

FUTURE HEARTS UNDER 14 GRADE AND JUNIOR HEARTS UNDER 12 GRADE

LIMITED OVER CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITIONS

All girls' Under 14 and Under 12 grades limited over championship competition matches shall be played in accordance with:

- (a) The playing conditions specified in this section;
- (b) The general playing conditions specified in Section 14; and
- (c) The conditions specified in Laws of Cricket (2000 Code) of the Marylebone Cricket Club,

And to the extent that there is a conflict between those conditions, the conditions shall be applied in the order of priority set out above to the intent that the playing conditions in subparagraph (a) will be of the highest priority and the Laws of Cricket in Subparagraph (c) will be of the least priority. In addition, all players, clubs and umpires shall comply with the bylaws of the Auckland Cricket Association in force from time to time.

1. AGE ELIGIBILITY

1.1 **Maximum age:** To play in the Future Hearts Under 14 or the Junior Hearts Under 12 grades, a player must be under the age of 14 or 12 respectively, as at 1 September in the year the competition commences. As a general guideline:

- (a) Future Hearts (Under 14) involves year 7 & year 8 girls, however clubs may apply to ACA for dispensation to enter younger girls with suitable skills and experience into this grade.
- (b) Junior Hearts (Under 12) involves year 5 & year 6 girls, however clubs may apply to ACA for dispensation, in special circumstances, to include older girls (year 7 & 8) who are in their first or second season of playing cricket, and in cases where this grade is more suitable for them.
- (c) Notifications for exemption of over-age players should be sent to the ACA Women's Coordinator, at Auckland Cricket. ACA can provide dispensation if we believe the case is genuine **and** the player is not likely to threaten to dominate her team's performances. When applying for dispensation the procedure below must be followed:
 - i) Email or post a completed exemption template to the ACA Women's Coordinator prior to the player playing a game for your proposed team / grade.
 - ii) Dispensation or exemption shall be carefully considered by the ACA Women's Coordinator
 - iii) A decision will be given within a maximum of two days of the application being received.
 - iv) All exemptions granted will be circulated on the ACA website and club contacts on an Exemption register'.

2. NOMINATION OF PLAYERS

- 2.1 For Future Hearts Under/14 grades each team shall be composed of 11 players and a 12th man.
- 2.2 For both Junior Hearts Under/12 grades each team shall be composed of 8 players.
- 2.3 **Junior Hearts Under12:** If either team has more than eight players available for a match, then a team manager can arrange on the day of the match to field a team of a greater but equal number and of no more than twelve players. This must be agreed to by the opposing team's manager prior to the game commencing.
- i) In the event of there being unequal numbers of players in the teams (but greater than eight in one of the teams), then the team with greater than 8 players may, with agreement of the opposing team's Manager, bat as many players as they wish (but fielding only 8 players at one time), however, their innings is concluded at the point when 8 wickets are lost.
 - ii) There is no obligation for a team manager to agree to these requests but in the interest of the development of cricket we hope every effort could be made to accommodate this request.

3. HOURS OF PLAY

- 3.1 **Commencement and completion:** Each match shall commence at 8:30 am and shall finish at 11:45 am, but allowance for time may be made until latest 12 noon.

4. TOSS

- 4.1 Toss for the choice of innings to be taken at 8:20 am. Any team who is not ready at this time will be deemed to have lost the toss.

5. BALLS

- 5.1 **Approved balls:** For both Future Hearts Under 14 and Junior Hearts Under 12 Hardball grades, any leather 2-piece ball, 142 grams (5 ounces) may be used. For Junior Hearts Under 12 softball grade, a ball of the 'incrediball' variety must be used.

6. LENGTH OF INNINGS

- 6.1 **Maximum number of overs:**
Junior Hearts Under 12 Hardball: Each match shall be limited to a maximum of 25 overs per innings.

Future Hearts Under 14: Each match shall be limited to a maximum of 28 overs per innings. Coaches and Managers are encouraged to ensure that games are commenced and progressed as quickly as possible.

6.2 **Possible changes:** In the event that teams are regraded post Xmas, ACA will investigate possible changes to length of innings for matches played in the second half of the season.

6.3 **Declaration:** No team shall be permitted to declare its innings closed.

7. END OF INNINGS

7.1 For the Junior Hearts Under 12 Hardball grade only, 8 wickets must be taken before the innings is closed or 25 overs are completed. At the fall of the 7th wicket, only the not out batter shall face any remaining deliveries until the 8th wicket has been taken. The batter dismissed as the 7th wicket shall act as the non-striker only.

8. DRINKS BREAK

8.1 One interval of a maximum of five (5) minutes may be allowed halfway through the session.

9. PITCH LENGTH

9.1 For the Future Hearts Under 14: Standard pitch length – 22 yards (20.12 metres).

9.2 For the Junior Hearts Under 12 Hardball and Softball: Pitch length 18 metres.

9.3 Flexibility should be allowed for beginners, they are to be allowed to bowl from a shorter distance, but no shorter than 18 yards (16.46 metres). In the latter instance no front-foot NO BALLS should be called.

10. BATTING

10.1 Dismissals:

(a) **6-ball & 3-ball exemption:**

Junior Hearts Under 12 Hardball: A player will NOT be deemed OUT if dismissed within the first six (6) legal balls that she faces in her innings, however once a player scores a run off the bat within their first six (6) legal balls, then the exemption is immediately over.

