

Japan Junior Cricket League - Under 15 Playing Conditions

Updated April 1st, 2025

Preface

The Laws of Cricket (THE LAWS OF CRICKET 2017 CODE (3rd Edition – 2022); the “Laws”) will apply to these Playing Conditions, except with regard to changes (set out below)

When applying the U15 Playing Conditions umpires and managers should consider the following key values.

Inclusion: maximizing opportunities for all players to bat, bowl and field, regardless of age or skill level.

Fun: making sure all players develop an enjoyment and love of cricket.

Fairness: teaching kids sportsmanship and the spirit of cricket.

The following playing conditions are to apply to all Under 15 league matches.

Please also pay attention to Junior Weather Policies

1. Team composition
 - Up to 14 players can be named on the team sheet
 - Maximum 11 players on the field
 - A team must have a minimum of seven players to constitute an official match
2. Boys/Girls
 - Mixed teams allowed
3. Age limit
 - Boys born April 2nd, 2010 or after are eligible to play league matches in 2025.
 - Girls born April 2nd, 2008 or after are eligible to play league matches in 2025.
 - Players born before these dates above are not allowed to play.
4. Toss
 - At least 20 minutes before the scheduled start of the match
 - If a team is not available to toss at this time they will be deemed to have lost the toss
5. Length of innings
 - 20 overs
 - A team will bat 20 overs regardless of whether they are bowled out or not, time permitting.
 - If a team is bowled out inside 20 overs they will continue to bat until 80 minutes of batting time has elapsed OR 20 overs have been completed but additional scoring will **not** be recorded.
 - To avoid delayed finishes, if after 90 minutes of the first innings have elapsed, the innings has not yet completed, the innings will be terminated at the end of the over. The team batting second shall face the same number of overs as the team batting first.
6. Over rate

- Coaches are to ensure that teams maintain a bowling rate of at least 15 overs per hour.
- 7. Pitch length
 - Regulation (22 yards)
- 8. Boundaries
 - Must be marked by cones or rope
- 9. Ball
 - 142g white balls will be provided by the JCA.
 - Whenever possible a new ball should be used at the start of each innings.
 - If the ball is not new, coaches must ensure it is fit for play.
 - Two replacement balls must be kept by the scorers table in case the ball is lost.
- 10. Replacement players
 - A maximum of three replacement players may be used during a game.
 - Batting 11 must be named in the scorebook before the start of play.
 - Replacement players may bowl, field and keep wickets.
 - Replacement players may bat after all of the playing eleven have batted but their runs will not be recorded in the score book.
- 11. Declarations
 - Not allowed
- 12. Weather affected matches
 - Declared a draw if 10 overs in each innings is not possible due to weather conditions.
 - If weather interferes with play, match time can be extended by up to half an hour if both coaches agree.
 - If playing time is lost, the number of overs in the match will be reduced by one over for each four minutes of play lost counting back from 20.
 - If an interruption occurs in the innings of a team batting second, its target score will be calculated by multiplying the reduced number of overs available by the average runs per over of the team batting first.
- 13. Intervals
 - 10 minutes between innings
 - One drinks break, not exceeding 5 minutes may be taken midway through each innings.
 - Players should not leave the field of play during a drinks break.
- 14. Dismissals
 - Batter is out when dismissed.
- 15. LBWs
 - Umpires must use extreme caution when awarding LBWs and must be absolutely certain that the appeal is out. i.e, if not 100% sure, give the batter not out.
- 16. Uneven team numbers
 - A team may bat players twice if they have less than 11 players but players must return in ascending order, i.e. the lowest scoring batsman must return first and so on.

- The batting team must provide up to two players if requested to assist with fielding. These players may be rotated as the need arises.

17. No balls/wides

- Any delivery which passes (or would have passed) above the batsman's shoulder, or any full-toss which passes (or would have passed) above the batsman's waist, shall be called a no-ball.
- Umpires/coaches must agree on wide lines before the start of play.
- There shall be no restrictions on the number of wides/no-balls that can be called in an over, but there will be a maximum of 9 deliveries in an over. The free hit rule shall not apply.

18. Double bounce rule

- Normal Cricket Laws apply
- Called a no-ball if the ball, without having touched the bat or person of the striker, bounces more than twice, or rolls along the ground, before reaching the popping crease.

19. Length of overs

- Maximum 9 balls per over (including wides and no-balls)
- There will be no maximum number of deliveries for the **last** over of the innings.

20. Bowling restrictions

- Maximum 4 overs per bowler
- If 20 overs are bowled, a minimum of 8 players must bowl at least one over
- Where there are more than 11 players, any player who is not named in the batting 11 must bowl at least one over or keep wickets.

21. Retirement/batter returning

- Compulsory retirement of batter at the **end of the over** in which they reach 35 runs or 25 balls (whichever comes first)
- Batters may also be retired before they reach 35 runs or 25 balls but may only return at the end of the innings, in the order of the lowest scoring batsmen first.
- Batters who have retired may return after all other batsmen have been dismissed (once).
- For teams with less than eleven players, batters who have retired may return before batsmen who have been dismissed return.

22. Fielding restrictions

- No players may field within 10 metres of the bat except behind square on the off side (between 'point' and the wicketkeeper).
- There will be no 30 yard "inner circle".

23. Wicket keepers

- No more than two wicketkeepers may be used during an innings to ensure there are no undue delays in the match. Wicketkeepers may only be changed during the scheduled drinks break (unless an injury occurs).
- Wicket keepers must wear a helmet when keeping up to the stumps.

24. Umpires

- If possible, a neutral umpire should umpire the match.

- Parents of players are allowed to umpire the match as long as they are suitably aware of the laws of cricket and the junior league playing conditions.
- If no neutral umpire is present, coaches may umpire the match.
- It must be ensured that a square leg umpire is present at all times.
- A player on the batting team can act as square leg umpire if necessary to adjudge stumpings and run outs. The square leg umpire can be rotated as required.

25. Exchange of umpires

- Allowed but umpires must umpire at least 10 overs to ensure some consistency for the players, unless agreement to do otherwise has been reached by the coaches.

26. On field coaching

- Allowed (if a coach is on the field umpiring) but coaches may only provide advice between overs to ensure the match is not unduly delayed.
- At no stage during the match should the coach be on the field unless he/she is umpiring.
- In the interests of player development, coaches should direct their advice to the captain.
- Coaches should refrain from shouting instructions from the boundary line.

27. Scoring

- Two scorers must score each match. Each team should supply one scorer.
- One scorer shall score on paper, the other scorer shall score on the Japan Cricket app.
- If the scores have not been uploaded on the Japan Cricket app at the end of the match, it is the responsibility of the winning team to make sure the scores are uploaded by midnight on the same day.

APPENDIX 1 - Player Safety

It can be reasonably expected that the Japan Under 15 League will be the first experience of competitive hard ball cricket for the majority of players.

The JCA have put in place standard restrictions for fielders as outlined above in point 23, but responsibility for the readiness for individual players taking part must lie with club coaches and managers.

It is recommended that all clubs have a disclaimer for new players who intend to take part in matches. This should be signed by the player/parent acknowledging their awareness of the potential dangers of playing cricket.

If a template is required for such a disclaimer please contact the JCA directly.

