

GMCL Guidance

**Key Guidance for clubs on rules
and procedures**



GREATER MANCHESTER CRICKET LEAGUE



GENERAL INFORMATION

We use e-mail as our main communication tool and your first contact point for any enquiries should be to our team of Club Liaison Officers (CLOs) for the various divisions by e-mail. The CLOs are listed at <https://www.gtrmcrcricket.co.uk/pages/message-page-club-liaison-officers>

The CLOs also share info with clubs as and when required.

We display lots of information on our website at www.gtrmcrcricket.co.uk so you may find your answer there.

We have a news bulletin which is delivered to over 500 registered recipients with all our latest GMCL news. If you haven't already done so you can register for this here <http://eepurl.com/gmkGbX> and you can add your own club news by e-mailing our Editor on news@GtrMcrcricket.co.uk.

We also post items on our Twitter account @GtrMcrcricket but we do not monitor the Twitter account so please do not ask questions by Direct Messaging to Twitter—please use your CLO.

We also have a WhatsApp channel which you can add to your WhatsApp by clicking here <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Vb0VZbv0wajkPvRSHk0Z>

When we collect information from you, we will usually do so on Google Forms which allows us to securely store any personal information given to help us comply with GDPR regulations and mitigate risks in holding your personal data.

GMCL RULES AND REGULATIONS

All our Rules can be found at <https://www.gtrmcrcricket.co.uk/pages/rules-main-menu>

A summary of the Key Rules follows. It is a summary only and is not a substitute for the Rules themselves. Changes for 2025 are shaded yellow.

REGISTRATION OF TEAMS

All clubs are required to register their teams annually, there is no minimum or maximum requirement **for senior teams** on Saturdays or Sundays or in our 20 over competition "GMCL20"; the scale of the league allows us to work with the teams you have for the players you have available, and you are free to change your entries each year either to allow you to rebuild, develop or grow. For senior teams we seek registration by the end of October prior to the new season. If you have any questions on registrations or divisions, you can e-mail webadmin@gtrmcrcricket.co.uk direct.

We seek **junior team entries** (Under 9, 11, 13, 15, 18) in the January prior to the season and other than the ECB requirement of at least 3 junior age groups for our Saturday teams in Prem1 and Prem2, there is no minimum or maximum entry required. If you have any questions about our junior competition and divisions, you should e-mail juniors@gtrmcrcricket.co.uk direct.

REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

All new players, professionals, Category 3 players and transferred players must be registered to play for their club on the league's online player registration form before they play and by the latest registration date of 31st July or 31st May if the player is the club's Named Professional or a Category 3 overseas player or anyone who has played 1st class or List A in last 3 years.

www.gtrmcrcricket.co.uk/pages/transfers

All players (including pros and overseas) must register on play-cricket BEFORE they play a game in GMCL competition uploading an ID photo and making any payment requested.

To register for your club, you MUST have a play cricket account (go to play-cricket.com and select register) and when registered select the club you are joining.

Following issues that arose in 2024 it is necessary to reiterate that players who register for or play for a team in another weekend open age league irrespective of that league's standard or affiliations become ineligible to play in GMCL competition. There are now some heavy fines in place for clubs who use players who play in another league and care must be taken in registering players at your club where they are not transferring.

STARRED PLAYERS

GMCL operates a Starred Player policy to restrict the best players at your club from playing in your club's lower grade & Sunday teams. Starred Players are to be registered before the season via the website. [Rule 3.5](#)

If 3 or more teams: 16 starred players – List A is minimum 5– your best players & must include all paid & overseas (List A cannot play below 1st team), then List B to take the total to 16 made up of the remaining 1st team regulars and the best 2nd teamers (List B cannot play Sunday league or Sunday cups).

Where the 1st team is in Div3 or below, List A is unchanged but the balance in List B only has to bring the total to 8 players

For 2 teams – only List A required

NOTE - Any player playing 3 of their last 5 games on 1st XI are also deemed List A starred for league games.

The League reviews starred player lists for accuracy which should be updated regularly.

There are some exemptions from above:

Cat 3 players (one per team – generally only 1st team but Cat 3 amateurs can also play in 2s Sat league and 2nd XI cups (even if starred)

- Junior Exempt Players—this frees up Juniors to play across most of our competition
- The league has separate eligibility rules for league, cup and GMCL20 (see flow charts [updated on web for 2025](#))

PENALTIES

There are penalties for playing ineligible players. Penalties for this and other breaches are covered in our [penalty rules](#) <https://www.gtrmcrcricket.co.uk/pages/rules-pen-menu>

DEPUTY PROFESSIONALS

The league operates Deputy Pro provisions in certain circumstances.

If named pro not arrived for 1st 4 games, club can apply for deputy for those games.

