

JPL MANUAL 2018

Preface

The JPL is designed to be the highest level of domestic cricket in Japan and the showcase with which we promote cricket to a wider audience. As such every effort should be made to make the tournament a successful spectacle.

From 2016, regional associations took over the management of their own representative team, forming the new JPL, a four team tournament featuring representative teams from North, South, East and West Kanto. The tournament is played across three match days, each team having the opportunity to play the three other regional teams once each in a double header for a total of six matches. At the conclusion of the six matches a final will be played between the top two teams.

The JCA appreciates the support of regional associations in ensuring the tournament is a success and recognises the hard work done by volunteers in organising it.

To help regional associations achieve their potential in managing their JPL team and hosting match days the JCA has put together a JPL manual. Items in this manual shall be considered as “minimum standards” in managing JPL teams and organising JPL events.

Purpose of the JPL

- Provide a pathway for players in a region to represent Japan
- Provide high level playing opportunities for players in each region
- Promote cricket in the regional association’s target area and throughout Japan

Management

- The regional association shall manage their own JPL team.
- An official JPL manager will be appointed by the regional association to manage the team.
 - The manager will be responsible for preparing the team for match days.
 - It is expected that many other volunteers from the regional association contribute to making match days a success.

Uniforms

- All teams shall wear coloured uniforms, which will consist of:
 - Shirt - both long sleeve and short sleeve are acceptable
 - Pants
 - Cap

- Players will not be allowed to take the field wearing anything other than their team's full uniform. This includes caps that are not the official team uniform
- Players will be permitted to wear undershirts but these must be either
 - Black OR
 - The colour of the team's uniform
 - White undershirts will not be permitted due to the use of a white ball
- A list of uniform suppliers will be sent to Regional Associations in February but it will be the responsibility of the regional associations to order and pay for their own uniforms in a timely manner.
- Shirts should feature the following:
 - Regional Association logo on left breast
 - Playing number on back of shirt
 - Each player's number should be unique
 - Number should be around 40cm in height and clearly visible to spectators and cameras
- Shirts may also feature the following:
 - Team's main sponsor on midriff area
 - Sponsors must be approved by the JCA before being added to playing uniforms
 - Additional sponsors on right breast, back and sleeve
 - The JCA may reserve the right in future to ask regional associations to add official sponsors' logos to the playing shirt. This will not be the case this year.
 - Player's name below playing number on back
 - Surname's only - nicknames are not acceptable
 - In the case of very long surnames which might not fit on the shirt, abbreviations or first names may be used
 - If in doubt, please contact JCA for clarification
 - Letters should be around 6 cm in height
 - If player's names are to be featured on shirts, it must be ensured that the initial squad is selected early enough to meet the deadline for uniforms to arrive.
- Caps should feature the regional association or team logo on the front
- Uniforms should be predominantly one colour
 - Approved colours:
 - Green (dark or light), Blue (dark or light), Orange, Purple, Yellow, Pink,
 - Disapproved colours:
 - White, Black, Red (in case a red ball is used)
 - Also avoid using white wherever possible on uniform - badge, sponsor, etc.
 - Teams are encouraged to use colours/designs similar to those used in the Australian BBL T20 league

- Teams can not choose the same colour as that which another regional association has already chosen, so please inform the JCA of your intended design before final order.
- Uniform designs should be submitted to the JCA for approval by March 11th
- Uniforms should be ready by May 1st. (There will be a promotional photo shoot shortly after this date)

Team selection

- A selection committee should be set up by the regional association to select the initial squad of 20 and to select the team of eleven (for both morning and afternoon matches) on match days.
 - Selection committee will generally include the JPL manager or the captain of the JPL team
- An initial JPL squad list must be provided to the JCA by April 27th.
 - Initial squad must consist of exactly 20 players
 - Players are eligible if they are registered to a Japan Cup team in the region.
 - In principle the squad should be balanced and consist of the strongest available players
 - Selection Policy template to be provided by the JCA
 - Player names on squad list must be in English and Japanese and should include the club they represent. Examples:
 - Satoshi Nakano 中野聡 (Keio Uni)
 - Prashant Kale プラシャント カレ (Indian Engineers)
 - Squad list should include a captain
 - All Men's National Squad players eligible to represent the regional association must be selected in the squad
 - List to be provided by the JCA
 - The JCA will check the eligibility of players and approve the squad by April 29th.
 - Squads will be announced on the JCA website
 - The squad should also be announced to member clubs of the regional association by email by May 4th.
- Where possible regional associations should follow these guidelines when selecting their initial squad of 20:
 - At least six Japanese players
 - Passport, birth or having played Junior cricket in Japan
 - At least six players under the age of 23 as of April 2nd, 2018
 - At least one player from each Japan Cup team in the region
- After the April 27th deadline a maximum of three players may be added to the squad during the course of the year.
 - Regional associations must inform the JCA before adding players to their squad.
- Players to be selected in the team must come from the official Regional Association JPL squad.

- If players are chosen from outside the official squad, the team will be deemed to have forfeited the match and will receive a points penalty determined by the JCA. In this event, the opposition will be deemed to have won the match.
- Players based overseas who are not currently playing club cricket in Japan will be considered eligible for the JPL under the following conditions:
 - Overseas based player is not currently playing for a Japan Cup team in another region.
 - The selection of overseas based players in the JPL is part of the regional associations strategy to promote cricket in the region, e.g. a well known player who may help to attract spectators and media to matches.
 - No more than four overseas based players in a JPL squad.
 - The JCA is informed in advance of any overseas players who will be added to the squad
- It is essential that all players (including overseas players) are registered with the JCA and have appropriate sports insurance.

