

BY-LAWS AND GENERAL REGULATIONS

Changes have been made to the 1980 Code of Laws, now known as the 2000 Code. These Laws shall only apply, however, where official umpires have been appointed in Senior Leagues. In leagues below this, refer to general provisions for exclusion of penalty extras.

1. DEFINITIONS

See page preceding Code of Behaviour.

2. LEAGUE ENTRIES

2.1 Dispatch of entry forms

League entry forms are e-mailed to the latest address of the club contact person (chairperson/secretary) in the records of the GCB at the time of posting. The forms are usually posted at the beginning of July each year. No responsibility can be accepted for non-receipt of league entry forms in cases where addresses/telephone/telefax information has been changed without notifying the Board.

2.2 Completion of entry forms

All league entry forms shall be completed and returned to the GCB by not later than the closing date stated on the entry forms. The prescribed entry fee shall accompany the form, which will not be considered as having been accepted without the entry fee.

2.3 Late entries

Under **NO CIRCUMSTANCES** whatsoever will late entries be accepted.

2.4 New entrants

Attention is drawn to the fact that acceptance of new entrants to the leagues is dependent upon these clubs having a ground, and at least two teams, unless otherwise decided by the GCB.

2.5 Refusal of entry to competition

The Board may, in its absolute discretion, refuse the entry of any team to any competition.

3. CLUB ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE/TELEFAX/E-MAIL NUMBERS

3.1 Clubs are requested to notify the GCB offices of any change in contact person, address, telephone, e-mail or telefax number. It is vital that accurate information appears in the Blue Book and that the GCB's records are kept up to date (see 2.1).

3.2 Errors and Omissions : Clubs are requested to check the details in the Blue Book concerning their clubs and advise the GCB of any errors or omissions that may have occurred.

4. **COMMUNICATION IN GENERAL**

Clubs are encouraged, wherever feasible or appropriate, to telefax information to the Board (0865 864 498) or to Sherina Desai (sherina@cricketgauteng.co.za).

5. **CONTACTING CLUBS**

It is the responsibility of all clubs to contact one another **no fewer than four (4) days** before a match to ensure that all arrangements for the match, meals included, are understood (see 17). No excuse will be accepted for the failure of a team to find a ground on which a match is scheduled to be played. A ground locality schedule is included in this Blue Book.

6. **LEAGUE COMPETITIONS – FIXTURES**

6.1 **Arranging of fixtures**

At least fourteen (14) days before the commencement of the season, the Board shall arrange the composition of the leagues, the teams competing in them and the dates of matches in the various competitions.

6.2 **Prohibition on alteration/postponement of fixtures**

6.2.1 The dates and venues of matches as drawn and set out in the Blue Book and those drawn according to the provisions of 6.1 shall not be altered or postponed without the prior consent of the Board. In the case where, on the day of the match, conditions are unfavourable for play at the scheduled ground, the fixture may not be moved under any circumstances to the away team's grounds. **All attempts must be made by the home team to ensure that the venue is playable.**

6.2.2 No club shall be entitled to claim **postponement** of any fixture, but the Board may, at its discretion, grant a postponement in those cases considered advisable. In any event, postponements shall be agreed to by the Board only if a written, well-motivated application is made.

6.2.3 The application for postponement, which shall be lodged at the Board's office **at least seven (7) days** before the date of the scheduled fixture, shall state the teams playing the match, the league in which it is drawn, the original scheduled date and venue and the proposed date for the re-arranged fixture. The application may take the form of one or more letters, telefaxes or e-mail provided that the letters are signed by authorised officials of the relevant clubs. Any postponements must be applied for in writing by both club chairmen (or executive member).

6.2.4 The GCB will inform both clubs of its decision on the application for the alteration/postponement of the fixture.

6.3 **Permission not granted**

In the event of the Board's refusal to grant permission for a postponement and the match fails to take place as scheduled, the matter shall be dealt with in terms of 6.4.

6.4 **Team defaults in fulfilling fixture**

Matches conceded by default shall be recorded as played. (See penalty provisions under 20.2).

