



Gray-Nicolls GYCL Long Format Rules & Playing Regulations 2025

Note: throughout these rules, options shown in emboldened italics separated by an oblique ('/') shall indicate the options for Under 11, Under 13, Under 15 and Under 17 age groups, respectively. Where an option applies to one or two age groups only, this will be made clear in the preceding text.

Preamble: Matches are to be played under MCC laws and particular note should be taken of the full extent of the section on 'The Spirit of Cricket'. During 2024 we will continue to learn from experience, and it will be necessary for all clubs, coaches, and team managers to support the development of a long-term future for these leagues. Clubs are encouraged to use other club members as umpires rather than the team managers or coaches, though it is recognised that this is often not possible. Where possible we will endeavour to work with GACO to appoint experienced independent umpires for some matches, and certainly for all finals.

Purpose of the GYCL: The GYCL was originally created to offer clubs and young cricketers the chance to play a longer form of cricket than the local T20 leagues. This was to provide existing Development and County players, and those aspiring to reach this level, with the relevant playing opportunities and experience to play representative cricket.

As well as this still being the case, the competition is also being used to close the gap between club cricket and the Performance Pathway. For this to happen clubs should not retire batters, allow bowlers to bowl as much as they can, within ECB guidelines, and for players to face to up to the best players. The experience of scoring big scores such as centuries, taking 5 or more wickets in a game and testing themselves against the best players in their age group will aid player development.

1. Regulations

a) The competition will abide by and follow the rules as set out in the [ECB General Conduct Regulations](#). To raise a report please contact GCF Disciplinary Officer Steve Silk: steve.silk@gloucestershirecricketfoundation.org

2. Player/Club qualification

a) Each player must be a member of the club they represent, and no player shall play for more than one club across any age range in the long-format competition. Players can play for one club in the long format competition and for a different club in short-format competitions, providing their 'home' club have not entered that competition. For example, 'Player A' can play for 'Club A' in the Under 15 GYCL 40-over league and for 'Club B' in the Under 16 GYCL T20, providing that 'Club A' haven't entered the Under 16 GYCL T20. Any club fielding an ineligible player shall forfeit all points gained from all matches in which that player plays.

b) All players must be registered with their club so eligible for selection prior to the first match of the season.

c) Parents should register Play-Cricket accounts and child accounts for players under the age of 13. Players over the age of 13 are eligible to register for their own account. The Play-Cricket registration process can be found [here](#).

d) Player Registration – All players must be registered through the Play-Cricket registration process. Parents should have completed their Play-Cricket registration before clubs nominate them to the league.

e) Player movement – applicable to clubs that have entered two or more teams into the same age group for example, A Team in the U11 Performance and B Team in the U11 Development. Players in the current year's County and Development squads must be assigned to a squad and may not move between the tiers. Club players, those not involved in County and Development Squads and Zonal players are free to move up and down.

f) Players who are playing for teams which combine several clubs or an alternate club from their local leagues, for the purpose of playing in the GYCL, must register with one of the constituent clubs of that team.

g) All players (with exceptions allowed in 1f above) must be under the age of 11/13/15/17 at midnight on 31st August in the year preceding the current season. This means that a player is in the traditional school year 6/8/10/12, in order to be classed as an U11/13/15/17. Clubs must be completely satisfied that players who are more than two years younger than the appropriate upper age limit, have the ability to perform in the age group for which they have been selected.

h) Girls playing in this competition according to ECB rules are able to play down two-year groups i.e. year 8 in Under 11, year 10 in Under 13 and year 12 in Under 15.

i) Competing Clubs must have public liability insurance to a minimum value of £5 million and employers' liability insurance to £10 million to adequately cover juniors', players, and coaches.

j) All clubs in the League must have a qualified Club Safeguarding Officer and be actively engaging with the Safe Hands Management System. All Coaches, Age Group Managers, Umpires and Scorers associated with GYCL teams must be added to the system and have an ECB DBS.

k) New for 2025 – clubs can collaborate with a maximum of one other club to enter a joint team into a competition. This should only be used in situations where clubs do not have enough players to enter their own team into a competition and is not in place to provide clubs with an opportunity to create 'super teams'. This is intended to ensure that players can remain with their current clubs and not transfer over to another club who may enter more competitions.

