

Japan Cricket Association



Competition Guidelines 2017



Introduction

Raising the profile of cricket in Japan

From 2017 the Japan Cricket Association are implementing competition guidelines for all levels of cricket. The aim of these guidelines are to help competition organisers to raise the standards of their competitions. It is anticipated that by raising basic standards for cricket competitions will help to improve the image of the sport in Japan and help attract more interest in cricket from new participants and sponsors.



Three levels of cricket

All cricket competitions are different. Some cater to novice or social cricketers and tend to have a relaxed approach towards administration.

Other competitions function as a platform for elite players to compete at a highly competitive level, requiring more complex organisation.

As such, three levels of competitions guidelines have been created.



Japan cricket in a professional light.

Level one represents “social cricket”, for example, modified formats of cricket using soft/semi-hard balls with relaxed criteria for team entry. Such competitions aim to bring new players to cricket in Japan as well as educate beginners on the basic principles and values of the sport.

Level two represents “club cricket” and includes competitions aimed at semi-regular club cricketers. Generally these competitions use a hard ball and have set playing conditions but are accessible to players with a basic level of proficiency in cricket.

Level three represents “high level cricket” which caters to advanced or elite cricketers. It includes representative cricket such as the Japan Premier League. Level three competitions have stricter guidelines and aim to promote

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Community Cricket Manager

Level 1

Social. Fun. Let's play!

Level 1 competitions are aimed at increasing participation. Guidelines are relaxed but it is still important to regulate competitions to maintain some basic standards in order to provide an enjoyable playing experience for participants and encourage new players.

All Level 1 competitions, although not organised by the Japan Cricket Association, are endorsed by it and as such must comply to the following minimum standards.



Uniform Regulations

There is no strict uniform code for level 1 cricket but the following guidelines should be adhered to:

Shirts

- Teams should make an effort to “look like a team” by wearing the same shirts. At the very least all players should be wearing the same colour shirt.
- If it is not possible for a team to wear the same colour shirts, coloured bibs should be provided.

Pants

- If possible players should wear the same colour pants. Shorts are also acceptable.

Hats/caps

- The JCA recommends that all players wear hats in outdoor cricket matches, particularly during the hotter summer months. Where possible team members should wear the same colour hats.



Policies

The following policies and codes of conduct shall be in effect in all level 1 competitions in Japan. All players, captains, umpires, support staff and administrators are expected to abide by the policies and codes.

- JCA hot weather policy
- JCA disciplinary policy and players' code of conduct

Refer to the JCA website for updated policies and codes of conduct.



Competition Rules & Regulations

Rules should be simple and easy to follow.

Committee

- Level 1 competitions are managed by a volunteer organising committee.

Umpires

- The assignment of umpires is completely up to the organising committee. The system for assigning umpires to matches must be explained to participating teams before the commencement of the competition.
- It is hoped that all umpires have completed at least a Level 1 umpiring qualification.

Scoring

- At least one score card must be kept for each match.
- The organising committee is free to determine what kind of score cards will be kept, i.e., digital or paper.

Balls

- A wide variety of balls are used across level 1, which covers both “hard ball” and “soft ball” competitions. Balls should be approved by the JCA Community Cricket Manager before use in matches.
- For consistency the same type of ball should be used across all matches in a competition.
- For hard ball level 1 competitions the JCA recommends Reader’s red or white balls (men 156g, women/junior 142g). Contact the JCA Community Cricket Manager for details on how to purchase.
- The JCA can also recommend balls and equipment for use in modified “soft ball” formats.



Team numbers

- Flexible. Should be stated on any competition flyers.

Spirit of Cricket

- Competition organisers, captains and umpires must ensure that the spirit of cricket is upheld at all times.

Image of Cricket

- Players and teams must work together to ensure they are presenting a positive image of cricket at all times.

Disciplinary process

- A disciplinary process must be in place for players and officials who breach the code of conduct.

Playing Conditions

- A list of playing conditions should be created by the organising committee prior to the start of the competition and distributed to clubs.
- Playing conditions should be simple and easy to follow.
- The JCA will publish suggested playing conditions for modified “soft ball” tournaments. These playing conditions shall be used for any national finals.

Communication

- The organising committee shall nominate a contact person responsible for communicating with the JCA.

Tournament name

- Competition organisers must avoid using names that clash with existing JCA branded competitions, e.g., “Japan Cup”, “Premier League”.
- Please seek approval from the JCA Community Cricket Manager when naming your tournament.

Safety Guidelines

The JCA does not mandate the use of any protective equipment for “soft ball” competitions but, as with level 2 and 3 competitions, safety is of paramount importance.



