



# OFFICIAL RULE BOOK

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## SEASON 2025

[buryrounders.com](http://buryrounders.com)  
[info@buryrounders.com](mailto:info@buryrounders.com)

EST. 04.10.1948

Bury Rounders League

***Official Rule Book***  
***Season 2025***

[buryrounders.com](http://buryrounders.com)

## CONTENTS

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|   |    |
|---|----|
| League Contact Information.....                         | 2  |
| Management & League Meetings.....                       | 2  |
| Social Events .....                                     | 2  |
| Philanthropy .....                                      | 2  |
| Rule book updates.....                                  | 2  |
| Management Committee Roles & Responsibilities.....      | 3  |
| Code of Conduct .....                                   | 5  |
| Safeguarding all in sport – Safeguarding statement..... | 6  |
| League Constitution .....                               | 7  |
| Rules of the League – All Matches & Competitions.....   | 11 |
| Laws of The Game.....                                   | 19 |
| Cup Competition Additional Rules .....                  | 26 |

## LEAGUE CONTACT INFORMATION

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**All correspondence to the League should be via email to the League Secretary.**

**Email:** [info@buryrounders.com](mailto:info@buryrounders.com)

**Website:** [www.buryrounders.com](http://www.buryrounders.com)

**Facebook:** Bury Rounders League, Bury Rounders League Members Group.

**Instagram:** Bury Rounders League

## MANAGEMENT & LEAGUE MEETINGS

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Please see the season plan for the specific dates for meetings.

Teams must send a representative to each League Meeting, failure to send a representative to 3 meetings during the season will result in your team being expelled from the League.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

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### Gala Day Competition

The date and venue for this year's Gala Day has yet to be determined. We will be in contact with teams directly to confirm.

### Presentation Evening

The date and venue for this year's Presentation Evening has yet to be determined. We will be in contact with teams directly to confirm.

### Interleague

We are looking into ways to bring the interleague competition back, we will update you on any changes when we can.

## PHILANTHROPY

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Each year the money raised in raffles is donated to charities nominated at the Annual General Meeting by teams.

## RULE BOOK UPDATES

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Please note that some rules that have been missed out of the rule book over the last few seasons have been re-added to this year's rule book.

# MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

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## **Duties of the Management Committee**

It is the responsibility of the committee to consider all matters referred to it and take proper and expedient action. The committee is also responsible for the administration of the League, ensuring compliance with the Constitution and League Rules, and submitting an annual report and League accounts for the Annual General Meeting, along with any additional required information. At the 2024 Annual General Meeting, you elected the following committee members to manage the League on your behalf for the 2025 playing season:

### ***Chair:***

Dawn Leach

- a. The Chair shall preside at all Management and League meetings with the power to summon extraordinary meetings, through the League Secretary. In the event of equal votes for or against any matter, the Chair shall have the casting vote.

### ***Vice Chair:***

Jackie Santos

- a. The Vice Chair shall deputise in the absence of the Chair.

### ***League Secretary:***

Arron Lever

- a. The Secretary, shall be responsible for calling all meetings of the Management and League.
- b. Maintain records on behalf of the Management and League.
- c. Submit to the Management all League business matters.
- d. Responsible for the distribution of minutes of meetings to Management and League members.
- e. Collate registration forms and redirect the information to the league officials.
- f. Edit the Official Rule & Fixture Book.

### ***Referees & Fixtures Secretary:***

Natalie Johnson

- a. Organise referees for all League fixtures including cup matches, Interleague matches, abandoned and postponed games.
- b. Deal with queries from teams.
- c. Organise training for new and existing referees to ensure they are aware of the rules.
- d. Organise fixtures for the season.
- e. Rearrange fixtures when applicable.

### ***Treasurer:***

Megan Olphert

- a. Process claims and follows up with players on their progress.
- b. Collect members' subscriptions, fees, fines, etc., and be responsible for all League monies.

- c. Pay reasonable expenses incurred by the League.
- d. Together with the appointed accountant, prepare annually an income and expenditure account by 31st October.

**Registration & Results Secretary:**

Jenny Green

- a. Ensure all teams and players are eligible to compete in the League, including the checking of scorecards.
- b. Deal with transfer requests.
- c. Follow up queries on registration and carry out appropriate action.
- d. Establish links with the local press to gain publicity for events.
- e. Collate results from Team Secretaries.
- f. Provide fixtures and League results and relevant news/information to the local press and the website manager.

**Welfare Coordinator (DLS):**

Arron Lever

- a. To deal with welfare issues and enquiries from players, officials and committee members.
- b. To ensure that the League is providing a duty of care for players, officials and committee members.
- c. To identify and provide training opportunities to the Management Committee and League Members.
- d. To advise the Management Committee and League Members of the moral, ethical and legal responsibilities in respect of the welfare of others and duty of care.

**Social Secretary:**

Dawn Leach

- a. Facilitate a Social Workgroup, which will be responsible for organising the presentation evening and gala day.
- b. Communicate information to the Management and League.
- c. Delegate tasks to ensure smooth running of such events.

**Minutes Secretary:**

Arlo Bryant-Chesworth

- a. Take an accurate account of the minutes and actions of all meetings and pass to the League Secretary for distribution.

Other Committee Members: Jennie Bryant-Chesworth, Emma Greenwood and Leah Diamond

ALL CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO COMPLAINTS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE LEAGUE SECRETARY  
Please follow the complaints procedure on the website or click the following link: [Complaints Procedure](#)

# CODE OF CONDUCT

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Everyone involved in the sport—especially team managers, referees, players, parents/carers, and supporters—must recognise their role and responsibilities in maintaining a safe and enjoyable environment for all.

## **Referees**

Referees play a crucial role in ensuring fair play and enjoyment for both players and spectators. The interpretation and application of the Laws of the Game can significantly impact the experience.

- Make decisions clearly and firmly.
- Report any serious misconduct to the League Secretary. However, where appropriate, a timely word of advice to team captains or players losing control may help prevent the need for disciplinary action.
- Bad language is unacceptable and goes against the spirit of the game.
- Maintain professional boundaries and avoid over-familiarity with players.
- Wear appropriate footwear and clothing suited to ground and weather conditions.
- Always carry a copy of the current Rule Book (physical or electronic).

## **Players**

Players are expected to uphold the integrity of the game by demonstrating sportsmanship and respect for officials, opponents, and the rules.

