



Wales Women's Soft Ball League Rules 2023

Rules and Playing Regulations

Produced by the Wales Women & Girls Development Team

Updated 3/5/2023

Preamble – all matches are to be played according to the MCC laws for Cricket unless a variance is detailed below. Particular note should also be taken of the section on 'The Spirit of Cricket'. Women & Girls cricket in Wales prides itself on our attitude to fair play, an opportunity for all to partake and a positive attitude throughout. To promote those foundations, it is important that a robust set of rules is created and followed across all the competing teams. To ensure fairness to the teams participating in the league, individual teams should not change or disregard rules in their matches even if agreement can be reached with the opposition. It's extremely tempting to lend players, allow teams to re-bat people if they have less than 8 players etc. However, experience has shown that this does not provide a level playing field for the league as a whole. These rules will be reviewed, updated and amended as required on a regular basis.

1. Player and Club Qualification

- A) Each player must be a registered member of the club they represent and no player shall play for more than one club in the competition. Any club fielding an ineligible player shall forfeit all points gained from all matches in which the player plays. Should any player wish to transfer during the cricket season to another club playing in the league, the player shall send a written application to the local Management Group Admin Lead, together with a written statement from their Club Secretary agreeing the transfer.
- B) Competing Clubs must have effective Personal Accident Insurance that adequately covers players. All clubs in the league must have a Club Welfare Officer.
- C) **It is essential that players play in leagues and competitions appropriate to their ability.** Your Club's commitment to this is vital and greatly appreciated.
We encourage gaining experience of cricket in many forms and anyone can play as part of their club's hardball or softball cricket team. When making squad decisions, clubs are asked to consider carefully the suitability of the players, ensuring that the spirit of the Women's Softball League is always adhered to. For guidance, **we would appreciate your cooperation in ensuring that if you play hardball players in the softball leagues or festivals that they do not dominate the game.** If it becomes evident that Clubs are not taking a sensible approach to player selection then these rules will be reviewed.
- D) Please see section 7 (Safeguarding) for player eligibility
- E) The competition shall be known as the Wales Women's Softball League (WWSL)

2. Playing Regulations

- A) All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of Cricket except for the specific provisions in these rules.
- B) Black fibreglass Softball cricket bats will be the equipment used in the competition (not wooden bats). These include ECB Bats/ Spyder Bats or Wicket2Wicket bats.
- C) It is the host team's responsibility to provide a new or good quality pink Incrediball (ECB or Gray Nicolls Wonderball) that will be used for both innings.
- D) Host team is required to provide at least one standing umpire for each match and a scorer. If the away team can provide an umpire/scorer then this is acceptable. If a player/official is not involved from either home or away team and teams agree before the start of the match then they can also officiate.
- E) The pitch shall be 19 yards for all softball divisions with games played on a grass wicket/artificial - recommendation of 35/40 yard boundaries
- F) Crease markings are to be clearly visible for umpires and players to see. Where possible lines on the off/leg side should be made to guide the umpire/players in relation to wide balls. Flat marker discs are also acceptable to use (No cones) - also where possible a line marking the middle stump for batters to use as a guide should also be.
- G) Each team should consist of 8 players and each team will play the other teams a minimum of once in the league (this is dependent on number of team entries by division)
- H) In cases where last minute illness/injury occurs a team is allowed to field a team of 7 players. If either side appears with 7 players, the names of those present in the short-handed side will be placed in a "hat" from which the opposing captain will draw the name of the player to complete the prerequisite number of pairs. The named player batting twice is allowed to bat as normal and may face balls within their pairing. If a team has less than 7 players then the team must forfeit the game but can play a friendly with the remaining players.
- I) Matches will be 16 overs in duration.
- J) Each pair on the batting side will face four overs and will change ends at the end of an over.
- K) A batter may be out in the following ways:
 - a. Bowled
 - b. Caught
 - c. Run out
 - d. Stumped
 - e. Hit wicket
- L) Leg Before Wicket (LBW) is to be used if the batter deliberately uses their leg to stop the ball from hitting the wickets without playing a shot. It will be the standing umpire's decision. The umpire is within their right to advise the batter if they are standing in front of the wickets and should the fielding team appeal for an LBW decision then it is the standing umpires decision to decide whether they feel the ball was going to hit the stumps following the LBW rule. As per rule 2F - a line marking the middle stump should be there to help guide a batter of where to stand.

