



**North Eastern Junior Cricket Association
By-Laws**

1. Age Clarification

Wherever in these By-Laws (in this or any other section) reference is made to a player being under a certain age as of 1st September in the current season, the player shall be qualified if their relevant birthday falls on or after 1st September.

2. Unqualified Players

2.1. Any Clubs playing a player not possessing the requisite qualification, registration, permit or who is ineligible to play, shall be declared to have lost the match, or matches, in which such player took part and shall lose all points gained in that match, or those matches, unless otherwise decided by the NEJCA Executive Committee on the grounds that there were exceptional circumstances justifying the lack of requisite qualification, registration or permit. The award of points to be allotted to the opposing team shall be on the basis of a first innings win.

2.2. The same procedure shall apply should any player participate illegally in any match (e.g. playing without necessary permit or playing/participating under a false name).

3. Permits

3.1 Permit applications may be made to the NEJCA Executive Committee on a Permit Application form for a player to play in a competition below their age group, relevant to their developmental ability

3.2 Permit requests will only be approved for a player to play in a competition below their correct age group if a permit request form is completed and written approval is granted by the NEJCA Executive Committee.

3.3 The granting of any such request shall apply to the current season only and may be revoked at the discretion of the NEJCA Executive Committee.

3.4 Permits may be revoked if the NEJCA Executive Committee deems the permit is being misused.

3.5 Clubs may submit permits for a one-off purpose, as explained in By-Law 4.3.

4. The Competition

4.1. Teams competing in the North Eastern Junior Cricket Association shall be divided into the following grades:

4.1.1. Non-Premiership competition – Under 10

4.1.2. Premiership competitions – Under 12, Under 14 and Under 16.

4.1.2.1. Premiership competition - Under 12 and Under 14 competitions will be split into three (3) divisions based on competition size (Division 1, Division 2 and Division 3).

- 4.1.2.2. Premiership competition - Under 16 competitions may be split into up to two (2) divisions based on competition size (Division 1 and/or Division 2).
- 4.2. Clubs are permitted to move players into a higher grade (e.g. Division 3 to Division 1) to assist with team shortages. However, once a player has been named in three (3) matches in the higher division, they shall no longer be permitted to move to a lower Division team.
- 4.3. Clubs are not permitted to move players into a team within the same Division (e.g. two sides within Division 2). In extenuating circumstances, clubs may submit a permit request to the NEJCA Executive Committee prior to the Sunday mornings fixture.
- 4.4. Any player that plays without complying with this By-Law shall be subjected to a potential penalty under By-Law 2.
- 4.5. No player/s shall play in two (2) North Eastern Junior Cricket Association competitions or grades on the same weekend. The potential penalties under By-Law 2 will apply if a player is in breach of this By-Law.
 - 4.4.1. Exception: U10 players are permitted to play in two U10 games in a North Eastern Junior Cricket Association Round on the same weekend, playing in Friday evening and Sunday morning U10 games without penalty
- 4.6. Clubs shall provide a populated list of each team's coach/es and their contact details, Working with Children Checks and coaching accreditation details to the NEJCA Executive Committee at the beginning of the cricket season.
 - 4.6.1. Clubs will not be eligible for premiership points until this has been received.

5. **Minor Round**

- 5.1. The teams in each grade shall, except when otherwise determined by the NEJCA Executive Committee, play matches in the minor round in the order shown in the fixture.
- 5.2. Under 10 and Under 12 competitions - Matches will be programmed as one-day limited over matches.
- 5.3. Under 14 and U16 competitions – Matches may be programmed as either two-day or one-day matches in Division One and Division Two and one-day limited over matches in U14 Division Three.

6. **Major Round**

- 6.1. In each of the Under 12 and Under 14 competitions comprising of five (5) or more teams, the four (4) leading teams on points at the completion of the Minor Round shall compete in the Major Round to decide the premiership.
 - 6.1.1. Semi-Finals: 1 v 4 and 2 v 3.
 - 6.1.2. Grand Final: Winners of the Semi-Finals.