6.5 **Three defaults by team or withdrawal from competition**

If a team defaults on three occasions during the season, it will be expelled from the competition in that league. In this case and the case of a team that is withdrawn from a competition by its club, the record of the team shall be expunged from the log and the club shall forfeit the team's right or privilege to participate in a distribution of league or other sponsorship funds. **In either event, the Board may impose a fine of up to R500 (five hundred rand).**

A team that has been either expelled or withdrawn from a competition shall have not right to re-instatement to the competition the following season. **Any re-instatement shall be at the Board's discretion** (see 2.5).

6.6 **Team replacing defaulting team – average points will apply.**

7. **TRANSFERS**

7.1 **Transfers**

Any player wishing to transfer from one club to another *at any time* (during or out of season) shall make written application to his club for its approval which will then be forwarded to the Board. Unless otherwise permitted by the Board, a player so transferring shall not play for his new club until the expiry of **fourteen (14) days**. A breach of this rule shall be subject to penalties (see 20.5).

7.2 **Clearance certificate required to transfer**

No club shall be entitled as a playing member any person who has previously played for another club in any competition organized by the Board, or any other provincial union, without first obtaining a clearance certificate from the other club or union. The clearance certificate shall state that the member applying for admission is in good standing and not financially indebted to that club. **A club shall not unreasonably withhold the issuing of a clearance certificate. A clearance certificate is required, irrespective of whether the transfer takes place in or out of season.**

7.3 **Dual club membership – Exception to the transfer rule**

Notwithstanding the provisions of 7.1 and 7.2, the Board may, at its sole discretion, permit a player registered with a non-Premier League club ("the feeder club") to play for a Premier League club ("Premier Club").

In granting its consent in terms hereof, the Board may stipulate such terms and conditions with regard to the dual club membership, grants and subsidies as shall be appropriate in the circumstances.

In the event of a player from a feeder club playing for a Premier League club, the Premier club shall be entitled, at the sole discretion of the Board, to loan a player registered with it to the feeder club for the loss of the feeder club's player. The Board may, in granting consent, stipulate such terms and conditions with regard to the dual club membership, grants and subsidies as shall be appropriate in the circumstances.

Note : The objective of this by-law is to encourage feeder clubs to give impetus to the transformation process and to offer opportunities to young and talented players to play at a higher level without forfeiting membership of the feeder club. The implementation of this by-law will be monitored and dual club membership will not be permitted if the Board considers that the objectives of the Board are not being complied with.

7.4 **Playing for a club whilst registered with another provincial union**

No player shall be allowed to play for a club affiliated to the Board while he is registered with or playing for a club affiliated to another provincial union. A breach of this rule shall be subject to penalties (see 20.6).

8. **DEMOTIONS**

8.1 **Restriction on provincial players**

No current Gauteng provincial cricketer, i.e. a player who has played provincial cricket during the previous **twelve (12) months**, shall play in any competition below senior leagues without the prior consent of the Board. Any provincial player who normally appeared in the Premier League the previous season and who transfers to a lower league club, will prejudice his chances of selection for the provincial senior team.

8.2 **Restriction on all players**

In all instances clubs with more than one (1) team in competition may demote players from a higher league to a lower league, provided that no player shall be allowed to play in a lower league after playing **four (4) or more consecutive matches** in a higher league without the consent of the Board.

For the purpose of this ruling, the Saturday and Sunday competitions are considered entirely separate. A player in Saturday league may play in a higher or lower league in the Sunday league, and vice versa. Provided that the Board shall in the circumstances envisaged by 7.3 permit the promotion/demotion of players.

It is not the intention of the Board to inhibit the natural demotion of players losing form, but it is in the interests of the clubs to consult the Board in order to avoid

disputes and unpleasantness arising from demotions. A breach of this rule shall be subject to penalties (see 20.8).

9. OBLIGATION OF PLAYERS TO THE BOARD

9.1 Restriction on player during representative match

No player selected for any representative match arranged by the Board, i.e. provincial, international or any other special match, including inter-zonal matches, may, on a rest day during such match, take part in any form of organized or representative sport without the prior consent of the Board.

9.2 No provincial cricketer to play outside area of jurisdiction

No current Gauteng provincial cricketer shall play in matches in areas outside the jurisdiction of the Board at any time during the season without the prior consent of the Board.

10. PROVINCIAL QUALIFICATIONS

A player is eligible to play for the province in which he plays his club cricket.