- Accept match officials' decisions without challenge. On matters of opinion, the referee's decision is final.
- Play fairly, avoiding any behaviour that may endanger opponents.
- Refrain from gamesmanship, which is often considered a form of cheating.
- Treat opponents and officials with the same respect you expect in return.
- Dangerous play, such as throwing bats or aggressively striking poles, is strictly prohibited.
- Bad language is unacceptable and does not align with the best interests of the game.

## **Supporters**

- Supporters contribute to the atmosphere of the game and should do so positively.
- Avoid noisy or abusive criticism, as it can impact the referee's concentration and morale.
- Stand well clear of the playing area to ensure the smooth running of the game.
- Do not field the ball.
- Comply with any reasonable request from the referee.

## **Agreement**

By participating in the League, players and officials agree to abide by the League's Rules and the Laws of the Game. They also acknowledge that the League Committee shall not be held liable for any accident, injury, loss, or damage resulting from their participation in the League.

## **SAFEGUARDING ALL IN SPORT – SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT**

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Bury Rounders League, under the guidance of the Management Committee, is committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment where everyone can enjoy the game of rounders.

Each year, players, coaches, team officials, league officials, and volunteers experience the fun and sense of community that come with being part of the league. As a voluntary organisation, we recognise our responsibility to ensure that no one is harmed or put at risk as a result of the activities we promote.

Everyone involved in rounders has the right to participate in a safe and enjoyable environment, where they can experience the challenge, fun, and sense of achievement that sport provides. In addition, all participants are entitled to a duty of care and protection from abuse.

To uphold these values, we are committed to implementing safeguarding policies and procedures that ensure the welfare of all members. Each team must appoint a dedicated Welfare Officer responsible for ensuring their team adheres to these policies. All Welfare Officers are required to have Level 1 (SPC1/SL1) safeguarding training in sport.

Our safeguarding policies and procedures are available in the safeguarding section of our website. It is essential that all clubs and teams are aware of these policies and have the opportunity to review them. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and all league members must play their part in ensuring these policies are upheld.

The League Welfare Co-ordinator is the designated committee member responsible for overseeing safeguarding across the league. If you have any questions or concerns, their contact details can be found below.

**Leagues Welfare Co-ordinator – 07793485995**

**GM Police – 101 or 0161 856 8229**

**Child Protective Services – 0161 856 8063**

**Safeguarding Unit – 0161 259 6168**

**Bury Integrated Safeguarding Partnership – 0161 253 6153**

**Child-line – 0800 1111 NSPCC – 0800 800 500**



# LEAGUE CONSTITUTION

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## 1. Name

1.1.The amalgamation of the teams will be termed the 'Bury Rounders League'. Hereinafter referred to as 'The League' and/or 'Bury Rounders' and/or 'BRL'.

## 2. Purposes of the League

2.1.The purpose of the League is to promote the amateur sport of Rounders for women and girls in/around the Bury area.

2.2.The game of Rounders will be played by women and girls. For further information please see the leagues policies and procedures on the website or via with following link:

[Policies and Procedures](#)

## 3. Permitted means of advancing the purposes

**The Committee has the power to:**

3.1.Acquire and provide equipment, coaching, training and playing facilities, transport, medical and related social and other facilities.

3.2.Take out public liability insurance for league officials, contractors, players, guests and third parties.

3.3.Raise funds by subscriptions, donations, charges and appeals.

3.4.Set aside or apply funds for special purposes or as reserves.

3.5.Deposit or invest funds in any lawful manner.

3.6.Employ and engage staff and others and provide services.

3.7.Do all other things reasonably necessary to advance its purposes.

3.8.None of the above powers may be used other than to advance the purposes consistently with the Constitution, Rules and Laws below and the general law.

## 4. Membership

4.1.The League consists of properly constituted teams approved by the Management Committee, whose grounds and/or headquarters are situated within the Metropolitan Borough of Bury.

4.2.Membership of the League is made annually from the date of the AGM.

4.3.Membership of the league shall be open to anyone interested in the sport on application regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or other beliefs. However, limitation of membership according to available facilities is allowable on a non-discriminatory basis.

4.4.The League will keep subscriptions at levels that will not pose a significant obstacle to people participating.

4.5.The League Committee may refuse membership, or remove it, only for good cause such as conduct, outstanding debts, or character likely to bring the League or sport into disrepute. Appeal against refusal or removal may be made to an appointed panel consisting of league members.

## **5. All League Meetings**

- 5.1. All members may attend League meetings in person.
- 5.2. Such meetings are held on a regular basis throughout the year.
- 5.3. A quorum for all League meetings is 75% of the total membership.
- 5.4. The Chair or (in his/her absence the Vice Chair), shall preside.
- 5.5. A fine will be levied for teams not represented at the meetings.
- 5.6. Teams failing to send a representative to 3 league meetings will be expelled from the League and must seek re-admission to the waiting list at the AGM.
- 5.7. Team representatives arriving late/departing early must ensure that they are brought up to date with matters discussed at the meeting. The Management Committee are not responsible for keeping individuals up to date.
- 5.8. Resolutions shall be decided at a league meeting by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast at a league meeting.
- 5.9. The principle of 'one team, one vote' shall apply.
- 5.10. Formalities in connection with League meetings (such as how to put down resolutions) shall be decided by the Committee and publicised to League members through the Team Secretary.

## **6. Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

- 6.1. The League Secretary shall give each team at least 7 days' notice of the place, date and time of the meeting.
- 6.2. The members will elect a Committee including a Chair, Treasurer and Secretary to serve until the next AGM.
- 6.3. The Treasurer will produce accounts of the League for the latest financial year checked by a member of the league.
- 6.4. The Committee will present a report on the League's activities since the previous AGM.
- 6.5. The members will discuss and vote on any resolution (to change the Rules of the League and Laws of the Games) and deal with any other business put to the meeting.

## **7. Extraordinary General Meetings (EGM)**

- 7.1. An EGM shall be called by the League Secretary within 14 days of a request from the Committee, or on the written request of 21 (or more) members. The EGM shall be held within 30 days at a place decided upon by the Chair.

## **8. The Committee Role**

- 8.1. Subject to these Rules the Committee shall have responsibility for the management of the League, its funds, implementation of the Rules of the League and the Laws of the Games as set by its members.

