



Season 2026

**General Playing Regulations
and Administration**

-Women's Competitions-

As Approved by CL Women's Committee

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CRICKET LEINSTER WOMEN'S BRANCH GENERAL REGULATIONS [2026]
(Complemented by the (i) League and (ii) Cup Playing regulations)

1 ELIGIBLE PLAYERS

1.1 To be eligible to play in a cricket match, conducted under the auspices of Cricket Leinster (CL), a person must meet one of the following criteria:

- 1.1.1 Be eligible to play international cricket for Ireland under current International Cricket Council (ICC) eligibility regulations,
- 1.1.2 Be an EU national or UK national, resident in Ireland,
- 1.1.3 Be a non-EU national, resident in Ireland, who is entitled to reside and work in Ireland or a full-time student of a recognised second or third level college in Ireland. This regulation requires that the person has the appropriate work permit or employment or student visa, but does not apply to persons permitted to work in Ireland on foot of a Working Holiday Authorisation of less than 12 months duration, nor does it cover non-EU nationals who have come to Ireland by any form of prior arrangement with a Club. Such persons will normally be classed as Overseas Players, in accordance with Regulation 1.2,
- 1.1.4 Be part of 'cricket exchange programme' as approved by CL's Cricket Committee, under Regulation 1.3,
- 1.1.5 Be approved by the Women's Competitions Committee (WCC) to play cricket in Leinster as an Overseas Player, in accordance with Regulation 1.2.

1.2 A club may apply to register an Overseas Player, subject to the following conditions:

- 1.2.1 The application for registration must be made to the Women's Competitions Committee (WCC) before 1st May in each season. In exceptional circumstances a club may apply to register an Overseas Player after 1st May, and it shall be at the discretion of the Women's Competitions Committee (WCC) to determine if such circumstances apply in a particular case,
- 1.2.2 The applicant must have a valid employment visa/work permit, copy of which must be submitted to CL,
- 1.2.3 The applicant must hold suitable coaching qualifications and be available to provide up to two hours coaching services to CL per week, details of which would be agreed between CL and the club,
- 1.2.4 The applicant must provide evidence of police vetting clearance, to satisfy safeguarding requirements,
- 1.2.5 No more than one Overseas Player will be eligible to play for a club in any competitive match played under the auspices of CL, unless and to the extent that the Women's Competitions Committee (WCC) shall determine otherwise.

1.3 To be eligible for registration under Regulation 1.1.4, the following must apply:

- 1.3.1 The application must be made by a second level educational establishment on behalf of a pupil. The application must be submitted by 30th November in the year prior to the season of registration,
- 1.3.2 The age limit should be the same as that for ICC Under 17 tournaments. This applies whether or not the pupil is from an ICC Associate country,
- 1.3.3 Exchanges can be agreed between school and CL Development Officers only. However, in ALL cases, CL's Cricket Committee will approve all agreements and subsequent applications.
- 1.3.4 CL's Cricket Committee will ask clubs to apply to host pupils coming in through CL's Development Officers, and will make the allocation. Criteria for ALL clubs who host pupils are:
 - The club must field a team in the relevant age group in CL youth competitions,
 - They will also ask clubs to nominate a player who will be in the exchange,
 - They must be housed with people of a similar age,
 - Garda Vetting and Child Safeguarding compliance must be in place in both the club and the host house,
 - CL's Cricket Committee must be satisfied that the exchange will benefit both the players and the club,
 - A plan for entertaining the pupil outside cricket must be in place, and submitted with the application.

