

# GENERAL PLAYING REGULATIONS 2007

## 1 REGISTRATIONS

### General

- 1.1 Clubs shall send to the Honorary Secretary Junior Branch before the 1<sup>st</sup> of May in each year a complete alphabetical list of their playing members. Only registered players may play for a club.
- 1.2 Players may not be registered for more than one club at any one time. Any player joining a club at the start of or during a season must be registered before playing a match. If such a player has been registered by another Leinster club during that season or in either of the two previous seasons, it is the responsibility of his new club to ensure that his former club is aware of the change, has no objection to the new registration and that they are notifying the Junior Branch Secretary to that effect. Clubs shall not withhold their consent unreasonably. If it becomes evident to the Junior Branch Committee however that the new club are at fault in not dealing properly with the matter, they may deduct any points obtained by the new club and/or reverse the result for any match in which the player plays before the matter is resolved. The Junior Branch Committee may also refuse to accept such a registration if it were to mean that a player could play for a new club in a competition in which he has already played a substantial number of matches for his old club in that season. Note also regulation 4 below regarding changes in starring lists consequential on such moves.
- 1.3 Where the matter dealt with in 1.2 above relates to a player at Senior 1 level notification should be sent to the L.C.U. Hon. Secretary and the appropriate authority shall be the L.C.U. Senior Competitions Sub-Committee.
- 1.4 With the exception of Dublin University, a player may play for only one club in any of the Senior competitions in the same season except with the permission of the L.C.U. Senior Competitions Sub-Committee.
- 1.5 A player, shall not be allowed to play in a semi final or final of any Cup Competition or the 45 Over League, unless he has played, or can be clearly shown to have been available to play, for his club in an earlier round of the relevant Cup or, in the case of the 45 Over League, at least one match in the Qualifying Sections. In the case of the Whitney Moore League, or any league in Junior Cricket, a player being registered for the first time shall not be eligible to play in such unless he was or will be available to play in at least 50% of his Club's matches in that competition, without the specific permission of the appropriate committee.

### University players

- 1.6 University players will be eligible to play for other clubs as soon as their league programme as it appears in the official fixture list is completed and provided they are registered by their second club before they play. However, a player who has been registered to play for Dublin University 1<sup>st</sup> Eleven (or if not so registered has actually played for Dublin University in the Conqueror Cup) may not play for the second club, in circumstances where he is registered for the second club, in any Cup competition, even if he did not play for Dublin University in earlier rounds of the relevant Cup. Note regulation 2.4 below regarding their inclusion in starring lists.

### Professional Players

- 1.7[~~i~~]No professional cricketer shall be eligible to play in any league or cup competition under the auspices of the LCU except in accordance with these Regulations.

[ii] For the purposes of these Regulations a professional cricketer is defined as someone, other than a full time student at a recognised third level college or school in Ireland, whose main source of income, including separately for the period resident in Ireland, is obtained from the playing or coaching of cricket.

[iii] A club wishing to engage a professional cricketer shall submit an application in writing to the Honorary Secretary of the Union before the 1st April of the year in question if the player is to be registered from the start of the season. Supporting documentation, including a copy of the relevant coaching certificate of the professional cricketer must be supplied. Applications may be considered at later points in the season but no application may be submitted after 15th July. The Senior Competitions Committee may, at its discretion, seek additional information to that provided by the Club before deciding on any application for registration.

[iv] In deciding whether to give permission under this Regulation the LCU shall have regard to the following :

- the playing standard of the professional cricketer and
- the coaching qualifications of the professional cricketer,

[v] A registration will not be accepted unless and until the Senior Competitions Committee, is satisfied that (i) the ability of the player is such that there will be no breach of regulation 1.15 below (ii) it is the bona fide intention of the player to play competitive cricket for the club seeking the registration only and for no other club in Ireland or elsewhere during the whole season, unless the relevant Committee shall decide otherwise.

[vi] The LCU may issue general guidance to clubs about the playing standard and coaching qualifications of professional cricketers that it will accept in considering applications under this regulation.

[vii] Notwithstanding the dates given above, an application may be submitted by a club at any point where a professional cricketer previously given permission to play for the current season for that club is unable to play for that club for the remainder of the season. It will be entirely at the discretion of the LCU to determine if the explanations given for the professional cricketer being unable to play are considered reasonable.

[viii] The LCU may require professional cricketers engaged by clubs to provide coaching services to the Union. Any such requirements will be notified to clubs before 1st May of the season in question. The LCU shall not require more than an average of two hours per week over the period of the contract. The arrangements for provision of services shall be agreed between the club and the LCU and in the event of dispute shall be determined by the Chairperson of the Youth Branch.