Future Hearts Under 14: A player will NOT be deemed OUT if dismissed within the first three (3) legal balls that she faces in her innings, however once a player scores a run off the bat within their first three (3) legal balls, then the exemption is immediately over.

Any wicket taken by the bowler within the exemption period must still be credited to the bowler in the scorebook.

In the event that teams are regraded post Xmas, ACA will investigate possible changes to the ball exemption rules for matches played in the second half of the season.

(b) **LBW law:**

Junior Hearts Under 12 & Future Hearts Under 14: No LBW decision shall be given. However coaches/umpires are to discourage (in a positive way) the deliberate use of pads to protect the wickets.

(c) **Stumpings:**

Future Hearts Under 14: There **are** stumpings permitted in this grade.

Junior Hearts Under 12: There are **no** stumpings permitted in this grade.

10.2 **Retirements:**

10.2.1 The batter must **retire on the delivery** where she reaches 25 runs, not at the conclusion of the over. This is a similar scenario as when a wicket falls. This is to allow all players the opportunity to bat for a reasonable time in each innings, unless the innings is shortened by rain or adverse weather conditions.

Once **all** players in the team have batted, retired batters can resume their innings, given that they resume their innings in the order of retirement. Retired batters are “live” immediately upon their return to the crease. The 3 or 6 ball exemption then does not apply.

10.2.2 **With the exception of 10.2.1 (above)** a not out batter cannot be retired until they have been at the wicket for a minimum of 3 overs. **Scorers must record the moment when a batter arrives at the crease in order to determine the point in the future when that player will have been at the crease for three overs.**

11. **BOWLING**

11.1 **Maximum overs per bowler:**

Maximum of five (5) overs per bowler in each match.

(a) Junior Hearts Under 12 Hardball: All players must bowl a minimum of 2 overs. No bowler shall bowl her third (3rd) over until all others have bowled their second (2nd) over.

(b) Future Hearts Under 14: Each player must bowl a minimum of 2 overs, with the exception of a specialist wicketkeeper. No bowler shall bowl her third (3rd) over until all others have bowled their second (2nd) over. A specialist wicketkeeper keeps for the whole game.

Once the minimum overs per bowler have been bowled, any of the bowlers can bowl again, as long as they do not exceed 5 overs each, and not bowl consecutive overs.

11.2 **Maximum balls per over:**

Maximum of eight (8) balls per over to be bowled regardless of how many wides and no-balls are bowled.

11.3 **Wides:**

- (a) Future Hearts Under 14: A wide shall be called on the offside if the ball passes the wicket sufficiently wide to make it virtually impossible for the striker to play a “normal cricket stroke” where she would normally be standing at the crease. A wide shall be called on the legside if it is outside $\frac{3}{4}$ of the width of the crease of the stumps to the return crease on the legside. It may be worth drawing a chalk line after agreement with both coaches / captains before the start of play.
- (b) Junior Hearts Under 12: A wide shall be called if the ball passes either side of the wicket sufficiently wide to make it virtually impossible for the striker to play a “normal cricket stroke” where she would normally be standing at the crease.

Wides are scored as “extras”. An extra ball is to be bowled, however note the maximum of 8 balls per over.

Note: A wide will **not** be called if a batter makes **contact** with the ball.

11.4 **No balls:**

Both grades:

- (a) A no-ball shall be called if the ball, after bouncing, passes, or would have passed, above shoulder height of the striker standing upright at the crease.
- (b) A no-ball shall be called if a **full pitched** ball, irrespective of pace, passes or would have passed on the full above waist height of a striker standing in her normal stance at the crease
- (c) A no-ball shall be called if a ball bounces more than twice before reaching the popping crease. Umpires should use some discretion in allowing a ball that is going on straight down the pitch but might bounce more than twice not be called a NO BALL. However, if a wicket result from such a delivery, NO BALL shall be called and the dismissal shall be disregarded.

12. **FIELDING RESTRICTIONS**

- 12.1 In Under 14 and Under 12 grade matches, no player shall field within a 10-metre radius of the batter forward of the wicket.

These minimum distances apply even if the player is wearing a helmet.

13. **OTHER CONDITIONS**

- 13.1 **Adverse weather:** If a minimum of 15 overs per team cannot be completed, the match shall be a draw for competition points.
- 13.2 **Parents as umpires:** Where possible the parent umpire of a batter should not stand at the bowlers end while their daughter is facing.
- 13.3 **Scoring:** All scoring should be undertaken from the sideline. Standing umpires should not also complete a scorebook.

14. **SPECIFIC JUNIOR HEARTS U12 SOFTBALL PLAYING CONDITIONS**

Please refer to all playing conditions above with the exception of the following below:

- 14.1 A game shall consist of two 20 over innings.
- 14.2 Players are to bat in pairs for 5 overs per pair.
- 14.3 Every time a batter is dismissed, 3 runs will be taken off the total score. Batters will swap ends in the event of a dismissal unless it is a run out or the end of an over.
- 14.4 All players must bowl a minimum of two overs with four players being able to bowl three overs.
- 14.5 Where teams play with less than 8 players in any given game, the returning batter(s) should be firstly the batter with the lowest score for the day or the batter who batted for the shortest period of time, batting in the last partnership.
- 14.6 The pitch length shall be 18 metres with the pitches being mown strips on the outfield of grounds.
- 14.7 The outfield must be a maximum of 40 metres. Cones should be put out at a distance to encourage players to be able to hit a large number of fours.
- 14.8 ACA provided scoresheets or traditional scorebooks can be used.