



WINTER 2023-24 LEAGUE Rulebook V1.0

This is a live document and new changes will be highlighted and communicated accordingly



Winter 2023-24 Tournament Format & Structure

Below is how NACL Winter 2023-24 Tournament is structured

Format	<p>44 Teams</p> <p>2 Divisions. Teams are placed into divisions based on Summer 2023 performance</p> <p>Round Robin Grouping:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each division has 2 groups - A & B• Each groups has 11 teams• Every team in a group plays with every other team in the same group• In the RR phase, if the points are the same, the tie breaker will be NRR, number of Wins, then Ties, then Losses <p>Playoffs: Applicable to each division</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Top 2 teams from each group qualify for playoffs. No Quarter Finals• SF: A1 vs B2, A2 vs B1• Finals
Division promotion criteria	<p>Div-A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bottom 2 teams after the RR phase from each group in Div-A will be demoted to Div-B for next season (Subject to change depending on number of sign ups for next season) <p>Div-B:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Top 2 teams after the RR phase from each group in Div-B will be promoted to Div-A for next season (Subject to change depending on number of sign ups for next season)
Games Count	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. RR - 10 games per team2. Playoffs: Min 1 & Max 2 for qualified teams
Phases	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. RR - 12 weeks - Dec 2nd-3rd to Mar 2nd-3rd2. Playoffs: SF & Finals in the same week. Semi Finals on Mar 9th, Finals on Mar 10th
Game Format	<p>15-Over format</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 15 overs of 6 balls each• Max 3 overs per bowler
Schedule Release Cadence	<p>1 week ahead</p>



Boundary Length	165 feet from the middle of the pitch in all directions
Notes	There will be a HOME/AWAY team concept. HOME teams will be responsible for setting up the ground prior to the start of the match Each team will be assigned 5 home games & 5 away games in RR phases. In the playoffs, the Committee will pick the home team.
Off Weekends(no games)	Christmas - Dec 23rd & 24th 2023 New Year - Dec 30th & Dec 31st 2023
Buffer weekend	No Buffer weekends for RR phase. 1 reserve week for playoffs.

Rules and Regulations

1. A player is allowed to play only for one team & one division for the entire tournament. Disciplinary action will be taken against the player and the captain of the team involved in exploiting this rule at anytime during the duration of the tournament
 - a. The player will be suspended for the rest of the tournament. Will not be allowed to play any game further
 - b. Captain of the team for that game will be suspended for the next 2 games.
 - c. The game will be awarded to the opponents
2. Each player must have a clear picture of their face view uploaded for their profile in CricClubs App/Website.
3. **Player Eligibility for Playoffs:** A player must play at least **2** games in RoundRobin phase to be eligible to play for playoffs. The roster is open for RR phase, however only those players who have played at least 2 matches in the RoundRobin phase for their team will be allowed to play in playoffs. Any exploitation of this rule will lead to
 - a. Suspension of the player for the rest of the tournament.
 - b. Team has to play with one less player in their next game(if applicable)

Exception: In case of teams facing abandoned or forfeited games, then teams with

 - 1 abandoned/forfeited game in RR phase will be allowed to have 2 players who have played at least 1 RR game to be eligible for playoffs
 - 2 abandoned/forfeited games in RR phase will be allowed to have 2 players who have played at least 0 or 1 RR game to be eligible for playoffs.
 - 3 abandoned/forfeited games in RR phase will be allowed to have 3 players who have played at least 0 or 1 RR game to be eligible for playoffs



4. All the matches will be played with **NACL League provided or approved balls**. The balls will be provided to the teams prior to the start of the tournament. Teams are responsible to bring League provided balls. **NO other type of tennis balls will be allowed for playing**. If teams do not have match balls before the start of the game, teams can purchase them from any Committee member if available. The time delayed for this process will result in teams losing overs as mentioned in rule 5h. Both playing teams should hand over playing balls to the umpire before the game starts. Umpires should verify that both the balls are NACL Committee provided balls. In case of discrepancy, umpires can approach Committee members to discuss. Any delay in process will lead to team(s) with incorrect ball losing overs as per point 5h in rulebook.

