



TORONTO & DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION

TDCA

2026 OFFICIAL YOUTH PLAYING CONDITIONS

Competition Rules • Governance • Match Regulations • Discipline Code

 Season:	2026
 Issued By:	Toronto & District Cricket Association (TDCA)
 Category:	TDCA Youth Cricket League

This handbook contains the official playing conditions, competition rules, disciplinary regulations, and operational guidelines governing all TDCA Youth Cricket competitions for the 2026 season.

Welcome Message

Message from the TDCA Youth Committee

Welcome to the 2026 TDCA Youth Cricket Season.

The Toronto & District Cricket Association continues its commitment to delivering a professionally managed, inclusive, development-focused, and competitive youth cricket environment for players across all age groups.

This handbook has been carefully developed to provide clear playing conditions, operational standards, governance procedures, and competition expectations for all stakeholders involved in TDCA Youth Cricket.

The TDCA thanks all clubs, coaches, parents, volunteers, officials, sponsors, and community partners for their continued support and contribution toward the growth of junior cricket.

We encourage every participant to uphold the Spirit of Cricket, demonstrate respect for all participants, and contribute positively to the development of the game.

Together, we continue building the future of cricket. 

1. Introduction & Governance

The Toronto & District Cricket Association (TDCA) Youth League exists to promote junior cricket in a competitive, structured, safe, and development-focused environment.

All participating clubs, players, parents, coaches, managers, officials, and volunteers are expected to uphold the Spirit of Cricket, maintain professionalism, and comply with the regulations outlined within this handbook.

The TDCA reserves the right to amend, interpret, and enforce these playing conditions where required in the best interests of the league, fair competition, player welfare, and operational integrity.

2. Player Eligibility

2.1 Age Eligibility

To participate in TDCA Youth competitions, players must be born on or after the following dates:

Division	Eligible Date of Birth
U19	September 1, 2006
U17	September 1, 2008

Division	Eligible Date of Birth
U15	September 1, 2010
U13	September 1, 2012
U11	September 1, 2014

2.2 Playoff Eligibility

To qualify for playoff participation, a player must have actively participated in at least forty percent (40%) of their club's regular season league matches in the same or lower division. Participation percentage shall be rounded appropriately by the TDCA.

2.3 Definition of Active Participation

A player shall be considered to have actively participated in a match once the match has officially commenced and at least one legal delivery has been bowled.

2.4 Ineligible Players

Any team fielding an ineligible player shall:

- Forfeit all competition points earned in matches involving the ineligible player;
- Be subject to disciplinary review;
- Be liable for a fine of CAD 300.

2.5 Penalties Against Ineligible Players

Any player found to be ineligible may face:

- Immediate suspension;
- Additional disciplinary sanctions;
- A fine of CAD 200.

3. Player Registration

3.1 Home Club Registration

A junior player may register with only one designated Home Club within the TDCA.

3.2 Age Division Participation

A player may represent only one club within each age division during the season.

3.3 Alternate Club Participation

A junior player may participate for an Alternate Club only where their Home Club does not field a team in that specific age division.

3.4 Mandatory Registration Requirements

All players must:

- Be registered within the official TDCA Registration System;
- Possess a valid TDCA Player Identification Number prior to participation;
- Maintain accurate registration details and documentation.

3.5 Registration Naming Convention

Registration Type	Format
Home Club	FirstName LastName (U15)
Alternate Club	FirstName LastName (U15-ClubCode)

3.6 Proof of Age

Proof of age documentation is mandatory and must be produced before any playoff match upon request. Acceptable identification includes:

- Photo Health Card;
- School Photo Identification with Birth Certificate;
- Driver's License;
- Passport;
- Immigration Documentation.

3.7 Responsibilities of Coaches & Managers

Team managers and coaches are responsible for ensuring:

- Accuracy of all player registration information;
- Submission of correct legal names;
- Compliance with player eligibility requirements.

3.8 Unregistered Players

Any team fielding an unregistered player shall:

- Forfeit all match points;
- Be fined CAD 300;
- Face additional disciplinary action where necessary.

3.9 Identity Verification

Where a player's identity is disputed, verification may be conducted in the presence of the appointed umpire(s).