2 REGISTRATION

- 2.1.1 All players intending to play in the current season must be registered with Cricket Leinster, using the registration system on the Cricket Leinster website. A player will not be permitted to play in a match or be included in starrings until the player has been properly registered in such a manner.
- 2.1.2 The registration process includes the payment of a fee to Cricket Leinster, the level of such fee to be set by the Board of Cricket Leinster.
- 2.1.3 Any queries regarding player identity in competition shall be reported to Women's Competitions Committee (WCC) who may impose such sanction, or report to the disciplinary committee, as seen fit if the Women's Competitions Committee (WCC) are satisfied that any attempt at identity fraud has been committed.
- 2.1.4 It is the responsibility of clubs to ensure that players competing in any match under the aegis of Cricket Leinster are registered. Failure to ensure compliance will result in the Women's Competitions Committee (WCC) either overturning a result, declaring a match void, deducting points or any combination of these sanctions. In extreme cases a monetary fine may be imposed to the club.
- 2.1.5 Any notice required to be given or any correspondence from Cricket Leinster shall be sent by email to the address provided by the club concerned or, if no such address is provided, to the Secretary of the club as set out on the Cricket Leinster website. Correspondence from clubs should be sent by email to womens@cricketleinster.ie.

3 STARRING LISTS

- 3.1.1 Each participating club shall, prior to the commencement of the league competition, submit a starting list of six named members of the eleven of each team registered in the league. This will be submitted on the Cricket Leinster website.
 - 3.1.1.1 The six players so starred shall not be eligible to play for any lower team(s) of the club in a league competition.
 - 3.1.1.2 The five un-starred players can play for the next lowest team in the club, subject to the following:
 - a) Any three un-starred players shall be permitted to play in any league match for the next lowest team, provided that the lower team is playing in the division immediately below that in which the team for which the players are registered plays.
 - b) Any two un-starred players shall be permitted in any league match for the next lowest team, if that lower team is playing in a league that is two divisions below that in which the team for which the players are registered plays.
 - c) Only one un-starred player shall be permitted to play in any league match for the next lowest team, if that lower team is playing in a league that is three divisions below that in which the team for which the players are registered plays.
 - d) No player who has played at State/provincial, or International level in the two previous years is eligible to play in any league competition below Division 1/Senior Cup without the permission of the Women's Competitions Committee (WCC).
 - e) A player shall not be permitted to play in a Cup final if they have not played in a previous round of the relevant competition without the advance permission of the Women's Competitions Committee (WCC).
- 3.1.2 Clubs are required to submit revised team lists on the Cricket Leinster website on each of the following dates, April 12th, May 3rd, June 7th, July 5th, August 2nd, to become effective from the following Saturday. This list is subject to ratification by the Women's Competitions Committee (WCC) at its monthly meeting. A five league point penalty will be applied for late starring lists.
 - a) Players named on revised lists are required to have played for the team in the last starring period (the previous month) and be available to play on a regular basis in the next starring period (the upcoming month).
 - b) Players not available should not be included on a starring list and are regarded as other registered players.
 - c) Such players are not necessarily eligible for all levels. They should play only at a level broadly commensurate with the players ability and in accordance with the level at which the player may have been starred and/or played in the recent past.
 - d) A club may request a ruling on any such player at the time when a list is being submitted, and should, prior to the player appearing in a fixture, request a ruling at that point also.
 - e) If clubs are found to have included players in the starring lists who should have been removed, they may face

a penalty, to be determined by the Women's Competitions Committee (WCC).

4 PENALTIES

- 4.1.1 If it becomes evident to the Women's Competitions Committee (WCC) that a breach of these regulations has occurred, the WCC shall have the authority to implement any of the following (including a combination):
- issue a warning to the club concerned.
 - impose a penalty including the deduction of points, the declaration of a match to be void, or the reversal of the result of any match affected by the breach of the regulations.
 - report the incident to the disciplinary committee.
- 4.1.2 The Women's Competitions Committee (WCC) reserves the right to act upon any incident that it considers against the principle of a duty to act fairly, that is not specifically covered by these regulations.
- 4.1.3 Any team which concedes a walkover will be subject to a penalty of five points on its first offence, the Women's Committee reserves the right to increase this sanction with second or subsequent offences.
- 4.1.3.1 Any side in receipt of a walkover in league competitions will receive the full allocation of 25 points.
- 4.1.3.2 Any team that concedes more than three walkovers in a season across all competitions could be withdrawn from competition, subject to the decision of the Women's Competitions Committee (WCC).