5. **Reporting & Game times:**
 - a. Team should report at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled match start time.
 - b. Games should be started on time. In case of a late arriving umpire, the batting team should take up the main & leg umpiring duty until the main umpire arrives. Teams shouldn't wait for umpires to arrive to start the game. Umpires arriving 30 mins later(with or without prior intimation) the start time will be deemed as absent and are subject to losing the points under 'Umpire No Show' rule.
 - c. Teams have to inform the committee if they cannot play the game latest by Thursday of the game week. All the forfeit penalties will be applied. Any communication after the Thursday of the game week will be deemed unnotified. If any team fails to inform the committee about missing the game before the deadline and doesn't show up on the game day, additional 2 points will be deducted.
 - d. Every team shall provide the list of their playing 11 to opponents/umpires before toss. The teams/umpires should verify the playing XI against each other with profile pics on the website before the game starts. If a player's identity cannot be verified he will not be allowed to play the game and umpires should report the incident to the committee. Any complaints(such as opponent players playing with proxy names) raised after the game start will not be resolved & the committee will not consider resolution for such disputes.
 - e. Toss will be done 15 minutes before the start of the scheduled time. Captains must be present for the toss.
 - f. **No intra-innings breaks. 5 mins break between innings**
 - g. Minimum of 8 players are required from a team to start a match
 - h. Games are expected to start no later than 5 mins of the scheduled start time if the ground/whether/light is in playing condition. This includes min 8 players joining the team & home team setting up the ground.
 - i. For every 5 mins after that, an over will be deducted for a team who doesn't have min of 8 players until the next 20 mins. 35 mins after scheduled start time the game will be awarded to opponents.
 - ii. If both teams don't have 8 players, every 10 mins, both sides lose 1 over each. After 1hr, the game will be void and no points will be awarded to any team.
 - iii. There shouldn't be any negotiations between teams & none has authority to modify this including the umpires.
 - i. All games have to be completed within **2 hrs 30 mins** from scheduled start time(not the time when the first ball is bowled but the time when the game is actually scheduled for). No buffer time for



late starts. Teams are expected to play a reduced number of overs as per above rule 5h to ensure the game finishes in the allocated time. The game will be asked to stop and DLS will be used to determine the winner of the game to ensure the next games get their quota of playing time. A late start to one game cannot have downstream effects on other games scheduled on the same fields.

- j. Matches can only commence if both teams have more than or equal to 8 players.
 - i. Remaining players can join the team before the start of the 6th over of the first innings. The players who are joining late must be from the Playing 11 shared by Captains before Toss.
 - ii. No player will be allowed to join the team after the end of the 5th over of the first innings. Team shall play the rest of the game with only those players who join the team before the 6th over of first innings.
 - iii. Teams have to inform the umpires & opponents about absence of remaining players during the toss time

6. Points Distribution & Match Result:

- Points system - win - 4, tie - 2(super over), loose - 0
 - In case of a tie
 - RR Phase: No super over. Points will be shared
 - Playoffs: Super over to be played. If super over is tied or cannot be played, then winner will be decided based on total number of boundaries(Combined count of 4's & 6's)
- If a team cannot play for any reason - covid fear, covid cases, non-availability of players, then
 - It is considered a forfeit by the team and
 - Winning points are awarded to the opponent
 - -2 points to teams that forfeit

7. Abandoned Games

In case of abandoned games due to rain or other

- **RR Phase:** Points are shared between teams. Abandoned games aren't rescheduled by default. The teams can check with the committee about availability of additional slots in later weeks with the committee reserving the right to reschedule abandoned games. Additional slots, if available, are allocated FCFS.
- **Playoffs:** The Committee reserves the right to reschedule abandoned playoffs games. Teams will not be consulted for rescheduling the abandoned playoff games. In case playoff games are unable to be rescheduled, a better positioned team in RR phase moves ahead. If both teams end up in same position in their respective groups, winner will be decided based on
 - Wins, if both teams played same number of games
 - Losses
 - NRR
 - Toss

8. Scorecard Updates



- a. Scorecards will be locked EOD the following Tuesday after the game day. Any updates required should be done before that. Upon any questions/issues, tickets should be raised before Tuesday. No exceptions. Once the scorecard is locked, no changes will be allowed
- b. All the players should be registered before the game start time to be eligible to play the game. For players whose registration request is pending, the captain of the team should show the proof of pending request & inform the opponents & umpires about the actual player name and the proxy name being used. Players cannot be allowed to play the game if they haven't registered or haven't sent a registration request. Following this, it's the team's responsibility to get the player registered and update the scorecard before Tuesday. The committee may verify the same with opponents and umpires before agreeing for the change

