

SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA

Boys and Girls 12 Years & Under Cricket Championships

RULES AND GUIDELINES

Section A – Championship Overview

- A - 1.** These Rules and Guidelines should be read in conjunction with School Sport Australia Policies, Championship Protocols and the Sport Championship Organisational Manual.
- A - 2.** Unless otherwise stated hereunder, *Cricket Australia Playing Conditions* and the *Laws of Cricket* shall be followed. Failing this, the decision of a conference of team officials shall be final.
- A - 3.** The Championships shall be conducted in accordance with a current Memorandum of Understanding between School Sport Australia and Cricket Australia.

A - 4. Championship Length

The Championship shall extend over a minimum of six (6) days and a maximum of eight (8) days.

A - 5. Eligibility

All students must be 12 years of age and under on 31 December of the year of competition unless age dispensation has been granted as per rule A - 6.

Added December 2020

A - 6. Age Dispensation

Age Dispensation may be granted to a State or Territory for these Championships as allowed through the School Sport Australia Sport Participation Policy.

A - 7. Team Size

Teams shall be limited to a maximum of 13 players.

A - 8. Attendance at Championships

All students who participate in the School Sport Australia Cricket Championships must remain at the Championship location throughout the duration of the Championships and be bound by all Championship arrangements, except in exceptional circumstances as per School Sport Australia policy.

Added December 2020

Section B – Competition Structure

B - 1. Program / Schedule

- B - 1.1** The Championship draw is determined by the number of participating teams. Refer to B - 2.1 & B - 2.2.
- B - 1.2** A rest day and an Excursion Day should be programmed during the Championship usually following two consecutive days of cricket. The Excursion Day is to involve a half day Educational Excursion.

B - 2. Draw

B - 2.1 Girls

- B - 2.1.1** The host state shall prepare the draw based on the previous year's results which shall thereafter remain unaltered, except in the event of a team competing as an unofficial team or a non-competitive team, the home state shall be empowered to rearrange the draw so that the competitive or official game or games be played on the better of the available facilities.
- B - 2.1.2** For 3 or 4 teams participating, teams will play two round robins and for 5 or more teams, one round robin will be played.
- B - 2.1.3** Should the girl's competition become an 8 team competition the competition format be changed to a pools structure as for the boy's competition.

B - 2.2 Boys

- B - 2.2.1** If there are six (6) or less teams participating, the Championship will be played on a round robin basis with no finals being played.
- B - 2.2.2** For four (4) teams participating, teams will play two rounds and for five (5) or six (6) teams, one round only will be played.
- B - 2.2.3** For seven (7) or eight (8) teams, the Championship shall be conducted in two Pools (A and B). Each team will play the others in the pool once. At the conclusion of these preliminary rounds, the teams will again be divided into two Pools based on points.
- B - 2.2.4** The two teams with the highest number of points in each pool will form Pool C and the other teams in each pool will form Pool D.
- B - 2.2.5** Should teams be equal on points, the team that won the previous encounter will be placed higher on the ladder. In the event of a draw in the previous encounter the positions will be determined as follows:
 - a) Divide the total number of runs scored by a team by the total number of wickets lost by it.

- b) Divide the total number of runs scored against a team by the total number of wickets taken by it
- c) Divide the former (a) by the latter (b). The team having the higher quotient shall be considered to have the better performance.

The quotient is to be determined by the scores at the time when the match result was achieved and not at the end of the innings

- B - 2.2.6** In Pool C teams will cross-over to play 1st Pool A v 2nd Pool B and 2nd Pool A v 1st Pool B games. Winning teams will play off for 1st and 2nd and losing teams will play for 3rd and 4th on the last day.
- B - 2.2.7** In Pool D each team will play the two teams in their Pool that they have not previously played to complete the Championship.

B - 3. Hours of Play

- B - 3.1** The starting time of all matches, and the duration of the adjournments shall be determined by the host member body before the commencement of the Championship and shall thereafter be unalterable without the approval of the host state.
- B - 3.2** At the pre-carnival meeting, the Host State/ Territory hand out hours of play and provide these to the umpires. e.g.
 - 20 overs - 9.00 - 10.30, Break - 10.30 – 10.45, 2nd session 10:45 – 12.15
 - 40 overs - 9.00 – 11.45, Lunch – 11.45 – 12.25, 2nd session 12.25 – 3.10

B - 4. Game Protocols / Specific Rules / Results

- B - 4.1** Teams shall arrive at the ground where they are to play at least forty five (45) minutes prior to the time set for the commencement of play.
- B - 4.2** Coin toss to be held at minimum 40-60 minutes before the start of play.
- B - 4.3** Matches shall consist of two (2) sessions of play, each of either twenty (20) overs or forty (40) overs duration. An adjournment of forty (40) minutes for lunch shall be taken.