Match day

- The host regional association should do everything possible to make sure the visiting team is made to feel welcome and comfortable
 - Water should be available for players of both teams at all times
 - Appropriate shade and seating should be provided for both teams
- It is not compulsory to provide lunch but the host regional association should inform the management of both teams beforehand as to whether lunch will be provided.
- The host regional association will be responsible for setting up the ground and packing up the ground.
- Recommended start times for matches:
 - Match 1: 10:30-13:30
 - Match 2: 14:00-17:00
 - Toss will be done 20-30 minutes before the start of play.
 - If there are any amendments to these times, both teams, the JCA and any important guests should be notified.
 - Regional association officials should ensure that the ground is set up well before the commencement of play.
- Balls:
 - The approved ball for the 2018 JPL is Red King 156g white.
 - Balls can be ordered through the JCA
 - Each team is required to provide one ball for each match (two for each match day).
 - Some spare balls (156g white) should be kept by the scorers table in case the match ball is lost or needs to be replaced.
- A short post-match ceremony, conducted by the host regional association, will be held immediately after the conclusion of the second match which should include:

- Announcement of match results
- Thank you/acknowledgement of:
 - Umpires
 - Volunteers
 - Important guests, e.g., local city officials
 - Event Sponsors
- The player of the match (for both matches and any prizes awarded)
 - Decided by umpires
 - The awarding of prizes for the player of the match or any other gifts/awards will be left up to the host regional association
- Provide information for spectators (especially important guests and sponsors) on the following:
 - The rules of cricket
 - Basic information about the Japan Premier League
 - Information on how to get involved in cricket in their local area
- It is recommended that food and beverages be available at the ground for purchase by spectators
- The JCA encourages all junior players in the target city to attend JPL matches. The regional association should provide some Cricket Blast style activities for junior players during the match day
 - Contact JCA for information on junior promotional activities/strategies
- A scoreboard should be clearly visible to players, umpires and spectators at all times.
 - Scoreboard should be updated at the end of each over or if possible after every ball.
- A first aid kit should be kept at the ground in case of player or spectator injury
- When hosting a match all players in the region not selected in the team should be strongly encouraged to come and support their team.
 - These players should be wearing team uniform and helping in any junior activities
- RAs should use their contacts to try to create a “festival atmosphere” at games.

Umpires

- Umpires will be appointed by the JCA Umpire Coordinator
 - The host organisation must pay for the umpires’ travel costs on request.
 - Umpires will be required to complete an online umpires report after the match.

Ground/pitch

- The following pitch types are approved for use for JPL matches in 2017:
 - Turf
 - At this stage there is only one available - prepared by the JCA at the Sano International Cricket Ground

- A turf pitch at other venues will require significant preparation and the JCA should be consulted before going forward with this
- Synthetic
 - Currently only Sano grounds
- Flicx portable pitch
 - Host regional association should make sure surface beneath the flicx mat is flat and bounce is even.
 - A safety check should be done by match organisers before the commencement of play
- The host regional association is responsible for providing all ground equipment:
 - Stumps, bails, 30 yard markers, boundary ropes/cones
- Boundary size is to be determined by the host regional association but as a general guide boundary length should be between 60-70 metres square of the wicket (as measured from the centre of the pitch to the boundary and a minimum 60-70 metres straight (as measured from the centre of the pitch to the boundary).
- Boundaries can be marked using rope or cones (or both) but must be clearly visible to umpires, players and spectators.

Match day admin

- The host regional association will be responsible for providing two official scorers for the matches.
 - It is important that the score books are kept accurate so the two scorers must be competent and ideally will have completed a JCA scoring course.
 - Where possible scorers will be appropriately dressed. The regional association is to provide a dress code, e.g. regional association polo shirt and black trousers.
- Where possible the score books will be:
 - One paper score book (official copy)
 - One live score book using CricHQ app
 - Please refer to the Club Guide to CricHQ for tips on live scoring
 - A secure 3G/4G/wifi service is necessary
- If, for some reason, the match can not be scored live, the host regional association must ensure that official scores are uploaded to the CricHQ score system by 9pm following the conclusion of the match.
- It is recommend that score updates are regularly tweeted through the regional association's official twitter account with the hashtag *#JPLcricket*
- Each team must provide the umpires and scorers with a (separate) team sheet before the toss.

Media

- One player must be provided for an official photo shoot and promotional session at the request of the JCA. This will be take place on a date to be advised by the JCA.

- Player must bring full uniform to the photo shoot.
- The host regional association should make an effort to contact local media about the event. The JCA may be able to assist in providing contact information for local media outlets but the regional association should be proactive in developing contacts.
- Where possible a regional association should appoint a photographer to take some photographs at the match day
 - A professional photographer may be hired but more realistically a volunteer member of the regional association with a decent camera and photography skills will be used
- The following should be provided to the JCA by 9pm on the following day of the match.
 - Summary of matches in a newspaper article style that should include basic information such as venue, date, teams playing, match results, notable performances
 - As a general guide 200-500 words is appropriate.
 - English and Japanese if possible.
 - Quality photographs of the event
 - Recommended 5-10. Please ensure all players photographed are wearing correct attire in line with the minimum standards stated in the “Uniforms” section of this document.
 - A mix of action shots, celebrations, post-match ceremony, important guests, etc.
 - email match summary and photographs to d-bedingfield@cricket.or.jp

Official Support

- Official support for the event should be sought from the local city (Akishima, Sano, Sanmu, Yokohama).

JCA Support for Regional Associations

Please contact JCA Community Cricket Manager Dhugal Bedingfield (090-8455-4441 d-bedingfield@cricket.or.jp) if you have any questions on the above or require support in achieving these minimum standards.