

FINNISH CRICKET ASSOCIATION

PLAYING RULES - SEASON 2006 – Twenty-20 (T20) OVER FORMAT.

INTRODUCTION

The FCA's League Sub – Committee (LSC) will be responsible for the management of the T20 league. There will be one group in the league this year, consisting of all the teams registered with the FCA. Each team will play each other twice (at home and away) and at the end of the season the top 4 teams will contest the two (2) Semi-finals. The winner of these will play in the Finals.

1. DURATION OF MATCHES

Matches will consist of one innings per side and each innings will be limited to 20 six-ball overs. The matches will be played between 2 sides of 8 players each. All sides are expected to complete the bowling of their 20 overs within 80 minutes playing time. Overs will be bowled from both ends if at all possible. Umpires will confer with the two captains and make a decision accordingly.

2. HOURS OF PLAY & INTERVALS

2.1 Start and Cessation Times.

There will be two sessions of 80 minutes each separated by a 10-minute break.

For matches played during the weekdays the following schedule will be followed:

- (a) Scheduled start of play – 17:15
- (b) Scheduled finish of 1st Innings –18:35
- (c) Interval – 10 minutes.
- (d) Scheduled start of 2nd Innings –18:45
- (e) Cessation of Play – 20:05

For the weekend matches the schedule will be:

- (a) Scheduled start of play – 12:00
- (b) Scheduled finish of 1st Innings –13:20
- (c) Interval – 10 minutes.
- (d) Scheduled start of 2nd Innings –13:30
- Cessation of Play – 14:50

2.2 Sessions of Play and Interval between Innings.

There will normally be two sessions of play of 80-minutes each, separated by an interval of 10-minutes. On some days two (2) matches are scheduled on the same ground. There would be a 15 minutes interval after the completion of first match and start of the second match.

3. APPOINTMENT & APPROVAL OF UMPIRES

The LSC will be responsible for appointing and approving umpires. These will be named in advance and posted on the F.C.A. website at: www.cricketfinland.com. These will however be subject to change.

4. LENGTH OF INNINGS

4.1 Uninterrupted Matches.

- (a) Each team will bat for 20 six-ball overs unless all out earlier.
- (b) If the team fielding first fails to bowl the required number of overs by the scheduled time for the cessation of the first session, play will continue until the required number of overs has been bowled.

- (c) If the team batting first is dismissed in less than 20-overs, the team batting second will be entitled to bat for their full 20-overs.

4.2 Delayed or Interrupted Matches.

4.2.1 General

- (a) Wherever possible, the interrupted matches will be re-scheduled. This would be the responsibility of the 2 teams involved. If they fail to agree for a re-match, then the match would be considered a no-result and each team will be awarded 2 points each.

5. RESTRICTION ON THE PLAYERS FOR T20

Each team is required to nominate nine fixed players (which theoretically should be 9 best players) for SM-45 overs league. These players will **not** be eligible to take part in the T20 league tournament. This rule will be strictly applied and any team(s) in violation of this rule will be penalised by deduction of points.

Registered SM-45 junior players (21 years and under as at May 1st, 2006) will be permitted to play in T20, outside of the nominated nine fixed players list.

If any club/team is found guilty of fielding an ineligible player, then that club/team will be docked 8 points. Club/team will have no right to appeal regarding this decision.

6. NUMBER OF OVERS PER BOWLER

No bowler will bowl more than four (4) six-ball overs.

In a match where the innings of either or both sides is reduced after the start of the match, the maximum number of overs allowed per bowler will remain as at the start of the match.

In the event of a bowler breaking down and being unable to complete his over, the remaining balls will be bowled by another bowler. Such part of an over will count as a full over only in so far as each bowler's limit is concerned.

7. LAW 14 DECLARATION

Law 14 will not apply in this competition. The captain of the batting side may not declare his innings closed at any time during the course of the match.

8. LAW 25. WIDE BALL – JUDGING A WIDE

Umpires are instructed to apply a very strict and consistent interpretation in regard to this law, in order to prevent negative bowling wide of the wicket.

Any offside / legside delivery which in the opinion of the umpire does not give the batsman a reasonable opportunity to make contact with the ball will be called a wide. As a guide, on the leg side a ball landing clearly outside the leg stump going further away will be called a wide.

9. THE BALL

Before the start of the game the home team shall pass to the umpire(s) two (2) SM 45 cricket balls (must be the balls provided by FCA) and spare used balls for changing during a match, which shall also preferably be of the same brand. The match balls for the full season will be provided by FCA to each club before the beginning of the season

Each fielding side will have one (1) new ball for its innings.

In the event of a ball becoming wet or soggy as a result of play continuing in inclement weather or it being affected by water, and in the "opinion of the umpires" being unfit for play, the ball may be replaced with a ball of a similar amount of wear, even though it has not gone out of shape.

Either bowler or batsman may raise the matter with the umpires and the umpires' decision as to a replacement or otherwise will be final.

10. THE RESULT

10.1 All matches

(a) When there is no interruption after play has commenced and when both sides have had the opportunity of batting for the same agreed number of overs, the team scoring the higher number of runs shall be the winner.

(b) In the event of a tie, points will be shared between the two teams.

10.2 Scoring of Points for the League.

Win ----- 4 pts.

Tie ----- 2 pts.

Loss ----- 0 pts.

The organisation of the matches is as stated on the fixture list posted on the F.C.A. website.

