**ARMY INTER UNIT CRICKET CUP COMPETITION 2023**

References:

A. ACA Sports Safety Management Plan (SSMP) dated 11 Mar 19.

B. JSP 660 Sport in the UK Armed Forces Pt 1 (V2.1 Mar 18).

C. AGAI Volume 1, Chapter 5, Sport dated June 2017.

**GENERAL**

1. Entries are invited from eligible Army Units for the Army Inter Unit Cricket Competition 2023.

**ENTRIES**
2. Units have entered the competition in response to [ 2023DIN10-007-Army Inter-Unit Cricket Cup Competition 2023.docx](https://modgovuk.sharepoint.com/%3Aw%3A/r/sites/DINs/DINsLibrary/Official/2023DIN10-007-Army%20Inter-Unit%20Cricket%20Cup%20Competition%202023.docx?d=w2b0a806214c741dd9921d62e425c5b1a&csf=1&web=1&e=aYtWSc).
3. The closing date for entries was Fri 31 Mar 23.  Late entries will no longer be accepted.  Units are expected to make every effort to play matches by stipulated due dates once the draw is published.

**ORGANISATION AND MATCH RULES**

1. The Competition is a knock-out format with rules set out in Annex A. Where no specific reference/ruling is highlighted in these rules, the Laws of Cricket at Reference B apply.
2. The draw allows approximately four weeks for matches to be played in each round and the schedule will be promulgated by the AD Competitions Army Cricket Association (ACA) by 17 Apr 2023. The Inter Unit Final will take place at the Army Cricket Ground, Aldershot on Wed 13 Sep 23.
3. All matches up to the semi-final stage will be 30 overs and the semi-finals and finals will be 40 overs.  Units should note that there will be a ‘broad regionalisation’ in the early stages of the draw, for travel, FP and subsistence reasons.  All matches should start at 1.30 pm unless mutually agreed by both sides and the match officials and there is to be an interval of 20 minutes between innings.

**MATCH ADMINISTRATION**

1. Units are to organise their own Umpires, Scorers, food, accommodation and transport.  Accommodation and messing in Aldershot can be booked through Central Accommodation Booking Service on 01252 352154.  Match balls are to be provided by each team with the exception of the Finals.  Match catering, Officials and match balls for the Finals will be covered by the ACA.
2. **Officials/Umpires.** Umpires can be made available if booked well in advance. Where a team wishes to use an official umpire they can be requested through Flight Sgt Eustace (Gary.Eustace262@mod.gov.uk) who coordinates all Armed Forces Cricket registered officials.

**Annex A to**

**2023 Inter Unit**

**Dated Apr 2023**

**PLAYING REGULATIONS OF THE ARMY INTER UNIT CUP COMPETITION 2023**

**PLAYING CONDITIONS**

1. **Laws**.  Except as otherwise provided in these rules hereinafter, matches shall be conducted in accordance with the MCC Laws of Cricket (2017 Code – 3rd Edn 2022) together with any subsequent amendments. Where matches are not umpired by ECB ACO qualified officials, Law 42 shall NOT be applied. In all other matches, Law 42 shall be applied.

2. **Hours of Play**.  All matches (with the exception of the Final, which starts at 1.00pm) should start at 1.30 pm with a tea interval of 20 minutes between innings; unless mutually agreed otherwise by both Captains. Any agreement must be communicated to any appointed officials. The duration and time of the tea interval can be varied in the case of an interrupted match.  Close of play should normally be at 7.00 pm.

3. **Length of Innings**.   In an uninterrupted match each team shall bat for 30 overs unless all out earlier up to the semi-final stage.  The semi-finals and final will consist of 40 overs. In matches where the start is delayed or play is suspended:

 a. The object shall always be to rearrange the number of overs so that both teams have the opportunity of batting for the same number of overs (minimum 10 overs each team).  The calculation of the number of overs to be bowled shall be based on an average of 20 overs per hour (one over per 3 minutes or part thereof) in the time remaining before Close of Play.

 b. If the number of overs of the side batting first is reduced, no fixed time will be specified for the close of their innings.

 c. If, owing to a suspension of play during the innings of the team batting second, it is not possible for that team to have the opportunity of batting for the same number of overs as the team batting first, they will bat for a number of overs to be calculated as in para 3a.

 d. In the event of a suspension occurring in the middle of an over, the full number of overs to be bowled in the time remaining will be calculated as in Para 3a, any balls remaining to be bowled in the over during which play was suspended, being added.

 e. The team batting second shall not bat for a greater number of overs than the first team, unless the latter has been all out in less than the agreed number of overs.

 f. In the event of no result being reached in the match because of inclement weather, inability to arrange a further fixture before the deadline date or for any other reason, then the result must be made by bowling at stumps (see para 11) or the toss of a coin between the two Captains.  (The ACA Committee recommend that rather than the latter, teams should play a match for even a small number of overs, wherever possible, according to the time still available).  The Team Captains must agree before play what action is to be taken if a result is not reached.

