



CRICKET NSW

NSW YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS MATCH DAY OPERATION POLICIES

Season 2026/27 (Updated on 22nd September 2026)

Highlighted items are new in 2026/27

SUMMARY

This document is to be used **in conjunction with the competition playing conditions**. Queries relating to this document should be addressed to the competition lead at Cricket NSW, Lachlan Roberts. Matters relating to umpiring should be addressed to the Cricket NSW Youth Pathways Umpires Appointments Officer, Stephen Blomfield. Contact details are as follows:

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1. PITCH SURFACES

Under 11s, 12s and 13s Metro competitions will be played on 18 metre, synthetic pitches measured from stump to stump. Under 13 Country competitions will play on 18 metre turf pitches. Under 14s, 15s and 17s competitions will be played on Laws of Cricket turf dimension pitches (20.12 metres). Cricket NSW may, in its absolute discretion, schedule matches on synthetic surfaces where there are insufficient turf venues to host all games.

2. STUMPS

Reduced 18 Metre Pitch – Under 11, 12 and 13

- Country 13s on 18m turf may use regular stumps at the discretion of ground staff.
- The home team must supply the stumps for both ends.
- Spring back stumps must be used at both ends of the pitch.
- The away team must bring a backup set of spring back stumps.

Synthetic Pitches (Full Size Pitch – Under 14 and Older)

- The home team must supply the stumps for both ends.
- The away team must bring three back up stumps and two bails.

Full Size Turf Pitches

- The home team must supply the stumps for both ends.
- The away team must bring three back up turf stumps and two bails.
- Steel tipped stumps are banned for use in turf pitch matches.

Matches on Neutral Venues

- Where a match is played on a neutral venue, the “home” team is defined as the first mentioned side on the draw.

3. GROUND EQUIPMENT

Boundary Markers

- Both teams will travel to the game with a minimum number of 20 boundary cones. Home side may provide all cones if sufficient supply.
- Minimum and maximum boundary sizes are available in the appropriate playing conditions.

Scoreboards

- The home team must provide a portable scoreboard to be used during the match. The batting side is responsible for ensuring the scoreboard is updated regularly.
- Repeat non provision of a scoreboard by the home side may at the discretion of competition management see offending Associations sanctioned up to an including loss of competition points.

4. CREASES AND FIELDING CIRCLES

The home team will be responsible for venue preparation including crease markings and fielding restriction circles for all age groups. Fielding restriction circles are recommended for all synthetic surface fixtures and mandatory for all turf fixtures. This can be a white line circle, a series of white dots forming the circle, or rubber discs in the place of a white line circle.

5. SWAPPING FROM TURF TO SYNTHETIC PITCHES

For all matches scheduled on turf pitches, the home team must have a backup synthetic surface venue to transfer to in the event of the turf venue being unfit for play. The away team has no right of refusal to the match being transferred to a synthetic surface. The decision whether to play at the backup venue lies with the umpires, based on the fitness of that ground to safely conduct the match.

Where a match is transferred from turf to synthetic the match will continue in both innings with the four-piece ball supplied by Cricket NSW to each competing Association. For finals series matches, venues shall not be changed without the consent of Cricket NSW.

6. SWAPPING FROM ONE SYNTHETIC PITCH VENUE TO ANOTHER

Where synthetic grounds are closed due to wet weather, these matches may be transferred to another synthetic ground if available. The away team has no right of refusal to the match being transferred to an alternate synthetic surface. The decision whether to play at the backup venue lies with the umpires, based on the fitness of that ground to safely conduct the match. For finals series matches, venues shall not be changed without the consent of Cricket NSW.

7. WET WEATHER, GROUND CLOSURES, AND VENUE TRANSFERS

- (a) Where a ground has been closed due to poor weather and the match needs to be abandoned or venue transferred, the home team is solely responsible for communicating this information to the opposition Association and appointed umpires.
- (b) Advising the appointed umpires of a venue closure or transfer shall only be via a personal phone call. Text messages, emails, or voicemail are not sufficient. If a host Association fails to advise the match officials of a ground closure causing umpires to unnecessarily travel to the venue, Cricket NSW is obligated to pay the umpires full match payment. In such cases, Cricket NSW may in its absolute discretion seek compensation for those umpire payments from the Association that failed in its duties under this policy.