11. OVERSEAS PROFESSIONALS

11.1 Definition of overseas professional

An overseas professional is defined as a cricketer neither born in, nor a permanent resident of South Africa and who has played the majority of his cricket in a country other than South Africa and has been remunerated directly for his services as a fulltime cricketer in such country.

11.2 Consent of Board required

Any club shall be entitled to play one (1) overseas professional as defined in 11.1 above, in a league team, after the prior consent of the Board has been obtained. The Board may, in particular circumstances, permit certain clubs to field more than one (1) overseas professional per team.

11.3 Penalties if consent not obtained

If a club fails to comply with 11.2 above, it shall be liable automatically to a penalty (see 20.9).

12. GROUNDS AND PITCHES

12.1 Local council grounds

Clubs allocated local council grounds are responsible for the care, maintenance, preparation and marking of the pitch and for the demarcation of the boundary. **This is *not* the responsibility of the GCB or the local council.** The responsibility of the local council is limited to the maintenance of the outfield.

12.2 Clubs sharing grounds

Clubs sharing local council grounds are responsible for making mutually acceptable arrangements for the upkeep of their pitch.

12.3 Correct and adequate marking of pitches

It is the responsibility of the host club to ensure that the pitch upon which it is to play is properly and adequately marked, including the marks for the danger area and the wide delivery marks when a limited overs competition is to be played. A diagram showing the correct markings and dimensions is given at the end of the Blue Book.

Umpires are to report incorrectly or inadequately marked pitches to the GCB for the appropriate action to be taken.

12.3.1 Boundaries – Refer law 19 in Code 2000

19.1 The boundary of the field of play –

- a) Before the toss, the umpires shall agree the boundary of the field of play with both captains. The boundary shall, if possible, be marked along its whole length;
- b) The boundary shall be agreed so that no part of any sightscreen is within the field of play;
- c) An obstacle or person within the field of play shall not be regarded as a boundary unless so decided by the umpires before the toss. See Law 3.4ii (to inform captains and scorers);

19.2 Defining the boundary – boundary marking –

- a) Wherever practicable the boundary shall be marked by means of a white line or a rope laid along the ground;
- b) If the boundary is marked by a white line –
 - i) The inside edge of the line shall be the boundary edge;
 - ii) A flag, post or board used merely to highlight the position of a line marked on the ground must be placed outside the boundary edge and is not itself to be regarded as defining or making the boundary. Note, however, the provisions of c) below.
- d) If the boundary edge is not defined as in b) or c) above, the umpires and captains must agree, before the toss, what line will be the boundary edge. Where there is no physical marker for a section of boundary, the boundary edge shall be the imaginary straight line joining the two nearest marked points of the boundary edge;
- e) If a solid object used to mark the boundary is disturbed for any reason during play, then, if possible, it shall be restored to its original position as soon as the ball is dead. If this is not possible, then –

- i) If some part of the fence or other marker has come within the field of play, that portion is to be removed from the field of play as soon as the ball is dead;
- ii) The line where the base of the fence or marker originally stood shall define the boundary edge.

12.3.2 Marking of boundaries

The boundaries of the playing area must be adequately marked so that there can be no confusion as to the position of the line of the boundary. Umpires are to report inadequately marked boundaries to the GCB for the appropriate action to be taken.

12.3.3 Astro turf pitches

Certain clubs are equipped with Astro turf pitches. Players are instructed **not** to wear spiked boots when playing on these surfaces as serious damage is caused which leads to considerable expense in carrying out repairs. Any player or club that wilfully damages an Astro turf pitches will be held liable for the costs of repair or replacement.

Every attempt has been made to indicate the whereabouts of Astro turf pitches in the fixture lists that appear in the Blue Book. Clubs should note the foregoing when approaching their weekly fixtures. Refer 5.

- 12.4 The home venue must ensure that sawdust or grass cuttings are available at all times during matches for the use in the case of inclement weather conditions.

13. **RESPONSIBILITY OF CLUBS IN APPOINTING CAPTAINS**

Clubs are expected to appoint as their captains only players who are conversant with the Laws of Cricket, these by-laws and general regulations and the playing conditions of the competition in which they are to act as captain.

