**The Constitution and Playing Conditions of the WSL**

**Constitution of the WSL – Updated 2022**

The WSL exists to foster competitive but cordial cricket matches played by the member clubs. The guiding ethos behind the WSL is the mutual respect the clubs, and their players, have for one another. The “Spirit of Cricket” is at the forefront of how the WSL functions, on and off the field of play.

The WSL welcomes players of every ethnic group, national origin, gender and religious conviction.

Each member club has an equal voice in the WSL. Decisions about the WSL are reached by consensus or by a vote, as appropriate. Each club has one Representative who speaks for the membership. The Representatives are the collective decision-taking body in the WSL.

The Representatives will reach decisions by consensus or, if necessary, by a vote. A vote will be taken if a motion is proposed by one club and seconded by another. To be adopted, the motion must receive the support of six of the eight member clubs.

Membership of the WSL is by annual election and requires the support of six of the eight member clubs. The Representatives can agree to forego an annual election by unanimous consent. Member clubs may resign from the WSL if they wish to do so.

Any new applications to join the WSL will be voted on by the Representatives, with the support of six of the eight member clubs being required for membership.

The WSL has a League Coordinator who is elected annually by the member clubs and whose role is to coordinate the activities of the Representatives. The Coordinator has no vote in any decisions, but may act on behalf of the Representatives in matters generally considered to be routine. If there is disagreement, any club may refer any action taken by the League Coordinator for adjudication by the Representatives.

Any disputes between member clubs will be referred by the Coordinator to the Representatives of the uninvolved clubs for adjudication. The consensus or, if necessary, majority decision of those Representatives is final.

The clubs are responsible for the conduct of their members. Behavior that is contrary to the Spirit of Cricket and the general standards that apply in our sport may be subject to disciplinary actions, with penalties that include bans from playing in the WSL. Problematic incidents will be referred, via the League Coordinator, to the Representatives of the uninvolved clubs, who will serve as a Disciplinary Committee. The Coordinator will gather relevant information for the Disciplinary Committee, by consulting witnesses who may include any independent umpires present. Unacceptable conduct will include, but may not be limited to, physical contact between players, racial or ethnic abuse, and disrespect for umpires.

**Playing Conditions of the WSL**

**Organizational rules**

* WSL games will be played on Saturdays, unless there are exceptional circumstances and a bilateral agreement is reached. There is no fixed start time for WSL games. The involved clubs must reach agreement on the start time during the week before the game, and must respect genuine constraints that apply to their opponents (e.g., travel time, the need for players to work on Saturday mornings, etc.).
* The home side is encouraged to find an independent umpire. The away side is also permitted to provide an independent umpire. The fee for the independent umpire(s) will be divided equally between the two sides. There is no penalty for failing to find an umpire. If there is only one independent umpire, a member of the batting side will stand at square-leg. If no independent umpire is available, the players will “self-umpire”. The captains are urged to ask only their more experienced players to act in this capacity, and to encourage fair and honorable decision-taking. Square-leg umpires are strongly discouraged from using their phones for scoring or any other purpose, as doing so can distract them from their primary responsibility to make fair and accurate decisions. The captains must ensure that their players (and any independent umpires) are aware of the WSL playing conditions.
* Matches will consist of one innings of 35 six-ball overs per team. A reduction in the number of overs can be agreed upon by both captains before the game commences, but only under truly extenuating circumstances (e.g., the delayed availability of a ground).
* Late arrival by one or both teams causing a delay of game, will result in the loss of batting overs for the delaying team(s) (one over for every 5-minutes of delay). However, matches may commence with fewer than eleven players present without any reduction in batting overs.
* In the event of rain delays, the number of overs to be played by each team will be determined by the captains. For shortened games, the team with the highest run rate (total runs/overs completed) wins the match.
* Each team must bat for a minimum of 15 overs for a game to be considered official (i.e., for win/loss points to be awarded).
* The captains must ensure that score-books (paper or electronic) are maintained accurately, and that the final scores are agreed upon before the two sides leave the ground. The home captain is responsible for ensuring that the results plus full scores are communicated to the League Coordinator promptly. Points will only be officially awarded when that information is received.
* No cancelled or abandoned fixture may be rescheduled in the 2022 season. The points will be shared (1 per side) if a fixture is cancelled or abandoned due to adverse weather conditions or because of *force majeure* (i.e., circumstances out of the control of the involved clubs such as a permit loss). A fixture that is unilaterally canceled without the agreement of the other side will be considered as a concession, with the award of two points to the non-canceling side. If there is disagreement between the two clubs about the nature of a cancelation, each club must submit written information to the League Coordinator who will share it with the Representatives of the six uninvolved clubs for adjudication on how to allocate the points.
* The Clubs are strongly urged to respect the guiding spirit of the WSL, by selecting only players who are legitimate members. Choosing “ringers” in an attempt to win a game is unfair and unethical. The Clubs are not permitted to pay players.