- (c) All stakeholders will be given access to an umpire's contact list prior to the start of the season. The umpire contact list will also be available on the competition website - <https://www.cricketnsw.com.au/nsw-youth-championships>
- (d) Umpire appointments for each round will be available on the Youth Championships website as well as on the Play HQ app. <https://www.cricketnsw.com.au/nsw-youth-championships>

8. UMPIRING MATTERS

- (a) Where possible, Cricket NSW will appoint two umpires to officiate at all NSW Youth Championship matches.
- (b) Where a shortfall of umpires occurs and a match proceeds with only one officially appointed umpire, an adult from the batting team will act as square leg umpire at both ends. No coaching or support shall be provided to batters at the crease in between overs by the adult at square leg. No adult shall act as square leg umpire when their child is at the crease batting. Umpires shall seek to have a parent acting as square leg umpire removed from the field where that person cannot adhere to the requirements listed above.

9. TEAM OFFICIALS

- (a) Each competing team shall appoint a competent person as its team manager who is responsible for ensuring that adequate playing equipment is provided for his or her team. Managers are also responsible for the conduct of players during the competition season. Managers must also ensure appropriate behaviour of parents and players who are off field.
- (b) All NSW Youth Championship matches are alcohol free zones. Team managers are responsible for the upholding of this policy.
- (c) Coaches have sole authority to give instructions to players during play however **shouting is not permitted**.

Should a coach wish to give instructions during play, you are may do so:

- By moving to a boundary position to provide instructions via a player on the boundary.
- By instructing a substitute fielder who will then take the field for the next over.
- By instructing a player during a break and/or their team during a drinks interval.

Umpires have sole discretion as to when coaches abuse their right to coach and can, if necessary, they can submit a complaint to competition management for review which may lead to penalties.

- (d) Coaches may enter the field of play to provide instructions or support to players but only during scheduled drinks breaks.
- (e) Coaches are forbidden to walk onto the field with play in progress to approach the umpires to discuss, dispute or dissent any decisions made by the match officials. Such actions will be deemed to be a Code of Conduct breach and will be reported by the match umpires.

(f) Coach Behaviour Penalties

- a. First Warning - Umpires have the right to apply an official 'First Warning' to coaches who display behaviour that the umpire considers against the directives laid out in this policy. Behaviours such as shouting, walking onto the field of play, umpire abuse or any form of dissent may result in a 'First Warning'
- b. Second Offence – At the point of an umpire attributing a coach a 'Second Warning' for a second coach behaviour offence committed on the same day, the Umpire will award five (5) penalty runs to the opposition side. A maximum of 15 runs may be penalised against a single team in a fixture.

10. SCORING AND ADVICE OF MATCH RESULTS

- (a) Teams must provide a non-playing, competent scorer for every match. It will be the home team's responsibility to ensure that the match is scored by one team using a smart phone/tablet/device within the Play HQ software and one team using a paper scorebook. The team scoring online should also have access to a paper scorebook in the event of technical issues. The home team shall have the choice of whether to score live or use a paper scorebook.
- (b) It is not a requirement to score in the online or "live" mode, however, if scoring in the "offline" mode, it is encouraged to frequently use the manual sync function.
- (c) Match results are to be submitted by 9am on the Monday morning after the match. Any bonus points awarded (if not added during live scoring,) will be manually calculated after the 9am score submission the following day. Addition of bonus points and recalculation of ladders can take up to 24 hours from 9am on the Monday to become visible on Play HQ or Youth Championships website.