## **9. Property**

- 9.1.The property and funds of the League cannot be used for the direct or indirect private benefit of members.
- 9.2.The League may provide sporting and related social facilities, rounders equipment, coaching, courses, insurance cover, medical treatment, event expenses and other ordinary benefits as provided for in the Finance Acts 2002 and 2010.
- 9.3.The League may also:
- Sell and supply food, drink and related sports clothing and equipment;
  - Employ members and remunerate them for providing goods and services, on fair terms set by the Committee without the person concerned being present;
  - Pay for reasonable hospitality for visiting teams and guests;
- 9.4.Indemnify the Committee and members acting properly in the course of the running of the League against any liability incurred in the proper running of the League.
- 9.5.The Committee will have due regard to the law on disability discrimination and child protection.
- 9.6.The Committee shall consist of at least three and not more than 13 members (including officers).
- 9.7.The Committee members may co-opt team members (up to the maximum permitted number) to serve until the end of the next AGM.
- 9.8.Any Committee member may be re-elected or re-co-opted without limit.
- 9.9.A Committee member shall cease to hold their position if they cease to be a member of the League, resign by written notice, or are removed by the Committee for good cause. A vote of no confidence may be called by at least one-third of the Committee. During this process, the Committee member in question will have the opportunity to hear the case against them and present their defence. The remaining Committee members will then vote on whether to remove the member or dismiss the concerns. A complaint about a Committee member would fall under the complaints policy. A Committee member may also be removed by team members at a League meeting. The Committee shall fairly determine the time limits and formalities for these proceedings.

## **10. Committee Meetings**

- 10.1.Whenever a Committee member has a personal interest in a matter to be discussed, he/she must declare it, withdraw from that part of the meeting (unless asked to stay), not be counted in the quorum for that agenda item and withdraw during the vote and have no vote on the matter concerned.
- 10.2.The Committee may decide its own way of operating. Unless it otherwise resolves, the following rules apply:
- 10.3.At least five members must be present for the meeting to be valid;
- 10.4.Committee meetings shall be held face to face and/or via MS Teams and/or Conference Call;
- 10.5.The Chair, Vice Chair or League Secretary, shall chair the meeting.
- 10.6.Emergency decisions shall be by simple majority of those voting;

10.7.A resolution in writing by every Committee member shall be valid without a meeting; In the event of voting being even, the Chair shall have the casting vote.

## **11. Delegation**

11.1.The Committee may delegate any of their functions to sub-committees but must specify the scope of its activity and powers; the extent to which it can commit to the funds of the League; its membership; its duty to report back to the Committee. The Committee may wind up any sub-committee at any time or to change its mandate and operating terms.

## **12. Disclosure**

12.1.Annual reports and statements of account must be made available for inspection by any member and all league records may be inspected by any Committee member.

## **13. Amendments**

13.1.The Rules and Laws may be amended at a league meeting by two-thirds of the votes cast but not (if relevant) so as to jeopardise the league status, its purpose or winding up provisions.

13.2.Proposed alterations must be put in writing, signed by the secretaries of the proposing and seconding teams and received by the Chair at least 14 days prior to the League Meeting.

## **14. Winding up the League**

14.1.The members may vote to wind up the League if not less than three quarters of those present and voting support that proposal at a properly convened league meeting.

14.2.The Committee will then be responsible for the orderly winding up of the League's affairs.

14.3.After settling all liabilities of the League, the Committee shall dispose of the net assets remaining to one or more of the following:

- To another League with similar sports purposes
- To the National Governing Body for use by them for related community sports.
- To be divided equally between present member teams.
- To be divided equally between nominated charities.

# RULES OF THE LEAGUE – ALL MATCHES & COMPETITIONS

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## 15. Fees

- 15.1. The entrance fee per team will be £130 per annum, which includes: annual subscription, access to the benefit fund, public liability insurance cover (in accordance with the requirements of the Local Authority), score book, score cards and fixture list. The fee will be payable in full by the AGM.
- 15.2. Teams wishing to renew their membership to join the league must complete an application form and pay the joining fee on/before the date of the AGM.
- 15.3. All fees and fines must be paid to the Treasurer, Via BACS ONLY (payment information is located on the website)

## 16. Finance

- 16.1. The funds of the league shall be held in a bank account/s approved by the management committee and managed by the Treasurer.
- 16.2. Expenses may be paid to officials from league or team funds. Any payments received should be declared by individuals to the HMRC for income tax purposes.
- 16.3. If the league is in debt, each team shall be called upon to contribute equally to the paying of such debt.
- 16.4. In the event of any team resigning during the season, all monies paid will be retained in league funds.

## 17. Correspondence

- 17.1. Correspondence shall be addressed and forwarded to the league secretary via email only. (excludes: fines, fees, insurance, registration and transfer matters).

## 18. Protests and complaints

- 18.1. Please see the league complaints policy and procedure located on the website or via the following link: [Complaints Policy](#)

## 19. Resignations

- 19.1. Any team intending to resign membership must notify the league secretary. Any fees paid are non-refundable. Any team shall have the right of appeal to the Management Committee.

## 20. Miscellaneous

- 20.1. All matches will be played in accordance with the rules of the league and laws of the games.
- 20.2. Each club shall register its colours with the league secretary, which will be published on the team details page(s) of the website.
- 20.3. Prior to the season commencing, each team will be issued with a scorebook and score cards. Fixtures, Rule Book and contacts can be found on the website.
- 20.4. All playing members, team officials and referees of the league will make themselves conversant with the constitution, rules of the league and laws of the games.

- 20.5. Anything not provided for in these rules shall be dealt with by the Management Committee on an individual case basis and subject to the right of appeal to the management committee. Mobile phones are not to be taken onto the field of play. In case of emergencies phones should be left with a scorer and the referee notified.
- 20.6. Smoking/Vaping is not permitted on the field of play by players, referees or scorers.
- 20.7. Scorers are part of the pitch/game.

