

CHESHIRE WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The League Committee will meet on Wednesday April 13 at 1930 at Lymm Oughttrington Park CC. Prior to the regular meeting, the League will also hold a Captains' Briefing from 1830, where a number of very important messages will be communicated to team captains. Any captain who cannot attend this meeting should ensure their vice-captain attends instead. Food will be provided for those attending this meeting.

Sunday week (April 17) sees champions Appleton host the League XII in the traditional season curtain raiser. Play commences 1330 at Appleton's Lyons Lane ground. Confirmed players for the League representative team so far are: Alison Smith (Wistaston Village, captain), Phoebe Cottam (Oakmere, wicketkeeper), Morganne Prince (Wistaston Village), Amanda Gettins, Vicki Dean (both Ashton-on-Mersey), Sammi Short, Annette Axon (both Chester Boughton Hall), Shachi Pai (Astley Bridge), Rachel Warrenger (Hawarden Park), Fiona Reeve (Bredbury St Mark's), Carys White (Stockport Trinity), Scorer: Gill Short. A wide range of clubs are once again represented – two players from Oxtown were approached but were unavailable. It is hoped to add a players from Didsbury to the squad before matchday.

Chester Boughton Hall's Sophie Ecclestone took 4-32 for the England Academy versus Sri Lanka A. Sophie also took 2-20 and 1-30 in matches against Australia's second team, the Shooting Stars; and 1-27 in a further match against Sri Lanka A. The England Academy team are unbeaten in their first four matches of the tour of Sri Lanka. Matches have been played at two of Colombo's five international cricket grounds – the P Sara Oval and the Sinhalese Sports Club.

Regulation changes affecting CWCL competitions this year are:

- (All competitions) - In matches where two qualified umpires are standing, if the umpires together agree that a player's action constitutes either an act of dissent or unacceptable abuse towards a member of the opposing team, then they shall award five penalty runs to the opposing team. The umpires shall also report the matter to the League's Disciplinary Committee
- (T20 Divisional Competition) – There will be no semi-final round in 2016, and now the Cup Final in this competition will be contested by the winners of the Western and Eastern Divisions
- (T20 Divisional Competition) – There will be no Plate competition in 2016
- (All competitions) – All balls bowled over waist height, based on the striker standing in an upright position on the popping crease, are to be called as a 'no ball'. The procedure of first warning, final warning and suspension from bowling in the rest of the innings shall apply to all such deliveries
- (T20 competitions) - The next delivery following any no ball will be a free hit

- (League competitions) - Players who at any stage of their career have played at the following levels cannot appear in a club's 2nd XI: a senior County team; levels higher than senior county cricket; senior state/provincial cricket, or the equivalent top tier of the domestic structure in another country; the League's representative team
- (League competitions) - When a club's 1st XI and 2nd XI have a match on the same day, the 1st XI must field 11 players
- (League competitions) - In rain affected matches where sufficient overs are completed to allow a result the team with the higher run rate over the game will be the winners. The run rate for any team bowled out in less than their allotted allocation will be calculated as if they had scored the same number of runs in their full allocation of overs.

[All competition regulations](#) are available on the website.

The regulations regarding player eligibility remain unchanged. Hopefully the following explains the existing regulations as clearly as possible.

- At the start of the season, each player should choose the club they wish to represent in the main League competition (Divisions 1-3), and in the League's T20 competitions (Knockout Cup / Development Knockout Cup / T20 Divisional Competition). The player should either be a fully paid up member of these club (s), or should have an alternative arrangement with the club's executive that allows them to play occasional matches without being a fully paid up member
- In most cases, it is expected that players will choose to represent the same club in all competitions. However it is possible to represent one club in League competitions and another in T20 competitions. In this event, the player's T20 club must notify the Fixtures Secretary and the Results Secretary prior to the player's first appearance of the season.
- A player loan system exists whereby players from division 1/2 clubs can also make appearances for division 3 clubs, and vice-versa. No more than five loan players can be used by any team in any match, and clubs must always field at least six of their regular players alongside any loan players. Players who have played senior representative cricket at any stage of their career cannot be loaned to another club. All loans must be agreed in advance by an official of the player's principal club. The Fixtures Secretary and the Results Secretary should be notified of the agreed loan prior to the relevant match.
- Once a player has played one T20 match, in any of the three competitions, then they must remain with that club for all T20 competitions for the remainder of the season, save for the exceptional circumstance of a club withdrawing from the T20 Divisional Competition.

