

Cherwell League Cup Competitions 2026

Match Rules (all Cups except Pullinger)

Standard Cherwell Cricket League playing rules shall apply unless overridden in Cup Competition Rules or below.

DURATION OF PLAY

- (1.1) All qualifying matches shall start at 1.00pm subject to Ground, Weather and Light conditions. Finals will start at 12.30pm. Start times can be altered with the agreement of both clubs. It is the responsibility of the home team to inform the umpires.
- (1.2) There will be two sessions of play expected to be no longer than approximately 2 hours 55 minutes each, separated by an interval of up to 30 minutes.
- (1.3) Each Match shall consist of a maximum of 40 overs per innings. The Match shall consist of a minimum of 10 overs per innings for there to be a result (unless either or both teams were dismissed in less than their entitled overs). Once a Match has been started, should the loss of time result in less than 10 complete overs being available to either team, the game shall be declared as Abandoned. Should both the original and any reserve date be so abandoned, the tie will be decided by a Bowl Off if conditions allow (see Appendix 2). If conditions do not allow, the tie will be decided by the toss of a coin.
- (1.4) Declarations are permitted in the first innings. If a captain declares the innings closed, for the purposes of Duckworth Lewis, the batting team will be deemed to have batted their full allocation for the score achieved at the point of declaration and to be all out.
- (1.5) Should the Team batting first be dismissed before the overs to which it is entitled have been completed, the Team batting second shall still be entitled to its full 40 overs (or such reduced full allocation of overs to which it may be entitled following adjustment due to interruption).

ADDITIONAL PITCH MARKINGS

- (2.1) A 'Fielding Ring' should be marked out using white plastic discs. This will be an area bounded by two semi-circles (each with a radius of 30 yards) centred on each middle stump and joined by a parallel line on each side of the pitch
- (2.2) Additional Crease Marking: An additional crease marking shall be made 17 inches inside and parallel to each Return Crease, joining the Popping and

Bowling creases. (Please note that the crease is the inside edges of both these new markings.)

BOWLING AND FIELDING RESTRICTIONS

- (3.1) At the start of the 40 Over Match, no bowler may bowl more than 8 overs (one fifth of the total overs).
- (3.2) Following a reduction of overs, where the total overs are not divisible by 5, an additional over shall be allowed to the minimum number of bowlers necessary to make up the balance. For example, in a reduced 37 over match, 2 bowlers may bowl 8 overs, and no others more than 7 overs each.
- (3.3) In the event of a reduction in overs after the commencement of an Innings, any bowler who has already bowled more than the revised limit per bowler as calculated in 3.2 above, shall no longer be able to bowl in that Innings. However, a bowler may complete an over in progress. For example: after 16 overs, rain interrupts play and the Innings is reduced to 32 overs. Both opening bowlers have bowled 8 overs. The revised calculation allows for 2 bowlers to bowl a maximum of 7 overs and 3 bowlers to bowl a maximum of 6 overs. Bowlers 1 and 2 have therefore already exceeded this limit. They count as the two bowlers who were allowed the extra over (7 as opposed to 6) and so any other bowlers are limited to 6 overs maximum.
- (3.4) In the event of a bowler being incapacitated or suspended and therefore unable to complete an over, the remaining balls will be bowled by another bowler providing that bowler did not bowl the previous over or part thereof. Such part of an over shall count as a full over only insofar as each bowler's limit is concerned.
- (3.5) In the event that a bowler exceeds his/her limit of overs (except in the circumstances outlined in 2.3 above), the following penalties will apply: 10 penalty runs for each additional over (or part thereof) bowled over the limit. If a bowler exceeds his/her limit by 3 overs, the offending team will have been deemed to have forfeited the match. If, in the opinion of the Cups Sub-Committee, a team has knowingly over-bowled a bowler in an attempt to gain an advantage, or the over-bowling of a bowler, whether intended or accidental, has materially and significantly affected the result of a game, the panel convened under the Disputes/Complaints procedure may, at its sole discretion, award the match to the opposition.
- (3.6) The following fielding restrictions shall apply during the Match. Any infringement of these fielding restrictions shall be called and signalled "No Ball" by the striker's end Umpire.

At all times during the innings: At the instant of delivery, there must be a minimum of 4 fielders (plus the bowler and wicket keeper) inside the marked 30m ring.