- 6.2. A player shall be deemed eligible to compete in the Major Round fixtures after being named on Play HQ in a minimum of 25% of games commenced for that team in Minor Round matches.
- 6.3. If two (2) or more teams are equal on points at the end of the Minor Round, the team with the higher quotient shall occupy the higher relative position (see By-Law 9 for the method of determining the quotient).
- 6.4. In a competition comprising of less than five (5) teams, the leading team on points at the completion of the Minor Round shall compete in the Major Round as follows:
 - 6.4.1. Semi-Final 2 v 3
 - 6.4.2. Grand Final: Minor Premiers v Winner of the Semi-Final.

7. Program of Matches

- 7.1. The program of matches/fixture will be prepared prior to the beginning of each season. This program is subject to confirmation by the NEJCA Executive Committee.
- 7.2. Following confirmation by the NEJCA Executive Committee changes to the program may be made only under the following procedures:
 - 7.2.1. A NEJCA Delegate may alter the ground of any individual match, subject to the approval of the NEJCA Executive Committee.
 - 7.2.2. The NEJCA Executive Committee may alter the date or ground of any individual match.
- 7.3. Should a change or cancellation of an entire round of matches be required in any Division, such a change may be made by the NEJCA Executive Committee.

8. Forfeits

- 8.1. If a team has to forfeit a match, a Club Official must notify the Opposition Coach, and the NEJCA President who will be responsible for notifying any potential SACA Umpire/s.
- 8.2. In the event that a team receives a forfeit, the non-forfeiting team may submit a team sheet to ensure all players appearing upon that games' team sheet shall be counted as having a 'game played' for the purpose of Major Round eligibility.
- 8.3. A forfeit will be claimed against any team that cannot field the minimum number of players for that age group within fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled start time of the game. If both teams cannot field a minimum number, the result is a non-game. In the result of a forfeit or non-game, the participating teams may play a scratch match in the remaining allotted time. If a scratch match is played, no individual statistics are to be recorded on the Play HQ management system.

Premiership Points

9.1. The following points shall be awarded in all Minor Round Under 14 matches:

First innings win, no further result	2 points
First innings loss, no further result	0 points
First inning tie, no further result	1 point
Outright win, after first innings win	3 points
Outright loss, after first innings win	2 points
Outright win, after first innings tie	2 points
Outright win, after first innings loss	1 point
Outright loss, after first innings tie	1 point
Outright tie, after first innings win	2.5 points
Outright tie, after first innings loss	0.5 points
Outright tie, after first innings tie	1.5 points
Drawn match	1 point
Abandoned match (Association cancelled)	0 points

9.1.1. In Divisions and competitions where two (2) or more teams gain the same number of points, their relative positions shall be determined by the quotient. For the purposes of ascertaining the quotient, the following systems shall be adopted:

- 9.1.1.1. The batting average for a team shall be obtained by dividing the total number of runs scored by the total number of wickets lost.
- 9.1.1.2. The batting average against a team shall be obtained by dividing the total number of runs scored against by the total number of wickets taken.
- 9.1.1.3. The former shall be divided by the latter, and the team having the higher quotient shall be considered to have the better performance.

10. Competitions with Unequal Matches

10.1. For competitions with unequal number of matches fixtured for each team, the match ratio system shall be used to equalise the competition. For the purpose of ascertaining the quotient, the following system shall be adopted.

- 10.1.1. The total number of points received by a team will be divided by the number of matches they have played.
- 10.1.2. The team with the higher quotient shall be considered to have had the better performance.

Example

Team A (6 points from 5 matches) = 1.2 Match Ratio

Team B (5 points from 4 matches) = 1.25 Match Ratio

As a result, Team B would finish higher than Team A on the ladder.

11. Codes Of Conduct

- 11.1. When considering NEJCA's expected behaviours and Codes of Conduct it must be remembered that:
- 11.2. Cricket owes much of its unique appeal to the fact that it should be played not only within its Laws, but also within the "Spirit of Cricket".
- 11.3. The major responsibility for ensuring fair play in junior cricket rests with all players, match officials, teachers, coaches, and parents.
- 11.4. Respect is central to the Spirit of Cricket.
- 11.5. Any action that is disrespectful and seen as abusing the "Spirit of Cricket" causes injury to the game itself.
- 11.6. All players and Club officials shall comply with NEJCA's Rules and Codes of Conduct, which should be read in conjunction with the Laws of Cricket and the whole of these By Laws.
 - 11.6.1. Any breach of the Code of Conduct shall be considered to be misconduct under these By-Laws.
 - 11.6.2. Coaches are responsible at all times for ensuring that play is conducted within the spirit of the game as well as within the Laws of Cricket (2017 Code 3rd Edition – 2022), NEJCA's Playing Conditions, including the preamble "The Spirit of Cricket"

