



Proposed New Structure for 2024

New League Format:

- 16 Over, 8 a side – League Format
- 3 Divisions (Div 1, Div 2 & Div 3)
- 6/7 Teams per Division
- Teams pick division for 2024
- Promotion/Relegation for 2025 onwards
- Player every team once (Home or Away)
- 5/6 Fixtures across the season (with 3 or 4 Home games)
- Matches can be played anytime from April 1st – 31st August.

Cup Format:

- Each team will have the option to enter a knockout cup.
- Winners will progress, losers will be entered into a plate competition.
- All teams are guaranteed an extra 2 games of cricket.

Other:

- Clubs are encouraged to arrange additional friendly matches if they have the resources available to supplement fixture schedule.
- Clubs are also encouraged to continue to run the 'fun day' festivals that have been happening on an ad-hoc basis – Berkshire Cricket are happy to promote these.

Berkshire Women's Soft Ball League Rules 2024

Playing Rules:

1. Aim
 - 1.1. The enjoyment for, and fair play by, all players.
2. Pitch
 - 2.1 Two sets of wickets, 20 yards apart.
 - 2.2 Boundaries should be a minimum of 45 yards long.
3. Teams
 - 3.1 Each team comprises of 8 players. (or 10 by mutual agreement)
 - 3.2 In the event of injury to a player, a substitute will be allowed to field, but not bowl. Should such an injury prevent the player batting, a substitute will be allowed to bat only with the permission of the opposing team's captain.
 - 3.3 In the event of a short, sided game, a random draw at the start of the game shall take place to determine the batter that will bat again.
4. The Start
 - 4.1 The two teams toss a coin to decide which team has the choice of either batting or fielding first.
5. The Game
 - 5.1 Each game shall consist of one innings per team. Each innings is made up of 16 Overs. (or 20 by mutual agreement)
6. Batting & Scoring
 - 6.1 The batting side shall be divided into pairs, each pair batting for 4 overs.
 - 6.2 Each team starts batting with a score of 200 runs.
 - 6.3 Each time a batter is out, 5 runs are deducted, and the other batter of the pair faces the next ball.
 - 6.4 At the end each over the batters must swap ends.
 - 6.5 A batter may be out bowled, caught, run out, stumped, hit wicket.
 - 6.6 The bowler must provide a warning to the batter before a mankad can be implemented.
 - 6.6 There is no LBW law unless the batter does not play a shot or deliberately blocks the ball with a leg or foot.
 - 6.7 Runs will be scored in the normal way, as will byes.
 - 6.8 2 runs will be awarded to the batting team for each wide ball and no-ball bowled, but no extra ball will be allocated, except in the final over of each innings when, in addition to the 2 runs, an extra ball will be bowled.
 - 6.9 At the end of the first 4 overs, the first pair of batters retires and is replaced by the second pair until all 4 pairs have batted for 4 overs each.
7. Bowling and Fielding
 - 7.1 Bowlers may bowl a maximum of 3 overs in a 16 over game or 4 overs in a 20 over game.
 - 7.2 Bowling will take place from one end only.
 - 7.3 Players on the fielding side DO NOT need to rotate fielding positions.
 - 7.4 With the exception of the wicketkeeper no fielder may field within 10 yards of the wicket, measured from the middle stump except behind the wicket on the off-

side. A fielder may move into the restricted area to field a ball provided she was outside the area when the stroke was made.

8. The Result

8.1 The team with the higher net score (runs scored less five runs per wicket lost) wins.

9. Equipment

9.1 A women's 'incrediball' is to be used in all games. The host club is responsible for providing match balls.

9.2 No protective equipment needs to be worn.

10. Eligibility

10.1 Please note league is open to all Women and Girls, U14 (Yr9) and above.

10.2 Any player who has played representative County Cricket is not eligible unless agreed otherwise with the league.

10.3 Any player who has played more than 4 Hardball fixtures in HCWCL Premier/Div 1 (or equivalent) shall not be eligible unless agreed otherwise by the league. The league will provide exemptions if the player has been drafted into hardball cricket to 'make the numbers up'.

11. LBW

11.1 In the very simple terms, a batter can be given out if the umpire feels that a ball, which hits the batter's leg, would have hit the stumps. This law though will not be used unless a batter deliberately blocks (ie. Does not attempt to play a shot) or kicks the ball away with the leg or foot.

12. Wide ball

12.1 A ball that is too far from the batter to strike will be called a wide. A ball will not be called a wide, no matter how wide it may be if the batter manages to hit it with bat or body.

13. No ball

13.1 If a ball bounces more than twice before reaching the batter, or if it reaches the batter above waist height without bouncing, it will be called a no ball.

13.2 An 'illegal' bowling action will not be called a no-ball unless the bowler is gaining a significant advantage by throwing the ball (ie. The amount of pace/spin generated is above that normally achieved with a straight arm in WSB cricket.)

14. Umpiring

14.1 The umpire should not score as well unless in exceptional circumstances.

14.2 Umpires are allowed to provide developmental feedback for the benefit of the game but should avoid giving strategic input – unless pre-agreed by both teams.

Results

15. 14.1 It is the responsibility of the home team to collate the results and send them into the league rep. **Simply the match result and final score is required.**

We would like to encourage all games to be live scored if possible, please. Through the Play Cricket App.

If you have any questions or queries, please contact – tom.jackson@berkshirecricketfoundation.org