At all times during the innings: At the instant of delivery, there may not be more than five fielders on the leg side

STRICTER LAWS

- (4.1) A bowler shall be limited to one fast short-pitched delivery per over, which is defined as one that passes or would have passed over shoulder height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease. This ruling shall apply even though the striker may have made contact with the ball with their bat, person or equipment. The Umpire at the bowler's end will make it clear to both bowler and batters at the wicket when such a delivery is bowled. It is unfair if this limit is exceeded in the same over and the Umpire shall call and signal No Ball on each such occasion.
- (4.2) In accordance with Law 41.7 any delivery which passes or would have passed, without pitching, above waist height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease, will be called and signalled as a No Ball. The umpires will be required to decide if such a delivery was dangerous, and therefore whether to caution the bowler (first and final warning). For clarification, waist height is the top of the trousers conventionally worn.
- (4.3) The delivery following any kind of No Ball shall be signalled as a "Free Hit" for whichever batter is facing it. If the delivery for the Free Hit is not a legitimate delivery (any kind of No Ball or a Wide Ball) then the next delivery will also become a Free Hit for whichever batter is facing it.
- (4.4) The Umpire will signal a Free Hit (after the normal No Ball signal) by announcing "Free Hit" and then extending one arm straight upwards and moving it in a small circular motion.
- (4.5) The Free Hit delivery counts as a regular ball in the over, unless it in turn is a Wide Ball or any form of No Ball.
- (4.6) For any Free Hit, the striker can only be dismissed under the circumstances that apply for a No Ball, even if the delivery for a Free Hit is called a Wide Ball.
- (4.7) Field changes are NOT permitted for the Free Hit delivery, except to cater for a change of striker, or if the No Ball was a result of a fielding restriction breach, in which case the field may change to correct the breach.
- (4.8) Wide Ball: Law 25 shall apply with the following additions:

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

Any delivery passing wide of the inner crease (when marked) on the off side should be called wide unless the striker has very clearly brought the delivery within reach with a significant sideways movement across his/her crease (see 1.6).

Airey and Telegraph Cups: A leg side Wide Ball shall be called if, irrespective of where the ball pitches, it passes outside the line of the striker and the leg stump, despite any movement by the striker.

Steve Dixon Memorial, Osberton Radiators and Keith Crump Memorial Cups: A leg side Wide Ball shall be called if the ball passes on the legside of the stumps and outside the line of the pads of where the striker is standing or has stood at any point after the ball came into play for that delivery and, in the umpire's opinion, did not give the striker a fair opportunity to play a shot.

In all competitions, a ball that passes between the striker and the leg stump shall not be considered a Wide Ball. Additionally, if a ball hits the striker or any part of his/her equipment, it shall not be called a Wide Ball irrespective of where it pitched or where it would have passed the stumps.

Switch Hits/Reverse Shots: In all competitions, if the striker plays a switch hit or reverse sweep or gets into a position to play such a shot, he/she shall be deemed to bring the ball equally within his/her reach on the leg side as on the off side. Consequently, the above provisions relating to leg side wides will not apply and a wide will be judged according to the criteria of for off side wides on both sides of the wicket.

A penalty of one run for a Wide Ball shall be scored. This penalty shall stand in addition to any other runs that are awarded.

OVER RATE & PENALTY

- (5.1) Teams shall maintain an over rate of 15 overs per hour (one over = 4 minutes). It is the responsibility of both Captains, whether batting or bowling, to maintain this over rate (not the Umpires). Umpires may assist the Captains with monitoring.

Cut-Off Time:

- (5.2) Teams are expected to be in position to bowl the last of their 40 overs within 2 hours 55 minutes playing time (40 x 4 minutes per over + 15 minutes normal time allowance for drinks breaks and lost balls). There will be no other additional

normal time allowance. For example, in a match starting at 1pm, the Cut-Off Time to have started the last over, in the first innings shall be 3.55pm. For the second innings (due to start 30 minutes after the completion of the first innings) the cut off time would be 2 hours 55 minutes later.

- (5.3) Only in exceptional circumstances (e.g. on field injuries, protective equipment requests, or prolonged ball searches) will the Umpires have the discretion to delay the Cut-Off Time.
- (5.4) If the innings is interrupted and a reduction of overs occurs, the Cut-Off Time for the completion of the total innings shall be recalculated based on the reduced number of overs x 4 minutes, plus any exceptional circumstances as maybe determined by the Umpires. The Umpires shall consult with the Scorers and confirm the new Cut-Off Time to the Captain of the fielding team at the commencement of each innings or following any significant interruption in play.
- (5.5) If in either Innings, the fielding team fails to complete the penultimate over of the entitled overs by the Cut-Off Time, then the Batting Team will be credited with 6 penalty runs for every complete over that has not been bowled in time. All penalties in this regard will be imposed immediately the ball first becomes dead after the Cut-Off Time has passed for the innings. The Umpires shall notify the Captain of the fielding team, the Batters and the Scorers of the penalty, before the innings continues. For example, in a 40 over innings, if the Cut-Off Time has passed when e.g. 37.4 overs have been bowled, then the Batting Team shall immediately, before the 5th ball of that over is bowled, be credited with 12 penalty runs for the 2 complete overs not bowled by that time. All remaining balls and overs shall then be completed for that innings unless the Team batting second is credited with penalty runs in this way and consequently increases their score past that of the target set by the team batting first. In such an instance, then the match shall immediately be deemed to have been won by the team batting second and the innings closed.

DELAYED OR INTERRUPTED MATCHES

- (6.1) In all cases the Match shall only start or continue if the Umpires decide that the conditions are fit for play in accordance with the Laws of Cricket. In a Match in which an ECB ACO Umpire (whose membership is current and is also qualified to minimum level 1) is standing with an Umpire who is not, then the ECB ACO Umpire will have the final decision on all aspects of safety including Ground, Weather and Light.