3. Playing regulations

a) All matches shall be played in accordance with the MCC Laws of Cricket except for the specific provisions in these rules.

b) Each team can consist of up to 12 players. No more than 11 players can bat or be on the field at any time. All players must be nominated to the umpires in writing before the toss is made. There is no requirement to nominate which 11 players will bat. Any replacement/substitution of a member of the fielding side can only be made with the approval of the umpires and only at the end of an over, the fall of a wicket or during an interval. Once a player has taken the field, they can play a full part in the match. Smaller sided games can be agreed between clubs instead of cancelling fixtures.

c) The pitch shall be 17/19/22/22 yards in length respective of relevant age group.

d) Fielding Circles are to be used, 25/25/30/30 yards. At the point of delivery of the ball, at least four fielders in addition to the Bowler and Wicketkeeper, must be inside the circle. For any infringement, the Umpire shall call and signal a no-ball.

e) The red ball to be used shall be 4 ¾ oz/4 ¾ oz/full size/full size. Balls will be provided by the Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation at a subsidy based on the number of home fixtures each team has. A new ball will be used at the start of each innings, and each club should provide one match ball per game.

f) Clubs can wear coloured clothing should they wish (excluding red/maroon or similarly coloured kits).

g) Matches will be of 60/70/80/80 overs maximum duration. Under 11 matches will be 30 overs per side with no declarations. In Under 13/15/17 matches, the team batting first may not bat for more than 35/40/40 overs and may declare its innings closed at any time up to that point; if any innings is declared the unused complete overs pass to the side batting second (also see 2k).

h) No bowler shall bowl more than 6/7/8/8 overs. Team managers should ensure that ECB directives are observed regarding the age and type of bowler.

i) No fielder except the wicket keeper and those behind the wicket on the off-side shall be nearer than eleven yards measured from the middle stump of the striker's wicket in Under 11 and Under 13 matches and eight yards in Under 15 and Under 17 matches.

j) Umpires and Team Managers may only give guidance during breaks in play, so it does not impede the progress of the match unnecessarily.

k) In all matches there shall be an interval of 25 minutes between innings.

l) In all age groups – should a side be bowled out any unused overs from the first innings will NOT pass to the side batting second. Unused overs only pass to the side batting second in the event of a declaration, which only applies to Under 13, Under 15 and Under 17.

4. Fixtures

a) Matches will be played on the date specified unless the teams involved agree before the 30th of April to change the date. Rearrangement will be permitted if an Under 13 or Under 15 team is required to fulfil a match in the later stages of the National Knock-Out Cups on a date that clashes with the league fixture.

b) Rearrangement will also be permitted for unexpected senior cup commitments on home grounds e.g. National Village Knockout matches where notification of the game is made at short notice. Matches cancelled because of inclement weather SHOULD be rearranged during the season and during August school holidays it should be possible to have these matches during mid-weekdays. The home Team Manager is responsible for notifying the Age Group Administrator of the new date by email, copying in the opposition team manager within 48 hours of the agreement.

c) Normal starting times are 10.00 for Under 11 and Under 13 morning games and 2.00 for Under 15 and Under 17 afternoon games. These start times can be changed by agreement of the clubs involved.

5. Penalties

a) Any team cancelling a match for non-weather-related reason other than those covered in rule 3a above, the opposing side will be awarded the maximum point scored on that game day as being deemed to have been conceded to. The decision to award conceded points will be under the sole discretion of the Age Group Administrator based on evidence that a side has made every reasonable effort to re-arrange matches cancelled because of weather.

6. Inclement weather

a) It will be the responsibility of the home Team Manager or appointed umpires to decide whether the match should start if the playing area has been affected by inclement weather.

b) The number of overs will not be reduced until 30 minutes have been lost. After that 6c)-f) applies for Under 13, Under 15 and Under 17 games.

c) Weather interference before the match – for every 6 minutes lost after the initial 30 minutes reduce the aggregate overs by 2 overs. The resultant number of overs is divided equally between the two sides. A minimum of 20 overs per innings shall constitute a game. The side batting first will not be able to bat additional overs.

d) Weather interference during the innings of the team batting first- for every 3 minutes lost after the initial 30 minutes, one over is taken from the maximum allowed for the side batting second. The team batting first will complete its allotted overs i.e. 35, 40 or 40. The side batting second must be allowed a minimum of 20 overs to constitute a match. The run rate of the team batting first will be calculated. The team batting second must score the run rate of the team batting first multiplied by the number of allotted overs plus one run (ignoring decimals) to win.

e) Weather interference during innings of the team batting second- for every 3 minutes lost after the initial 30 minutes, one over is taken from the side batting second. The side batting second must be allowed to bat 20 overs to constitute a game. The run rate of the team batting first is multiplied by the overs allowed to the team batting second plus one run (ignoring decimals). If the team batting second has already passed the total calculated using the run rate multiplied by 20 overs but hasn't batted 20 overs, they will be awarded the match.

f) The number of overs allowed for each bowler will be reduced in proportion to the total number of overs agreed.