12. Players Code of Behaviour

- Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit, with opportunities to develop lifelong friendships, not just to please parents or coaches
- Work equally hard for yourself and your teammates. Your team's performance will benefit and so will yours;
- Be a good sport. Applaud all good plays whether they are made by your team or the opposition team;
- Play by the Rules, within the *Spirit of Cricket* and the Spirit of the Game;
- Treat all players in cricket as you like to be treated. Do not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor;
- Cooperate with your coach, teammates and opponents. Without them there would be no competition;
- Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit, not just to please parents, teachers or coaches;
- Respect Officials' and Coaches decisions;
- Never argue with an Umpire. If you disagree, have your Captain, Coach or Team Manager approach the umpire in an appropriate manner during a break or after the game;

- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials, sledging other players, and deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent, are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in cricket;
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their age, gender, ability, race, cultural background or religion.
- Thank the players in your team, the players in the opposition team, the officials, coaches and scorers

13. Coaches Code of Behaviour

- Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit while remembering that a coach's primary responsibility is to develop and improve all players' skills
- Obtain appropriate qualifications and keep up-to-date with the latest cricket coaching practices and principles of growth and development of young people;
- Remember that young people participate for pleasure and winning is only part of the fun;
- Help each junior cricketer to reach their potential;
- Be reasonable in your demands on each players' time, energy and enthusiasm;
- Treat each junior cricketer as an individual;
- Operate within the Rules and *Spirit of Cricket* and teach all players to do the same;
- Ensure that the time junior cricketers spend with you is a positive experience;
- Promote fair play over winning at any cost;
- Show courtesy and respect to all those involved in cricket. This includes opponents, coaches, umpires, administrators, parents, and spectators. Encourage all players to do the same;
- Act with integrity and respect
- Place the safety and welfare of participants above all else.
- Never ridicule or yell at a young player for making mistakes;
- Show concern and caution toward sick and injured players. Be aware of and support sport's injury management plans and return to play guidelines/ advice of a physician when determining whether an injured player is ready to recommence training or competition;
- Ensure that any physical contact with a young person is appropriate to the situation and necessary for the player's skill development;
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their age, gender, ability, race, cultural background or religion.
- Do not tolerate abusive, bullying or threatening behaviour.

14. Parents & Supporters Code of Behaviour

- Encourage your child to play by the rules;
- Remember, children are involved in cricket for their enjoyment, not yours;
- Focus on the child/ren's efforts and performances, rather than winning or losing;
- Remember that children learn best by example. Appreciate good performances and skilful play by all participants;
- Show appreciation for volunteer coaches, officials and administrators. Without them, your child could not participate;
- Help create a positive atmosphere for players, officials and other spectators by showing respect for players, officials and other spectators;
- Respect officials' decisions and teach children to do likewise;
- Do not force an unwilling child to participate in cricket;
- A parent/guardian/responsible adult is expected to be in attendance at training and games at all times.
- No Chatter to the Batter (NEJCA Rule 1.11 {U10 & U12}, 1.12 {U14}) also applies to parents and spectators to ensure a safe environment for players, officials and Coaches.
- Do not film players
- Do not film players
- Do not be overtly discuss a player/s' behaviour or lack of skill – any instances/concerns should be referred to the teams' Team Manager
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a game;
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities;
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their age, gender, ability, race, cultural background or religion;
- NEJCA is committed to providing a safe environment for participation. Aggressive, threatening or other inappropriate behaviour while attending a game will not be tolerated
- Abide by the Clearing the Air Smoke Free and Vape Free laws that apply to all junior cricket underage sporting events/games
 - The new laws create smoke-free and vape-free outdoor areas in all public areas including schools, playgrounds and sporting venues and within 10m of their boundaries.
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15. Umpires Code of Behaviour