Helmets

- The JCA strongly recommended that (in hard ball cricket) helmets are worn at all times by batsmen, wicket keepers keeping up to the wickets and any fielders positioned in front of the bat within 10 meters of the striker.
- The JCA recommends that all helmets worn are compliant with the new British Standard BS7928:2013.

Insurance

- The JCA strongly recommends that all players participating in cricket matches are covered by appropriate sports insurance.
- The competition must be covered by “Event Insurance”.

Ground Regulations

Ground size

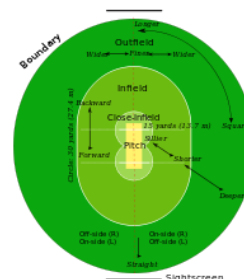
- Flexible.

Pitch

- Artificial pitches, i.e., mats, are recommended to ensure consistent bounce. Level 1 competitions can also be played on bare earth or grass as long as tournament organisers are confident it will provide a safe playing environment.

Outfield

- Grass, synthetic grass and dirt are all acceptable but a safety check should be completed by the competition organisers prior to the first match.



Match day set up and pack up

- A system must be established by the committee to determine which teams or volunteers are responsible for the setting up and packing up of grounds on match days.

Garbage

- All teams shall be responsible for ensuring that no garbage is left at the ground following the conclusion of the match.

Reporting

Annual plan

- A schedule of events should be sent to the JCA at the beginning of the year containing key dates, competition format, location of events and contact details for the organising committee.

End of season report

- At the conclusion of the season the competition organisers should submit a report to the JCA containing a summary of the tournament, number of teams, number of matches, champions, award winners and any other relevant information.



Promotion/media

Flyers

- Produce flyers (digital and/or paper) with basic details and registration information for the competition.
- Flyers should be distributed early enough to give teams time to prepare.

News articles

- Not required but if organisers wish to use JCA channels, e.g., website, to advertise the competition, please contact the JCA Community Cricket Manager.

Tournament sponsorship

- Sponsors must first be approved by the JCA before any contract is entered into.



JCA Support

The JCA will offer official support (後援) to competitions/tournaments that meet the level 1 guidelines.

- Use of JCA name on advertising material as official host.
- Use of JCA logo.

Level 2

Organised. Competitive. Fair.

For level 2 competitions it is important to balance the quality of the competition with accessibility. It is important to maintain the quality of the competition to help develop the image of cricket in Japan but it is also important to allow as many players to participate in cricket and not create too many barriers to entry.



Uniform Regulations

Sponsor approval

- Team sponsors must be approved by the JCA before being added to uniforms, etc.

Undershirt rule

- Any undershirts worn by players should be the same colour as the uniform.. Players in the same team should wear the same colour undershirt.

Coloured, numbered uniforms

- From 2018 teams playing in level 2 competitions will be expected to wear coloured team uniforms and display a playing number on the back. Each player's number should be unique.

Hats/caps

- Players in the team must wear the same hats/caps. Players should not take the field wearing a hat/cap other than the team hat/cap.

Player presentation

- All players must strive to uphold the image of the sport by wearing clean uniforms. Shirts must be tucked in at all times and backwards caps are not acceptable, whether batting or bowling/fielding.

Cricket pants

- It is acceptable for teams to wear white cricket pants. White track pants with wide lines on the sides are not acceptable.



Policies

The following policies and codes of conduct shall be in effect in all level 2 competitions in Japan. All players, captains, umpires, support staff and administrators are expected to abide by the policies and codes.

- JCA hot weather policy
- JCA disciplinary policy and players' code of conduct
- JCA captains' code of conduct
- JCA umpires' code of conduct
- JCA suspect bowling action policy
- JCA Junior Playing Restrictions



Refer to the JCA website for updated policies and codes of conduct.

Competition Rules & Regulations

Committee

- Level 2 competitions are managed by a committee.
- Committee members must be approved by the JCA Community Cricket Manager before the start of the season.

Umpires

- Umpires for level 2 matches are generally provided by participating clubs in the competition. E.g., Team A provides umpires for a match between Team B and Team C.
- Two umpires must be appointed for each match.
- It is generally expected that the teams participating in the match will reimburse the travel costs of the umpires.
- An umpiring schedule must be created and communicated to clubs before the start of the season.
- All umpires are expected to have undertaken a JCA Level 2 Umpiring course in the last three years.

Scoring

- Two score cards must be kept for each match. The two scorers must communicate with each other check scores with each other regularly during the match.
- At least one paper (hard copy) score card must be kept.
- The JCA recommends the use of the CricHQ live scoring app as one of the two score cards.