There is a general presumption that in the event of inclement weather, common sense and agreement between the clubs will prevail to ensure that the safety of players is upheld. In addition, clubs should make timely and sensible decisions on abandonment to avoid games continuing after a suggested finishing time of 8.00pm for afternoon games. Team managers can agree an earlier time, but both must agree.

7. Notification of results

a) It will be the responsibility of the home team to enter the result and the full scorecard on their Play-Cricket website. The result should be entered the SAME day as the match and the full scorecard within 48 hours of the game being played. Where possible clubs should look to use the Play-Cricket Scorer App to score the games which will upload scorecards automatically to Play-Cricket.

b) Full details of notable performances including full names should be included in the highlights section as this aids information to those reading the site.

8. Points scoring

a) League positions shall be decided on the final points gained during the season. If two or more teams are level on points, the total number of wins will determine their position. If still equal, the result between the two teams (average points scored in the fixtures between those clubs) will be the determinant. If still equal, net run rate will decide who progresses. If still equal, a coin toss undertaken by the GYCL administrator will be the determinant.

In an ideal world which concentrates on providing cricket for the players, clubs should be expected to make use of alternative dates to rearrange weather cancelled games (for example mid-week during

the summer holiday months). The Age Group Administrator's decision as to whether to award points based on conceded games will be final and will be inclined to implement Rule 5 if no demonstrable effort to re-arrange matches has been made where applicable.

All points are calculated automatically by Play-Cricket.

b) Result Points

Under 11/13/15/17

- Win = 6 points
- Tied = 4 points (must be played)
- Loss = 2 points
- Abandoned = 3 points (must be started)
- *Cancelled = 0 points
- Conceding = 0 points
- Conceded to = Max points on match day

* There are 0 points for a cancelled fixture to encourage the rearranging of the game.

c) Batting Bonus Points (First Innings)

Under 11

- For scoring 75 runs = 1 point
- For scoring 125 runs = 2 points
- For scoring 175 runs = 3 points

Under 13/15/17

- For scoring 100 runs = 1 point
- For scoring 150 runs = 2 points
- For scoring 200 runs = 3 points

d) Bowling Bonus Points

Under 11/13/15/17

- 3 wickets taken = 1 point
- 6 wickets taken = 2 points
- All Out = 3 points

e) Batting Bonus Points (Second Innings)

Under 11/13/15/17

- 3 or less wickets lost = 3 points
- 6 or less wickets lost = 2 points
- 9 or less wickets lost = 1 point
- All Out = 0 points

9. Cut-off dates

a) U11 30-over (Performance & Development) – 20th July

b) U13 35-over (Performance & Development) – 27th July

c) U15 40-over (Performance & Development) – 20th July

d) U17 (Performance) – 27th July

10. Finals for Leagues

a) The winners and runners-up of the 11/13/15/17 Performance Leagues will progress to Semi-Finals. The winners of each League will host the runners-up from the opposite league i.e. Performance 1

Winner v Performance 2 Runner-Up. Where there is only 1 Performance League, the top 4 teams will qualify for the Semi-Finals – 1st vs 4th and 2nd vs 3rd.

- Under 11 Semi-Finals – Sunday 3rd August
- Under 13 Semi-Finals – Sunday 10th August
- Under 15 Semi-Finals – Sunday 3rd August
- Under 17 Semi-Finals – Sunday 10th August

b) The winners of the Performance League Semi-Finals will progress to the Final which will be organised by GYCL Administrators at a neutral venue. The result of each final will determine the overall Performance League winners.

- Under 11 Final – Sunday 17th August
- Under 13 Final – Sunday 24th August
- Under 15 Final – Sunday 17th August
- Under 17 Final – Sunday 24th August

c) For the Under 11, Under 13, Under 15 Development Leagues, the winner and runner-up will be decided by their final league placings.

d) At the end of the final, if the two teams have tied on the same number of runs, then a Super Over will determine the winner. The team batting 2nd in the fixture will bat first in the Super Over. If the Super Over is also a tie, then another Super Over will be played until there is a winner.

11. Trophies

a) Each year the winners receive a perpetual trophy that they retain for the year. During this period, it is the responsibility of the winning club to have the trophy engraved and ensure its safety for the following season.

b) All trophies must be returned to Harry Watts, engraved, by the start of August each year.

12. Extras

a) New for 2025: in group stage matches & semi-finals, it's the responsibility of the coaches to agree what constitutes a wide or a no ball, with common sense encouraged when making this decision. The ability of players and daylight hours should be factored into this decision. In finals, umpires shall agree with coaches what constitutes a wide or a no ball. If coaches cannot agree, then umpires shall make the final decision.

13. GYCL Contact

a) Harry Watts – harry.watts@gloucestershirecricketfoundation.org – 07584 705646