



Sussex Cricket Foundation Women & Girls Leagues/Competitions 2018

The women and girls club leagues/competitions have been running for the last 12 years and over this time we have made changes to try and make the leagues work best for the clubs.

Over the last couple of years there have been a significant number of matches that have been cancelled or conceded by clubs, for several reasons. From the survey that went out to clubs it included, not enough girls available and communication between clubs, with some clubs, after much chasing, were still unable to get hold of a club.

We really need to stop matches been conceded or cancelled because this is having a massive impact on women and girls continuing to play cricket and even the volunteers who put all the time into making sure matches are played and giving the women and girls an opportunity to play cricket.

The Sussex Cricket Foundation decided that we needed to bring a small working group together to discuss the areas in Women and Girls cricket that need addressing to help improve the structure at the bottom end more than anything and look at ways we can improve the women and girls club league structure. We have had two meetings already to address ways of improving certain areas, and the most recent meeting was on the leagues and competitions we run for Women and girls in the county and if we need to make changes and changes of formats.

The meeting we had yesterday with regards to some changes to the leagues and competitions we run, was in my opinion very productive and exciting for the opportunities we are going to be giving Women and Girls club cricketers this summer. I am aware not all changes will please all clubs, but from my point of view we must come up with a new way of getting more games played and to try and stop having matches cancelled in the summer.

There are a couple of small changes and a couple of significant changes one being the under 15 leagues will now be the under 16 leagues (so it will be under 11s, under 13s and under 16s at age group). Also, the under 13 and under 16 league will have set fixture dates set by the Sussex Cricket Foundation and this will be in place for the next few years.

Below I have given a brief of any changes and the leagues/competitions individually we are running so you can have a read through before deciding on entries. I would ask that when you enter, you know now you will be able to fulfil the fixture.

The only age group you do not need to fully commit to right now will be the under 11s, as there is a significant change of what we will be running, but have set some dates so you know in advance of when games are, these can be confirmed nearer to each date and will be explained when you see the changes to the under 11s.

Please note so that we can get all the fixtures completed ASAP, so you can get pitches sorted, there is only a small window to enter the leagues for this summer. All entries will need to be sent to me no later than Tuesday 16th January.

Sussex Cricket Foundation Leagues/Formats – 2018

- ***Under 11s***

- The under 11s will be festival days run by the Sussex Cricket Foundation (like Lady Tavs days)
- There will be 9 dates and we will be coming out to clubs to ask if we can use their ground on one of the dates (otherwise if a central venue needed that is not a club then there will be a cost to clubs)
- Dates are set by the Sussex Cricket Foundation, clubs do not need to enter all of them they can enter 4 or as many as they want, and a decision can be made nearer to the season.
- All the games will be 6 A-Side for 2018
- The length of the pitch will be 15 yards and there will be smaller boundaries
- Teams can enter more than one team on the day, we can have “All-star” teams if there are some girls who either do not have a club and want to come and play or if a club brings more than 6 on the day.
- There will be different formats at each tournament, so one week we may do pairs cricket with scoring zones, another week we may do rolling innings, so if a team is out within the number of overs then batsman can come back in etc. We want to give the girls every opportunity to play matches and by doing different formats it gives them that chance and we can see which the girls prefer. We will obviously inform the clubs the format before.
- If clubs know they have a strong team one day and want to play against other stronger teams we can organise that on the day, or if clubs have a very new side and want to play a side on that similar level we can arrange that as well.
- There are so many options we can try to give girls the opportunity to experience cricket, the only rules that will stay the same will be 6 A-Side and the length of the pitch.
- Dates I am suggesting holding these under 11 festival matches are as follows (please note I will be coming out to clubs to host them)
- Monday 7th May, Sunday 20th May, Monday 28th May, Thursday 31st May, Sunday 10th June, Sunday 17th June, Sunday 15th July, Sunday 29th July, Sunday 5th August.

- ***Under 13s Hardball League***

- Set fixture dates set out by the Sussex Cricket Foundation. Under 13 matches will be put on to be played on a Tuesday.
- Same format as previous years, so first set of matches will be pairs cricket (16 overs), second set of matches (when you play the clubs already played a 2nd time) proper T20 cricket when they are out they are out including LBW.
- We have increased the retirement in T20 cricket to 30 runs.
- It will remain 8 A-Side, but if teams are struggling to get 8 players and do not have any capable U11 players, teams can play no more than two U14 players up, but they cannot be County players, this is only if you are struggling to get 8 out.
- Length of the pitch will be 19 yards with smaller boundaries
- Bowl from one end to allow for matches to be quicker.

- ***Under 16s Hardball League***
 - No longer under 15s, will now be an under 16 league.
 - 8 A-Side, but if clubs are struggling to get 8 players they can play one under 17 player up if they are not a county player.
 - Set fixture dates set out by the Sussex Cricket Foundation. Under 16 matches will be played on a Thursday.
 - Same format as in previous seasons T20 8 A-Side when they are out they are out and includes LBW decisions.
 - We have increased the retirement of a batsman to 30 runs.

- ***Lady Taverners U11 & U13 One Day Festival***
 - We will run the Lady Taverners one-day club festival which are softball festivals. One of the under 11 dates already given will be the Lady Taverners U11 tournament and a date for the under 13s will be confirmed shortly

- ***Women's T20 8 A-Side League***
 - The format will remain the same as in previous years, where we will have regionalised groups and then semi-finals and finals.
 - There will be no fixed dates set out for this league, but the Sussex Cricket Foundation will send them out recommending they be played on a certain week. It will be down to the clubs to decide on dates with one another.
 - Home and Away fixtures
 - Batsman will retire on 30 runs
 - In the rules it will be added on what will happen if two teams are on the same number of points at the end of the group rounds.

- ***Women's 35 over League***
 - League will be 11 A-Side, if teams are struggling to get 11 and can only play 9 please continue to play with just 9 players that week.
 - If clubs have Women who want to play in this league/format but are aware they do not have 11 we are happy for clubs to combine. There will be a box to tick on the entry form if you wish to do this.
 - Fixtures will be set by the Sussex Cricket Foundation and will be on Sunday's
 - There will be a restriction on the number of Women's 1st Team County players a club can have play in this league and their will be restrictions on when they can bat and bowl as we don't want them dominating. (There is no restriction on County age group players, only players who play for the full Sussex Women's squad)
 - There will be no retirements or fielding restrictions

- ***Women's Softball***

- As yet we have not had anything confirmed from the ECB with regards to Women's Softball, we know something will be happening but as yet we do not know what the offer looks like until we get confirmation from the ECB. As soon as we are aware we will let clubs know.

- ***Girls Festival Week***

- At the development group meeting it was discussed on perhaps having a girls' festival week during the summer holiday's like the boys have. We would like to put it out there if clubs were interested in a girls' festival week and which age group would they prefer. As yet we do not know what it would look like we just need to gauge interest first from clubs before committing to running one.

- ***Emergency Fixture***

- With games cancelled at short notice and teams available to play and who have a pitch we are looking to see if we can set something up on play cricket so that if a club has a free weekend and has a pitch and would like a game could just put it on play cricket to see if another club can get a team and play them. Also, if you tweet @SussexWomen looking for a match we can put it out there to clubs as well.