- M) Batters must swap ends when a wicket is lost unless taken on the last ball of the over.
- N) Six (6) players must bowl (this may include the wicket - keeper), One (1) player can bowl a maximum of 4 overs. Bowling must be overarm. If a player fails to attempt to bowl overarm it will be both of the umpires decision to speak to the fielding captain and therefore the bowler can be removed from the bowling quota and another player may complete the over
- O) Scores will begin at 200. 5 runs will be deducted from the batting team for each wicket taken.
- P) The allotted overs must be bowled in each innings. The match does not finish when the total runs from the first innings have been passed.
- Q) Two runs will be awarded to the batting team for each wide.
- R) Two runs will be awarded for a no-ball – where the ball bounces twice or more before reaching the crease, or arrives with the batter above waist height without bouncing.
- S) No extra balls will be allocated for wides or no balls, except in the final over of each innings when, in addition to the two runs, an extra ball will be bowled.
- T) No fielder except the wicket keeper and those behind the wicket on the off side shall be nearer than eight yards measured from the middle stump of the striker's wicket.
- U) Substitutions are allowed in the case of injury to players, and may bat and/or bowl. The team selected at the toss must be the same players who bat/bowl in the same match. In accordance with the laws of cricket batter will only be allowed a runner if a person is injured during the game of play. If a player starts the game with an injury then the opposing captain is within their rights to not allow a runner.
- V) Umpires and Team Managers are encouraged to give guidance providing that such guidance does not impede the progress of the match unnecessarily.
- W)
 - Gloves and Pads are not allowed to be used for batting unless there is a medical exemption which should be made aware to the Women & Girls Development Officer within your area.
 - Wicket Keeping protective equipment is optional.

3. Fixtures

- A) Fixtures are to take place at competitive league clubs and to be hosted by the teams decided pre-season.
- B) Fixtures that are not played due to the weather cannot be rearranged.
- C) Teams who are unable to raise a team for the scheduled fixture will concede the game and the fixture will not be rescheduled. In this case the points are awarded to the opposing team (10) plus an average of the bonus points gained by the winning teams in other league games rounded up to the nearest number. The conceding team will be deducted 10 points.
- D) Rather than completely cancelling the game, in the interests of playing as much cricket as possible, teams are strongly encouraged to play a 'friendly' match

instead. In this situation teams are then further encouraged to lend players to the other side to provide a fun and positive environment in which to progress their cricket.

- E) Host teams are encouraged to contact the captains of the other teams attending the fixture at least 3 days beforehand to confirm attendance.

4. Inclement Weather

There is a general presumption that in the event of inclement weather, common sense and agreement between the clubs will prevail to ensure that the safety of players is upheld.

- A) It will be the responsibility of the host team club to decide whether the match should start if the playing area has been affected by inclement weather. If the 11am game is off then all other games will also be cancelled.
- B) The number of overs will not be reduced until 30 minutes has been lost.
- C) Weather interference before the match – 2 overs will be taken from the aggregate overs for every 6 minutes lost after the initial 30 minutes.
- D) A minimum of 8 overs per team shall constitute a game.
- E) The number of overs allowed by each bowler and faced by each batting pair will be reduced in proportion to the total number of overs agreed.
- F) Games called off due to weather will result in 0 points for both teams in any given fixture - but will not count towards the league table.

5. Notification of Results

It will be the responsibility of the named home team of each fixture to upload the result of the match by 9pm on any given matchday. The full scorecard should be uploaded on Play-Cricket within 72 hours of the game completing.

6. Points Scoring

The winning team shall be the side scoring the higher number of runs after deduction for the fall of wickets:

RESULT	POINTS
Win	10
Tied	5
Loss	0
Conceded	-10 to conceding side 10 to opposition – plus average of bonus points of the winning teams in other games played

- Bonus Points will be based on gross runs and scored as follows:
 - o Batting – 1 for every 25 runs (maximum 5)
 - o Bowling – 1 for every 2 wickets taken (maximum 5).
- In the event of an unfinished match, the result shall be determined on scoring rate, provided that each team has batted for at least 8 overs.
- At the end of the season, the teams scoring the most average points will be deemed the winner of the league. In the event of 2 or more teams finishing on equal points, the team with the best net run rate in the competition will be deemed the winner.
 - Points accrued are calculated by total points gained in matches divided by actual games played

The Wales Women's & Girls' Development team shall collectively deal with any matter not foreseen in these Rules, and its decision will be final.

7. Safeguarding

Please read the below information regarding safeguarding and player eligibility.

A) All Captains must be DBS checked

B) Making the step up from junior to open age group cricket is an important event in any player's cricket experience. The player's safety, personal development needs and overall cricket experience must be considered, their welfare is paramount.

C) Players who are selected in Wales Age group squads in Spring for a Summer squad for that season are **NOT** eligible to play Women's softball cricket.

D) Players who are selected in **Regional squads** in spring for a summer squad for that season are eligible to play Women's Softball cricket. That is providing they are at least 11 years old, are in School Year 7 on 1st September in the year preceding the season and **have written parental consent to play**. This means children who are in **Regional squads**, are able to play Women's Softball cricket if they are in an U12 age group and are a minimum of 11 years old on 1st September of the year preceding the season.

E) Club cricketers who are not in Regional squads must wait until they reach the U13 age group, be in Year 8 and be 12 years old on 1st September of the preceding year before being able to play in any Women's Softball cricket. As before, **written parental consent is required for these players**.

F) To be clear, selection of a child of tender age to adult cricket is a potential risk and such a decision should not be taken lightly. Each case must be determined on an individual basis taking into account the players ability and stage of cognitive and emotional maturity to take part in Women's Softball cricket.

G) Children who are in Year 9 and 13 years of age on 1st of September of the preceding year are eligible to play without written parental consent and this form need not be completed.

H) Written consent forms must be completed in advance. This can be found [here](#). **The minimum age restrictions MUST be followed.**