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- Once a player has started the League season with one club, they can elect to transfer to another club for the remainder of the League season. However, any such transfer would be for League matches only, and the requirement to only represent one club in T20 competitions still applies.
- Clubs may not field players who have played in the top division of any of the ECB's other women's regional leagues during the same season, unless: this occurs as a result of the player living away from home for part of the season for educational purposes; or the player formally registers a transfer and does not play for the club in the other league after this point. A transfer of a player from a club in another league cannot take place if it results in the player making their first appearance for their new club during the club's final three matches of the season.
- There is no loan or transfer system for T20 competitions. Any club seeking additional players for T20 would need to contact clubs who have not entered any of the three T20 competitions (see 2 above).
- A player who has played senior county cricket in the same season may only play in a Final if they have made at least two appearances for the same club in any of the CWCL-administered competitions during the season.
- Players who at any stage of their career have played senior representative cricket cannot appear in a club's 2nd XI.
- Clubs may only field one current member of either the England or England Academy squad during the season, unless any such players have been members of the club in question prior to the current season, or live within 30 minutes travel time of the home ground of the club in question.
- Clubs may only field one current member of another country's international squad or Academy/Talent Pathway or equivalent during the season.

Changes to the Laws of Cricket effective for the 2016 season:

Under Law 41.7, any movement by a fielder after the ball comes into play and before the ball reaches the striker, is unfair except for the following:

- Minor adjustments to stance or position in relation to the striker's wicket
- Movement by any fielder, other than a close fielder, towards the striker or the striker's wicket that does not significantly alter the position of the fielder
- Movement by any fielder in response to the stroke that the striker is playing or that her actions suggest she intends to play. (Where a fielder moves in anticipation of the shot the striker intends to play, any movement cannot occur until the bowler has entered her delivery stride, even if the batsman has already given an indication of her intentions)

Under Law 41.5, fielding sides are not normally permitted to have more than two fielders behind square on the leg side at the point of delivery. However, any fielder who has moved to a position behind square on the leg side as a result of an anticipation of the batsman's shot (see above) will not be taken into account for the purposes of applying that Law, and in these circumstances the fielding side can legitimately have more than two fielders in those areas at the point of delivery.

Law 40.4 says that, after the ball comes into play and before it reaches the striker, it is unfair if the wicket-keeper significantly alters her position in relation to the striker's wicket, except for the following:

- Movement of a few paces forward for a slower delivery, unless in so doing it brings her within reach of the wicket.
- Lateral movement in response to the direction in which the ball has been delivered.
- Movement in response to the stroke that the striker is playing or that his actions suggest he intends to play. (Again, as above, any such movement shall only take place after the bowler has entered her delivery stride. Law 40.3 still applies, and the keeper must remain wholly behind the wicket until the ball passes the wicket or touches the striker's bat or person)

The ACO has issued new guidance on assessment of [ground, weather and light](#) by recreational umpires.