14. **RESPONSIBILITIES OF CAPTAINS**

14.1 **By-Laws**

Captains must ensure that they are conversant with the Laws of Cricket, these by-laws and general regulations, as well as the playing conditions of the competition in which they are to act as captain. Changes have been made to the 1980 Code of Laws, now known as the 2000 Code 4th Edition. These laws shall only apply, however, where official umpires have been appointed in senior leagues. In leagues below this, refer to general provisions for exclusion of penalty extras.

14.2 **Team list**

The captain is responsible for submitting his team list to the umpires before the toss. Entering the names of the team members on the Result Card which will then be retained by the scorers shall satisfy this requirement.

14.3 **Result card**

It is the responsibility of the captain to ensure that both result cards are completed correctly and fully, that both cards are signed by both himself and the opposing captain (or an authorised official from the club concerned), as well as by the official umpire(s), where present.

14.4 **Umpire's card/form**

Where official GCUA umpire(s) are present, both captains shall jointly complete both rating cards/forms, which is the Umpires' Association's only measure of assessing an umpire's ability and performance. Failure to complete the card/form in full (where official umpire(s) are present) will result in a deduction of two (2) points for the specific fixture.

14.5 **Discipline**

The captain is responsible for the behaviour of his players. He is also responsible for the spirit in which his team plays the game and that his team plays according to the Laws of Cricket.

As in terms of the Rules of Code of Conduct, the DC convenor has the right to cite a captain should he deem it pertinent.

15. **APPOINTMENT OF UMPIRES**

15.1 **Appointments vested in GCUA**

The appointment of official umpires to fixtures in the GCB competitions is delegated to the GCUA.

15.2 **Captains to appoint unofficial umpires**

In the absence of official umpire(s), or accredited club umpire(s), the captains shall appoint the umpire(s). If an official club umpire is present, he shall have full authority as granted to umpires appointed by GCUA.

15.3 **Unofficial umpires to be team members**

Umpires appointed by the captains in terms of 15.2 must be members of the competing teams or holders of a National "C" or entry level certificate issued by the GCUA or an equivalent association. The term "team member" shall include the 12th man and team manager. The umpires appointed in terms hereof are under the control of the captains insofar as the changing of umpires during an innings is concerned.

Umpires as appointed by the captains are expected to maintain the highest level of integrity.

15.4 **Fitness of ground**

In the absence of official umpire(s) the captains, not the umpires appointed by them, shall be the sole judges of the fitness of the ground, weather and light conditions for play. In the event of a disagreement between the captains, the *status quo* rule shall apply (see Code of Behaviour 2.2).

15.5 Where umpires are appointed by the captains no penalty runs are to be awarded other than wides and no balls. In clarification this includes ALL mention of penalty runs in the laws of cricket.

16. **THE BALL**

16.1 **Leather ball to be used**

Only a new four-piece Grade A cricket ball of approved make (refer 16.2) may be used in the senior leagues and SA1. In all other competitions, other than a senior limited overs competition, a new two-piece Grade A cricket ball of approved make shall be used (refer 16.2). All cricket balls to be used in the competitions shall be approved by the Board from time to time and these are defined under the heading of each league's fixtures.

16.2 **Approved balls**

A schedule of the approved balls is available at the offices of the League Cricket Administrator. The use of approved balls, as per the schedule, is compulsory in all leagues. Refer to heading at top of each league. The schedule of approved balls will be monitored by the Board and changes may be made in light of further testing of balls to be used.

16.3 **No obligation to use new ball**

It is not necessary to start the second innings of a match with a new ball. The captain of the fielding side may choose to use a used ball. If, however, the captain of the fielding side chooses to use a used ball, the umpires and the captain of the batting side must be informed and the ball shown to them for their approval. Should the captain of the batting side not approve of the used ball, either a new ball or another used ball which is mutually acceptable must be used.

16.4 **Supply of used balls**

The **home** team shall have a supply of used balls available to enable a ball lost or unfit for play to be replaced.

In the event of a team not being in compliance, the game will continue.

A report from the umpires/opposition captain or executive official must be submitted to the office within twenty-four (24) hours of the fixture. Penalty will apply (20.11).

16.5 **Penalty for failing to comply**

Any variation from the prescribed ball will not stop the match from taking place. The umpires will record the ball used on the result card and the office will take appropriate action at a later time.

