

2019 SM One-Day League Details

The current strategy of the FCA has again been a driving force in planning the 2019 season, however we have also tried to take into consideration the considerable amount of feedback received from those members of the Finnish cricket community who responded to the 2018 end-of-season survey, and from the clubs who attended the Feedback Day held on 14th October.

For 2019 we are continuing with a similar one-day structure to 2018, however we are making some changes to help improve the quality of one-day cricket played in Finland, and to better match the actual needs of the Finnish cricket community to the resources that we have available. Furthermore we have tried to make entry into the sport more attractive and economical, and to therefore encourage more new people to take up the sport, which is also a major strategic objective for the FCA.

In line with the plans made in 2017 and communicated again to all clubs before the start of the 2018 season there will be a reduction in one-day cricket in 2019 by reducing the number of teams playing in the two lower divisions. At the end of 2019 there is currently expected to be a similar reduction of two teams before the start of the 2020 season.

We are keeping the familiar three division structure with automatic promotions and relegations, however we shall introduce one-match playoffs between the 2nd bottom team of a division and the 2nd place team from the lower division, which will provide the possibility for a 2nd team in each of the lower divisions to be promoted at the end of the season. We have decided to make it possible for two teams to be promoted/relegated from each division, in order to give better chances to lower division teams to progress to the higher levels of the sport.

Calculation of entry fees

In each division the fees calculated include only the following cost items:

- Umpire travel expenses and day money
- Two balls per match
- Awards at the end of the season

The total costs for each division during the season are equally divided among the participating teams.

As with previous years the FCA is still subsidizing the league operating costs, however in line with the FCA Board's approved strategy the size of the subsidy has again been reduced. The coming season will be the last when the FCA subsidizes the league costs, so clubs should expect a further cost increase for the 2020 season.

As with previous seasons the travel fund system will continue to be used in 2019 to try to balance out the travel expenses between the clubs during the summer season.

General Rules

To remind everyone, the following general rules apply to all divisions and formats of cricket formats organized by the FCA:

- Players may only play for one club across all FCA competition formats during the season.
- All FCA organized league and competition cricket may only be played on LSC approved grounds.
- All mats used for FCA organized league and competition cricket must be in good condition and of a type approved by the LSC.

One-Day Divisional Structure

The structure described below is currently expected however, if there are fewer entries than currently expected, the LSC reserves the right to adjust the competition structure accordingly.

One-Day Premier League – 6 teams

Division 1 – 9 teams

Division 2 – 9 teams

Each of the divisions is described on the following pages in more detail.

One-Day Premier League - the new top level for Finnish One-Day league cricket

- The competing clubs will all have to conform to new licensing regulations that will also be introduced in 2019. Entry is by approved application only.
- Six (6) teams.
- Each club may only enter one (1) team in this division.
- Priority for entries will be according to the 2018 end-of-season SM40 standings.
- A minimum squad size of 16 registered hard-ball license holders will be required. These persons are forbidden from competing in One-Day Division 2.
- All matches will be played in KNCG and TCG, except for TUCC home matches that will be played in Kupittaa.
- We aim to have at least one Elite Panel Umpire in every match.

Competition Format

- Double-Round-Robin format (so 10 matches per team, with one team playing one extra playoff relegation match).
- 40-over innings
- The bottom team after the Round-Robin phase will be automatically relegated to Division 1 (unless the winner of Division 1 is not "licensed").
- The 2nd bottom team after the Round-Robin phase will play off against the 2nd placed team in Division 1, in a single match. The winner will gain eligibility to enter the 2020 One-Day Premier League, and the loser will be relegated to Division 1. Relegation/promotion will only happen if the Division 1 team conforms to the licensing regulations by the 2020 entry deadline.

Main changes to the Playing Conditions (other changes will be announced later)

- Players entered in the One-Day Premier League squad are forbidden to play in Division 2.
- The team must nominate 11 "Core Players" who are also forbidden from playing in Division 1. The remaining squad members may play in Division 1 as much as they wish. Selection criteria for Core Players will be advised later.
- The "50% rule" concerning Core Players is being removed.
- Players from a lower division squad may play in the One-Day Premier League as much as they want, without it affecting their eligibility in the lower divisions.
- League point penalties will be introduced for all forfeits.
- All teams will be required to provide their own lunches for home and away matches, unless they otherwise agree between themselves. However, it will remain compulsory for home teams to provide lunches for umpires.