The League now uses a new Pitchero site as its official website – www.cheshirewomenscl.co.uk. The Play Cricket site – cheshirewomenscl.play-cricket.com - remains in use to allow clubs and league officials to manage fixtures and results, and any information entered on the PC site pulls through to the new official site. Fixtures have now been published on the [League website](#) and circulated to club representatives and can now be re-arranged as permitted by competition regulations:

Division 1/2:

- By mutual consent (up to April 17 only)
- Due to ground unavailability on the part of the home club

Division 3:

- If the match is completely washed out and no play at all takes place on the original date
- By mutual consent
- Due to ground unavailability on the part of the home club

The League is still seeking host venues for its first ever triple-header Finals Day on Sunday August 14, and the match against the MCC, likely to be played on Wednesday August 31. Unlike previous years, the Finals Day could take place at the ground of a League member club – however the option of going to a non-member club remains.

The League invites suggestions from clubs as to any charities it could support this year.

CHESHIRE SENIORS

Cheshire's 2016 fixtures in Royal London Women's One Day Cup Division Three are:

May	1	Oxfordshire	H (Wistaston)	1100
	2	Netherlands	H (Toft)	1100
	15	Norfolk	H (Barnton)	1100
	30	Northamptonshire	A (Horton House)	1100
June	12	Durham	A (Durham City)	1100
August	28	Derbyshire	H (Hawk Green)	1100
	29	Scotland	H (Bramhall)	1100
September	4	Gloucestershire	A (Gloucester City)	1100

Cheshire's 2016 fixtures in NatWest Women's T20 Division Three are:

June	26	Scotland	Bicester & North Oxford	1330
		Oxfordshire	A (Bicester & North Oxford)	1630
July	3	Devon	Northampton County Ground	1330
		Northamptonshire	A (Northampton County Ground)	1630
	17	Shropshire	H (Chester BH)	1030
		Derbyshire	H (Chester BH)	1630
	24	Cornwall	A (Truro)	1030
		Hertfordshire	Truro	1330

The format for 2017 has not yet been issued, and the ECB are currently promising to issue this before the first county match of the season. Previous indications were that, if/when the Women's Super League expands to include 50 over cricket that the County Championship would revert to a regional competition.

Cheshire are seeking a club willing to host a T20 friendly at some stage prior to their first match in this competition on June 26. Clubs willing to host a game should contact Sarah Mccann. The host team can be made up of players from any club, not just the host team.

Regulation changes in women's county cricket for 2016 will include:

- Divisions Three and Four of both competitions will use a pink ball. Teams may wear either white or coloured clothing
- In the County Championship it will no longer be compulsory to have two mandatory catchers in the first 10 overs of the innings
- There is now no need for an inner fielding circle, and only one circle shall be marked, at a radius of 23 metres from each middle stump (behind the wicket only). The two resulting semi-circles shall then be joined by straight lines. During the first 10 overs of each innings, only two fielders will be allowed outside the circle. During the batting powerplay (a block of five overs chosen by the batting team at any time between overs 11 and 40), no more than three fielders will be allowed outside the circle.
- Two overseas players may be used by a county during a season, provided only one appears in each match
- Where the team batting first completes its innings more than 40 minutes before the scheduled time for the lunch interval (1410 in most Championship matches), the second innings shall commence after a 10 minute break, with the lunch interval remaining at the scheduled time
- If interruptions totalling 60 minutes or less have occurred by the time of the interval, the length of the interval shall be reduced to 30 minutes. If interruptions totalling more than 60 minutes, the umpires shall determine the length of the interval, which could be anything between 10 and 30 minutes.
- A free hit will follow all no balls except those called for short-pitched bowling. Field changes are permitted for all free hits.
- If a fielding team is not in a position to commence the 20th over of a T20 innings after 1 hour 15 minutes of the innings has elapsed, six penalty runs will be awarded for each over not bowled by this time.

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

Sunday April 17

Senior Representative Match (1330): Appleton v Cheshire Women's League XII

Sunday April 24

Cheshire Women's League (1330):

Division One: Chester Boughton Hall v Didsbury, Oakmere v Ashton-on-Mersey

Division Two: Oxton v Hawarden Park, Stockport Trinity v Astley Bridge

Division One/Two Cross-Divisional Matches: Appleton v Wistaston Village