4. **The Result**.  A result can only be achieved if both teams have had the opportunity to bat for at least 10 overs, unless one team has been all out in less than 10 overs, or unless the team batting second score enough runs to win in less than 10 overs.

5. In matches in which both teams have had an opportunity of batting for the agreed number of overs (ie 30/40 overs each, in an uninterrupted match, or a lesser number of overs in an interrupted match - see Playing Conditions (3a-f)), the team scoring the higher number of runs shall be the winner.  Further guidelines to help achieve a result in order of precedence are as follows:

 a. If the scores are equal the side which has lost the fewer wickets shall be the winner.

 b. If still equal the winner shall be the side with the higher score at the end of the 15th over of its innings.

 c. If still equal the winner shall be the side losing the fewer number of wickets at the end of the 15th over of its innings.

 d. If still equal the winner shall be the side with the higher score at the end of the 10th over of its innings.

 e. If still equal the winner shall be the side losing the fewer number of wickets at the end of the 10th over of its innings.

 f. If still equal the team shall bowl at stumps (see para 11 for bowl-out regulations) or if not possible, a coin toss shall decide the winner.

6. **The Result - Interrupted Matches**. If the team batting second has not had the opportunity to complete the agreed number of overs, and has neither been all out, nor has passed its opponent’s score, the following shall apply:

 a. If the match is abandoned the result shall be decided on the average run-rate throughout both innings. Run Rate is calculated by dividing the score achieved by the number of overs the team should have faced (if all out in fewer overs than entitled).

 b. If, due to suspension of play, the number of overs in the innings of the side batting second has to be revised, their target score shall be calculated by multiplying the reduced number of overs by the average runs per over scored by the side batting first and adding one run. Fractions are to be ignored in the final sum:

 (1) Example of calculations. Team 1 scores 189 in 30 overs. Due to rain, Team 2’s innings is reduced to 16 overs.

 189/30 = 6.3 (6.3 is Team 1’s Run Rate).

 6.3 x 16 = 100.8 (ignore the fraction) = 100

 100 + 1 = Target score for Team 2 in 16 overs is 101

 Note:  In the event of the team batting first being all out in less than their full quota of overs, the calculation of their average run rate shall be based on the full quota of overs to which they would have been entitled and not on the number of overs in which they were dismissed.

7. **Number of Overs per Bowler**.  If a match starts as a 30/40 overs match, no bowler may bowl more than 6/8 overs in an innings and this allowance shall not be reduced even though the total overs may subsequently be restricted owing to weather interferences.  Any bowler under 19 years of age on the day of the match is limited to 5/7 overs a spell (ECB Directive).   If the start of a match is delayed and the overs of both teams are restricted to less than 30/40 overs, no bowler may bowl more than one fifth of the total overs allowed.  In a match where the innings of either or both teams is reduced after the start of the match, the maximum number of overs allowed per bowler shall remain as at the start of the match.

8.         **Law 15 - Declarations**.  Law 15 will not apply in this competition.  The Captain of the batting side may not declare their innings closed at any time during the course of a match.

9.         **Law 22 - Wide Ball**.  The penalty for a wide will be 1 run plus any additional runs scored. Umpires are instructed to apply a very strict and consistent interpretation in regard to this Law in order to prevent negative bowling wide of the wicket.  The following criteria should be adopted as a guide to umpires:

 a. If the ball passes either side of the wicket sufficiently wide to make it virtually impossible for the striker to play “a normal cricket stroke” both from where he is standing and from where he should normally be standing at the crease, the umpire should call and signal ‘wide’.

 b. For the provision of this competition the Leg Side Wide shall apply unless otherwise agreed.  Pre match discussion between both umpires and captains shall take place thus determining the manner of this application to fulfil and clarify this provision prior to the start of each match. If no agreement can be reached, any delivery passing outside the line of the striker and leg stump shall be a wide ball, despite and irrespective of the striker’s movement.

**Note:  The above provisions do not apply if the striker makes any contact with the ball.**

10. **Other Playing Conditions.**  The following playing conditions apply for this competition:

 a. Both Umpires and the Scorers from the commencement of an innings shall maintain a record of the number of overs bowled by each individual bowler.

 b. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Directives on Fast Bowling for under 19 year olds and the Wearing of Helmets by under 18 year olds will apply in all matches.

 c. The qualifying date for the ECB directive on wearing of helmets is the age of the player on the date of the match.

 d. The qualifying date for the ECB directive on fast bowling is the age of the player at midnight on 31 August 2022.

 e. Team Captains are to hand to the umpires a completed signed Team Sheet prior to the start of the match.

 f. The Captains of each side shall inform the umpires prior to the match of any players aged under 19 years of age.