The official umpires shall keep the times of play. These shall be checked with the official scorer.

The Duckworth Lewis System be used to determine winner in weather affected games. System to be administered through My Cricket. Allows for a result in a weather affected game.

(a) In all games a result can only be achieved if both teams have had the opportunity to bat for a minimum of ten (10) overs, notwithstanding one or both teams being dismissed in fewer than fifteen overs. A match shall be deemed a draw if both teams have had the opportunity to bat for fifteen overs because the:

(i) the innings of the team batting first could not be commenced by 12.00pm (10 over match with 10-minute break to finish by 3.10pm)

(ii) the team batting second could not commence by 1.40pm

(iii) the innings of the team batting second would be reduced to less than fifteen overs as a result of an interruption to play after its commencement.

(b) In any match in which both teams have had the opportunity to bat for the same amount of overs the team scoring the higher number of runs is the winner except where the maximum number of overs to be faced by either team is reduced after a match has commenced. In such a matter, the “Duckworth-Lewis-Stern Method (DLS v4.0) method of re-calculating the target score in an interrupted match” shall be applied.

(c) In reference to (b) above, each team manager must have the means to separately calculate the target score by the above DLS method. (Phone, iPad, Laptop)

(d) In the event that the DLS par or target score is not available to both teams at the start of the second innings, or at the resumption of play following an interruption for ground, weather or light, the umpires shall immediately suspend play until this is resolved by SSA organising committee.

As soon as the DLS par or target score has been agreed and advised to both team captains, the umpires shall then resume play. If conditions permit, play will then continue until the prescribed number of overs has been completed or a result achieved.

The number of overs, and/or time remaining, should be taken as they were originally scheduled or re-scheduled time for play and anytime time lost whilst investigating the par or target score shall be added on the close of play.

(e) Should the implementation of T20 Cricket occur (due to extended periods of wet weather over the Exchange) then 5 overs constitute a match under DLS Method.

B - 4.4 In the event of cessation of play due to rain, bad light, etc., which extends to within thirty (30) minutes of a break the break can be taken immediately, at the discretion of the umpires.

B - 4.5 Drinks shall be taken after ten (10) overs in a 20 over match and 20 overs in a 40 over match unless varied at the Pre-Championship Meeting, provided that players have not left the field for any reason during the session, prior to the time set. Should a wicket fall within five (5) minutes of the time set for taking drinks, the drinks shall be taken immediately.

B - 4.6 In the event of cessation of play due to rain, bad light, etc., which extends to within thirty (30) minutes of a break the break can be taken immediately, at the discretion of the umpires.

B - 4.7 All players may participate in all matches as long as no more than 11 players bat and no more than 11 players bowl.

B - 4.8 The interchange of the 12th and 13th players shall be allowed as fieldsman at any time up until the fifteenth (15) or thirty fifth (35) over provided this does not cause any interruption to the flow of play (this does not refer to injury where a replacement can occur at any time).

B - 4.9 Divided Overs

B - 4.9.1 Each team shall have its innings compulsorily closed at the conclusion of the allocated overs. In the event of both teams concluding their innings, whether compulsorily or otherwise, before the time set for the close of play (40 or 80 overs), the match shall continue under normal conditions until that time. It shall be permissible for the side batting second (2nd) to bat for up to two (2) hours beyond the time set for the close of play should this be necessary for it to receive its full quota of overs provided carnival organisation enables this to take place. This shall be determined by the Championship Convenor prior to the commencement of the Championship. For calculation purposes, the proposed finishing time shall be set at six (6) hours after the set starting time of all matches.

B - 4.9.2 If the side batting second is unable to receive its entitled number of overs within the specified period of extension, then the match shall be declared drawn.

B - 4.9.3 The scorers shall notify the umpires by clear signal of the end of the fifteenth (15) and thirty fifth (35) over, and the umpires, in turn, shall notify the batsmen and the captain of the fielding side.

B - 4.9.4 If a bowler is unable, for any reason to complete an over, the remaining balls of that over shall be bowled immediately by any other bowler, provided that such part of an over shall be counted as an over for the purpose of Law 17 of the *Laws of Cricket*.