Balls

- The official ball for level 2 competitions is the Kookaburra Red King (156g men, 142g women).
- Balls other than Red King must be approved by the JCA Community Cricket Manager before use.

Team numbers

- 11 a side unless otherwise stipulated by the JCA

Spirit of Cricket

- Competition organisers, captains and umpires must ensure that the spirit of cricket is upheld at all times.

Disciplinary process

- A disciplinary process must be in place for players and officials who breach the code of conduct.

Playing Conditions

- Must be approved by the JCA and published on the JCA website prior to the beginning of the competition.

Punctuality

- The committee must establish rules on punctuality of teams. Provisions must be in place in the event that the start of the match is delayed due to the late arrival of a team.

Safety Guidelines

Protectors



- Must be worn by batsmen at all times whilst batting.

Helmets

- The JCA strongly recommended that helmets are worn at all times by batsmen, wicket keepers keeping up to the stumps and any fielders positioned in front of the bat within 10 meters of the striker.
- The JCA recommends that all helmets worn are compliant with the new British Standard BS7928:2013.

Insurance

- All players must be covered by appropriate sports insurance.

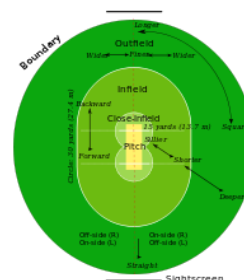
Ground Regulations

Ground size

- Where possible the length of each boundary (measured from the center of the pitch) should be no shorter than 50 meters and no longer than 75 meters for men's cricket
- Where possible no shorter than 43 meters and no longer than 68 meters for women's/junior cricket

Pitch

- All pitches must be approved by the JCA before use.
- Both turf and synthetic pitches are acceptable but matches can not be played on bare earth/grass.



Outfield

- Ideally level 2 matches should be played on natural grass or synthetic grass surfaces but other surfaces (e.g., dirt) may also be approved for use.

Match day set up and pack up

- A system must be established by the committee to determine which teams are responsible for the setting up and packing up of grounds on match days.

Garbage

- Both teams shall be responsible for ensuring that no garbage is left at the ground following the conclusion of the match.

Reporting

Score cards

- Fixtures, results and tables shall be displayed on the JCA website through the CricHQ system.

Umpires' reports

- For each match, an online umpires' report shall be submitted by BOTH umpires.



Captains' reports

- For each match, an online captain's' report shall be submitted by BOTH captains.

Financial report

- At the conclusion of the season the competition organisers must submit a financial report to the JCA.

Awards

- At the conclusion of the season the competition organisers must submit a list of award winners to the JCA, including but not limited to competition Best Batsman, Best Bowler and MVP.

Promotion/media

News articles

- A season preview should be written in English and Japanese and published on the JCA website prior to the start of the season.
- A season summary/review should be written in English and Japanese and published on the JCA website at the conclusion of the season.
- The JCA is seeking volunteer reporters for the JCA website blog. Please contact the JCA Community Cricket Manager for more information.

Twitter

- A twitter hashtag for the competition should be created and participating clubs should be encouraged to use it to tweet results, etc.

Tournament sponsorship

- Sponsors must first be approved by the JCA before any contract is entered into.



JCA Support

The JCA is able to host (主催) competitions/tournaments that meet the level 2 guidelines.

- Use of JCA name on advertising material.
- Use of JCA logo.
- Grounds can be booked in the JCA's name (competition outline needs to be provided with the Organising Committee named as Organiser/主管). The Chairman of the Committee shall be listed as the representative/person responsible.

Level 3

Elite. Quality. A shining sport of choice.

Level 3 competitions are expected to attract media attention and interest from the wider community. With this in mind it is of great importance to maintain high standards for these competitions in order to improve the image of cricket in Japan.



Uniform Regulations

Sponsor approval

- Team sponsors must be approved by the JCA before being added to uniforms, etc.

Undershirt rule

- Any undershirts worn by players must be either the same colour as the uniform or black. Players in the same team should wear the same colour undershirt.

Shoe colour/type

- All players should wear cricket shoes designed by recognised cricket manufacturers.

Coloured, numbered uniforms

- Team uniforms should be coloured and display a playing number on the back. Each player's number should be unique.

Hats/caps

- Each team must supply its players with team hats/caps. Under no circumstances may a player take the field wearing a hat/cap other than the team hat/cap.

Approved manufacturers/designs

- Uniform manufacturers and designs must be approved by the JCA prior to placing the final order.