## **21. Registration of Teams and Players**

- 21.1. Teams are not permitted to change their name once the closing date for registration has passed.
- 21.2. Team secretaries should ensure that at least 11 team players are registered with the registration secretary by a date given by the registration secretary before the new season commences, to allow the necessary processing of paperwork to be undertaken. Late registration will result in a fine.
- 21.3. The registration secretary will return a list of confirmed players to the team secretary via email.
- 21.4. A qualified or bona-fide player of a team is one who has been registered by her team secretary with the registration secretary (nb – new players are required to complete individual player registration forms and return to the registration secretary with £1.00 signing on fee).
- 21.5. A parental consent form must be completed for all players under the age of 18; the form must be signed by the player's parent/guardian.
- 21.6. Additional players are not allowed to play until they have been registered with the registration secretary for at least 7 clear days before playing in a match. Players cannot play for more than one team in a season without the sanction of the management committee.
- 21.7. A player must only be registered for one team in the league unless transferred under the direction of the registration secretary at a fee of £2.00. Players cannot transfer after 30th June.
- 21.8. The player requesting the transfer must complete a transfer form in full and return it to the registration secretary together with a fee of £2. A copy of the transfer form will be returned to the team secretary via email. Transfers will only be permissible if application is made on an official transfer form, which must be emailed to the registration secretary. Players may only transfer once per season.
- 21.9. Clubs can only borrow players for a maximum of 5 matches per season (2 players per game). Clubs with more than one team can only borrow players from a lower division. Clubs with teams in the same division cannot borrow from each other.
- 21.10. Players from clubs with more than one team can play up on a maximum of 3 occasions in each season.
- 21.11. Any team found playing an unregistered/ineligible player will be penalised financially and deducted 3 points. In the event of the offending team winning the result will be declared null and void and the match replayed.

- 21.12. In the event that an unregistered player is used in a cup match the offending team will be disqualified from the competition and the non-offending team will be deemed to have won the match.
- 21.13. Any player wishing to register to play in more than 1 flat bat league must consult eligibility rules of each organisation before registering.
- 21.14. A player or referee who makes it known that she is pregnant or who is obviously pregnant shall cease to play/referee.

## **22. Fixtures**

- 22.1. All Fixtures will be arranged by the fixtures secretary, on behalf of the management committee.
- 22.2. Matches must be played on the arranged date; however, fixtures may be changed to accommodate religious holidays only. Team secretaries should make the fixtures secretary aware of these upon registration to the league.
- 22.3. Matches must start punctually at the time fixed. Matches in April and August will commence at 6.45pm. Matches in May, June and July will commence at 7.00pm. Cup finals will commence at 6.30pm. (See point 42.3 for further details)
- 22.4. Grounds must be properly marked out 15 minutes before time of commencing play, or the home team may be liable to a fine of £5.00.
- 22.5. Fixtures will be played home and away. Visiting teams must adhere to any ground restriction applied by the home ground. These can be found on the leagues website.
- 22.6. Competitions shall be concluded on or before the end of the playing season. In the event of any team not completing their fixtures the management committee will have the right to deal appropriately with the matter.
- 22.7. Matches cannot be started unless at least 7 players from each side are present.
- 22.8. Any team failing to attend for a fixture (with at least 7 players) must pay the referee's fee for that match and shall be further subject to a £20.00 (for first offence, second and subsequent offences £25.00) fine and 3 points deducted. The match must be re-arranged to take place within 4 weeks of the original fixture date. However, if the teams cannot agree to a date within the 4 weeks, the fixtures secretary will set a date within the 4 week period by which the game must be played.
- 22.9. League matches have precedence over friendly matches and cup matches have precedence over league matches when pitches are in dispute.
- 22.10. Should any question arise as to the ground being unfit for play, the decision shall be left to the respective captains, however the referee should make the final decision if the captains cannot agree.
- 22.11. In the event of a scheduled game not taking place (i.e., Through cancellation or abandonment) the captain of the home team must:
- 22.12. Agree a new date with the visiting team's captain and referee within 7 days if they are not able to agree on the night the fixture is abandoned (the rearranged fixture must take place within 4 weeks of the original fixture).

- 22.13. Complete and return a scorecard clearly stating the date and venue of the rearranged match. If the match has been started, the scorecard must also show the names of the home and visiting teams as 'borrowing' rules still apply.
- 22.14. Advise registration/results secretary of cancelled match before 10pm by text on the night of the cancelled match along with the new match date.
- 22.15. Notify the fixtures secretary of cancelled match before 10pm on the night of the cancelled match and the new match date as soon as the date is confirmed.
- 22.16. Confirm the referee's availability to the referees' secretary by telephone or in text.
- 22.17. Any match not re-arranged to take place within 4 weeks of the original fixture date, will be played on a date arranged by the fixtures secretary and teams notified accordingly.
- 22.18. Teams should not leave the field of play until the game is officially declared over by the referee, unless safety of the players, officials or spectators is compromised.

## **23. Scoring**

- 23.1. The competition shall be decided by points to be recorded: 2 points for a win; 1 point for a Tie.
- 23.2. In the event of two or more teams being equal on points, there shall be play-offs for promotion or relegation. Champions of divisions 2 to 7 shall be promoted and the bottom 2 teams of divisions 1 to 6 may be relegated. If vacancies occur further adjustments may be made at the discretion of the management committee.
- 23.3. Teams must provide a competent scorer, even if this means playing without a full complement of players. The scorer will record the scores as instructed by the referee. No one will stand alongside the scorers, except when a league scorer has been appointed by the management committee.
- 23.4. A referee is not allowed to look at the scorebooks except at the request of the scorers.
- 23.5. After each team has completed one innings, the score will be announced by the referee.
- 23.6. When a team holds a lead of 40 or more runs after the first innings, the captain of the leading team may compel their opponents to "follow on".
- 23.7. The final score shall be agreed by the scorers and announced by the referee. The final score shall be recorded on an official score card and signed by the referee.
- 23.8. If the scorers cannot agree on a final score, the score will not be announced by the referee, instead the team secretaries must send in their scorebook to the league secretary within 24 hours.
- 23.9. Any matter regarding scorebook error will be dealt with separately on its own merit, by the management committee.
- 23.10. The team making the highest score shall win. The referee will stop a match when a team holds a lead of at least 30 runs in the final innings.

## **24. Results**

- 24.1. The home team shall send an official score card showing the names of the players taking part in the match and the result, signed by the referee, to the registration secretary.



- 24.2.Scores no longer need to be texted, scores will be collected from the scorecards
- 24.3.Completed scorecards should be sent to the registration secretary to reach him/her within 24 hours via email only – WhatsApp images will not be accepted. Non-compliance with this rule will result in a fine.
- 24.4.In the event of a team resigning during the season, all results involving that team will be expunged from the official league table.