B - 4.9.5 the traditional interpretation of “one day wides” be played in boys’ games. Pitches to be marked accordingly.

B - 4.10 Late Starts

In the event of a match not being able to start on time owing to weather or the state of the ground and it not being possible for each side to receive its full quota of twenty (20) or forty (40) overs, the number of overs to be bowled in the innings of each team will be reduced at the discretion of the Championship Convenor . If a match cannot commence within sixty (60) minutes of the set starting time the number of overs shall be reduced by the formula of a reduction of one over per team for every six (6) minutes of time lost. A match shall not commence unless it is possible for each side to receive at least fifteen (15) overs in its innings. Sessions of play for matches starting late will be determined by the Host State. Upon commencement of a match the number of overs remains unalterable.

B - 4.11 Change of Innings.

Should an innings close within twenty (20) minutes of the time set for an adjournment, that adjournment shall be taken immediately at the close of the innings, and the normal ten (10) minutes interval between innings shall not then be allowed. Play will recommence following the 40 minute lunch break.

B - 4.12 Fielding Restrictions

No fieldsman shall be allowed to field within ten metres of the batsman on strike except those fielding within an arc from point to wicketkeeper in the off side of the wicket.

20 over innings

Over	Fielding Restrictions
0-6	Must have 2 fielders on the boundary ¹
7-20	Must have 4 impacted players ²

35 over innings

Over	Fielding Restrictions
0-10	Must have 2 fielders on the boundary ¹
11-35	Must have 4 impacted players ²

40 over innings

Over	Fielding Restrictions
0-10	Must have 2 fielders on the boundary ¹
11-40	Must have 4 impacted players ²

Note: The Umpire is to signal a no-ball for those deliveries where these fielding restrictions are deemed to be breached.

¹ Boundary fielders must be within 4 metres of the boundary at the bowler's point of release. This also applies to any player fielding on the boundary as an impacted player.

² Total number of players either fielding on the boundary or in the slips cordon. Slips cordon is inclusive of slips & gully only. Coaches/captains can use any combination of boundary & slips cordon fielding positions at their discretion i.e. 2 boundary & 2 slips cordon, 1 boundary & 3 slips cordon; however, they must total 4 during the period those restrictions are in play.

B - 4.13 Bowling Restrictions

20 overs - A maximum innings allocation of four (4) overs per bowler will be allowed. 40 overs - A maximum innings allocation of eight (8) overs per bowler will be allowed. These must be bowled in no more than four (4) over spells for fast/medium bowlers. A break of at least the same number of overs from one end must occur between each bowling spell. Should a fast/medium bowler complete a spell of less than four (4) overs she should not be entitled to bowl again until the completion of an equivalent number of overs to that of their last spell from the end from which the last over of the spell was bowled.

B - 4.14 No Ball

B - 4.14.1 One (1) short pitched delivery passing between shoulders and top of the head be allowed per over. Any other short pitched delivery passing above shoulder height of a batsman when in his normal stance shall be called a NO BALL regardless of whether the batsman attempts a shot.

B - 4.14.2 A full pitched delivery from a bowler which passes above waist height of a batsman when in his normal stance shall be called a NO BALL regardless of whether the batsman attempts the shot, notwithstanding that any ball delivered above shoulder height on the full shall be call a NO BALL.

B - 4.15 Free Hit

Batsman will be allowed a 'free hit' following a no ball. This applies to all no-balls except for Impacted Player infringements.

B - 4.16 Access to Field

Parents and supporters are not permitted on the field of play or in the dressing/change rooms at any time during the match. This includes prior to the commencement of the match unless invited by team officials to assist team with match warmup.

B - 4.17 The score book and MyCricket match scores shall be checked by a Manager from each team involved in the match at every break and the scorebook shall be signed by the umpires at the conclusion of the match.

B - 4.18 Results of all matches will be determined by the match scores entered on MyCricket which is reconciled with the official scorebook. This is to be completed within thirty (30) minutes of the completion of each match.

B - 4.19 Team Officials

B - 4.19.1 Team Officials may only encroach onto the field in the event of injury to a player or if called upon to do so by an umpire or Championship official (Ground Manager, Championship Convenor or National Cricket Advisor).

B - 4.19.2 No team official, umpire or spectator shall coach a team whether by voice or signal while the game is in progress. Team officials are permitted to speak to fielding side or batsmen during scheduled breaks. (Scheduled breaks i.e. adjournments (lunch, tea), change innings, drink breaks, cessation in play due to weather and/or injury.) Subtle coaching by 1 designated team official with boundary riders and or substitute fielders, is permitted during the game to support the captain in the transition of new rules/ impacted players etc.