- Illness/injury – medical certificate
- Return for international duty – anytime
- Return for 1st class (for any games, training camps etc)– anytime, AND in the last 4 games only must have deputy unless a dead rubber (as defined in rules)

NOTE - No deputy where named pro contract not lodged, must be same quality, no deputy if contracted return, no compassionate leave returns

Applications to be made on the [league form](#) which clearly outlines the requirements in each case.

LOAN PLAYERS

In order to reduce the chance of short-handed matches GMCL operate a rule permitting loan players in Divisions 4, 5 & 6 and Sunday (only in the league) [See Rule 3.6](#)

JUNIOR EXEMPT PLAYERS JEPS

JEPs are Starred Category 1 players who are under 17 on 1st September in the year prior to the season and not country or county academy U16s or above in the current or previous season. [Rule 3.5](#). The only playing restrictions on JEPs are that they cannot be loan players and cannot play in the Sunday Development division.

EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS

[Rule 3.7](#) Where clubs find themselves short of qualified players for a Sunday league game, a club is permitted to have 2 applications in the season to play ineligible players; each application will be reviewed to ensure that it is reasonable to select the player identified to play and that the player is not of a greater standard. Clubs may also be allowed 2 development exemptions (season long) in the Sunday league, with restrictions.

FORFEITURE OF GAMES

Forfeiture of a game should be the last option. There are 3 consequences, covered in the Penalties Appendix

Fines, Points Deductions

Multiple breaches require club/league meeting & ultimately consideration of relegation/expulsion.

DIVISION 4

New Linear Division in 2025

UMPIRES

Each team pays one umpire at or before the toss
Fees for Panel Umpires Prem 1 and Prem 2 £70

- Champ to Div 3 £60
- 45 over cup games £55
- Sunday League and Sunday Cup games £50
- GMCL20 £40

If you are aware of any umpires wishing to take on games and join the league panel, please contact UmpiresMaster@GtrMcrCricket.co.uk

Clubs are required to supply a club umpire for 2nd XI and lower league games - Club umpires fees to be agreed by each club

- If only 1 umpire present, then that umpire gets 1.5x standard rate –
- if only 1 club umpire where 2 rostered, then breaching club pays the 1.5x the “normal” rate (i.e., 1.5x £60 (50 overs), 1.5 x £55 (45 overs) or 1.5 x £50 (40 overs))
- Call off before scheduled start time 50%, after that 100%

START TIMES

All **Saturday league games** up to 31st August start at 12:30pm. 12pm in September.

All **Sunday league games** up to 31st August start at 1.30pm. 1pm in September.

All **Cup games** shall have the following start times

- May to 2nd Sunday in August 1pm
- 3rd Sat in August to 31st August 12:30pm
- September 12 noon

FIELDING CIRCLE

30 yards for all senior games

- **League and GMCL20** – minimum in circle 4 plus keeper and bowler (5 plus keeper and bowler in cups)
- **Cup and GMCL20** power play overs – no more than 2 outside the ring
- **Cup and GMCL20** – no more than 5 on legside

NO BALLS

All no balls in cup and GMCL20 are free hits
No balls in GMCL20 add 2 to the score (and in GMCL20 in addition to all other forms of no ball a ball which passes above shoulder height is a no ball)

WIDES

Auto legside wides Saturday divisions down to and including Div 4, and also in 1st and 2nd team cups and GMCL20, but not Div 4 and 5, or Sunday league or Sunday cups

OVERS PER BOWLER

Saturday league—Maximum 30% - i.e., 15 in 50 over games, 14 in 45 over games

Sunday League Maximum 25% - i.e., 10 in 40 over games (20% 8 overs in Open Division)

Cups 20% - i.e., 9 in 45 over games and 8 in 40 over games

GMCL20 – 4 overs

DELAYS AND DLS

30 minutes grace period in league now applies to all Saturday divisions

Delayed starts lose 1 over per side every 7.5 minutes

Interruptions - 1st innings – 1 over per side every 7.5 minutes, **2nd innings** – 1 over per 3.75 minutes

Minimum overs Saturday League 20 overs, **Sunday League 15 overs**, Cups 10 overs, 5 overs in GMCL20

DLS (Duckworth Lewis Stern) – operates via play-cricket for all competitions.

DLS does two things for games

- Should the game be reduced after the start of the 1st innings, DLS on the play-cricket app sets a "Revised Target" for the second innings at the commencement of the 2nd innings.
- During the 2nd innings DLS on the play-cricket app displays the "Par Score" before every ball. The Par score will only be used should the game come to an abrupt end due to weather and be compared to the actual score to determine a result only when the minimum overs have been bowled.

LATEST START TIMES FOR REDUCED OVER GAMES

League: to 31st August 16.45, in September 16.15

Cup: to 31st August 17.30, in September 17.00

RESULTS IN LEAGUE GAMES

GMCL operate a Win Lose Tie system in the league with both a batting and a bowling bonus point available for the 2nd innings in all games.