## **25. Referees**

- 25.1.The minimum age for trainee and qualified referees is 16.
- 25.2.All officiating referees shall be paid £16.00 by the home team on completion of the game.
- 25.3.A fee of £16.00 is to be paid in respect of an abandoned or postponed game, equally shared between the two competing teams.
- 25.4.The fee for a cup tie will be £16.00 shared equally by the two competing teams.
- 25.5.The referee must have full control of the game, and all their decisions must be adhered to during the game.
- 25.6.Referees are instructed to deal firmly with all cases of misconduct and report the same to the league secretary within 7 days in writing.
- 25.7.Any player sent off the field of play cannot be substituted.
- 25.8.Each case will be investigated by the league secretary.
- 25.9.Abuse of referees (proven) will be dealt with by the complaint's panel (refer to 'list of fines/fees').
- 25.10.Referees are allowed to suspend the fourth innings in bad weather or poor light conditions when a win has been achieved.
- 25.11.Prior to the start of the season, each team in divisions 1–5 must nominate at least 2 named referees, division 6 & 7 must supply the league with a minimum of 1 named referee and 1 trainee referee. New teams entering the league must supply the league with 1 named trainee referee. Upon completion of a trainee referee's training they will be called upon to referee.
- 25.12.If a referee is unable to officiate, it is their responsibility to find a suitably experienced substitute from the list of registered referees and inform the referees' secretary accordingly.
- 25.13.Any team failing to provide a referee for an appointed game will be fined. Consistent offenders will be dealt with by the management committee and may risk expulsion from the league.

25.14. Referees are responsible for checking the pitch and equipment before the game commences. This includes:

- Ground conditions
- Dimensions of bowling pitch and batting home
- Distance between the bowling pitch and batting home and first base
- Distance between bases
- Location of pitch in relation to obstructions e.g. Trees, banks, ditches

25.15. Referees must ensure that bats, balls and footwear conform to league rules.

25.16. Referees must give their decisions verbally. Actions may be used for emphasis.

25.17. The referee's decision is final.

25.18. In the event of the referee appointed not attending a match, and the 2 teams agreeing to one at the ground, such a referee must be considered a league official for the duration of the game. If the teams cannot agree, the two captains must toss for choice. If a regular referee is available, she/he must be asked to officiate.

## **26. Players' benefit fund / insurance (personal accident)**

26.1. Insurance matters and the players' benefit fund will be administered by the Treasurer.

26.2. All teams must contribute to the benefit fund (for personal accident) through the league scheme, paying £5.00 per team per season.

26.3. Any registered player, referee or scorer injured whilst taking part in any league, cup or interleague match shall receive £30.00 per week for a period of 4 weeks and £15.00 per week for a period of 2 weeks.

26.4. This does not include practice matches except when they are interleague practice matches.

26.5. All claims must be lodged with the Treasurer within 3 days of the accident occurring. The details required will be:

- Name, address and telephone number of person reporting the injury.
- Name, address and telephone number of person injured.
- Description of injury.
- Names of the team registered for/team playing against.
- Name of the officiating referee.

26.6. A medical certificate (a photocopy will suffice) from a hospital/gp/physiotherapist must be handed to the Treasurer within 3 days of the accident occurring.

26.7. If the management committee desire further evidence the player, referee or scorer shall submit him/herself for an examination by a doctor appointed by the management committee.

26.8. Any player, referee or scorer refusing to submit him/herself for a medical examination shall be debarred from receiving benefit.

26.9. No player in receipt of benefit shall follow any employment whatsoever whilst receiving such benefit.

26.10. If, in the opinion of the management committee, such person does anything to retard their recovery, she/he will forfeit any further claim upon the benefit fund.

- 26.11. When a player, referee or scorer commences work or education after an accident, for which she/he has received benefit, she/he must notify the Treasurer of her/his withdrawal from benefit (within 24 hours).
- 26.12. Any team, through any circumstances, withdrawing or being expelled from the league, shall forfeit claims in respect of this fund.
- 26.13. Any matters arising, which are not covered by these rules, shall be dealt with by the management committee.
- 26.14. The benefit fund shall be kept separate from the league funds.
- 26.15. Payments will be made at the discretion of the committee dependant on a doctor's note.

## **27. Public liability insurance**

- 27.1. In accordance with the requirements of the Local Authority (LA) the league must provide evidence that all teams have public liability cover to play on public grounds belonging to LA.
- 27.2. In accordance with the requirements of the LA, all teams are covered for public liability insurance up to a limit of £5m.
- 27.3. All teams must be insured through the league scheme; the cost will be included in the annual registration fee.
- 27.4. A copy of the insurance certificate(s) and full policy details will be forwarded to the LA by the management committee on an annual basis.
- 27.5. A copy of the insurance certificate and full policy details is available to teams on the leagues website.
- 27.6. All teams must provide a welfare officer with a safeguarding in sport certificate that covers the duration of the season.

## **28. Fines and Fees**

- 28.1. Unless an appeal is pending, all fines and fees must be paid within 14 days of the original fine date. Failure to do so will incur a further fine of £2.00 for every 7 days after the original date. Outstanding fines on 30th September will result in the club forfeiting voting rights at the AGM and being unable to register for the following season.
- 28.2. Where a team or individual has failed to pay an outstanding debt and has subsequently left or been expelled from the League, it may be possible for individual team players to re-enter the League, i.e., signing for another or new team, providing they settle an equal proportion of the outstanding debt before the new season commences.