5 MATCH BALLS

- 5.1.1 Only four-piece leather balls may be used in Cup and League games across all divisions. Complaints regarding balls should be made to the Women's Competitions Committee (WCC).
- 5.1.2 For Premier and Division 2-5 League and/or Cup fixtures, the prescribed pink 5oz Ed Sports cricket ball must be used for all matches.
- 5.1.3 For Premier and Division 2-5 League and/or Cup fixtures – a new ball must be used for each innings

6 LEAGUE STRUCTURES

- 6.1.1 All leagues will be played on a 20 over match basis only.
- 6.1.2 In all leagues, placings will be decided on the basis of the total number of points accrued.
- 6.1.3 In the event of two teams finishing exactly level on points obtained in a final league table, the following system shall be used to resolve the matter
- a) if two teams tie - points obtained in matches between the teams
 - b) if more than two teams tie or if a) does not resolve it, then all wickets taken in all league matches will be used.
 - c) If b) still does not separate the teams, then aggregate runs scored in all league matches will be used.
- 6.1.4 Teams for each league will be determined by the Women's Competitions Committee (WCC) at the beginning of each season. While there is no automatic promotion/relegation, the standings from the previous season will be considered as a contributing factor.
- 6.1.5 Promotion & Relegation
- 6.1.5.1.1 *Regarding the Premier League, the maximum number of teams in this league shall never exceed 9 (nine)*
- 6.1.5.1.2 *This format will be reviewed annually by the Women's Committee, and clubs should be aware that finishing in the bottom two would always qualify a team for relegation for the following season*
- 6.1.5.1.3 *At such a point when a tenth team earns, by way of league position, promotion to the Premier League, the number of teams in the league will revert to 8 (eight) in order to reflect the preferred and optimum competition format*

7 FIXTURES

- 7.1.1 Fixtures for Division 1 and all Cup Competitions shall be made by Cricket Leinster as part of the central fixture making process.
- 7.1.2 Fixtures for all other divisions shall be made by the clubs and ratified by the Women's Competitions Committee (WCC) and Cricket Leinster.

8 POSTPONEMENTS AND REFIXES

- 8.1.1 Fixtures cannot be postponed and rearranged without the consent of the Women's Competitions Committee (WCC).
- 8.1.2 All matches not played on the fixed date must be notified to the Women's Competitions Committee (WCC).
- 8.1.3 With the exception of Premiers, all teams must play each other at least once. Should the first scheduled match be postponed for any reason then the match must be refixed. Should the second scheduled match between two teams be postponed for any reason, it may be refixed by agreement between the clubs, however failure to do so will result in a No Result, meaning 12.5 points to each team.
- 8.1.4 The home team shall notify the Team Secretary of the away team at least 2 hours prior to the scheduled commencement of play if it is known that a match is to be cancelled due to bad weather.
- 8.1.5 Inability to field a side due to a lack of players is not sufficient a reason for cancellation of a match. Any team cancelling a match for this reason shall forfeit the points of the match, subject to confirmation by the Women's Competitions Committee. In general, the minimum number of players needed to fulfil a fixture is seven, and clubs should fulfil games where this many players are available to them.
- 8.1.6 Lack of availability of international players is not grounds for a refix, unless sanctioned by the Women's Competitions Committee.
- 8.1.7 The Women's Competitions Committee reserves the right to overrule a No Result or Walkover, in a situation where a game not played could independently and materially affect the final league standings with regards to the league winners, promotion or relegation positions.

9 SUBMISSION OF MATCH INFORMATION

- 9.1.1 Official scorecards MUST be submitted by the home team to within 4 days of the match being played. A five point penalty will apply for late submission of scorecards.
- 9.1.2 In All Divisions, no bonus points will be awarded in the event that a match is tied or is decided by a bowl out.
- 9.1.3 In matches where there are officially appointed umpires the captains of both sides are required to submit Umpire Reports via <http://www.whotheumpire.com>

10 SAFETY OF YOUNG PLAYERS

- 10.1.1 To support the health and wellbeing of our young players, a number of precautions/restrictions apply. These are contained in an appendix in each of the various sets of competition regulations.

11 CHILD PROTECTION

- 11.1.1 The provisions set out in the Child Protection section on the Cricket Leinster website apply to all activities.