Win – 5 points

Loss – 0 points

Tie - 3 points each no matter how many wkts lost

Abandoned – 2 points each

Bonus Point

Winning bonus point

- 1 point where the batting side achieve target score with 3 or fewer wkts lost, or
- bowling 2nd AND bowl team all out.

Losing bonus point

- 1 point where batting 2nd score at least 75% of target or
- bowling 2nd take 7 or more wkts and lose.

INCOMPLETE CUP GAMES

Where a game is reduced but is still above minimum 10 overs then DLS is used.

If there is any play whatsoever on original date and the game is incomplete, the reserve date cannot be used, a bowl out must be held.

If no play at all there are some reserve dates in the calendar, if no play on reserve date, then bowl out is required.

RESULTS IN CUP AND GMCL20

GMCL operate a Win Lose system in the cup

Where scores are level at end of overs where DLS has not come into play, with the runs the same the decision is least wickets lost, then average run rate over innings, then scores at 30 overs (then 20, 10,9,8,7 and so on).

If DLS involved (i.e. overs are lost during the game), the result ignores wickets lost and goes straight to a bowl out (because unequal overs faced).

Where scores are level in GMCL20

in the group stage, whatever wkts lost is classed as a tie

Where scores are level at end of overs where DLS has not come into play in knock out stages result goes off wkts lost, then best score after 5,4,3 etc. overs.

If DLS involved (reduced overs after start of game) and scores level, then game goes straight to a bowl out. (because unequal overs faced).

UNPLAYED SUNDAY LEAGUE MATCHES

Where a Sunday League fixture is rained off before the start and ONLY for Sunday games AND where there is no play, the teams can look to reschedule on any vacant and convenient dates for both teams otherwise the game should be recorded as Abandoned. Umpires cannot be provided for Sunday games rearranged for weather; club umpires must be used.

This is not available for Saturday League Matches – No Play = Abandoned = 2 points each

RAIN PANEL

In league games in Div 4, 5 & 6 on Saturday and all Sunday games, clubs can use the rain panel to avoid travel and save costs.

Contact details will be circulated to clubs prior to the start of the season on the website and through CLOs.

The aim of this is to prevent unnecessary expense so a local Rain Panel Umpire can be called on the morning of the game and if the umpire deems there will be no play, then the game can be called off and a fee of £10.00 is paid to the Rain Panel Umpire and no other expense is incurred.

[Rule 5.1.](#)

MATCH BALLS

All senior games in GMCL Saturday & Sunday shall commence with a new ball of the appropriate standard and that ball should be handed to the Umpire before commencement of the innings.

All balls should be stamped GMCL balls.

See [Rule 2.2.](#)

GROUND IN GMCL

If you are looking how to get to your next match take a look at the [GMCL Grounds Map](#) on Google Maps to get you there on time.

TABLES AND STATS

To see Matches, Results, Tables, Averages and Stats for your club, team and individuals go to the [play-cricket website for GMCL](#) and select your menu. Stats are updated as soon as scorecards are uploaded by your scorer.

PLAY CRICKET HELP

All clubs are required to have one or more play-cricket administrators. We offer lots of support for you and Stuart on playcrickethelp@gtrmcrcricket.co.uk will help you set up your administrators and scorers, [rectify scorecards](#), transfer player records from club to club, amend fixtures, deal with photo issues and help your play-cricket admin(s) maintain your club records.

TEAM SHEETS

Team sheets are to be handed to the Umpires at the toss and scorers are also to be made aware of the players selected so they can populate the team on cricHQ. Blank Team Cards available [here](#)

GMCL DISCIPLINE

GMCL follows the ECB model for disciplinary procedures. [GMCL Rule 3.8](#). A general summary is:

- 1) Umpires identify issue at game and notify parties involved
- 2) Umpire(s) submits report to Umpires Disciplinary Officer to check all required detail is enclosed and Level of report is in accordance with tariff.
- 3) Report sent to League Disciplinary Officer
- 4) League Disciplinary Officer notifies Club's Primary & Secondary League Contact identifying the length of any ban.
- 5) Hearing and Appeals process is followed
- 6) Bans recorded on League & Play-Cricket Website

If you have any disciplinary questions, please e-mail discipline@gtrmcrcricket.co.uk

All bans are published on the [league website](#)

DIVISIONAL CONTACTS

Contact details for the clubs in your senior team's divisions will be circulated prior to the start of the season by our [Club Liaison Officers](#) in order that your team contacts can liaise on teas, unavailable club umpires or scorers, last minute traffic issues in locality, last minute weather issues and, any other matters arising before matches.

Similarly, we will circulate junior contacts by age groups for contact to confirm game or advise weather or rescheduling issues.