17. **LUNCH ARRANGEMENTS**

17.1 **Senior leagues : Premier, Presidents and Sunday One**

Lunch of an acceptable standard must be supplied in the senior leagues. The visiting team must contact its opponents regarding the provision of lunches so that any special arrangements required to cater for the dietary needs of certain clubs can be made.

17.2 **Sunday lower leagues**

In all leagues other than senior leagues, the provision of lunch is optional, but it is the duty of the visiting team to contact the home team at least four (4) days in advance to confirm whether or not lunch is to be provided.

17.3 **Where official umpires and scorers are present**

In all Sunday competitions, where there are official umpires and scorers officiating at a match, every effort must be made to provide them with lunch. If it is not possible to provide lunch for the umpires/scorers, the office needs to be informed by the Friday of the weekend of the fixture.

18. **OVER RATES**

18.1 **Senior leagues**

Teams are expected to bowl at a rate of 15 overs per hour. Penalty points for slow over rates are detailed in 20 of Sunday leagues playing conditions.

18.2 **Saturday competition**

In Saturday matches, slow over rates shall be penalised by the addition of penalty runs to the score of the batting side. (See Playing Conditions for penalty provisions).

18.3 **Responsibility of captains**

It is the responsibility of **both captains** to complete the relevant section of the result cards. **Accurate** recording of the duration of each 1st innings in minutes and the number of overs bowled in each 1st innings is essential to ensure a true and proper result. Penalty points shall be applied for a failure to comply. (See Playing Conditions for penalty provisions).

18.4 Responsibility of official umpires

It is the responsibility of official umpires to verify by their signatures that the duration of the match and the number of overs bowled is recorded accurately on both result cards.

19. SUBMISSION OF RESULT CARDS

19.1 Both teams to submit cards

It is the responsibility of **both teams** to submit a signed result card for each match.

19.2 Responsibility of captains

It is the responsibility of the captains to ensure that the result cards are completed correctly. Each card must be signed by both captains or an authorised official from each club.

19.3 Responsibility of umpires

It is the responsibility of any official umpire(s) officiating in a match to sign both result cards and, in so doing, to verify that the facts recorded thereon are accurate. Failure to do so can result in the umpire forfeiting his match fee.

19.4 Result card for match not played

If a match is not played for any reason, e.g. default, bad weather, etc., **both teams** are required to submit a result card within the time limit, stating the reasons that the match was not played. The officiating umpire(s) shall sign such result card **where present**.

19.5 Time limit for receipt of result cards

Result cards must be received at the GCB offices within **five (5) working days** of the completion of the match.

19.6 Delivery of result cards

19.6.1 Hand delivery

This can be done by placing the result card in the post box marked "Result cards" at the entrance to the GCB offices at any time.

19.6.2 Postal delivery

This can be done by mailing the result card to the GCB. In view of the slowness of the postal service, result cards sent by post must be preceded, without fail, by a tel3efax of the card.

19.6.3 Telefax

Result cards can be telefaxed to the GCB on 086 586 4498 or e-mailed to sherina@cricketgauteng.co.za.

Telefaxed results must be followed up, without fail, by the actual card.

In all cases, clubs are advised to keep a photocopy of the result card.

19.7 Penalties for failing to comply

Penalties shall be applied for failing to submit a result card within the time limit and for failing to complete a result card correctly and fully, including the required signatures (see penalty provisions under 20.1).

20. APPLICATION OF PENALTIES

20.1 Failure to submit result card timeously (By-law 21) : 2 points

Failure to complete a result card correctly and fully : See Playing Conditions for each competition.

20.2 Defaults in fulfilling fixtures (By-law 6.4)

Senior leagues :	-13 points
SU leagues :	-13 points
SA leagues :	- 4 points
Limited overs :	- 5 points

N.B. : See also 6.5 in the case of 3 default.

20.3 Over rates (By-law 20) : See Playing Conditions for each competition.

20.4 Scoreboard (Senior leagues only) (By-Law 22) : R50-00

20.5 Transfers (By-law 7)

Loss of points to club for the specific game (during season only), fine of R250 and suspension of player until clearance has been granted by the GCB/CEO.

20.6 Play for club in another provincial union (By-Law 7)

Loss of points to club for the specific game, fine of R250 and suspension of player.

20.7 Playing for more than one club (By-Law 7)

Loss of points to club for the specific game, fine of R250 and suspension of player for a match.