- Compliment and encourage all junior cricketers;
- Be consistent, objective and courteous when making decisions;
- Be a good sport yourself – actions speak louder than words;
- All Umpires taking part in NEJCA games do so with adequate knowledge of the MCC Rules in combination with NEJCA's Rules and umpire with absolute impartiality;
- Place the safety and welfare of participants above all else;
- Emphasise the spirit of the game rather than the errors;
- Set a good example: as an Umpire your behaviour and comments should BE positive and supportive towards all players.
- No Chatter to the Batter Rule: Rule 1.11 (U10's & U12's) & 1.12 (U14's) Umpires are required to inform a coach of any instances of Chatter to the Batter observed on the field or any unsporting comments from the sidelines
- Coaches are not to badger Officiating Umpires regarding decisions of the suitability of the ground for play to commence/continue in relation to wet weather. Coaches may present information and leave the umpire/s to decide what is in the best interests of the safety of the players.
- Discourage unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all participants;
- Keep up-to-date with the latest available resources for umpiring and the principles of growth and development of young people;
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their age, gender, ability, race, cultural background or religion.

16. Reports of Breaches in Laws & By Laws

16.1. Definitions for the purpose of this section:

16.1.1. "Player" means any playing member of a Club who is registered, or who should be registered, pursuant to these By-Laws.

16.1.2. "Club Official" means any person representing a Club in any official capacity or recognised by a Club as holding or occupying any official position within that Club, including (but not necessarily limited to) any coach, assistant coach, scorer, team manager, committee member or person holding any position or role recognised by the Constitution or Rules of that Club.

16.1.3. "Disciplinary Enquiry Panel" (DEP) means the panel established under By-Law 17.

16.1.4. "Match" includes all matches played under these By-Laws.

16.1.5. "Crude" when used in the Code of Conduct includes indecent or offensive, including, in particular, racial sledging or abuse.

16.2. If an appointed or officiating umpire or coach, during or on the day of a match in which he/she is umpiring deems it necessary to report any player, or Club Official for misconduct arising out of, or in the course of, that match (whether or not the player or official is involved in that match), or any breach under Law 41 (Unfair Play) of the Laws of Cricket, or any other Law or By-Law, he/she shall, as soon as practicable, after the conclusion of the day's play:

16.2.1. Provide a written report to the NEJCA Executive Committee

16.2.2. The report shall constitute a charge or a report against the player/s, or official/s for the purpose of these By Laws.

17. Disciplinary Enquiry Panel (DEP)

17.1. There shall be a Disciplinary Enquiry Panel (DEP).

17.2. The DEP shall consist of the NEJCA Executive Committee.

17.3. The DEP shall review each charge and make a determination as soon as practicable, if possible/practicable before the next game day.

17.4. The DEP may seek further information or comment from any person in such a manner as it seems fit.

17.5. If the DEP determines that the charge is proven, the reported person is to receive a penalty which is appropriate in all of the circumstances.

17.6. When imposing any penalty all relevant circumstances must be taken into account (considered), including:

17.6.1. The DEP must request and obtain details of any prior penalty imposed on the reported person before imposing any reprimand or period of ineligibility to participate,

17.6.2. The seriousness of and harm caused by the breach.

17.7. The DEP shall, upon making its determination, notify the Club of its determination and any penalties imposed.

17.8. The reported person must at the time of notification, be advised that if he/she does not accept the determination, the person will be required, through their Club Delegate, to notify the NEJCA President of their non-acceptance of the determination

17.8.1. Under this circumstance the charge will be heard by an independent NEJCA Committee at its earliest convenience.

17.9. If the DEP determines that the charge is not proven, the charge will be dismissed.

17.10. The DEP is not required to provide reasons for its determination.

18. Penalties: DEP Ranges

18.1. Level 1 Offences

No	Offence	Example
1.1	Abuse of cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment of fixture and fittings.	Actions such as hitting or kicking the wickets or action that result in damage to advertising boards, boundary fences, or any part of the building structure around the ground.
1.2	Show dissent at an umpire's decision by action or verbal abuse	Includes excessive, obvious disappointment with an umpire's decision or with an umpire making the decision and an obvious delay in resuming play or leaving the wicket.
1.3	Use language that is obscene, offensive, or insulting and/or the making of an obscene gesture.	This includes swearing and offensive gestures which are not directed at another person such as swearing in frustration at one's own poor play or fortune.
1.4	Point or gesture towards the pavilion in an aggressive manner or behaving aggressively towards either batter upon the dismissal of a batter.	Includes charging or running up to the batter and getting "in his/her face".
1.5	Excessive "Chatter to the Batter"	Includes excessive and repeated sledging or comments to the opposing batter and ignoring directions to cease
1.6	Excessive Appealing	Self-Explanatory