PHOTO IDENTIFICATION

GMCL use the play-cricket system to identify all players taking part in GMCL games to avoid having an additional ID card system.

Having [photo ID](#) ensures we all know who we are playing against and ensures that all players are registered, safe and known to the club and league.

It is not acceptable to allow any player to play under a false name and the league will take penalty action against the player, the captain and the club in order to stamp this practice out.

Anyone identifying a suspected "ringer" should e-mail discipline@gtrmcrcricket.co.uk and webadmin@gtrmcrcricket.co.uk

CUP DRAWS

Due to the number of cup competitions and having independent 1st & 2nd XI teams in those competitions we draw the cup rounds after the previous round is complete, ensuring we can have a home tie and an away tie in each round for those with linked teams (1st & 2nd, 3rd & 4th) in their respective competition draw.

RESCHEDULING FIXTURES

GMCL allows the rescheduling of Sunday League fixtures and GMCL20 fixtures. Formal application must be made on the [change request form](#).

Rescheduling of Saturday fixtures is not permitted after publication of the full fixture list prior to the season.

Sunday Cup fixtures take precedence as they are drawn through the season, often requiring movement of Sunday League games.

FEEDBACK AND SUGGESTIONS

We take feedback and suggestion 24/7 via our google form on [the web page](#). These are considered however simple or complex and the form gives you the space to fully explain your reasoning for a suggestion or details of the feedback.

SAFEGUARDING

If you wish to raise any issue on the matter of Safeguarding, please e-mail Colin on safeguarding@gtrmcrcricket.co.uk

SCORERS UNAVAILABLE

Should neither team have a scorer then, the home club should immediately contact the league to cancel the game and umpires.

Should this not be done in time and the umpires attend then they must be paid by the home team. Also fines and penalty points are imposed (see Penalties Appendix)

LEAGUE AND CUP COMPETITION RULES

Rules do differ across our league divisions and cup competitions.

Please refer to division and cup rules here

<https://www.gtrmcrcricket.co.uk/pages/rules-menu-comps>

As with any sporting competition there are rules and therefore there are penalties for breaching those rules. Our system allows for sporting penalties (points deduction or player / club bans) or financial penalties on clubs.

PENALTIES RULES

A system dealing with a range of rule breaches (other than discipline) are within our rules at [Rule 3.8](#).

YELLOW AND RED CARD SYSTEM

Where offences occur, a breach period is created, and the penalties are standardised by allocating a yellow or red card to the appropriate team at a club, some of these are rescinded if it is corrected immediately.

3 Yellows = 1 Red

1st Red = 1 point deducted for the team (not club) concerned

2nd Red = 2 points, 3rd 3 points and so on and therefore 3 reds equates to a total of 1+2=3, 6 points.

The above is in addition to losing game points, and other penalties in the Rules

Some Examples of Yellow/Red Card offences (see full list in [Rules](#))

YELLOW

Late reports/uploads Reported slow over rates At fault late (and not full 11) starts

Home ground not ready Not scoring live Ineligible player in cup

Ineligible in league - Starred player/other eligibility issues not registration related

Defective registration re play-cricket photo – rescindable if resolved in time given

RED

Forfeiting league game

No or defective registration (except photo issue)

2 Cat3s in same team ListA player playing below 1st team Neither team has scorer

Playing under false name/deliberate false or misleading registration info

Playing in multiple leagues simultaneously

APPEALS

The Board & Cricket Executive shall be empowered to deal with any query, dispute or breach concerning the Rules, General Organisation and All Playing Conditions of the GMCL (the Rules) and its decision shall be final.

The Disciplinary Sub-Committee will deal with all matters of discipline as detailed in [Code of Conduct, Spirit of Cricket, and Disciplinary Regulations](#). If the Board or Cricket Executive consider any matter under consideration to be a disciplinary matter, then it shall be referred to the Disciplinary Sub-Committee.

The Penalties Appendix above indicates which matters are not appealable and which are appealable.

Where any Member Club wishes to appeal against a decision of the Board, the Executive or any subcommittees thereof or any of its Secretaries, such Member Club must do so in writing within 14 days of notification of the relevant decision, accompanied by a payment of £150. Such appeal will be considered by the Rules and Playing Conditions Appeals Sub-Committee, which may amend or revoke the original decision or allow it to stand.

The only ground for appeal is that the club concerned can show that there is a manifest error in the decision made i.e. an error on the facts of the matter alone that is so obvious as to be indisputable. The appeals committee do not have power to increase the penalties.

As an example only, and without limitation, examples of matters, which are NOT grounds for appeal, are the player's impact or involvement in the game concerned, ignorance of the Rules or poor administration.

NEW ENTRIES ON THIS DOCUMENT

If you think there are other items that should be included on this document, please e-mail webadmin@gtrmcrcricket.co.uk