9. **No ball**

- a. If the bowler over-steps the popping crease while bowling, it will be declared as a no-ball. A free hit is awarded to the batting team.
- b. If the bowler's back foot in the delivery stride touches the return crease while landing, it will be declared as a no ball. A free hit is awarded to the batting team
- c. Full toss ball above waist will be declared as a no ball. No free hit.
- d. Bouncer above the shoulder – 1st warning; 2nd bouncer will be wide.
- e. Bouncer above the batsman head
 - i. if hit, it is considered a no ball. No free hit
 - ii. If batsman misses it, it is a wide
- f. A bowler bowling two beamers in a game (i.e. full toss above waist) should be suspended after the 2nd beamer from bowling for the rest of the game. A warning will be issued after the 1st beamer and the bowler will have to be removed and cannot bowl anymore for the rest of the game after the 2nd beamer. Other bowler should finish the remaining over
- g. While bowling, if the bowler's foot hits the stumps and bails fall off (bowling side), then it will be a No-ball. No free hit.
- h. Umpires can call 'No ball' at any time before the next ball is bowled, if any field restrictions are violated. No free hit
- i. While bowling, if the umpire deems the bowler has thrown the ball it will be considered a No-ball. No Free Hit. In instances where there is only 1 neutral umpire the main umpire can ask the leg umpire to take a video of the bowler to help deem the legality of the action

10. There is no dead ball rule pertaining to the ball landing on the edge or outside of the matted pitch. Ball that is pitched outside the mat will be deemed as a wide ball. Similarly, a ball pitching on the edge of the pitch will be when considered as a wide with all wide rules as applicable. Umpires will take a final decision on a ball hitting the edge of the mat and coming into the batsman. Ball hitting the edge of the pitch and deviating while overthrowing is considered a ball in play.

11. Pitch is 66 ft by default for all matches which are being played throughout the tournament. (All the grounds for season have a default matt length of the pitch)

12. Both pad-bat and bat-pad scenarios are considered valid and any dismissals or runs scored will be accounted for.



13. Bowling Guard

- a. "Guard" here includes only the bowling side and arm. Not the type of bowling(pace, spin etc) or runup.
- b. Umpire is supposed to ask the bowler for the bowling guard and inform the batsman. Umpire cannot declare a no ball if the guard isn't informed by the bowler by himself.
- c. The bowler must inform the umpire on any change in guard. Umpire should declare it as a no ball if the bowler changes his guard without informing the umpire. No free hit in this case.

14. Batting Strike: When a batsman is out Caught, the new batsman will come in at the end the striker was, regardless of whether the batters crossed prior to the catch being taken. Only in case of runouts, the new batsman will be at the runout end.

15. Byes

- a. Byes runs are allowed
- b. Runs allowed on Over throws
- c. No leg byes & No runouts in leg byes. Batsmen can still be bowled or stumped on leg byes. Umpire has the sole discretion when there is discrepancy between the ball possibly hitting the leg or bat

16. Mankad

- a. 1st warning is required.
- b. After warning, Mankad is valid for all the remaining batsmen of the innings and will be given OUT.

17. Help Runner/Substitute Fielder

Substitute players should be from the team squad. The Opponent captain must verify the substituting players with the on-field umpires.

- a. For batting
 - i. By-Runner will only be allowed if a batsman is injured during the course of playing the game upon umpires permission. The opponent team cannot oppose the umpire's decision.
 - ii. By-Runner should be one of the already dismissed batsmen in that innings unless no wickets fell.
- b. For bowling
 - i. If a bowler takes a break (due to injury) and decides to come back after a break, then he can bowl only after 2 overs of fielding.
- c. For fielding
 - i. Substitute fielders are NOT allowed for fielding on behalf of players who haven't joined the game yet
 - ii. A fielder can be substituted only if that player is injured during the course of playing the game & upon umpires approval.
 - iii. Fielder can be substituted for a max of 1 over break in case if a player has to attend an emergency call or need a biological break
 - iv. Incase of a fielder leaving the field/game citing other commitments or unapproved injuries, the team has to play the rest of the game with remaining players. No substitutes are allowed in such cases. Umpires will take a call on this
- d. For wicketkeeping
 - i. Substitute fielders are NOT allowed to do wicket keeping if the fielding team has at least one other player who can do keeping.

18. Delayed Stumping



- a. After a batsman plays the ball, it is his responsibility to notify the umpire that he is safe within the crease.

19. **Power Play rules:**

- a. Total 4 overs of powerplay.
 - i. 2 batting PP overs chosen by the batting team. Both batting PP overs should be consecutive
 - ii. 2 bowling PP overs chosen by the bowling team. Both batting PP overs should be consecutive
 - iii. Teams have to inform the umpire about their decision to take their quota of PP overs before the start of 1st PP over. PP informed after the start of an over is not considered and the over in progress will be considered a non-PP over
 - iv. If no PP taken until 11th over, all overs from 12 to 15 will be considered as PP overs.
- b. Each PP over(batting or bowling) to be bowled by a different bowler.
- c. During PP, only 2 fielders can field outside the inner circle upon having a minimum 4 fielders inside the inner circle apart from WK and bowler.