[ix] In regard to Junior Cricket, where a club which does not play at Senior level wishes to register a Professional Player, the relevant application shall be made to the Junior Branch Committee, and all references to Senior Competitions Committee in this regulation 1.7 shall be read as references to the Junior Branch Committee.

### **Restriction on Use of Professional Players**

1.8 No more than one Professional Player (as defined in regulation 1.7 above) may be permitted to play for a club in any competitive match played under the auspices of the Union, unless and to the extent that the Executive Committee of the Union shall

determine otherwise. If a Club, who has not got permission from the Executive Committee to play more than one Professional player, has registered more than one, only one may play in any specific match.

### **Registration of Professional Players**

1.9 The name of any individual falling into the category of Professional Player as defined in regulation 1.7 above shall be clearly indicated by the club seeking the registration both in the alphabetical list of playing members required under regulation 1.1 above and in all league and cup starring lists.

### **Professional Players and Starring Lists**

1.10 Professional Players shall be included on club starring lists on the appropriate team consistent with their ability. Such a player may not play on any lower team without the consent of the Junior Branch Committee.

### **Other Players Receiving Payment for Playing or Coaching**

1.11 a) Where a player who is or will be in receipt of payments for playing or coaching is being registered by a club for the first time or (having been registered in the past) is to receive such payment for the first time, such information as the appropriate committee may specify shall be provided at the time of registration (or prior to such payment commencing in the case of an already registered player) to show that the payments do not represent the main source of income of the player. (see also 2.2 below regarding payments for matters other than playing or coaching)..

b) The appropriate committee shall also have the power to seek such information from a club in respect of any player as it sees fit and shall have the authority to suspend the registration of any player where it is not satisfied with the information provided.

### **Players from outside Leinster**

1.12 Any Irish Qualified Player normally resident or playing in the jurisdiction of another Union or governing body and who wishes to play competitive cricket for a club affiliated to the Leinster Cricket Union may only be registered to play for that club if the Senior Competitions or Junior Branch Committee (as appropriate) is first satisfied that

(i) the player has a bona fide intention to play competitive cricket for the club seeking the registration and no other club elsewhere for the whole season

(ii) the player's ability is such that there will be no breach of regulation 1.15 below. (This provision will normally apply only in respect of registrations for Junior cricket)

(iii) In the case of Dublin University, Civil Service or Munster Reds the provision at (i) above shall only apply to the Senior competitions in which such team plays.

### **Responsibility of Clubs**

1.13 Responsibility for compliance with all regulations by a player registered under them will be that of the club who has sought the registration.

### **Approval/Refusal of Registrations**

1.14 On the basis of the information provided to it under the above regulations or such other

information as it might obtain from other sources, the appropriate committee may decide to refuse the registration of a player on the grounds that his cricketing ability is so much in excess of the standard generally pertaining in the competitions where it is intended he should play as to make such participation unfair to other players/teams participating therein. Should a player be approved however, no subsequent objection to his/her participation under regulation 1.15 shall be considered unless it can be shown that the original information provided was seriously inadequate or misleading.

## **Playing Ability**

- 1.15 The Junior Branch Committee (or any club who has a team participating in the same competition as the 1st eleven of the Club to whose player objection is being made) may object to a player of another club playing for its 1st eleven in any competition run under the auspices of the Union on the grounds that the cricketing ability of the individual concerned is so much in excess of the standard generally pertaining in such competition as to make such player's participation unfair to other players and teams participating therein and/or contrary to the best interests of cricket in Leinster. Any such objection shall be notified in writing (setting out fully the grounds relied upon) to the Honorary Secretary of the Union (if the complaint relates to a player at Senior level or the Honorary Secretary of the Junior Branch (if the complaint relates to a Junior player). The matter shall then be referred to the Senior Competitions /Junior Branch Committee as appropriate for consideration and determination at the earliest opportunity. Either Committee may choose to delegate responsibility for such consideration and determination to an existing or special subcommittee as it sees fit. Any appeal arising may then be made to the full Committee in the first instance and ultimately to the LCU Executive. In the event of a decision being made by the appropriate Committee, then, in the event of an appeal against such decision, the player in question is bound by the decision of the appropriate Committee, until the appeal is determined as to whether such player is or is not entitled to play in the appropriate competitions.