Reduction of Overs Before the First Innings:

- (6.2) Should a delay occur prior to the start of the Match, then the Match shall proceed simply based on a reduction in the number of overs available. The

Umpires shall reduce the number of overs in the Match by 2 (one per innings) for every completed 8 minutes of time lost.

Reduction of Overs in the First Innings

- (6.3) After the commencement of the Match, the Umpires shall reduce the number of overs in the Match by 2 (one per innings) for every completed 8 minutes of subsequent time lost AND at the end of the 1st Innings a Revised Target Score will be calculated using the Duckworth Lewis (“D/L”) method as explained in Section 6.

Reduction of Overs in the Second Innings

- (6.4) If, following the completion of the first innings, owing to a delayed start to the second innings or a suspension of play during the second innings, there is insufficient time for the Team batting second to face the same number of entitled overs as completed in the first innings, then the umpires shall reduce the number of overs in the second innings by 1 for every completed 4 minutes of subsequent time lost – down to the minimum of 10 overs to constitute a Match.
- (6.5) On every occasion where there is a reduction of overs during the second innings, then a new Revised Target Score will be required, which will be calculated by the D/L method.
- (6.6) In the event of a suspension occurring in the middle of an over, the number of full overs remaining to be bowled will be calculated, and any balls remaining to be bowled in the over during which play was suspended, will be added.
- (6.7) Before taking the field to resume play, the Umpires will confirm with the Scorers and inform the Captains accordingly of the newly Revised Target Score.

DUCKWORTH / LEWIS (D/L)

- (7.1) All teams should have at least one player with access to and knowledge of the D/L App approved by the League.
- (7.2) Where use of D/L is required, the umpires, or if there are no non-playing umpires present, the captains, must agree the D/L score or target.
- (7.3) The home team scorer, or if there are no non-playing scorers, a member of the batting side will be responsible for displaying the par score at the end of each over and at the fall of each wicket. If it is not possible to display these figures, they should be available upon request from either the batters or the fielding captain at these times.

MATCH RESULTS

- (8.1) Cherwell Cricket League Cup Match Result Definitions.

Win: The team that scores more runs in their innings (as may be adjusted by D/L or Penalty Runs) than the other team; or

Should the game have been tied, the team that scores the most runs in a 'Super Over' competition (see Appendix 1); or

Should the 'Super Over' competition result in identical scores, the team that makes the most hits in a 'Bowl Off' (see Appendix 2).

Tie: When the scores are level (or 1 less than the Revised D/L Target) at the completion of the match regardless of how many wickets have been lost by the team batting second.

Loss: Should the other Team achieve a Win.

Abandoned: When play had started, however little, and where neither Team were able to achieve a Win or a Tie due to the scheduled overs not being able to be completed due to adverse playing conditions.

Cancelled: Should there have been no play whatsoever.

APPENDIX 1

Super Over

In the event that a match finishes with the scores level (irrespective of how many wickets have been lost by either side), or the team batting second have finished 1 run below the revised D/L target, the tie will be decided by a Super Over.

The side that batted first in the match will bat first in the Super Over. They will nominate any 2 batters who started the match to face one six ball over, to be bowled by a single bowler. If a wicket is taken in the over, the batting side can send in a new batter. If a second wicket is taken in the over, the innings is declared closed.

The side that batted second in the match will then face an over under the same conditions.

The fielding restrictions applicable throughout the match will apply in the Super Over.

The team that scores the most runs in their Super Over will be declared the winners of the match.

If the scores are level after the Super Over, the tie will be decided by a Bowl Off.

The balls used for the Super Overs should be the same balls that were used at the end of each innings.

APPENDIX 2

Bowl Off

The Bowl Off will take place on the pitch that the match was played on. If this is not possible, then an alternative pitch or a static net facility may be used. The pitch should measure 22 yards stump to stump and have a bowling crease marked at the bowler's end.

All deliveries will be from the same end and if a choice is available, it will fall to the visiting team's captain.

Each team will nominate 6 bowlers and they will bowl a single delivery at an unguarded wicket (including bails). Teams will bowl alternately i.e Bowler 1 Team A, followed by Bowler 1 Team B and so on. The team that bowled first in the match will bowl first in the Bowl Off.

When all twelve bowlers have bowled, the team with the most 'hits', will be declared the winners of the tie. A 'hit' is defined as a legal delivery which has broken the wicket (i.e. removed at least one bail). The umpires will be the sole judges as to what constitutes a legal delivery. No balls or wides will be counted as a miss and no extra delivery will take place.

If the scores are tied after all twelve bowlers have bowled, the Bowl Off will continue on a sudden death basis with the remaining players in each team bowling and then back to the original bowlers in the same order until the tie is broken.

If a team has less than 11 players, the captain of the other team will nominate a player from the reduced team to take the place of the missing player.