

METROPOLITAN CUP

PLAYING CONDITIONS VARIATION DOCUMENT

Updated on 17 Sept 2026 for Season 2026-27



Metropolitan Cup - Summary

Metropolitan Cup in season 2026-27 shall play under the same playing conditions that are applicable in NSW Men's Premier Cricket. The various types of games played are –

- SCA Game 1 – Regular Two-Day Games (Minimum 80 overs a day)
- SCA Game 2 – Day 2 of a Two-Day game with additional overs for those lost on Day 1
- SCA Game 3 – One Day Games (50 overs a side)
- SCA Game 5 – Finals Series Matches

In applying the above listed playing conditions, Metropolitan Cup should be regarded the same as NSW Men's Premier Cricket 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grades for matters such as, but not limited to, the minimum number of overs in a day, scheduled start and finish times, and duration and scheduling of intervals.

All references to “SCA” in the playing conditions shall be replaced by “Cricket NSW Competition Committee”

The competition is of a hybrid nature where matches can be scheduled on Saturdays or Sundays based on ground availability from round to round. Where ground availability allows, preference will be given to scheduling matches on Saturdays over Sundays.

In addition to the application of the above listed playing conditions in SCA Games 1,2,3 and 5, Metropolitan Cup shall adhere to the following inclusions or exclusions –

Clause 1

Player Qualifications – Preliminary Rounds

(a) Eligibility

Any player who has played one or more games in NSW Men's Premier Cricket Grades 1 to 4 or Sydney Shires Cricket Grades 1 and 2 in the current season is NOT eligible to play in the Metropolitan Cup without prior approval from the Cricket NSW competition manager who oversees the administration of the Metropolitan Cup. Any player with superior experience or demonstrated ability, is not to play without a clearance from Cricket NSW. If there is any doubt, clearance must be sought in the first instance. Playing an ineligible player without a clearance may result in a loss of any competition points earned in the game. Cricket NSW may also in its absolute discretion impose additional sanctions as it sees fit for breaches of the eligibility criteria.

(b) Players “backing up” from Saturday fixtures to play Sunday fixtures

Players who have played for their club on a Saturday in NSW Men's Premier Cricket or Shires Cricket, may back up for a Sunday fixture in Metropolitan Cup where a need exists, provided that player meets the eligibility criteria listed above in clause 1(a). Where a player backs up and plays on Sunday after having played a match on Saturday restrictions will apply to that player as follows –

- (i) The player may not bat above number seven (7) in the batting order,
- (ii) The player may not bowl in the first 20 overs of either innings and shall be limited to no more than five (5) overs in a limited overs match played under SCA Game 3

METROPOLITAN CUP

PLAYING CONDITIONS VARIATION DOCUMENT

Season 2025-2026



CRICKET NSW

- (iii) Any player backing up from a Saturday game to play a game on Sunday shall NOT have that match count towards the final's series five (5) match minimum qualification. If there is any doubt, seek clearance in the first instance.
- (iv) Where a player is backing up in a Sunday fixture and is subject to the above restrictions, the opposing captain and the appointed umpire/s must be advised at the toss and that player's name should be notarised as such on the supplied team sheet.

(c) Clubs with more than one Metropolitan Cup team

Where a club has more than one team entered in the competition, a player shall NOT under any circumstances be permitted to play in one of that clubs Metropolitan Cup sides on a Saturday and then back up with another one of that clubs Metropolitan Cup sides on a Sunday.

(d) Overseas Players

Any person classified as an overseas player must have clearance from the Cricket NSW / Metropolitan Cup competition manager before being permitted to play in any Metropolitan Cup fixture. Any clearance provided, unless otherwise advised, shall only be for the round that clearance is being sought for.

Clause 2

Player Qualifications – Finals Series

All players MUST play a minimum of five (5) preliminary round matches to be eligible to play in a final's series fixture. All other conditions are read in conjunction with the SCA playing conditions and distributed policy for non-automatically eligible players. Participating in three (3) of the last five (5) rounds of a Men's Premier Cricket or Shires Cricket competition matches does not make you ineligible to play in a Metropolitan Cup finals series match.