## **Notices**

- 1.16 Any notice required to be given by any of above regulations shall be sufficient if sent by email or ordinary pre-paid letter post addressed (in the case of a club and its player) to the address of the Honorary Secretary of the club concerned as set out in the current handbook of the Union, and in the case of the Honorary Secretary of the Union or the Honorary Secretary of the Junior Branch the address as set out in the current Handbook of the Union. Any such notice shall be deemed (on proof of posting) to have been received in the ordinary course of post.

## **2 PAYMENT OF PLAYERS**

No player shall receive any payment directly or indirectly from any affiliated club unless

- 2.1 He is a professional cricketer in respect of which permission under Regulation 1.7 above has been obtained.
- 2.2 He is otherwise bona fide employed by the club in another capacity and permission from the appropriate committee has been obtained. In this context "employed" means performing any duties for a club for which the player is paid other than playing or coaching.
- 2.3 Indirect payment shall include payment by a club member, or business organisation in which a club member has influence where the player is not a bona fide employee of the club member, company or business organisation.

The power given to committees under regulation 1.11 b) shall also apply here

### **3 FINANCIAL INDUCEMENT**

No club shall be permitted to offer any player from another club financial inducement such as might persuade the player to terminate his playing membership with his present club.

The Union shall have the power in the discharge of its function under Regulation 1 to investigate any incidence of players changing clubs and shall have the right to conduct hearings and call such witnesses as it may be required as to the circumstances. A similar right will be accorded to the clubs and players in question.

Any player or club found to be in breach of the above regulations shall be liable to such penalty as the relevant Union Sub-Committee shall decide. Such decision will be final and subject only to a right of appeal by player or club to the Union Executive Committee. Pending the outcome of any such appeal, the decision of the relevant Sub-Committee shall stand and the player and the relevant Club shall be bound accordingly.

The relevant Sub-Committee for the hearing of all complaints under these regulations shall be the Senior Competitions Sub-Committee or the Junior Branch Executive Committee as the standard of the player involved shall determine.

### **4 LEAGUE REGISTRATIONS (starring lists)**

- 4.1 Each club shall forward to the Honorary Secretary of the Junior Branch before the second Wednesday of April in each year a complete list of its regular playing members arranged in order of selection: 1st XI, 2nd XI, etc. Alternatively a club may indicate in writing that it wishes to continue to operate under the previous season's final list. The Junior Branch Committee may however insist that a revised list be submitted

#### **Updating of league lists**

- 4.2 Updated lists shall be submitted in writing for the second Wednesday of each subsequent month from May to September. Revised lists shall come into effect on the Saturday following the second Wednesday in each month except with the specific permission of the Hon Secretary Junior Branch.

Lists may only be altered once a month in this way except where a player is being removed as required under regulation 7.1 below or for University players under regulations 1.5 and 4.5.

- 4.3 Eight names shall be marked ("starred") on each team as being ineligible to play on any lower team but may play on any higher team. The three names not marked on each team shall be eligible to play for the next lowest team in the club but not below that. Only one of these three players may play in a particular match for the lower team if the higher team on which he is named play in the Middle B league or higher. Where a team plays in the Intermediate A league or below, two of the three players may play in the same match for the lower team.

(Note in particular Regulation 7.2 below regarding acceptability of lists)

- 4.4 Players who are not available on a regular basis should not be included on a starring list. They are regarded as other registered players. Such players are not necessarily eligible for all levels. They should play only at a level broadly commensurate with their ability and in accordance with the level at which they may have been starred and/or played in the recent past. A club may request a ruling on any such player at the time when a list is being submitted.

## **University Players**

- 4.5 University players moving to their second club may not be included on their clubs starring list until
- a) their University league fixtures as per the official Fixture List are completed and
  - b) they are available to play
- or
- c) there is an uncertainty caused by differing dates at which Senior and Junior University fixtures finish and specific approval is given by the Hon Secretary of the Junior Branch for an amended list prior to its coming into use.

Items a) and b) do not preclude such players from playing in Whitney Moore league matches for their second club if there is an overlap with Dublin University fixtures in the 45 Over League fixtures provided the matches are not on the same day, in which case they are tied to Dublin University. During any such period they must be registered as (and only as) other players by their second club except as in c) above

Once a) and b) or c) above are satisfied a revised starring list including them may be submitted even if this does not coincide with a normal starring date.

## **Representative Players**

- 4.6 Players who are regularly selected on Senior representative teams (Inter Regional Competition) shall not play below their club's first eleven. A player is regarded as a regular selection when he is chosen (original or substitute) for two such matches in the same season. His ineligibility dates from the time his selection (original or substitution) becomes known.