### **28.3. List of Fines:**

|         |   |        |
|---------|---|--------|
| 28.3.a. | Absence from meeting:   | £5.00  |
| 28.3.b. | Late Scorecards/failure to send a Scorecard/ Illegible scorecard: | £5.00  |
| 28.3.c. | Non-attendance of referee   |        |
|         | First offence:  | £20.00 |
|         | Subsequent offences:  | £25.00 |

|         |   |   |
|---------|---|---|
| 28.3.d. | Playing an unregistered or ineligible player in a League Match:   | £20.00 (per player)<br>3 points deducted match replay*<br>ref's fee   |
| 28.3.e. | Playing an unregistered or ineligible player in a Cup Match:  | £20.00 (per player) + Ref's fees +<br>For-fits the match  |
| 28.3.f. | Team with player using an alias name:   | £35.00<br>3 points deducted<br>Possible match replay*<br>Ref's fees   |
| 28.3.g. | Failure of a club to provide a team for a League fixture:<br><br>First offence:<br>Subsequent offences:   | Match replayed<br>3 points deducted<br>Ref's fee<br>£20.00<br>£25.00  |
| 28.3.h. | Failure of a club to provide a team for a Cup fixture   | £15.00<br>Ref's fee<br>For-fits the match   |
| 28.3.i. | Failure of a club to provide a team for a Cup Final:  | £20.00 Excluded from cup competitions for the next season   |
| 28.3.j. | Abuse of players, team officials or referees by an individual player (including any form of social media)<br>First offence per season:<br><br>Subsequent offences per season: | £25.00 + 1 match suspension (player)<br>3 points deducted (team)<br><br>£25.00 + 12 month suspension (player)<br>3 points deducted (team) |
| 28.3.k. | Abuse of players, team officials or referees by teams (including any form of social media): each offence per season:  | £25.00<br>3 points deducted<br>Possible match replay*   |
| 28.3.l. | Player using bat not in accordance with 'Laws of the Games' (League fixture):   | £25.00<br>3 points deducted   |
| 28.3.m. | Player using bat not in accordance with 'Laws of the Games' (Cup fixture):  | Team disqualified from Cup  |
| 28.3.n. | Unclean/Late return of a cup/trophy:  | £5.00 per cup/trophy + any additional costs   |
| 28.3.o. | Ground not properly marked at time of commencement of play:   | £5.00   |
| 28.3.p. | More than one referee at a match:   | £16.00 (League to pay)  |
| 28.3.q. | Any team that fails to provide 3 scorecards or phone calls over the season will be subject to a further fine of   | £20.00  |
| 28.3.r. | Any Teams not sending a representative to a training session organised by the league will be subject to a fine  | £10.00  |
| 28.3.s. | Failure of a Team to notify the Fixtures Secretary of a rearranged / un-played fixture before 10pm on the evening of the original fixture                                     | £5.00   |

## LAWS OF THE GAME

Explained here are the laws of the games with specific references to the summer league and cup competitions, winter league and gala day events. Please ensure you have read these rules and comply with them.

### 29. Pitch dimensions

29.1. All matches to be played on a grass surface.

29.2. The bowling 'pitch' shall be 3 yards by 2 feet and shall be 7 yards from the 'home'.

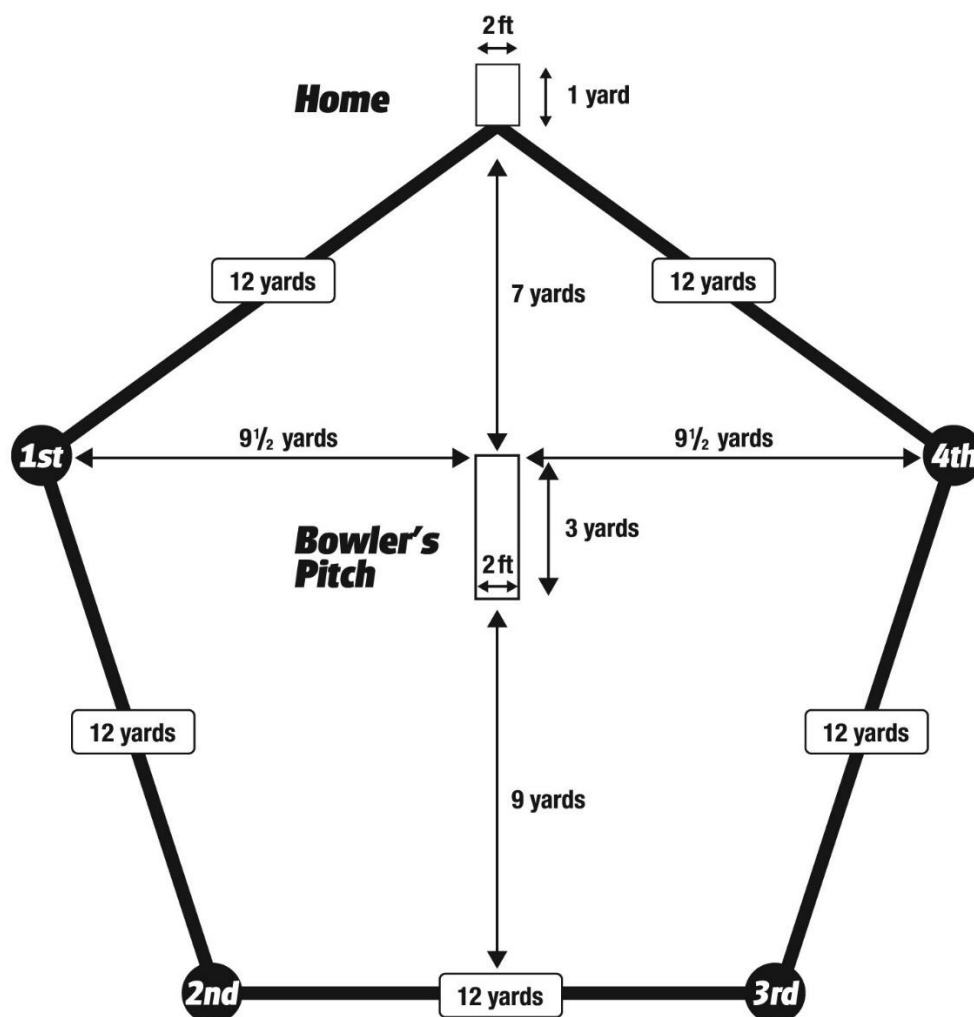
29.3. The 'home' shall be 1 yard by 2 feet.

29.4. All measurements specified above are taken from the inside of the tapes. Tapes should be 1.5 to 2 inches wide.

29.5. The 1st base shall be  $9\frac{1}{2}$  yards from the centre of the bowling pitch ( $9\frac{1}{2}$  yards from the edge of the bowling pitch) and 12 yards from the home. 2nd base is 12 yards from the 1st; 3rd base is 12 yards from the 2nd; and 4th base is 12 yards from the 3rd and is also 12 yards from home, (refer to the diagram in this book).