**Structure of the WSL competition**

* Points awarded will be 2 for a win, 0 for a loss, 1 for a tie or no result.
* If the scores are level at the end of a game, the result is a tie with each side receiving one point, irrespective of the number of wickets lost or the number of overs delivered.
* Ties in league standings will be determined by the following procedures, in order:

1. Any team conceding any fixtures will automatically lose any tiebreak to any team conceding no (or fewer) fixtures.
2. If (1) does not apply, the head-to-head records of two tied teams will determine their relative positions, based first on points gained in those two matches, second on the net run-rate in those two matches if the teams are tied on points.
3. If more than two teams are tied for points, the relative rankings will be based on a ‘mini-league’ that takes into account points and, if necessary, net run-rate in games between the tied teams.

For these purposes, the net run rate is calculated as follows: The total number of runs scored by each side in the total number of overs received in the two games will be calculated. The side with the higher resulting run-rate value will own the tiebreak. If a side is bowled out before its full complement of overs has been received, it will be deemed to have received the complete 35 overs (or the total number of overs that was agreed upon prior to the game commencing).

* The four highest-placed teams in the League phase will proceed to the playoffs. The top finishing first will host the team finishing fourth, and the team finishing second will host the team finishing third. The two winning teams will advance to the Final, which will be hosted by the team that had the higher place in the League phase.
* If there is a tie in the League Final, or if the game cannot be played or completed due to the intervention of the weather, and cannot be re-scheduled, the side topping the League will win the overall competition.
* To be eligible to appear in the playoffs, a player must have appeared in four league games during the course of the same season.

**On-field rules**

The standard Laws of Cricket apply to all WSL games unless specified and/or clarified below. Certain playing regulations that often apply in professional “white-ball cricket” are not used in the WSL. The WSL differs from many local leagues in this respect. All teams and umpires must familiarize themselves with the playing conditions that do apply.

* Each team will comprise no more than eleven players.
* External clothing should be predominantly white.
* The ball used must be red in color, and should be of an appropriately high quality.
* There are no fielding restrictions beyond those present in the Laws of cricket. Specifically, there is no 30-yard circle, no Powerplays and no related limitations to the distribution of fielders.
* There will be a limit of seven overs per bowler per innings (or pro rata for shortened games).
* No substitutions will be allowed during the game except for injury. However, runners will still be permitted for a genuine injury that happens in the course of the game.
* When a qualified independent umpire is standing, he or she will use judgement to determine when a ball is a wide on either the off- or leg-side. In these circumstances, a ball delivered outside the pads is NOT an automatic wide; the umpire will apply judgment as to the actual width of the ball at the point when it passes the stumps. The batsman is not allowed to draw a wide by moving inside the line of a ball that would have struck him so that it now passes outside his pads. One run will be awarded per wide and one additional ball will be bowled.
* When no independent umpire is available and members of the batting side stand as ad hoc umpires, a leg-side wide will be called whenever the ball passes outside the batsman’s pads. The ad hoc umpires will use judgement about off-side wide deliveries, which typically involve balls that are more than 24 inches outside the off-stump at the time they pass the stumps. The host club may draw a guideline that will apply throughout the game. One run will be awarded per wide and one additional ball will be bowled.
* Throwing is outlawed by the Laws of Cricket and so is not permitted in the WSL. Captains should take all appropriate steps to make sure that they only use bowlers with legitimate actions. Qualified independent umpires should call bowlers for throwing if they are certain this is happening. Members of the batting side who are acting in a “self-umpiring” capacity, whether at the bowler’s end or at square-leg, should not make decisions about throwing, to avoid unwanted controversies.
* Bouncers above the shoulder, as determined by the batsmen’s position at the popping crease, shall be called wide.
* Full tosses above the waist are a no ball. If there is any doubt, the two umpires should consult with each other to make the best possible decision.
* A ball that pitches off the mat or that hits the edge of the mat or that hits a nail is a no-ball (and hence penalized by one run and bowled again).
* A ball that bounces more than once before it reaches the popping (i.e., batsman’s) crease is a no-ball, as is a ball that rolls along the ground.
* There are no free-hits after a no-ball is delivered.
* It is illegal for the non-striker to deliberately attempt to steal a run by backing up too far ahead of the delivery. If he does so, he can be run-out by the bowler, but *only* if the bowler acts *before* entering his delivery stride or *after* completing the stride after the delivery stride. (What this wording means is that the bowler cannot interrupt his delivery action with the intent of trapping a backing-up batsman out of his crease. In practice, such incidents always create considerable ill-feeling and both batsmen and bowlers are urged to not create them).