## **6. Results, points and re-arrangements**

- a. 4 points will be awarded in the league for a win, 1 point for a loss, and 2 points for a tie.
- b. Ties occur when the number of runs scored are equal, irrespective of the number of wickets each team has taken.
- c. In the event of a tie for knockout matches, the following shall apply to determine the winner:
  - i. The side with the fewest wickets lost will be the winner
  - ii. The side with the most boundaries
  - iii. A coin is tossed
- d. Concessions: If a team is unable or unwilling to fulfil a fixture scheduled on the original date, it shall notify the opposing team. Where there is no agreement to rearrange the match within seven days of the scheduled fixture, the



team unable or unwilling to fulfil the fixture shall be deemed to have conceded the match. In this case, the conceding team shall be awarded zero points and the team conceded to shall be awarded 4 points.

e. Abandonments:

i. If a fixture is unable to go ahead on the original date due to situations outside of both teams control (e.g. weather or pitch conditions), the match can be rescheduled if agreed by both teams within seven days of the original fixture date.

ii. Match commenced and abandoned, points awarded as follows:

1. If half of the second innings has been completed, the team with higher run rate shall be deemed the winner

2. If half of the second innings has not been completed, the match is void and can be rearranged within 1 week of the original fixture. If unable to agree a new fixture, each team shall be awarded 2 points.

f. Rearrangement of fixtures:

i. Clubs may agree to rearrange fixtures within seven days of the originally scheduled fixture date.

ii. Original fixtures should not be marked as abandoned on Play-Cricket; the fixture date should be amended to the new date.

iii. If no agreement is made the match shall be treated as abandoned and should be entered on Play-Cricket as an abandoned match within seven days of the original fixture date.

iv. If no result is entered within seven days of the original fixture date, match will be recorded as cancelled by league management and zero points will be awarded.

g. Where matches have not been played in circumstances not constituting an abandonment, and the league is satisfied that neither team has made a genuine effort either to play or rearrange the match in accordance with the rules, the match shall be treated as cancelled and both teams will be awarded zero points.

h. If an away team notifies the home team that it is unable or unwilling to fulfil a fixture less than 24 hours before the scheduled start time, the away team may be liable to pay up to £50 to the home team to cover any verifiable ground



hire or associated costs. The home team should invoice the away team in writing, and payment must be made within 30 days of receipt of the invoice. The GCF management team will adjudicate on any disputes arising from these circumstances.

- i. Should a team withdraw from the league during the season all matches played by that team will be treated as friendlies and any points awarded will not count towards overall league standings.

## **7. League Positions and Play-Offs**

- a. The winner of each division is the team with the highest number of points.
- b. If teams are level on points after the completion of all fixtures, league positions will be determined in the following order:
  - i. Highest average points per game;
  - ii. The result of the head-to-head fixture(s) between the teams;
  - iii. The team that has taken the most wickets across all divisional matches.
- c. Teams are encouraged to give maximum opportunities to all players to get fully involved, rather than take a win at all costs and by the biggest margin approach.
- d. In the event of any dispute over divisional winners, the GCF Management Team will make the final decision.
- e. The winners of the Performance Leagues will be invited to Finals Days. As the number of teams entering the Performance competitions is currently unknown, the structure of these Finals Days will be dependent on the number of teams and leagues involved.
- f. Clubs withdrawing from any competition will be fined £50. This applies to withdrawals both immediately before and during the competition, as this disrupts leagues, affects the experience for other clubs and players, and creates unnecessary additional workload for organisers.

