**The Cricket Paper National Schools U17 Cup 2023**

**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

The competition shall forthwith be known as the ‘**The Cricket Paper National Schools U17 Cup’.**

The Competition Organisers- Andy **Barnard, Shrewsbury School**

**The Competition Consultant is Rob Morris (HMC Cricket Committee- Midlands)**

**The competition will run from April to July but the final may need to be played in September at the discretion of the organisers.**

The competition is open to bona-fide full-time students of the school/college concerned aged 16 and under on August 31 in the year preceding the event and 17 and under on August 31 in the year of the event. Players must have been full time students in the Autumn and Spring terms preceding the summer term competition. In the event of finalists, players must have been full time students in the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms preceding the September final. The breaking of either regulation, inadvertently or deliberately, will result in disqualification from the competition at the discretion of the organisers.

The closing date for entries will be **January 1st, 2021**, after which a draw, with dates for all rounds, will be sent to all competing schools/colleges. **An entry fee of £50 to cover administrative costs must be received before January1st 2021.**

Failure to do so will mean your place being offered to a school on a reserve list. In the event of withdrawal, the fee will only be refundable if notice is given before **February 28th, 2021** and a replacement team can be found.

The home team will be responsible for organising individual rounds in conjunction and agreement with the away team. There is nothing to stop away team managers being pro-active in contacting opponents, however.

**Matches can be played on any day of the week and should be arranged as far in advance of the final date for organising the round to allow for postponements due to weather etc.**

Extensions will only be accepted in exceptional circumstances at the **discretion of the organisers.** Where the home team is unable to provide a suitable venue for the match, the fixture must be reversed and played at the away team venue to ensure the match is completed by the due date. If a match is not played by the due date, the organisers will progress one team to the next round based either on a voluntary walkover given to one team over the other, on one team’s inability to play the game or toss of the coin.

**THE MATCH**-**The Laws of Cricket will apply except where specified below**.

A team can consist of 12 players of whom 11 may bat and only 11 field at the same time.

Matches shall consist of one innings per team of **35 OVERS**, or less if the start is delayed or if there are rain delays, as mutually agreed. If the team batting first is bowled out in less than the allocated overs, unused overs will **not** be available to the team batting last.

**Although a 35-over competition at its heart, schools will be permitted to play reduced overs games in the early rounds if both sides agree. The MINIMUM OVERS PERMITTED at the start of play shall be 25 OVERS per side (fielding restrictions will be reduced on a pro-rata basis with those set out later).**

**FREE HITS – free hits will be awarded for waist high and foot fault NO BALLS.**

**In the event of an interruption**, rain or otherwise, the full allocation of overs may still be played despite an interruption, by mutual consent, if sufficient time is thought to be available.

An interruption during the first innings of a match may lead to an agreed reduction in the total allocation equivalent to one over of each innings for each eight minutes of play lost. An interruption during the second innings may lead to a reduction in the allocation of the team batting second equivalent to one over for each four minutes of play lost.

If the team batting second has their allocation of overs reduced after the completion of the first innings, their target score will be calculated by multiplying the revised number of overs (including any already bowled) by the average run rate of the team batting first (based on their total allocation of overs, even if they were bowled out without using them all). Fractions will be rounded to the nearest whole number in all calculations.

For an interrupted match to be completed the team batting second must receive a minimum of 10 overs.

**No bowler will bowl more than SEVEN overs**. In the event of an innings being reduced, overs will be restricted on a pro-rata basis. **The fielding side is expected to bowl at a rate of 17 overs per hour in order to facilitate a 2 hour batting innings** In the event of a bowler being unable to complete an over, the remaining balls will be bowled by another bowler. Such parts of overs will be counted as full overs in both bowler’s allocations.

If the scores finish level then the team losing the fewer wickets will be the winner. If the scores finish level and both teams have lost the same number of wickets the result will be decided by the scores at the end of the penultimate over (i.e. 34th over in a 35 over match). If they are still level then the result will be decided by the scores at the end of the previous over (i.e. 33rd over in a 35 over match) and so on until a winner is found.

**Fielding Restrictions** – POWER PLAYS

A (27m) fielding circle is required and should be clearly marked

**Overs 1 to 7 – 2 players only outside the fielding circle**

**Way, Redwood Park, Shrewsbury**

**Overs 8 to 23 - 4 players only outside the fielding circle**

**Overs 24 to 35 – 5 players only outside the fielding circle**

**MATCH BALLS & KIT**

**KIT- ALL MATCHES should be played in colour kit (preferably a different colour for each team) however, if a school does not have a coloured kit, or blacked out screens then a pink ball will be allowed. The home team shall inform their opponents when fixture arrangements are agreed.**

**BALL- Matches SHOULD be played with a NEWBERY WHITE BALL, where dark screens are available.**

**The organisers would like you to use the OFFICIAL BALL- NEWBERY GRADE WHITE BALL (meets the competition regulations outlined below) – as advertised in the flyer. The ball comes highly recommended and the use by all competing schools will not only add a level of consistent quality to matches but ensure a certain amount of comparability/equality.**

**NEW RULE FOR 2022 – IF BOTH TEAMS AGREE - TWO NEWBERY COMPETITION BALLS MADE BE USED IN AN INNINGS**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT FROM THE REGIONAL FINAL STAGE ( AND INCLUDING) THIS WILL BE A MATCH RULE- ONE NEW BALL FROM EACH END.**

**Where dark screens are NOT available a PINK ball, of the quality stated below, MAY be used. The HOME school will make these arrangements and inform their opponents, and match official, well in advance of the fixture so that ALL PARTIES, ARE CLEAR ABOUT THE MATCH ARRANGEMENTS.**

**IN ALL MATCHES IN, AND BEYOND, THE GROUP FINAL MATCHES**

**The OFFICIAL BALL- NEWBERY GRADE WHITE BALL will be used**

**A NEW BALL should be available for the start of each innings and must conform to Law 4 of the Laws of Cricket (2017 Code). All balls shall be Grade ‘A’ natural (i.e. wax) finish and manufactured from English materials. A similar coloured ball shall be used for both innings.**

**The HOME team will provide the balls. The umpires will take possession of match balls at the toss.**

**THE FINAL will be organised at a suitable ground (geographically & quality), by the organisers. The organisers will provide the ground, officials, balls, trophies & catering.**