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**Under 13 Countdown Softball League**

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| **Aim** | To create playing offer for girls which is competitive, inclusive and keeps the girls in the game. |
| **Pitch** | Two sets of wickets, 19 yards apart  Boundaries are ideally of 45 yards |
| **Teams** | Each team comprises of 8 players ideally  Please be flexible.  Teams should always be majority of their own club. Where there are 6 players, the two players facing the least number of balls will bat again and the opposing team will lend two players for fielding only.  Should a team have fewer than 6 players, the game can still be played, but it will be deemed a friendly and the team with a full complement of players will receive the win. |
| **The Start** | The two teams toss a coin/rock, paper, scissors/use the Countdown Cricket APP to decide which team has the choice of either batting or fielding first. |
| **Equipment** | The ball should be a junior incrediball, unless agreed that it will be a windball with the mangers before the game.  The home team will provide the balls  Teams can use the bats provided, or may use their own softball plastic cricket bats for the game. Teams may use women’s fibre glass softball bats. Wooden bats are not recommended. |
| **The Game** | Throughout the league each game shall consist of one innings per team  The length of an innings will be flexible, but each pair should face at least 15 balls  The game will be in pairs format  Teams will use the Countdown Cricket App to score. |
| **Batting & Scoring** | The batting side shall be divided into pairs.  At the end of each innings, the App will calculate the score based on 5 runs being taken away for each wicket. It will then calculate the target and adjust accordingly.  A batter may be out bowled, caught, run out, stumped, hit wicket.  There is no LBW law.  At the end of the first pair, batters retire and are replaced by the next pair until all players have batted.  The second team then bats for an equal number of overs.  If a team has less than the full complement of 8 players, then the batters who bat twice should be nominated before batting commences. This should be done in the spirit of cricket. |
| **Extras – please discuss before play and make sensible decisions based on the playing experience for the girls.** | 2 runs will be awarded to the batting team for each wide ball and no extra ball will be bowled.  A wide ball is considered a ball too wide for the batter to hit from their batting position.  2 runs will be awarded to the batting team for each no ball and no extra ball will be bowled.  A no ball is a ball that arrives above waist height or bounces more than 3 times. If a bowler bowls a front foot no ball, warn first.  On the APP, use the DYNAMOS option. This will record the extra, as well as any additional runs scored. |
| **Bowling and Fielding** | Each player can bowl a maximum of a quarter of the number of balls (eg if 80 balls, then bowler can bowl 20)  Bowling will take place from one end only.  Bowling should be over arm. |
| **The Result** | The team with the higher score wins. It is the responsibility of each club to upload their scores.  The results should be entered onto the Play Cricket site. Only the final totals and who won from how many balls needs to be uploaded. Wickets taken can also be included. |
| **Umpires** | Each team is to provide one umpire.  Two umpires per pitch (one form each team). The square leg is there to advise on run outs and no balls. Ideally the umpires should have equal amounts of time as the bowler’s end umpire. |
| **Scoring** | Each team will have someone who can score. Teams will use the Countdown Cricket APP (Dynamos option) to score the games.  It is the responsibility of each club to upload results of their games at the festival within 1 week of the fixture date.  The umpire can also score on the APP, but it is important that if the other umpire is not scoring, the two scorers regularly check scores so they agree. |
| **Age and Eligibility** | Girls should fall into the under 13 age group for that season. They should therefore be Year 8 or below.  The softball league is designed for new and emerging cricketers who do not want to or are not ready for or do not want to play hardball cricket. The league asks that you respect this ethos and ensure that your team reflects that.  The duplication of players in hardball and softball games should be limited. |
| **Borrowing/Loaning of Player** | A team should always play with the majority of players from their own club.  A player can only bat and bowl for one club |
| **Spirit of Cricket** | All games should be played within the Spirit of Cricket and coaches should be actively encouraging girls in this.  Each team will nominate a Players Player at the end of the festival. |