B - 5. Points Allocation

Win	6 points
Loss	1 point
Tie	3 points
Drawn match (i.e. no result)	3 points
Bye	0 points

In the event of a forfeit, the team making the forfeit receives zero (0) points and the team receiving the forfeit is given the maximum number of points gained by any other team in that round.

B - 6. Method of Determining a Winner

- B - 6.1** In a four (4) or more team Championship, a minimum of three (3) complete rounds must be completed before a winning team(s) can be declared.
- B - 6.2** The winner shall be the team(s) in Pool C (rule B - 2.2.5) with the highest number points.
- B - 6.3** Where there are four (4) or more teams participating, in the event of two (2) or more teams completing their matches with the same points, joint winners shall be declared.

Section C – Facilities / Equipment

C - 1. Wickets

- C - 1.1** All matches are to be played on turf. Concrete wickets with a suitable synthetic covering are to be used if turf wickets are unavailable due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances. All arrangements for the use of these alternate wickets should be made prior to the commencement of the carnival.
- C - 1.2** When games are played on synthetic covered wickets, any ball pitching off or on the edge of the wicket will be declared a no ball.
- C - 1.3** Turf Wicket (preferred) or Hard Wicket- 18m length. * option to move stumps in at each end to the 2 crease lines (17.7m)
- C - 1.4** Boundaries
- C - 1.4.1** Boys: Boundaries are to be set at a maximum of fifty five (55) metres – to be measured from the centre of the pitch
- C - 1.4.2** Girls: Boundaries are to be set at a maximum of forty five (45) metres – to be measured from the centre of the pitch

C - 2. Apparel

Each team shall supply and use its own gear. The use of batting helmets will follow the *Recommendations for Use of Helmets* as detailed in Cricket Australia's Playing Conditions.

C - 3. The Ball

C - 3.1 Boys: Two piece or four piece 142gm leather balls as approved by the host state's senior cricket body shall be used in all matches.

C - 3.2 Girls: Two piece 142gm leather balls as approved by the host state's senior cricket body shall be used in all matches.

C - 4. The host member body shall ensure that there is, at each match, a board displaying the numerals clearly visible to players on the field, the runs scored, wickets lost, and overs completed in the innings in progress.

C - 5. Drinks

Drinks shall be provided by the host state during all matches as required under Rule B - 3.

Section D – Uniform

D - 1. Teams can choose to wear coloured uniforms and headwear corresponding to their State / Territory colours.

D - 2. All participating teams shall have shirts numbered – 1-12/13.

Section E – Injury Management

E - 1. Refer to School Sport Australia Championship Protocols and Policy for the management of injuries. This policy will override any sport specific injury management Protocols.

[School-Sport-Australia-Injury-Management-Policy.pdf \(schoolsportaustralia.edu.au\)](https://schoolsportaustralia.edu.au/School-Sport-Australia-Injury-Management-Policy.pdf)

New Policy Dec 2023

Section F – Officials

F - 1. Championship Convenor

F - 2. Ground Manager

The host member body shall appoint a Ground Manager at each venue who will be responsible for the conduct of the match.

F - 3. Umpires

Where practicable, all available umpires, who are officiating in the Championship fixtures, should attend a rules briefing prior to the Opening Ceremony.

F - 4. Scorers

Each team shall provide a competent scorer.

Section G – Protests

- G - 1.** Protests must be lodged with the Championship Convenor within one (1) hour of the completion of the match and shall be dealt with by a Judiciary (H - 1).

Section H – Tribunal / Judiciary

- H - 1.** The Judiciary is chaired by the Championship Convener. Other judiciary members are the host member body School Sport Officer and the National Cricket Advisor or their delegate. The persons on the Judiciary are to be nominated at the Pre-Championship Meeting.

Section I – Trophies / Awards / Medals

- I - 1.** The boys compete for The Ricky Ponting Cup [formerly "The Challenge Cup" - Donated by Lew Cooper (Qld)] and the girls compete for The Grahame Barrett Shield.

- I - 2.** Combined Points Trophy

A trophy will be awarded for the State or Territory who has the greatest combined points from their boys' and girls' teams.

- I - 3.** A Spirit of Cricket Award be introduced. Votes to be cast by the umpires and ground managers at each ground for all boys and girls matches. The award to be presented to the state with the highest number of combined votes. Selection Criteria to be developed by the NSA.