In the event of top two teams finishing level on points, the winner will be decided, in the first instance, by winner(s) of the game(s) between the sides who finish with the same number of points. If this method still fails to separate the teams then a Net Run Rate will be used.

Total Runs Scored X Total Wickets Taken/Total Runs Conceded X Total Wickets Lost.

NOTE: this means Totals for all the league games during the season.

Play-offs

In case of abandoned or rain affected unfinished play-off matches, bowl out will be used to decide the winner. If the ground is not fit for any team to take field, then toss will be the deciding factor. Only in the case of Finals, one more day will be booked for it to be replayed. If the match still cannot be completed, then the two finalist teams will share the trophy.

11. THE LEAGUE FIXTURES

Each team will play each other twice.

12. DRESS CODE

Players participating in T20 league fixtures may wear coloured clothing; the top must be predominantly white or light shade. The whole team must be attired in a uniform fashion (=wear the same kit). It will be the responsibility of the umpires to decide whether a player without proper cricket clothing will be permitted to participate in the fixture.

Following such a case the umpires will make a report to the LSC, which will decide on any disciplinary measures to be taken against the club in question.

13. ORGANISATION

The F.C.A. is the Governing Body responsible for the administration and organisation of cricket in Finland. Its main Committee and various sub-committees are responsible for all aspects of the game of cricket in Finland.

14. UMPIRING & SCORING

The LSC will be responsible for the nomination of umpires and the acceptance of scorers for any game under the jurisdiction of the governing body for cricket in Finland. It will also be responsible for the revision and implementation of any new laws/rules that may arise.

The appointment of qualified umpires for all league fixtures is an important factor for the forthcoming season. However, as all umpires will hopefully be members of the LSC they will all be inherently

neutral in regard to their umpiring decisions. So, if an umpire is adjudicating in a match where the club he/she is a member of is participating, his/her decisions will be made in an un-biased, non-partisan manner and "accepted as such."

15. DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

The LSC in conjunction with the F.C.A. will be responsible for all disciplinary measures taken against players, clubs, officials and umpires as deemed necessary. The disciplinary committee will be responsible for all games involving F.C.A. members. The process involved is covered by the ECC guidelines. Copies are available on request.

16. If during the course of the season a situation arises which is not covered by the Laws of Cricket and its F.C.A. amendments, an extraordinary meeting of the LSC will be convened to discuss the matter and its decision will then be binding. However, at the time when the situation occurs the umpire's decision will be binding, only to be repealed if necessary, after the extraordinary meeting of the LSC.

17. The Disciplinary committee will not accept any misconduct, whether it be by word of mouth, action or gesture directed towards an umpire. Any match reports received by the Disciplinary committee concerning any misconduct by reference to race, creed, colour or gender will be severely dealt with!

18. If the ground is not "completely" ready for the match to begin by the time of the toss i.e. 15 minutes before the scheduled start of play, then the home team loses its right to the toss.

19. It is up to each and every player and club official to be aware of the laws of cricket and their F.C.A. amendments. They should also be aware of the codes of conduct. If you are unsure of any aspect of the laws please contact the FCA/LSC.

PLEASE REMEMBER!!! Cricket is a game that owes much of its unique appeal to the fact it should be played not only within its Laws but also within "The Spirit of the Game".

20. A list of players eligible to play league matches for the forthcoming season **MUST** be provided to the LSC Tournament Director before the start of the season, by **latest 30th April 2006**. If not provided by that time, all players will be considered to be new players from then on.

New players of any nationality may play in the T20 league at any time during the season. However, the new player must be officially registered with the F.C.A. at least two (2) weeks before he can play in the league. To register a new player clubs must contact the LSC in writing with all the players details.

There will be no transfer of players between clubs / teams allowed during the season... EXCEPT in the case of a player moving to another town. The LSC will review each case individually and make a decision accordingly.

21. SCORECARDS!!!

Each team must provide a scorer. It will be **Umpire(s)** responsibility to check the correctness of the scorecard.

Umpire(s) will also be responsible to make sure that the final scorecard is duly signed by the respective captains and by the umpire (s) and is posted to:

Yasir Abdul Quadir
Topeliuksenkatu 35 A 2
00250 Helsinki.

The final scores should also be sent by SMS to **Andrew Armitage (0400298266)**. This will be the responsibility of the umpire(s).

Late or incorrect scorecards will incur a penalty of 2 points from the HOME team's league points total. Correct completion means: (a) batsmen and bowlers names (the one's registered with the FCA not nicknames) are PRINTED in CAPITAL letters; (b) batsman's totals and how out; (c) bowlers figures - all details e.g. number of wickets, number of runs conceded, etc.

NOTE: also check that:

Total from batting column + extras column = total runs scored **AND**

Total from bowling section + byes and leg-byes = total runs scored.

If not sure, CONTACT the F.C.A. for information on how to complete a scorecard correctly.

22. MAN OF THE MATCH/SEASON AWARD

On-field Umpire will choose two (2) best players from the match (can be from one team). The best player will be awarded 3 points and the second best will be awarded 1 point.

All points are totalled and an award is presented to the cricketer with the most points at the end of the season. Umpires and scorers please make a note on the scorecard (in the appropriate box).

23. SEASONS AVERAGES

Qualification for a League batting average will be a minimum of 3 innings and for a bowling average a minimum of 15 overs. They will be based on correctly completed received scorecards.