11.     **Bowl-Out**.   In any other circumstance other than as stated in paras 4 and 5 where there is a requirement to undertake a Bowl-Out (either indoors or outdoors) to determine a result,  the overall conditions and regulations to contest a Bowl-Out and achieve a result are as follows.

 a. A toss shall take place with the winner of the toss to decide whether his/her team goes first or second.

 b. If the original match has started: All Five (5) bowlers to take part in the Bowl-Out must be selected from the nominated Team Sheets (including the 12th man, if applicable).  If there has been no play (the toss has not taken place) then the team can select any five members from the Club.

 c. Five players from each team shall bowl overarm ONE (1) delivery each alternately with the opposition (Team 1 bowler 1 followed by Team 2 bowler 1, Team 1 bowler 2 and so on), at a wicket (conforming to Law 8) from a wicket (conforming to Law 8) pitched at a distance of 22 yards (conforming to Law 6) with markings and creases (conforming to Law 7).

 d. The Team which bowls down the wicket (as defined in Law 29.1) the most times shall be the winner.

 e. If the scores are equal, the same five players will bowl One ball each alternately to achieve a result on a sudden death basis (the order of bowlers may change for this bowl-out, however the Team bowling first shall remain as per the original bowl-out).

 f. The same suitably acceptable ball (not a new one, unless the match has not started) will be used by both Teams.  If the ball becomes wet, it may be changed subject to the Umpires’ approval.

 g. If a bowler bowls a “No Ball” it will count as a delivery but will not count towards the score of the Team should the bowler hit the wicket.

 h. Each side will appoint a wicket-keeper to stand behind the wicket but out of reach of the stumps.

 i. If circumstances make a Bowl-Out impossible, the match shall be decided by the toss of a coin.

12. **Eligibility**.  The eligibility criteria for Regular and Reserve personnel are contained in AGAI Volume 1 Chapter 5. Sport. Particular note should be taken of paragraphs 5.060 to 5.071.

13. **Notification of result**.  It is the responsibility of the home team to notify the ACA of a result within 5 working days.

14. **Officials**. Officials will be appointed by UKAF ACO for the Major and Minor Unit Finals. Should officials be required for earlier round fixtures, the home side is responsible for arranging the appointment of officials. Request for officials can be made to the UKAF ACO via the ACA office. Where a civilian official is appointed, the home side will be responsible for reimbursing the due expenses of the official (£50 for 2023 season).

15. **Fixture Dates**. A maximum extension of 1 week past the play by date may be given exceptionally on request by either side due to Exercise or Operational commitments. Should either Unit be unable to meet the second due date the match will be conceded by the Unit who were unable to meet the initial play by date.

**MCC 2022 Law Change Summary and Application in UKAFCA Matches**

1. The following law changes were introduced in October 2022. All will be immediately adopted in all UKAFCA cricket matches. While latitude will be given in some instances of application, most changes will be enforced fully. Where latitude will be given, this will be discussed by the onfield umpires or Tournament Referee prior to play starting:

 a. **Law 1 -** **Replacement Players**. Replacement players (agreed by the opposing Captain or due to medical/concussion reasons) shall now be treated entirely as if they were the player they have replaced i.e. inheriting any sanctions or dismissals conducted by the replaced player. For the avoidance of doubt, this does not apply to substitute players (agreed by umpires).

 b. **Law 18 -** **Incoming Batter following Out Caught**. This now means, regardless of actions by onfield batters, any incoming batter will face the next delivery. The only exception is should the dismissal take place on the last delivery of the Over. In this case the incoming batter goes to the end the Out striker played the shot from.

 c. **Law 21.4 - Bowler throwing toward Striker’s end before delivery**. If a Bowler attempts to run out the Striker before entering their delivery stride, it will now be called and signalled Dead Ball. This was previously a No Ball. In this instance the delivery shall not count as one of the Over. A ball thrown after entering the delivery stride shall still attract a No Ball.

 d. **Law 22.1 - Judging a Wide Ball**. This Law now largely brings into Law that which we have applied in recent years. Each competition shall confirm in regulations how this Law shall be applied.

 e. **Law 25.8 - Striker’s right to play the ball**. This continues from other recent Law changes in that the Striker is permitted to attempt to play any delivery. Should a delivery land away from the pitch, provided the part of the Striker’s bat or person remains on the pitch they are still permitted to play the ball. If the Striker should venture off the pitch in an attempt to play the ball, that delivery shall be called and signalled Dead Ball immediately followed by No Ball.

 f. **Law 27.4 & 28.6 - Unfair movement by the fielding side**. A big, and penalising change here! Previously any unfair movement by the fielding side was punished with Dead Ball. As the movement is both unfair and deliberate, this now also immediately attracts 5 penalty runs to the batting side.

 g. **Law 41.3 - No Saliva**. This has been in force since COVID and is now enshrined in law. Any infractions shall be treated as per changing condition of the ball.

2. There are a couple of other changes to Law but they are merely administrative moves of Laws, for example.