## **Sub-fielders**

- 4.7 In all league and cup competitions subfielders are allowed in accordance with the laws of cricket but shall be of the same grade or lower than the player leaving the field. Exceptions to this may be agreed by the captain of the batting side who shall not withhold consent unreasonably.

## **5 CUP REGISTRATION LISTS**

- 5.1 Prior to a clubs participation in any cup competition it should send to the Hon. Secretary, Junior Branch a list of the players selected for that competition. Players so registered shall not be eligible to play for a lower team. At the same time the club shall submit in no particular order of merit a list of players eligible to play in higher cup competitions. These players must subsequently be graded and the graded list sent to the Hon. Secretary of the Junior Branch at least three clear days prior to the date on which the cup competition for which they are selected commence. A higher team may, however, play substitutes from any other registered lower team provided if such substitute or substitutes play in either the semi-final or final of the cup competitions in which the higher team is playing they shall not be eligible to play in any subsequent cup game for a lower team. However, the Junior Branch Committee shall have authority to waive this restriction in relation to Semi-finals and finals if the club concerned can satisfy them that a genuine injustice to a player or players would result from its strict application.

## **Updating of Cup Lists**

- 5.2 In addition to the updating required under regulation 5.1 as cup competitions commence, a club may make other alterations to its cup lists on a round by round basis as the competitions progress to reflect genuine selection changes. No change may be made in a particular team registration however after that team has been eliminated from a competition except where a player who did not play in the cup competition is being removed under regulation 7.1

## **6 STARRING OF PLAYERS CHANGING CLUBS**

Where a player changes clubs as per regulation 1.2 above he must be immediately removed from league and cup starring lists of his old club and revised lists submitted. The new club shall on making his registration, seek approval for the level at which they propose to play him. He shall not normally however be included on their starring list until the next scheduled update except where a change has to be made under regulation 7.1.

## **7 UNAVAILABILITY OF PLAYERS/ACCEPTABILITY OF LISTS**

- 7.1 The name of any player who fails to play in a league or cup game for four consecutive weeks shall be immediately removed from both league and cup lists and revised lists submitted. This regulation applies even where there were fewer than four games in which he might have played. However in exceptional circumstance, such as prolonged inclement weather, the Junior Branch Committee may decide to waive this regulation. A player removed under this regulation remains ineligible for any lower side at least until after the next meeting of the Junior Branch Committee at which approval for an alteration in eligibility may be sought. This regulation applies in the case of a cup competition from which the particular team has been eliminated. Other alterations to lists shall be as according to regulation 4. A club may obtain a copy of the lists of any other club with a team in the same competition.
- 7.2 Lists submitted shall be based on merit. Cup and league lists will be compared and clubs may be asked by the Junior Branch Committee to furnish explanations for any discrepancies or in respect of any particular entry and/or instructed to make alterations in lists.

## **8 PENALTIES**

- 8.1 In the event of lists not being received on time or any of the above regulations being infringed, the Junior Branch Committee shall have the authority to reverse the results of or to declare void or to deduct league points in respect of any match or matches it deems to have been affected.

## **9 PITCH TREATMENT/BALLS**

- 9.1 Between the innings of any game the wicket shall be swept and rolled for not more than seven minutes, if so desired by the side batting second.
- 9.2 In games continuing beyond one day the following regulations shall apply. Before the time of commencement of play on each day after the first, the wicket shall be cut and swept under the supervision of the umpires. Before the time of commencement on each day the wicket shall be rolled for not more than seven minutes, if so desired by the in side.

9.3 Only four piece leather balls may be used in cup and league games. Complaints regarding balls should be made to the appropriate Executive Committee.

## 10 YOUTH and SAFETY

a) The Leinster Cricket Union has adopted the ECB directives regarding safety in youth cricket as best practice for all competitive matches under its aegis.

In matches where official umpires are present, it is the responsibility of the umpires to ensure that they are enforced as regulations. Umpires should therefore ensure that team lists given to them prior to the start of play clearly identify the precise ages of any players under 18 years of age.

In matches where no official umpires are present to enforce the regulation, team captains should make every effort to ensure that the directives are followed as best practice. Clubs should therefore ensure that their team captains are familiar with this practice.

b) The directives apply to boys and girls. Any reference to he / his should be interpreted to include she / her. Age groups are based on the age of the player on 1 September in the year preceding the competition.

c) Fielding Restrictions

Fielders

No young player in the under 15 age group or younger shall be allowed to field closer than 8 yards (7.3m) from the middle stump, except behind the wicket on the off side, until the batsman has played at the ball

For those in the under 13 age group and below, the distance is 11 yards (10m)

These minimum distances apply even if the player is wearing a helmet

Should a player in these age groups come within the restricted distance the umpire must stop the game immediately and instruct the fielder to move back

Any player in the under 16 to under 18 age groups who has not reached the age of 18, must wear a helmet, and for boys, an abdominal protector (box) when fielding within 6 yards (5.5m) of the bat, except behind the wicket on the off side.

d) Wicket-keepers

Any wicket-keeper under the age of 18 (on the day of the match) must wear a helmet when standing up to the stumps

This applies to all speeds of bowling.