11. RUN RATE METHOD

- (a) Where a match has to be determined under the run rate method, each team's run rate shall be equal to the total runs scored divided by the total number of overs and balls faced. Each fair delivery counting for one-sixth of an over. If a side has been dismissed in less than the allocated number of overs, they will be considered to have batted for their maximum allocated number of overs.
- (b) If a match is interrupted and the team batting second has its overs reduced (causing a reduced target score,) then the match will end as soon as the team batting second has reached the reduced target score, despite there being overs remaining.
- (c) Where teams finish on the table with equal on the competition points at the end of the round matches, places on the ladder shall be determined by the **Net Run Rate Method**:

(Runs scored divided by overs batted) **less** (Runs against divided by overs bowled)

12. SIGHT SCREENS

Where sight screens are available for use, it shall be the responsibility of the batting team to provide persons to move sight screens as required by the batter. If this does not occur, the umpires shall require play to continue without the sight screen being moved.

13. TEAM LISTS

Captains shall each nominate their players before the toss for innings. Thereafter, these may not be changed without the consent of the opposing captain. Umpires shall ask captains to present their team sheets to take a photo of each. Umpires may need to provide these photos to Cricket NSW if a match investigation is required. The number of players nominated on a team sheet shall not under any circumstances exceed 13.

14. MATCH BALLS

Cricket NSW will supply Kookaburra brand cricket balls for all NSW Youth Championships matches. A new ball will be used at the start of each innings.

The balls will be pink for T20 fixtures (Peden Shield only) and white for 20 (Male), 30, 40 and 50 over fixtures. For pink ball games if a ball becomes lost or unfit for play a replacement ball may be red if no other pink spare balls are available. For white ball games on turf, if a ball becomes lost or unfit for play a two-piece ball can be used only if no suitable four-piece ball is available. The types of balls to be used are as follows:

Age Group	Male or Female	2 or 4 Piece	Ball Weight
11, 12, 13	Male	2	142g
13 & 14	Female	2	142g
15 (T20)	Female	2	142g
15	Female	4	142g
14 / 15 / 17	Male	4	156g

15. PITCH COVERS

- a) Covers for turf pitch venues shall be a minimum of 30 metres by 10 metres and are required to be used for all representative matches. Covers must be laid by dusk on the evening of any day prior to a match. It is the home team's responsibility to liaise with the appropriate ground authority to ensure compliance regarding the laying of covers the night before the game. Breaches of this regulation may at the absolute discretion of Cricket NSW competition management result in the loss of competition points if an Association is found negligent in regard to the laying of covers.
- b) Covers are to be removed at the discretion of the ground staff dependant on prevailing weather conditions. In good weather conditions the covers should be removed no later than 8:30am. Covers may be re-laid on the morning of any playing day should conditions necessitate. Ground staff may be permitted to use the covers at their discretion in order to obtain the best possible conditions of play for each match day.

c) Umpires shall assume sole control thirty minutes prior to the scheduled start time and make all decisions regarding the use of covers after this time. After commencement of play, the covers may be used as directed by the umpires. Should umpires decide that the covers be used during the match, it is the responsibility of both teams to assist with any labour required.

d) The use of covers on synthetic surface venues is optional.

16. CODE OF CONDUCT

All players, officials, spectators and anyone affiliated with Youth Championships matches are bound by the Code of Conduct. A summary of what defines a breach of the code is included in the competition playing conditions. Umpires are strongly encouraged to report to Cricket NSW any behaviour that breaches the code. Further details are also available on the Youth Championships website – <https://www.cricketnsw.com.au/nsw-youth-championships>

17. PROVISION OF LUNCH AND DRINKS

The provision of food service for the lunch break at all matches is no longer mandatory. All stakeholders should make their own provisions for food to be consumed on match days.

Drinks breaks shall be conducted on field and should on average last no longer than four (4) minutes. The home team is responsible for the service of drinks to the appointed umpire/s.

18. ADHERENCE TO CNSW POLICIES

All NSW Youth Championships games are required to adhere to all CNSW policies. These can be found at <https://www.cricketnsw.com.au/policy/community-cricket>.