18.2. Level 2 Offences

No	Offence	Example
2.1	Show serious dissent at an umpire's decision by action or verbal abuse.	Dissent is classified as serious when by a specific action such as the shaking of the head, snatching cap from the umpire, pointing at pad or inside edge and other displays of anger or abusive language directed at the umpire or excessive delay in resuming play.
2.2	Engage in inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with other players or officials during play.	Deliberately walking or running into or shoulder another player or official.
2.3	Charge or advance towards the umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing.	Self-Explanatory.

2.4	Deliberately and maliciously distract or obstruct another player or official on the field of play.	Deliberately attempting to distract a player by words or gestures (refer to 'no chatter to the batter' rule) or deliberately shepherd the batter while running or attempting to run between the wickets.
2.5	Throw the ball at or near a player or official in an inappropriate and/or dangerous manner.	This does not discourage a fielder or bowler returning the ball to the stumps in the normal fashion.
2.6	Use language that is obscene, offensive or of a seriously insulting nature to another player, official or spectator.	This is language or gestures which are directed at another person.
2.7	Change the condition of the ball in breach of Law 41.3	Prohibited behaviour includes picking the seam or deliberately throwing the ball into the ground for the purpose of roughening it up and the application of moisture to the ball.

18.3. Level 3 Offences

No	Offence	Example
3.1	Intimidate an umpire, coach or spectator whether by language or conduct.	Self-Explanatory.
3.2	Threaten to assault another player, official or spectator.	Self-Explanatory.
3.3	Use language or gestures that offend, insult, humiliate, intimidate, threaten, disparage or vilify another person on the basis of that person's race, religion, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin, disability or gender.	Self-Explanatory.

18.4. Level 4 Offences

No	Offence	Example
4.1	Threaten to assault an umpire, official, player or spectator.	Self-Explanatory.
4.2	Physically assaulting another player, umpire, official, or spectator.	Self-Explanatory.
4.3	Engage in any act of violence on the field of play.	Self-Explanatory.
4.4	Use language or gestures that seriously offends, insults, humiliates, intimidates, threatens, disparages or vilifies another person on the basis of	Self-Explanatory.

that person's race, religion, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin, disability or gender.	
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18.5. Ranges for penalties of misconduct.

18.5.1. If a report is found to be proven; the reported person is to receive a penalty which is appropriate in all of the circumstances.

18.5.2. Indicative range of penalties for each misconduct is:

Level of Offence	Indicative Penalty Range
Level 1	Official Reprimand or a ban of up to one (1) club match.
Level 2	Ban of two (2) or three (3) club matches.
Level 3	Ban of four (4) or five (5) club matches.
Level 4	Ban of six (6) or seven (7) club matches.

18.5.3. A penalty less than the cumulative indicative range/s may be imposed at the discretion of the DEP.

18.5.4. A penalty greater than the indicative range may be imposed in the case of a person having been found guilty of previous offences at the discretion of the DEP.

18.5.5. A club match, for the purpose of a ban, shall be defined as the entirety of the number of fixtured rounds for the ban. For example, a player receiving a two (2) club match ban would require the player to miss the entirety of the next two rounds.

18.5.6. The prescribed penalty is only enforceable in the North Eastern Junior Cricket Association competition. However, the executive Committee will notify any additional club(s) the player may have of the penalty.

18.5.7. In the case of a parent receiving a ban, this may result in the parent not being permitted to attend the game. Alternatively, the NEJCA Executive Committee may determine that the imposed penalty is handed to the child on behalf of the parent.

18.6. All umpires have the power to report any player/coach/official/parent for misconduct, guided by the NEJCA Rules and By Laws