The application in the Playing Conditions for finals series matches (SCA Game 5) regarding the "adjacent teams" rule, refer Playing Condition 5.1.1(c), does not extend to eligibility for finals matches in the Metropolitan Cup.

Clause 3

Player Numbers in Matches

Preliminary Round Matches

- (a) In all Preliminary Round matches, 12 players may participate in each fixture. No more than 11 can bat in each innings, no more than 11 can bowl in each innings. At the toss, the captain must nominate which of the 12 players will not bat and this shall apply to both innings if the match is a two day fixture. If one of the 11 nominated batters becomes ill or injured, or becomes absent during the match the 12th non batter cannot replace the ill, injured or absent player in the batting order.



CRICKET NSW

METROPOLITAN CUP

PLAYING CONDITIONS VARIATION DOCUMENT

Season 2025-2026

- (b) If playing with 12 in a two-day fixture, then all 12 players must be present on both playing days. To clarify, a player shall not be selected to participate in a match knowing that he/she is only available to play on one day of that match. Breaches of this playing condition may at the absolute discretion of competition management see the club sanctioned up to and including loss of competition points earned in the match in question.
- (c) When playing with 12, fielders may rotate at any time provided the rotation occurs at the end of an over or at the fall of a wicket. The umpire/s must be advised when a rotation is taking place. When a rotation takes place, those players are subject to playing condition 1.24, 2.24, 3.24 or 5.24 in that if they have been off the field for more than eight (8) minutes then they must make up the time absent before being allowed to bowl (or bat if an innings change takes place while a player still has unserved penalty time). Refer to playing condition 1.24, 2.24, 3.24 or 5.24 for a more detailed explanation.

Finals Series Matches – Play with 12 not permitted

- d) The play with 12 provision that is above does NOT extend to finals series matches. Only 11 players can be selected and participate in a final's series match, notwithstanding that a 12th player can be nominated, but can only act as a substitute fielder when required strictly under the provisions of the Laws of Cricket clause 24.1

Clause 4

Administration of Matches - Forfeits

- (a) A match will be defined as a forfeit where a team communicates in advance of the scheduled start time of its inability to be able to play the match. A match shall also be defined as a forfeit where the umpire/s award the match under Law 16.3 to the opposing side due to a refusal to play.
- (b) Where a team loses by forfeit, six (6) competition points will be deducted. Further, competition management may in its absolute discretion impose additional sanctions if it sees fit to do so.
- (c) Where a team wins by forfeit, that team shall be awarded the maximum number of points earned by another team in the competition in that particular round of cricket.



METROPOLITAN CUP

PLAYING CONDITIONS VARIATION DOCUMENT

Season 2025-2026

- (d) Where a team forfeits a game in advance of the match start time with nobody travelling to the match venue, the appointed umpire shall be entitled to a 50% match payment if he or she is not subsequently appointed to another game on the same day in any Cricket NSW administered fixture. Where a 50% payment is applicable, all of this amount shall be invoiced to the club that forfeited the match. If all parties travel to the match venue and a forfeit then occurs as defined in clause (a) above, the appointed umpire shall be entitled to a 100% match payment. That 100% payment shall be invoiced to the club that forfeited the game.

Clause 5

Byes and the Competition Ladder

- (a) Where the competition proceeds with an uneven number of teams causing a bye to be in place each round, the team that has the bye each round shall not be awarded any competition points.
- (b) Where the competition proceeds with a bye, places on the competition ladder will be determined by "Points Average" rather than the actual number of competition points earned. "Points Average" is determined by calculating the total number of points earned and dividing it by the total number of matches played. A Bye shall not count as a match played. A match that is washed out with out a ball bowled shall count as a match played.
- (c) Where two or more teams finish on a ladder position with an equal "Points Average" the tie breaker shall be the Quotient of each team accrued through the preliminary rounds of the season. Each teams quotient shall be determined using the following formular –

(Runs scored divided by wickets lost) divided by (Runs conceded divided by wickets taken)

Clause 6

Approved Cricket Balls

The competition has approved the use of the following **Size 1 (156g)** red ball types for all matches played in the Metropolitan Cup –

- (a) Kookaburra Regulation
- (b) Kookaburra Club
- (c) Kookaburra Senator

Second Quality Balls – Any ball deemed as second quality (traditionally identified with a black "X" near the seam) shall also be allowed to be used in this competition.