12 UNFAIR PLAY

- 12.1.1 Provisions covering this are contained in the various competition regulations.

13 SUSPECT BOWLING ACTIONS

13.1.1 LCUSA Procedure

The following is the recommended process to be followed in the event that an Umpire suspects that, in the umpires opinion, an individual player's bowling action may not conform to the Laws of Cricket.* NOTE: This process does not apply to a clear and obvious contravention of Law 24.2, which shall be applied at all times.

13.1.1.1 Occurrence and Sighting

- a) On the first occurrence in a match of what the umpire suspects is an illegal action the umpire should make a note, to be used as a formal record if required in future, containing the name of the player, over and ball.
- b) Upon a second occurrence (recorded as above) the umpire concerned should first establish if the partner umpire has similar concerns / recordings.
- c) The Captain of the fielding side must be alerted in the presence of both umpires as to the nature and recorded facts of the observations and informed that a report will be made in writing to the LCU&SA immediately following the completion of the game. It is the responsibility of the Captain to inform

the player concerned and the game should continue without undue delay. The calling of subsequent “No Balls” should be discouraged as finite assessment would not have been made at that time.

- d) If in the opinion of BOTH Umpires their concern regarding the player’s bowling action is of such a nature that it could affect the game itself, then TOGETHER they may agree to:
 - i. Advise the Fielding Captain of the concerns and recommend that the captain takes appropriate action, which could mean amending delivery action or remove from bowling attack.
 - ii. Inform the Captain, who will inform the bowler, that each subsequent delivery, suspected to be illegal, WILL be called “No Ball”.

13.1.1.2 Formal reporting and subsequent determining process

- e) Post-Match Report - A concise report must be written by the observing Umpire(s) and signed by both Officials to be sent within 48 hours of the game to the LCU&SA Honorary Secretary.
- f) Upon receipt of the report the details of the report will be entered into a database maintained by the LCU&SA Hon Secretary only. For information purposes the LCU&SA will make regular reports to the Cricket Leinster group advising of the number of reports on the database.
- g) If the report is the second regarding the player and the players bowling action, within any 36 month period, the LCU&SA will notify the relevant Cricket Leinster group (OCC, Womens Competitions Committee, Youth Competitions Committee) - Subsequent reports from the same umpire will not count as a second report. The player must not bowl until an assessment of the bowling action has taken place.
- h) The relevant Cricket Leinster group secretary refers the issue to the players club advising that CL carry out an internal assessment and make a report back to that group. This assessment and report should happen within a 14 day period of notification. (See 20.2 and 20.3 below re criteria)
- i) This report is considered by the Cricket Leinster Director of Coaching (DOC)
 - i. If that report clears the bowlers action and the report is accepted by the DOC, the player is free to bowl in all competitions.
 - ii. If that report identifies an issue with the bowlers action OR if the conclusions of the report are not accepted by the DOC, an independent review will be made of the bowlers action. This will be done under the auspices of the DOC or designated representative
 - iii. The Independent review clears the bowlers action. The player is then free to bowl in all competitions. OR The Independent review identifies the need for remedial work to the bowlers action,
 - Remedial action is undertaken by the bowler.
 - A further independent review is carried out . Revert to (k) etc..

14 Cricket Leinster Criteria for Evaluating Suspect Bowling Actions

- a) If a bowler has been the subject of two umpires’ reports relating to a suspect action (as outlined in the Cricket Leinster “Suspect Bowling Action Reporting Process” available in the Regulations/Guidance section of the Cricket Leinster website), the player’s action will be assessed to determine if the action is legal or not.
- b) If video footage is required to be analysed by the Cricket Leinster Suspect Actions Review Group, this must be submitted as outlined in 20.3 below. Any such footage will be reviewed by the group and a determination made as to the fairness of the action, based on the ICC Regulations for Review of Suspected Illegal Bowling Actions, which sets a limit of 15 degrees of straightening of the arm during the action:
- c) Outcome of review:
 - i. The review clears the bowlers action – see 20.1.(xii) above.
 - ii. Where the review determines that one or more, but not all, types of delivery are illegal, the bowler may not subsequently bowl the delivery or deliveries identified as illegal in a match, until remedial work has been completed and video evidence submitted to verify the legality of the amended action (as outlined in the Reporting Process). The bowler may continue to bowl the delivery or deliveries determined to be legal during the review. This information will be conveyed to the player’s club and to the LCU&SA to ensure correct implementation of the decision.
- d) In order for a type of delivery to be deemed illegal during the review process, only one example of the delivery need be

determined to be illegal (i.e. above the 15 degree limit for straightening of the arm).