Training uniform

- If practical teams should have an alternate training uniform, e.g., shorts and training t-shirt, which can be worn during warm ups, breaks and by the 12th man/non-playing members of the squad.

Player presentation

- All players must strive to uphold the image of the sport by wearing clean uniforms. Shirts must be tucked in at all times and backwards caps are not acceptable.

Pads/clads

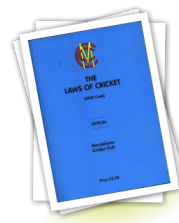
- Pads or clads should be a matching colour to the team uniform.



Policies

The following policies and codes of conduct shall be in effect in all level 3 competitions in Japan. All players, captains, umpires, support staff and administrators are expected to abide by the policies and codes.

- JCA hot weather policy
- JCA disciplinary policy and players' code of conduct
- JCA captains' code of conduct
- JCA umpires' code of conduct
- JCA suspect bowling action policy
- JCA Junior Playing Restrictions



Refer to the JCA website for updated policies and codes of conduct.

Competition Rules & Regulations

Umpires

- Umpires for level 3 matches are to be appointed from the Japan National Umpire Panel.
- All umpires are expected to have completed the JCA Level 2 Umpiring course, including a minimum amount of hours umpiring official matches (level 2 and above)..
- Two umpires must be appointed for each match.
- A Match Referee should also be appointed where possible.

Scoring

- Matches are to be scored live using the CricHQ scoring application. There must also be a paper (hard copy) score kept.
- Where possible independent scorers are to be appointed.

Balls

- JCA Approved 4 piece balls must be used

Team numbers

- 11 a side unless otherwise stipulated by the JCA



Spirit of Cricket

- Competition organisers, captains and umpires must ensure that the spirit of cricket is upheld at all times.

Disciplinary process

- A disciplinary process must be in place for players and officials who breach the code of conduct.

Start times

- Matches must start exactly on time unless delayed by weather or other unavoidable factors.

Playing Conditions

- Must be approved by the JCA and published on the JCA website prior to the beginning of the competition.

Safety Guidelines

Ground check

- Umpires must conduct a safety check on the ground before the match.

Protectors

- Must be worn by batsmen at all times whilst batting.

Helmets

- The JCA strongly recommended that helmets are worn at all times by batsmen, wicket keepers keeping up to the wickets and any fielders positioned in front of the bat within 10 meters of the striker.
- The JCA recommends that all helmets worn are compliant with the new British Standard BS7928:2013.



Insurance

- All players must be covered by appropriate sports insurance.
- The competition must be covered by “Event Insurance” if it is open to the public.

Ground Regulations

Ground size

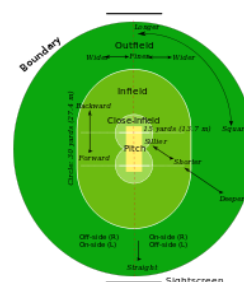
- Where possible the length of each boundary (measured from the center of the pitch) should be no shorter than 55 meters and no longer than 75 meters for men's cricket
- Where possible no shorter than 48 meters and no longer than 68 meters for women's/junior cricket

Pitch

- All pitches must be approved by the JCA before use.
- Both turf and synthetic pitches are acceptable but matches can not be played on bare earth/grass.

Outfield

- Must be natural grass or synthetic grass. Other surfaces, e.g., dirt, are not acceptable.



Flags

- A JCA flag or sign should be visible to spectators at the ground.

Match day set up and pack up

- The home team or designated "home team" shall be responsible for setting up the ground in preparation for the match and also packing up equipment.
- The home team must take any measures deemed necessary to secure safety. This especially applies to ensuring tents are properly pegged down.
- Cricket bags/equipment should be placed neatly in a designated area and not left scattered around.

Garbage

- Both teams shall be responsible for ensuring that no garbage is left at the ground following the conclusion of the match.

Reporting

Score cards

- All score cards shall be displayed live on CricHQ.
- Fixtures, results and tables shall be displayed on the JCA website through the CricHQ system.



Umpires' reports

- For each match, an online umpires' report shall be submitted by BOTH umpires.

Captains' reports

- For each match, an online captain's' report shall be submitted by BOTH captains.

Financial report

- At the conclusion of the season the competition organisers must submit a financial report to the JCA.

Awards

- At the conclusion of the season the competition organisers must submit a list of award winners to the JCA, including but not limited to competition Best Batsman, Best Bowler and MVP.

Promotion/media

News articles

- A news article should be produced after each match in both English and Japanese for the JCA website within 24 hours of the completion of the match.
- The article should be accompanied with high quality photographs of the event, e.g., action shots, celebrations, etc.