20.8 Restriction on demotion of player (By-Law 8)

Loss of points to club for the specific game, fine of R250 and suspension of player for a match.

20.9 Overseas professional – No consent (By-Law 11)

Loss of points to club for the specific game, fine of R250 and suspension of player for a match.

20.10 Penalty for using a ball not approved by the GCB (By-Law 16)

Loss of points to club for the specific game, and a fine of R250 payable to GCUA.

20.11 Penalty for not having the supply of used balls on hand

A penalty of R250 will apply.

21. DUTY TO ENSURE RESULT CARD CORRECT

21.1 Appointment of scorers

Where no official scorers are present, the captain of the batting side shall appoint two (2) scorers throughout the innings.

21.2 Duty of scorers

Scorers shall complete the result card and ensure that all of the required information is filled in.

21.3 Duty of the captains

It is the responsibility of the captains to ensure that the information on both result cards is correct (see also By-laws and General Regulations 15.3 and 20.2). Failure to complete fully both result cards will result in a penalty being applied (see 20.1).

The following information is required on each result card :

- The date of the match and the league in which it took place;
- The teams playing the match and the venue;
- The time the match started with the reason for any late start;
- The surnames and first names of the players in both teams;
- The final scores in the match in runs and wickets;
- The duration of each innings in minutes (even if an innings does not exceed 180 minutes);
- The number of overs bowled in each innings (even if an innings does not exceed 180 minutes);
- To state the score at 60 overs for all Sunday leagues.

Both captains and the official umpires or accredited club umpire(s) must sign each card. Each captain must include a daytime telephone number.

In recording the duration of the innings, the time taken for drinks and other allowances (refer Sunday Playing Conditions 12.2.1 must be deducted to reflect the net time. The time taken for drinks and other allowances must, however, be recorded in the appropriate blocks on the result card).

22. SCOREBOARD

22.1 Responsibility of clubs

Apart from a scoreboard being useful and even essential to captains, umpires and players, it is also a medium of information to spectators. The GCB has accordingly ruled that a scoreboard must be available and utilised in all senior leagues. **At the end of each over, the scoreboard must be updated regarding total, wickets and overs.**

22.2 Umpires to report

Umpires are requested to report any failure to provide a scoreboard, or failure to keep it reasonably up to date. The Board may impose penalties on clubs that fail to comply with this directive (see 20.4).

23. TROPHIES

23.1 Trophies vested in Board

All trophies are the property of the Board, but may be loaned to the winning team in any competition for temporary use, or for any reason which the Board considers reasonable. Thereafter, trophies shall be returned in good condition to the Board.

23.2 Liability of club in case of damage to trophy

A club shall be held responsible for payment of the cost of repairing or replacing a trophy damaged while in its possession. The Board may require the club to take out appropriate insurance.

24. TEAMS FINISHING EQUAL ON POINTS AT TOP OF LEAGUE LOG

In the event of two teams finishing on equal points in a league, the right to play in the final will be determined in the following order of priority –

The team with the most number of wins.

If still equal –

The team with the least number of losses.

If still equal –

The team with the most match points.

If still equal –

The team with the most bonus points.

If still equal –

The result(s) of the fixture(s) involving the two sides in the league during the season.
If still equal –
The toss of a coin.

25. **MANIPULATION OF MATCHES**

Any manipulation or attempted manipulation of a match result by any team(s) by means of a contrived declaration which results in an unfair advantage to a team in its log position will be viewed by the Board in a most serious light. If the Board finds that there has been such a manipulation, the Board reserves the right to withhold all points scored by both teams in the match concerned.

Clubs are reminded that Law 42 : “Spirit of the game” shall at all times be adhered to and any team found to be in breach of this law shall be subject to any penalty which the Board/disciplinary committee may decide to impose.

26. **COVERS**

In the event of rain interruptions during the game, **both teams** must assist in putting the covers on and taking them off.

27. **JUNIOR CRICKETERS PLAYING IN ADULT MATCHES APPLICABLE TO ALL LEAGUE COMPETITIONS**

The GCB has issued the following guidance covering the participation of young cricketers in adult matches. This guidance applies to boys and girls and any reference to he/she should be interpreted to include she/her. Age groups are based on the age of the player at midnight on 31 August in the year preceding the current season.