Competition Entry Fee

- The Entry Fee is expected to be approx. 600-650EUR per team (the final amount will be confirmed later and may vary depending on the final number of entries received).

One-Day Division 1

- The competing clubs do not have to conform to the new licensing regulations, however if they win promotion to the One-Day Premier League they must conform to the licensing regulations by the 2020 entry deadline.
- Nine (9) teams.
- Clubs may enter more than one team in the division.
- Initial ranking will be according to the 2018 end-of-season SM40 standings.
- A minimum squad size of 16 registered hard-ball license holders will be required. There are no restrictions concerning at which level these players may compete.
- Matches will be played on both grass and larger gravel/artificial surfaces.
- There will be a mixture of Panel Umpires and Club Umpires used.

Competition Format

- Single-Round-Robin format (so 8 matches per team, with one team playing one extra playoff promotion match, and one team playing one extra playoff relegation match).
- 40-over innings
- The division winner after the round-robin stage will gain eligibility to enter the Premier League in 2020 (providing they fulfil the licensing regulations by the 2020 entry deadline).
- The 2nd placed team after the round-robin stage will playoff against the 2nd bottom team in the Premier League, in a single match. The winner will gain eligibility to enter the 2020 Premier League (providing they fulfil the licensing regulations by the 2020 entry deadline), and the loser will be placed in Division 1 in the 2020 season.
- The bottom two (2) teams after the round-robin stage will be automatically relegated to Division 2.
- The 3rd bottom team after the round-robin stage will playoff against the 2nd placed team in Division 2, in a single match. The winner will be placed in Division 1, and the loser in Division 2, in the 2020 season.

Main changes to the Playing Conditions (other changes will be announced later)

- Premier League "Core Players" are forbidden from playing in Division 1.
- The "50% rule" concerning Core Players is being removed.
- Players from a Division 1 squad may play in Division 2 as much as they want.
- Players from the Division 1 squad may play in the Premier League as much as they want, without it affecting their eligibility in Divisions 1 and 2.
- League point penalties will be introduced for all forfeits.
- All teams will be required to provide their own lunches for home and away matches, unless they otherwise agree between themselves. However, it will remain compulsory for home teams to provide lunches for umpires.

Competition Entry Fee

- The Entry Fee is expected to be approx. 475-525EUR per team (the final amount will be confirmed later and may vary depending on the final number of entries received).

One-Day Division 2

- The competing clubs do not have to conform to the new licensing regulations.
- Maximum nine (9) teams.
- Clubs may enter more than one team in the division.
- Initial ranking will be according to the 2018 end-of-season SM40 standings.
- A minimum squad size of 15 registered hard-ball license holders will be required. There are no restrictions concerning at which level these players may compete.
- Matches will be played mostly on gravel/artificial surfaces, but on some grass grounds where possible.
- There will be a mixture of Panel Umpires and Club Umpires used.

Competition Format

- Single-Round-Robin format (so 8 matches per team, with one team playing one extra playoff promotion match).
- 30-over innings
- The division winner after the round-robin stage will be promoted to Division 1 in 2020.
- The 2nd placed team after the round-robin stage will playoff against the 3rd bottom team in Division 1, in a single match. The winner will be placed in Division 1, and the loser in Division 2, in the 2020 season.
- The bottom two (2) teams after the round-robin stage will be automatically relegated from the One-Day cricket league.

Main changes to the Playing Conditions (other changes will be announced later)

- All Premier League squad members are forbidden from playing in Division 2.
- The "50% rule" concerning Core Players is being removed.
- Players from Division 2 may play in any higher division as much as they want.
- There will be no minimum requirements concerning the number of players required to be present at a match. NOTE: this only applies to Division 2.
- There will be no penalties for playing short. NOTE: this only applies to Division 2.
- League point penalties will be introduced for all forfeits.
- All teams will be required to provide their own lunches for home and away matches, unless they otherwise agree between themselves. However, it will remain compulsory for home teams to provide lunches for umpires.

Competition Entry Fee

- The Entry Fee is expected to be approx. 450-500EUR per team (the final amount will be confirmed later and may vary depending on the final number of entries received).