Twitter

- Tweets should be sent regularly from an official competition or JCA account.
- A twitter hashtag for the competition should be created.

Live streaming

- Where possible matches should be live streamed using Abema FRESH.
- Please contact the JCA for more information about Abema FRESH.



Tournament sponsorship

- Efforts should be made to attract at least one sponsor for the competition.
- Sponsors must first be approved by the JCA before any contract is entered into.

Community Engagement

- Competition organisers to develop a community engagement strategy.
- Flyers for key events (digital and/or paper) should be distributed at least one month prior to the event.
- Commentators or Have-A-Go instructors, flyers and equipment should be available to engage people who visit the ground.

Invitations

- Event organisers should target local VIPs, guests of honour and local junior and senior cricketers (and families) to attend the event.
- Invitations to be sent at least one month prior to event.
- Event organisers should seek official support (後援) from the local council.

Post-match ceremony

- A post-match ceremony should be held at the conclusion of each match day straight after the end of the match.
- An MVP certificate should be awarded for each match and important guests thanked.

JCA Support

The JCA will be the official host (主催) of competitions/tournaments that meet the level 3 guidelines.

- JCA name and logo to be used on all advertising material.

- Grounds can be booked in the JCA's name (competition outline needs to be provided with the Organising Committee named as Organiser/主管). The Chairman of the Committee or relevant JCA staff member shall be listed as the representative/person responsible.

Guidelines Summary	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Uniforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Same colour shirts (or bibs) & hats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Sponsor approval *Undershirt rule *Coloured, numbered uniforms *Same hats/caps *Players presented neatly *Cricket pants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Sponsor approval *Undershirt rule *Coloured, numbered uniforms *Same hats/caps *Players presented neatly *Cricket pants *Cricket shoes *Approved uniform manufacturers *Pads/clads appropriate colour
Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *JCA hot weather policy *JCA disciplinary policy and players' code of conduct 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *JCA hot weather policy *JCA disciplinary policy and players' code of conduct *JCA captains' code of conduct *JCA umpires' code of conduct *JCA suspect bowling action policy *JCA Junior Playing Restrictions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *JCA hot weather policy *JCA disciplinary policy and players' code of conduct *JCA captains' code of conduct *JCA umpires' code of conduct *JCA suspect bowling action policy *JCA Junior Playing Restrictions
Rules & Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Competition managed by committee *Umpires assigned by committee *At least one score sheet *Balls approved by JCA *Team numbers flexible *Spirit of Cricket *Disciplinary process *Playing Conditions *Communication with JCA *Tournament name approval 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Competition managed by committee *Two umpires for every match *At least two score sheets *Red King balls *11 players per side *Spirit of Cricket *Disciplinary process *Playing Conditions *Punctuality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Umpires appointed from Japan National Umpire Panel *At least two score sheets *CricHQ live scoring *JCA approved balls *11 players per side *Spirit of Cricket *Disciplinary process *Playing Conditions *Matches must start on time
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Helmets recommended (hard ball) *Sports insurance (all players) *Event insurance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Protectors worn by all batsmen *Helmets strongly recommended *Sports insurance (all players) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Ground check *Protectors worn by all batsmen *Helmets strongly recommended *Sports insurance (all players) *Event insurance
Grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Ground size flexible *Variety of pitches can be used *Outfield safety check before first match *System for match day set up and pack up *Clean up garbage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Ground size: men 50m-75m, women 43m-68m. *Hard pitch (approved by JCA) *Grass outfield (where possible) *System for match day set up and pack up *Clean up garbage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Ground size: men 55m-75m, women 48m-68m. *Hard pitch (approved by JCA) *Grass outfield *JCA flags *System for match day set up and pack up *Clean up garbage
Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Annual plan - submit to JCA *End of season report - submit to JCA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Results on CricHQ (within 3 days) *Captain's reports *Umpire's reports *Financial report - submit to JCA *Awards - submit list of award winners to JCA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *CricHQ (live scores) *Captain's reports *Umpire's reports *Financial report - submit to JCA *Awards - submit list of award winners to JCA
Promotion/media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Flyers *Tournament sponsor approval 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *JCA web articles - preseason & postseason *Twitter *Tournament sponsor approval 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *JCA web articles - before/after each event *Regular tweets *Live streaming on Abema FRESH *Tournament sponsor approval *Community engagement - flyers, commentators, have-a-go equipment *Invitations *Official support from local council *Post-match ceremony
JCA Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Official support 後援 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Host 主催 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Host 主催