29.6. Each base and the back tape of the batting home must be at least 20 yards clear of any natural hazard, e.g., Tree, wall building or slope.

29.7. Pitch Diagram:



### **30. Equipment**

- 30.1. Bases shall be marked by rigid poles, the height of which must be at least 4.5 feet above the ground. Poles should be clean and painted for visibility.
- 30.2. Home teams must supply sufficient sawdust to enable the match to commence/continue in poor weather conditions and at least 4 good quality lawn tennis balls.
- 30.3. Wooden rounders bats should have blades 12 to 14 inches long and 3 inches wide and must not be weighted or wrapped with any substance on the blade.
- 30.4. Players using a bat not in accordance with the rules shall have 2 points deducted in the league competition and shall be disqualified in the cup and shield competitions.
- 30.5. Moulded studs and blades are permissible. Steel studs and spike shoes are not allowed.

### **31. Teams**

- 31.1. Refer to specific rules, outlined further on within this book, in respect of team rules.

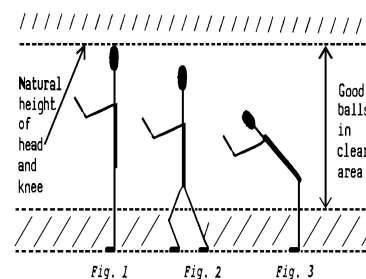
### **32. Scoring**

- 32.1. The batting player shall score one run for each base touched, in order before stopping. A player has not reached any base unless that base is touched.
- 32.2. A complete 'rounder' shall score 6. A 'rounder' is completed when the player has reached 4th base, having made contact with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd bases.
- 32.3. A player, once having stopped (not hesitated), cannot resume running for the purpose of increasing the score, but may, when she wishes, run on 'out of the way'.
- 32.4. The team making the highest score shall win.

### **33. Bowlers**

- 33.1. On stepping into the bowling pitch the bowler must pause before commencing to bowl. (a 'pause' can be described as an interruption in an otherwise continuous movement, i.e., At some instant the bowler's feet may be side-by-side and stationary).
- 33.2. The bowler must deliver the ball underhand while both feet are within the limits of the bowling pitch. The bowler's feet must be clear of the tapes at all times. (if the bowler stands on the tapes at any point whilst bowling, the referee will call 'no ball tapes').
- 33.3. A bowler commencing to run must release the ball before stepping outside of the bowling pitch, or she will be penalised for baulking. No player may be hit out as a result of a baulk. No player may be hit out after the bowler, with the intention of bowling, has placed one foot in the bowler's pitch. (the ball must be released before the bowler leaves the bowling pitch. If the referee feels that a baulk is created unintentionally e.g. By the actions of the batting player, it would be unfair to penalise the bowler. In such circumstances referees will ask the bowler to start again).
- 33.4. If the ball is above the knee of the batting player, below the top of her head and within the limits of the 'home' when it reaches the batting player, the ball is good.
- 33.5. The height of the batting player is determined by a batting player's natural height.
- 33.6. If a ball is not pitched, as outlined above, it is bad.

33.7. The sketch indicates in a simple form, what can happen when a batting player takes up position. Note how both the head and the knee have dropped in fig. 2, which means that a “bad” ball could pass above the knee. In figs. 2 & 3, a ball could be above the head and still be “good”. Referees should watch as the batting player walks to the home and try to judge her natural height.



33.8. The photographs below show the effect when looking from the front. In photograph 1 the player is stood at full height whilst in photograph 2 she has taken up a “crouched” position. Look carefully at the hedges in the background, they provide the referee with an indication as the natural height of the player.



*Photograph 1*



*Photograph 2*

### 34. Batting players

34.1. Players waiting to bat must stand at least 12 yards from the home to the rear.

34.2. The batting player must bat in the same order until put out. (this is mainly for the benefit of the scorers. If it becomes apparent that batting players have gone out of order, check that the scorers have recorded the correct score [or at least agree the total], and ask the batting players to sort themselves out next time round. This should not be considered as ‘overtaking’ and must not be penalised).

34.3. Players taking up a batting position must stand outside the ‘home’ and keep one foot on the one-yard (side) tape.

34.4. The ball can be played with the bat, hand or forearm.

34.5. The batting player must run after the first good ball, whether hit or not.

34.6. A batting player is out if she is caught out, if, after making a scoring shot from a good ball, a fielder catches the ball without the ball touching the ground. (a batting player is caught out if the fielder holds the ball, after it has come off the bat, hand or forearm, before it touches the ground. The catch is considered good if the ball is caught off any player, the referee or a base pole. The catch is not good if the ball lodges in headgear e.g. Anorak hood, the ball has struck an obstruction e.g. Scorers or their fittings, a tree, building, spectator or a batting player who is already out, or the ball touches the ground whilst held in the fielder’s hand. Referees should minimise obstructions by suggesting bags and clothing be left well away from the playing area. If this is not feasible, bags and clothing should be put directly behind the scorers).

34.7. A batting player may hit any ball, ‘good’ or ‘bad’. A batting player may score from a bad ball. If hit out (before first base), run out at first base, or caught out, the batting player returns to the ‘home’.