Non-compliance with this Directive will result in the umpires stopping the game and instruct the wicket-keeper to put on a helmet, or stand back from the stumps.

e) Bowling Restrictions

For the purpose of these Directives, a fast bowler is defined as a bowler to whom a wicket-keeper in the same age group would in normal circumstances stand back to take the ball. This does not preclude the umpires from insisting that these Directives apply even though the ability of the wicket-keeper means that he is capable of standing up to what they consider to be a fast bowler.

Directives for matches

Age	Max overs per spell	Max overs per day
Up to 13	4 overs per spell	8 overs per day
U14, U15	5 overs per spell	10 overs per day
U16, U17	6 overs per spell	18 overs per day
U18, U19	7 overs per spell	21 overs per day

Having completed a spell, a bowler cannot bowl again, from either end, until an equivalent number of overs to the length of his spell has been bowled from the same end. If a bowler only completes part of his permitted spell, the above restriction still applies. For example, if he is allowed 7 overs, but only bowls 4, he cannot bowl again, until 4 overs have been bowled from the same end. He cannot resume his 'spell' after 2 overs from the same end, claiming that he is allowed another 3 overs to make up his 7. However, a bowler is allowed to change ends during a spell without taking a rest. This can only be done provided that he bowls the next permissible over from the other end. If there is an interruption in play, whether scheduled or not, he will be allowed to count time off the field as part of his 'rest time'. During this interruption, the bowler may count every 7 minutes of the interruption as being equivalent to 1 over at each end.

If play is interrupted for any reason for less than 40 minutes, any spell in progress at the time of the interruption can be continued after the interruption up to the maximum number of overs per spell for the appropriate age group. In this case, the bowler cannot claim any time off the field as rest time and his spell will still be in progress even though play is suspended. If the spell is not continued after the interruption, the bowler cannot bowl again, from either end, until the equivalent number of overs to the length of his spell before the interruption has been bowled from the same end. If the interruption is of 40 minutes duration or more, whether scheduled or not, the bowler can commence a new spell immediately.

Once a bowler covered by these Directives has bowled in a match, he cannot exceed the maximum overs per day for his age group even if he subsequently bowls spin. He can exceed the maximum of overs per spell if bowling spin only, but cannot then revert to bowling fast until an equivalent number of overs to the length of his spell has been bowled from the same end. Any spell that includes fast bowling must not exceed the maximum number of overs per spell even if some of the spell is of spin.

#### Umpires' responsibility

The umpires, only when officially appointed, are expected to monitor these players and keep records of the overs such players bowl. Once the maximum allowance for any one spell has been reached, they will inform the player and the captain accordingly, and will not allow the player to bowl again until the requisite rest period has been fulfilled.

#### f) Batting Directive

Any batsman under the age of 18 (on the day of the match) must wear a helmet when batting.

Non-compliance with this Directive will result in the umpires stopping the game immediately and instructing the batsman to put on a helmet.

#### g) Clubs should adopt the following ECB directives for practice sessions.

##### ECB Fast Bowling Directives for Practice Sessions

Age	Maximum Balls per session	Maximum sessions per week
Up to 13	30 balls per session	2 sessions per week
U14, U15	36 balls per session	2 sessions per week
U16, U17	36 balls per session	3 sessions per week
U18, U19	42 balls per session	3 sessions per week

The figures for the match and practice sessions are based on players bowling in no more than 3 matches or practice sessions per week for age groups up to and including U15, and 4 matches or practice sessions per week for age groups up to and including U19. Players can play in other matches provided that they do not bowl.

#### Nets - Outdoor

The emphasis should be on quality rather than quantity. These Directives encourage young fast bowlers to focus their efforts on shorter, more intensive spells. Consequently, young fast bowlers should be made aware of the importance of warming up and warming down as part of their preparation.

Nets - Indoor

In the period between the end of the season and Christmas, indoor practice for fast bowlers should be kept to a minimum.

## **11. CODE OF ETHICS**

The Leinster Cricket Union accepts fully as a basis for the management and welfare of young cricketers, the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport in Ireland. It is now part of the LCU constitution.