20. **Non-Power Play rules**

- a. Minimum 4 players inside the inner circle(apart from WK and bowler) at all times irrespective of the number of players fielding the game at that team.
- b. Maximum 5 players on the leg side

21. **Scoring**

- a. Leg umpires or the batting side will be responsible to maintain score on the Cricclubs app. Refer <https://cricclubs.com/scoringGuide.do> for scoring in the app
- b. Scorer & umpires should tally the scores at regular intervals, typically after every over.
- c. Any differences in scores needs to be resolved within and during game time. Scorecards cannot be updated or game result will not be changed for score disputes post completion of the game

22. **Umpiring**

a. **Assignment**

- i. Only 1 neutral umpire per RR game. Leg umpiring will be done by the batting side.
- ii. The umpire(s) shall be appointed before the match, to conduct and control the game as required by the Laws, with absolute impartiality. The umpire(s) shall be present on the ground at least 15 minutes before the commencement of the play.
- iii. NACL shall appoint a panel of umpires, when possible to officiate matches. Neither team will have any objection to an umpire's appointment in case of matches organized by NACL
- iv. Umpiring assignments are subject to change and NACL reserves rights to do that
- v. Umpiring assignments are assigned as below
 - RR - 5 umpiring duties spread across 2 weeks
 - Playoffs - 1 umpiring duty for every game played in that same weekend
- vi. Playing teams can get paid umpires to umpire their game in which case, paid umpire will be the main straight umpire
- vii. For all round-robin matches, umpiring duty will be assigned to a team from another group.



- viii. Teams who are appointed for umpiring assignments need to submit the umpire information on or before Thursday of game week. Check the [faq](#) on how to submit umpiring duties.
 - ix. It can happen that a team can get umpiring and a game on the same weekend in the RR phase. This won't happen in general but sometimes when more number of games need to schedule we may ask teams to play games on one day and umpiring another day
 - x. Committee can assign umpiring duties to teams if there are any schedule changes related to weather, ground, or other unforeseen circumstances. These changes can be during the RR phase or during the playoffs
- b. **No Show**
- i. If any team misses the umpiring assignment altogether or if an umpire is late by 30 mins, it is deemed as 'Umpire No Show' & the team responsible for the umpiring will be penalized as below:
 - **RR Phase** - points will be deducted for the team on missed umpiring duties - 2 points per 1 missed duty.
 - **Playoffs**
 - a. If umpiring duty is scheduled to be done before their game and if the teams missed the umpiring duty, they will be allowed to play their next game with one less player
 - b. If umpiring duty falls after the team's game and if the team misses it, they will be subjected to a monetary fine of \$200.
 - ii. We encourage teams to talk & appoint paid league umpires if required.
 - iii. Either of the team management has to report umpire no show/late show to the committee by opening a ticket
- c. **Decision Making**
- i. On-field umpires' decision will be the final decision. The neutral umpire will have complete authority to override leg umpire's decision for height no balls and runouts.
 - ii. In case of a single neutral umpire affiliating the game, he has authority to replace the leg umpire(from batting side) with a different player if he feels concerned about leg umpiring decision making.
 - iii. In case of both neutral umpires, the main umpire can consult with a leg umpire before making a final decision
 - iv. An umpire may alter any decision provided that such alteration is made promptly. This apart, an umpire's decision, once made, is final.
 - v. Umpires are allowed to refer to any live recording of the game if available for a decision making. However, it is completely up to the umpire's discretion to use this video source. Umpires cannot be forced on any kind of decision making
- d. **Umpires changing ends**
- i. The umpires can change ends once after every 3 overs if required.
 - ii. In case of a single neutral umpire, the second must assume responsibility of the leg-umpire. No rotation is permitted in this case.
- e. **Informing the umpires**
- i. Wherever the umpires are to receive information from captains or other players, it will be sufficient for one umpire to be so informed and for him/her to inform the other umpire
- f. **Team Swapping Umpiring Assignments**



- i. Umpiring assignment swapping needs to be approved by the Committee. Umpiring assignment swapping will be generally approved provided it doesn't violate the rule that Umpire's for a game shouldn't be from any of the playing team's groups.
- ii. Swapping done without the Committee's approval is considered as 'No Show' and both involved teams will be penalized accordingly.