27.1 **Definition of a junior player**

There are specific age groups to which conditions in this document apply. Please note that it is the club’s responsibility to adhere to the specifications at all times.

27.2 **Guidance for clubs**

All clubs must recognize that they have a duty of care towards all young players who are representing the club. The duty of care should be interpreted in two ways :

- Not to place a young player in a position that involves an unreasonable risk to that young player, taking account of the circumstances of the match and the relative skills of the player;
- Not to create a situation that places members of the opposing side in a position whereby they cannot play cricket as they would normally do against adult players.

In addition, the following specific requirements apply to young players in adult matches :

- All young players who have not reached their 18th birthday must wear a helmet with a faceguard when batting and when standing up to the stumps when

keeping wicket. Parental consent not to wear a helmet should not be accepted in adult matches. A young player acting as a runner must also wear a helmet, even if the player he is running for is not doing so;

- The umpires and the opposing captain must be notified of the age group of all players participating in an adult match who are in the under 19 age group or younger, even if the player is not a fast bowler. This requirement also covers any young player taking the field as a substitute fielder;
- Any player in the under 13 age group and younger must have explicit written consent from a parent or guardian before participating in adult matches. Clubs must ensure that their player registration procedures ensure that consent is obtained.

Clubs and leagues can apply more strict restrictions on the participation of young players in adult matches at their discretion. It is strongly recommended that a parent, guardian or other identified responsible adult is present whenever a player in the under 13 age group or younger plays in an adult match. This could include the captain or other identified adult player taking responsibility for the young player.

28. SAFETY GUIDANCE ON THE WEARING OF CRICKET HELMETS BY YOUNG PLAYERS

- Helmets with a faceguard or grille should be worn when batting against a hard cricket ball in matches and in practise sessions.
- Young players should regard a helmet with a faceguard as a normal item of protective equipment when batting, together with pads, gloves and, for boys, an abdominal protector (box).
- Young wicketkeepers should wear a helmet with a faceguard when standing up to the stumps.

With the assistance of schools and cricket clubs, the wearing of helmets by young players should be standard practice in cricket.

Young players who have not reached their 18th birthday must wear a helmet with a faceguard when batting and when standing up to the stumps when keeping wicket in adult matches. Parental consent not to wear a helmet should not be accepted in adult cricket.

This guidance applies to all players up to the age of 18, both in adult cricket and in all junior cricket played with a hard cricket ball. The guidance also applies during all practice sessions. Any individual taking responsibility for players should take all reasonable steps to ensure that this guidance is followed at all times.

29. FIELDING REGULATIONS

The GCB has regulations covering the minimum fielding distances for young players in all matches where a hard ball is used.

- No young player in the U/15 age group or younger shall be allowed to field closer than 7.3 metres (8 yards) from the middle stump, except behind the wicket on the off-side, until the batsman has played at the ball.

- For players in the U/13 age group and below, the distance is 10 metres (11 yards).
- These minimum distances apply even if the player is wearing a helmet.
- Should a young player in these age groups come within the restricted distance, the umpire must stop the game immediately and instruct the fielder to move back.
- In addition, any young player in the U/16 or U/18 age groups who has not reached the age of 18 must wear a helmet and, for boys, an abdominal protector (box) when fielding within 5.5 metres (6 yards) of the bat, except behind the wicket on the off-side. Players should wear appropriate protective equipment whenever they are fielding in a position where they feel at risk.
- These fielding regulations are applicable to all cricket in Gauteng. Age groups are based on the age of the player at midnight on 31 August in the year preceding the current season.

30. **BOWLING RESTRICTIONS**

Any player 16 years or under 16 (years) may not bowl a spell longer than 5 overs with a maximum of 15 (fifteen) in any given day.

No youth bowler may bowl again unless he has rested for the equal number of consecutive overs that he bowled.

Examples :

Bowled 1 over – needs to rest for 1 over before he can resume his next spell of bowling.

Bowled 2 overs – needs to rest for 2 overs before he can resume his next spell of bowling.

Bowled 3 overs – needs to rest for 3 overs before he can resume his next spell of bowling.

Bowled 4 overs – needs to rest for 4 overs before he can resume his next spell of bowling.

Bowled 5 overs – needs to rest for 5 overs before he can resume his next spell of bowling.