- 34.8.A batting player, leaving the 'home' after a bad ball, which has not been hit, must be brought back.
- 34.9.The batting side shall score one extra run per each bad ball.
- 34.10.A player is out if the fielding side touches the batting player, or first base, with the ball before the batting player reaches first base. (referees should not be fooled by the fielder who touches the base with her hand – that doesn't count. Also, the fielder has to touch the base before the batting player is to be given out. When batting player and fielder touch the base simultaneously, the batting player is not out).
- 34.11.A player, while running to a base, is out if she is touched by a ball from one of the fielding side. A runner may dodge within a radius of 12 yards of a base. If a player exceeds this distance, she is out. (The ball need not leave the fielder's hand. If the ball touches any part of the batting player, she should be given out. If the ball is deflected, accidentally or intentionally, by a fielder on to the batting player, the batting player is out. A batting player over-running a base by 12 yards, due to slippery conditions should not be confused with one who is dodging, which is a deliberate attempt to avoid a fielder. Referees have to decide whether or not a batting player is attempting to stop at a base. Players can create a wrong impression, but everything depends on what the referee believes the intention to be).
- 34.12.A batting player already stood at a base cannot commence running until the bowler has both feet in the bowling pitch.
- 34.13.A player running between bases after the delivery of a bad ball can be hit out.
- 34.14.More than one player can be put out by one ball.
- 34.15.If a batting player misses first base, the referee should shout 'no run' and not 'no score'. If a batting player misses a base, she may be hit out (even if in the batting line) until the next ball is bowled. (if a batting player misses a base, the score will only count to the previous base touched. Referees shall give 'no run' if the batting player misses first base, 'one' if she touches first but misses second and so on. Referees should wait until the batting player has stopped before giving the score. Referees should not do anything else to tell the players what has happened. The batting player remains liable to be hit unless she returns to the base missed or the bowler prepares to bowl by putting one foot in the bowler's pitch).
- 34.16.Only one batting player shall be allowed at a base at one time.
- 34.17.If there are 2 batting players on a base, the first batting player to contact the base must move to the next base, but may be hit out with the ball. (the first batting player to contact the base may be hit out while at the base. Once the second batting player has reached the base, the first batting player must move on. The second batting player cannot go back once she has touched the base).
- 34.18.A player may be hit out unless touching the base (except when 34.17 occurs).
- 34.19.If a batting player overtakes another between bases, the overtaking batting player will be given out. The referee will call a score determined by the last base she had hit before overtaking her teammate.
- 34.20.The last batting player may be put out by any manner as well as stumping the 'home'.



34.21.If, at any time, no player is in the 'home' the batting side may all be put out by a fielder touching the 'home' with the ball. (where there is a race between the batting player reaching 4th base and the fielding side touching the home with the ball, the referee should get into a position from where both home and 4th base can be seen).

34.22.The ball has to make contact inside the 'home' to end the innings (the tape is not part of the 'home').

34.23.If any batting player is waiting, or has reached the fourth base, the 'home' shall be considered occupied.

### **35. Backstop**

35.1.The backstop must stand directly behind the 'home' when the ball is bowled, otherwise she is guilty of obstruction and one run is added to the score of the batting side. The backstop must stand at least 1 metre behind the 'home'

### **36. Fielding players**

36.1.With the exception of the backstop, fielding players must stand at a distance whereby the closest point of contact is at least 2 metres from an opposing player when the said player is in the batting position.

36.2.Any fielder wishing to take up position behind the spectators or batting players' line must inform the referee of her intention. The referee must then move spectators or batting players to have a clear view of the fielder.

36.3.If a player needs to leave the pitch at any point in the match they must inform the referee.

36.4.Players are not allowed to wear gloves, with grips on them, as it is perceived to give an unfair advantage when catching the ball.

36.5.Tips players walking towards a batting player as a form of intimidation will be warned.

### **37. Spectators**

37.1.Referees are asked to see that spectators are well back.

37.2.Spectators are to follow the code of conduct.

### **38. Substitutes**

38.1.Only a team's registered players may be used as substitutes. A substitute is allowed to take full part in the match.

38.2.A substitute can be used for an injured player at any time during the match. Up to 4 tactical substitutions may be used and should be introduced at half time.

38.3.Any substituted player can take no further part in the game.

38.4.The referee's decision is final.

### **39. Infringements – Penalty**

39.1.The intention of this law is to prevent the free foot moving across the line of the side tape, in front or behind, to give advantage of a good swing at the ball.



*Photograph 3 – Swings her leg outside the 'home' round the back or front of the tape.*



*Photograph 4 – Stands on any part of the front or back tape.*



*Photograph 5 & 6 – Lifts her foot off the side tape.*



39.2.A penalty is given when a good ball is bowled, but the batter:

39.3.A penalty can be given regardless of whether the batter hits the ball or not.

39.4.If the referee thinks a penalty has been committed:

39.5.One run will be deducted from the score and all batting players must return to their original positions.

39.6.No runs will be scored by the batting player from the hit.

39.7.The referee will call 'penalty' only when the batting player has safely reached first base. She will then be brought back to the 'home' and asked to bat again. A batting player can be put out by the fielding team prior to reaching first base (or 'caught' out after she has passed first base).

#### **40. Infringements – impeding**

40.1.Impeding: a batting player who is wilfully impeded by a fielder cannot be put out but will be allowed to go to the next base and score accordingly.

#### **41. Infringements – obstruction**

41.1.In the case of the last batting player and an obstructed ball, the batting player must return to the 'home' and bat again, and deduct the runs scored from the previous hit.

41.2.If a ball is obstructed by a dog, the batting player returns to the last base touched and given the score for that base. If this happens before the batting player reaches first base the batter will return to home to retake the bat.

41.3.When a batting player obscures the bowler's view of the backstop, i.e., By leaning over the batting square, she is guilty of obstruction. Therefore, when a good ball is delivered but it strikes below the head and above the knee of the batting player's body, the batting player will be given out. (a batting player cannot 'obstruct' a bad ball).

41.4.The backstop must stand directly behind the 'home' when the ball is bowled, otherwise she is guilty of obstruction and one run is added to the score of the batting side.

41.5.Players cannot be hit out when a spectator has obstructed a ball, the player must return to the base last touched prior to being hit.

## **42. Teams**

42.1. Each team shall consist of 11 players

42.2. The visiting team shall have the choice of the first innings. The visiting team shall lose the choice if they are 15 minutes late.

42.3. Teams with at least 7 players must commence play, however if they refuse, the referee must note the actual starting time on the scorecard, and indicate which team was at fault.

42.4. Eligible players will be allowed to join in at any time, providing the referee is informed of the intention before the start of the match, and advised when an additional player arrives.

42.5. Temporary players are not allowed.

## CUP COMPETITION ADDITIONAL RULES

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All matches will be played on 'home' grounds except for the cup final.

The venue for each cup final will be advised.

Rules for cup competitions:

- 1.** Teams shall play in one cup competition (as indicated below) where the following rules shall apply:
- 2.** Fixtures shall be drawn and the team drawn first shall be the home team, except in the final.
- 3.** The referee's fee shall be shared by the two competing teams up to and including the semi-finals. League pays for the finals.
- 4.** Teams shall toss for choice of innings in all rounds.
- 5.** A player may take part for one team in any one of these competitions each season, after which she becomes cup-tied.
- 6.** A substitute is allowed in cases of injury as per the rules of the league.

# Notes





Bury

Rounders League

Founded 4th Oct 1948