The wickets, creases, and boundaries

Before the toss and during the match, the umpires shall satisfy themselves that

- the wickets are properly pitched
- the creases are correctly marked

Fitness for play

- It is solely for the umpires together to decide whether either condition of the ground, weather or light or exceptional circumstances mean that it would be dangerous or unreasonable for play to take place.
- Conditions shall not be regarded as either dangerous or unreasonable merely because they are not ideal.
- The fact that the grass and the ball are wet does not warrant the ground conditions being regarded as unreasonable or dangerous.
- Conditions shall be regarded as dangerous if there is actual and foreseeable risk to the safety of any player or umpire.
- Conditions shall be regarded as unreasonable if, although posing no risk to safety, it would not be sensible for play to proceed.
- If the umpires consider the ground is so wet or slippery as to deprive the bowler of a reasonable foothold, the fielders of the power of free movement, or the batsmen of the ability to play their strokes or to run between the wickets, then these conditions shall be regarded as so bad that it would be dangerous and unreasonable for play to take place.

23. Teams Changing Game Day/Time

RoundRobin Phase:

Teams CAN request to change game day or time if

- Both the teams agree to the switch AND
- Committee can provide a reserved field for that game

The above-mentioned criteria must be met to have the game officially rescheduled to another date and/or time. Umpiring teams should send the umpires if the change is approved by the committee before the Tuesday of the game playing week. For any requests from teams or approval by committee made on this after the Monday of the game week, Umpiring teams (if they choose to) can send umpires at their discretion and will not be mandatory. However, if the game is officially rescheduled (due to logistics) by the discretion of the Committee (and not requested by teams) then the teams will be required to play the game at the scheduled time and umpiring teams will be required to send the umpires at the scheduled time.

Playoff Phase:



Teams CANNOT change game day or time for playoff games. Committee reserves the right to make changes due to logistics issues. In such cases, all rescheduled games will fall under regularly scheduled games and all the rules must be followed by the playing and umpiring teams. However, exceptions can be made by the Committee if both the teams and Committee agree for the switch (not recommended).

24. **Code of Conduct**

- a. It is the captain's responsibility to uphold the spirit of the game for his team.
- b. Any prolonged argument by a team, will yield a walkover to the opposition team based on the decision by umpires and organizers.
- c. If any team walks out of the ground or protests during the playtime, the team will be disqualified from the tournament.
- d. If any team misbehaves or abuses the umpires inside the field or outside the field during the match, the team will be disqualified from the tournament.
- e. Teams should clean the area they used during the match before leaving. If any team does not follow the ground cleaning regulations. Home team captain should report it to the committee and serious action will be taken against the responsible team.

25. **Attire**

- a. All players/umpires should be in proper attire. NO SHORTS.
- b. If umpires don't have proper attire, their duty is deemed as "No Show".
- c. Umpires should check for any player without proper attire & stop their participation in the game. They will be only allowed to join the team after having proper attire. However, the player will be counted towards min eligible players to start the game. No penalties for the time missed to get back in proper attire

26. **Ground Set-up**

- a. All teams are required to bring their own kit bags
 - i. Every team shall at least bring one Stumps (wicket) + bails
 - ii. Balls will be provided to the teams prior to the start of the league. Teams are responsible to bring League provided balls (ONLY). NO other cricket balls will be allowed for playing
 - iii. Every match - one team will be assigned as home team – home team shall bring the cones and other required equipment and do the setup and pick up the cones after the match.
- b. All matches will be played on 360-degree grounds
 - i. Outside Circle - 165 feet from the center of the pitch.
 - ii. Inner circle - 65 feet from the center of the pitch.
 - iii. The batting crease is four feet in front of and parallel to the bowling crease. This should be marked at both ends i.e. the batting and bowling ends.
 - iv. The return crease is drawn perpendicular to the bowling crease and should extend 4 ft in front and 4 feet behind the bowling crease.
 - v. Wide markers are set 3 feet from the middle stump on the bowling crease at the batting end
- c. Batting End



- i. Home team gets to choose the batting end. No change of ends between overs.
- ii. In cases of disagreement from the other team on the chosen batting end, teams should use the batting end recommended by the Committee. Go to <https://cricclubs.com/nacltennisballcricket/viewGrounds.do?clubId=27594> to view the grounds section. Each ground should have a picture clearly stating the recommended batting end

The rules and regulations mentioned in the rulebook will be followed at any point in the game and are applicable for only this season. If any rule is mentioned in our rulebook, it can overrule the ICC rules. In matters of doubts not covered by the above tournament rules, the decision of the league committee will be final and binding upon all concerned as per the standard ICC rules.