METROPOLITAN CUP

PLAYING CONDITIONS VARIATION DOCUMENT

Season 2025-2026

Clause 7

Umpiring Matters

- a) **Appointment of Umpires** – Where possible, Cricket NSW will appoint at least one umpire to all Preliminary round matches and two umpires to all finals series matches. Umpires will be allocated to all fixtures by Cricket NSW Community Cricket Umpires Appointments Officer.
- b) **Umpire Payments** - Competing clubs within the competition are responsible for funding the Umpires appointed to the Metropolitan Cup. All Clubs will be invoiced for Umpires allocated to their matches with invoices to be distributed at various stages throughout the season. Each club is responsible for funding 50% of the Umpire match day fee payment applicable each season. Clubs will be invoiced for all circumstances where an umpire attends the match day venue even if play does not occur due to wet weather.
- c) **One Umpire Appointed** – In any match where only one official umpire is appointed by Cricket NSW, that umpire shall at all times, officiate at the bowlers end with a player or club representative from the batting team to act as square leg umpire during each innings.
- d) **No Official Umpire Present** – Refer to SCA Playing Conditions for the relevant game type.
- e) **Umpires Power To Overrule** – Where the officially appointed umpire deems that the player umpire at square leg has made a clear error in the judgement of a run out, stumping or hit wicket at the strikers end, then the officially appointed umpire may over rule the player umpires decision. To avoid potential on field conflict, the officially appointed Umpire may also exercise his/her power to instruct the player Umpire at Square Leg to be replaced.
- f) **Player Umpires – Non Use of Electronic Devices** – Players when acting in the role of square leg Umpire shall not be permitted to use mobile phones or any other form of electronic device while on the field at any time. Where a breach of this playing condition occurs, the official Umpire shall initially issue a first and final warning to the person involved as well as the captain of the batting side. Such first and final warning shall also advise that further breaches during the remainder of the match by any person from that team shall see the opposition side awarded five (5) penalty runs.
- g) **Player Umpires (Attire)** – Players when acting in the role of the square leg Umpire shall not be permitted to wear all white clothing. At a minimum, a contrasting-coloured shirt or jacket must be worn, at all times.
- h) **Player Umpires Holding Equipment** – Players when acting in the role of the square leg Umpire shall not at anytime hold any batters protective equipment including helmets.



CRICKET NSW

METROPOLITAN CUP

PLAYING CONDITIONS VARIATION DOCUMENT

Season 2025-2026

Clause 8

Playing Hours – Two Day Cricket (Game 1)

Metropolitan Cup will **NOT** be implementing the revised 11am start time in two-day cricket to be used in 3rd, 4th and 5th Grade Men's Premier Cricket.

The scheduled playing hours for Metropolitan Cup two-day fixtures shall continue to be –

Start Time – 12 Midday

Scheduled Tea Break – 2.40pm (for 30 minutes)

Scheduled Stumps – 5.30pm

Minimum overs in the day = 80

Clause 9

Duckworth Lewis – 50 Over Cricket (Game 3)

The "Duckworth-Lewis-Stern" Calculator in the PlayCricket website, PlayCricket app or PlayHQ E Scoring that is used in NSW Men's Premier Cricket for 3rd, 4th and 5th Grades shall also be used in the Metropolitan Cup.

Clause 10

Replacement Player Rule

The replacement player rule introduced in season 2024-25 to NSW Men's Premier Cricket Two Day matches in 4th and 5th Grades shall not apply to Metropolitan Cup two-day fixtures.