15 Cricket Leinster Guidelines for Video Recording of Bowlers Reported for Suspect Actions

- a) In order for the club to properly assess its own player, it may have to review video evidence. If it becomes necessary for the CL Suspect Actions Review Group to assess the action, then video evidence will be required. In order to ensure consistency of the evaluation process, the following guidelines on video recording of bowlers have been prepared:
- i. To ensure the highest quality of slow motion or still images of the video, the recording should be done with the maximum possible number of frames per second. This is particularly important if it becomes necessary to use biomechanical software to evaluate the angle of the bowling arm throughout the delivery. Many smart phones and tablets are capable of recording video at 60 frames per second, and the more modern devices can record at even higher speeds. Dedicated video cameras may be capable of even higher frame speeds. In order for accurate analysis to be performed of still frames from the video, 50 frames per second is the minimum speed required.
 - ii. The bowler should be recorded from (i) side-on and from (ii) behind for each type of delivery:
 - "Side-on" means level with the popping crease on the same side as the bowling arm, i.e. on the leg side for a right arm bowler bowling to a right handed batter.
 - "Behind" means directly back from the bowler's end umpiring position.
 - Avoid filming of the bowler against a dark background as this makes it more difficult to evaluate the angle of the bowling arm throughout the action.
 - iii. The recording should be made from a distance far enough back in each case (but no further) to ensure that the bowler's body, including all four limbs, is fully visible throughout the action.
 - iv. The bowler should wear a short-sleeved top for the video recording, to ensure that the positions of the upper and lower arms can be accurately determined throughout the action.
 - v. The recording should include the bowler's stock delivery and any variations bowled – e.g. alternate ball, quicker ball etc. These should all be bowled at normal match speed. Three examples of each delivery should be filmed from each of (i) side-on and (ii) behind.
 - vi. A voice over on the recording should identify each of the deliveries as it is about to be bowled.
 - vii. It may be necessary to submit a number of separate emails to the Women's Competitions Committee (WCC) if the total file size is too large for transmission in a single email.

16 OVERRIDING DETERMINATION

16.1 Documentation not aligned

16.1.1 In the event of any Cricket Leinster competition documentation providing a contradiction/discrepancy or misaligned details, the General Player Regulations and Administration document will supersede any other document.

16.1.2 Any discrepancies related to competition documentation should be reported to the Women's Competitions Committee (WCC) as soon as possible, noting that any determined amendment (if agreed by the WCC) may be either (i) immediate or (ii) delayed until following seasons.

16.2 Overriding discretion

16.2.1 Notwithstanding the provisions of clauses herein and for the avoidance of doubt, the Women's Competitions Committee (WCC) shall have the ability at any time to determine at its sole and absolute discretion, decisions which may affect a player, team and/or club in accordance with what the Women's Competitions Committee (WCC) deems shall be in the best interest of Cricket Leinster and/or the game of cricket.

17 LODGING A DISPUTE

17.1.1 Any disputes which arise should be notified to the Women's Competitions Committee (womens@cricketleinster.ie) in writing within 3 days of the dispute arising. This may be within 3 days of the fixture (if a dispute arises from on-field matters) or 3 days of a scorecard being uploaded to the website (which is subject to a potential 4 day deadline of its own). The appeals process for any decisions made by the WCC are subject to escalation to the CL Board, in line with the CL Company Management Regulations.

17.1.2 The Women's Competitions Committee will adjudicate on all matters relating to the playing conditions of the Women's Competitions as laid down. Any disputes which arise containing a potential breach of disciplinary regulations will be escalated to the CL Disciplinary Committee