Clause 11

E-Scoring Requirements

- All matches in the competition must be E-Scored as well as being scored with at least one paper-based scorebook.
- It is the responsibility of the Home team to provide the E-Scoring device. During the match it is the responsibility of the batting side to E-Score.
- Failure of the club that is batting at any time to E-Score that innings will result in the following sanctions –



- 1st Offence – Competition management will issue the offending club a formal warning.
- 2nd Offence – Competition management will issue a final warning advising that any further offences in the season will result in a loss of competition points.
- 3rd Offence – One (1) competition point will be deducted from that club's season tally.
- 4th Offence – Two (2) competition points will be deducted from that club's season tally.
- Further Offences will attract a Three (3) competition points deduction from that club's season tally.

d) The above-mentioned sanctions will be in place from round 1.

Clause 12

Team Selections / Play HQ

All team selections must be entered into Play HQ prior to match day. This is required to allow for the commencement of E-Scoring to be ready to go at the scheduled start time of each match. Repeated breaches of this playing condition may at the absolute discretion of competition management result in sanctions up to and including loss of competition points.

Clause 13

Metro Cup to Junior Club Notifications

For all players **aged 16 or under** who wish to participate in the Metro Cup, the Premier/ Shires club that they will be playing for must inform the relevant community club and association via email and copy in Daniel Miles (daniel.miles@cricketnsw.com.au) from Cricket NSW before the player will be allowed to participate in the competition. If a player participates in a match without one of the below, then competition-related penalties may be applied:

- a) Providing notice to relevant junior club and association prior to 9am on the Thursday before a match day
- b) Written approval from the junior club involved if the Thursday deadline is missed, or
- c) Exemption from CNSW in the event of extenuating circumstances

The above must occur before a permit or transfer is initiated via PlayHQ and must be completed each time a player is 'selected' from community cricket. It will be the responsibility of Premier and Shires clubs to obtain the relevant club contact information from each player that they select.

Community Associations are only to be copied into selection notifications as an FYI and are not expected to action anything or participate in the process.

Process

- Premier/Shires Club notifies the player's junior cricket club of their intent to select the player prior to 9am on the Thursday prior to the upcoming match day - Junior club has no right of refusal if notification is received before this time.
- If notification of selection is provided after the 9am Thursday deadline, approval from the junior club or an exemption from CNSW is required before a player is permitted to take the field.

Examples:



- Player A is selected in Metro Cup for the first time – **Email notification required.**
- Player A is selected in Metro Cup in consecutive games and has not played a local association game in between Metro Cup fixtures – **No notification required.**
- Player A has been selected for a Metro Cup fixture/s after playing in local association cricket the previous week but played a Metro Cup match/es previously in the season – **Email notification required.**
- Player A is selected in a 'Metro Cup Squad' at the beginning of the season but played for a community club last week. They have then been selected to play Metro Cup in the upcoming match – **Email notification required.**

Clause 14

Child Safety Policy Additions

Clubs competing in the Metropolitan Cup must adhere to the following Child Safety Protocols:

- All captains, team managers, coaches and independent scorers must have a valid Working with children check (WWCC).
- All WWCC information must be verified by the participating club and provided to CNSW before the person participates in a match.
- All Captains and other officials must be assigned in Play HQ.

Sanctions for non-compliance

- 1st Offence – Competition management will issue the offending club a formal warning, advising that any further offences in the season will result in a loss of competition points.
- 2nd Offence – One (1) competition point will be deducted from that club's season tally.
- 3rd Offence – Two (2) competition points will be deducted from that club's season tally.
- Further Offences will attract a Three (3) competition points deduction from that club's season tally.

Clause 15

Competition Management Contacts

For enquiries regarding the conduct of Metropolitan Cup please use the following contacts –

Competition Manager – Daniel Miles – 0402 067 452

daniel.miles@cricketnsw.com.au

Community Cricket Umpires Appointments Officer – Stephen Blomfield – 0404 270 044

stephen.blomfield@cricketnsw.com.au