4. Club Transfers & Releases

4.1 Transfer Governance

All player transfers between clubs shall comply with the TDCA Senior Match Play Rules and applicable By-Laws.

4.2 Home Club Releases

A formal release is required only when a player is transferring away from their designated Home Club.

4.3 Alternate Club Transfers

A release shall not be required when changing to or from an Alternate Club. However, players may not transfer between Alternate Clubs during the same season.

4.4 Fair Release Practices

Clubs shall not unreasonably or unfairly withhold player releases.

4.5 Dispute Resolution

Any unresolved transfer disputes may be escalated to the TDCA Board for review and final determination.

4.6 Improper Transfers

Improper transfers conducted without required authorization or release shall result in:

- Forfeiture of points;
- Possible suspensions;
- Disciplinary sanctions against players and/or clubs.



5. Match Timings & Playing Hours

5.1 Standard Match Schedule

Match Activity	Time
Toss	8:30 AM
Match Start	8:40 AM
First Innings	8:40 AM – 10:00 AM
Scheduled Break	10:00 AM – 10:10 AM
Second Innings	10:10 AM – 11:30 AM

These timings shall apply to all scheduled time slots unless otherwise communicated by the TDCA.

5.2 Delayed Starts

Where delays occur due to weather, ground conditions, or circumstances beyond the control of either team, available playing time shall be shared equally between both innings.

5.3 Over Rate Calculations

Overs shall be calculated at an average rate of four (4) minutes per over.

5.4 Bowling Restrictions

No bowler may bowl more than one-fifth (1/5) of the allocated overs in an innings.

5.5 Official Match Ball

 **Jags Colts Pink Ball (WIN SPORTS)**

5.6 Unauthorized Match Ball Usage

Use of unauthorized cricket balls may result in:

- Match forfeiture;
- Disciplinary review;
- Additional penalties imposed by the TDCA.

5.7 Ball Suitability

Where umpires are present, the appointed umpire(s) shall determine the suitability and condition of the match ball.

6. Competition Playing Conditions

6.1 U11 & U13 Divisions — Match Format

Regulation	U11	U13
Innings Duration	80 Minutes	80 Minutes
Break Duration	10 Minutes	10 Minutes
Water Break	Optional	Optional
Powerplay	Not Applicable	Standard Powerplay
Bowling Limit	1/5 of Overs	1/5 of Overs
Minimum Overs for Result	8 Overs	8 Overs

Pitch Length

Pitch lengths shall range between 20–22 yards, subject to mutual agreement between teams and venue suitability.

Boundary Dimensions — U11 & U13

Division	Recommended Boundary Size
U11	Approximately 30–35 yards
U13	Approximately 40–45 yards

Wide & No-Ball Regulations — U11 & U13

For U11 and U13 competitions:

- Wides and No-Balls shall count as two (2) runs;
- Deliveries shall not be re-bowled.

Player Development Focus

The emphasis at the U11 and U13 levels shall remain on:

- Enjoyment of the game;
- Fair play;
- Learning and development;
- Sportsmanship;
- Respect for the Spirit of Cricket.

Repeated unsafe or abusive bowling actions must be corrected immediately by coaches. Umpires or league officials may remove bowlers from the attack where necessary for safety and fairness.

6.2 U15, U17 & U19 Divisions

The same general match structure and timing regulations shall apply to U15, U17, and U19 competitions.

Powerplay Regulations

During the first six (6) overs of an innings, a maximum of two (2) fielders shall be permitted outside the fielding restriction circle.

Boundary Dimensions — U15, U17 & U19

Division	Recommended Boundary Size
U15	Approximately 45–50 yards
U17	Full Ground
U19	Full Ground

Wide & No-Ball Regulations — U15, U17 & U19

Wides and No-Balls shall be re-bowled in accordance with standard cricket laws.

Minimum Overs Requirement

A minimum of eight (8) overs per inning must be completed to constitute an official result.

7. Match Management & Points System

7.1 Match Sheets

All teams must submit a completed Match Sheet prior to the commencement of play. The Match Sheet must include:

- Player legal names;
- TDCA registration numbers;
- Team details;
- Match information.

7.2 Scoring Requirements

Online scoring is strongly encouraged. Manual scorebooks may be used where necessary.

7.3 Match Sheet Retention

Signed Match Sheets must be retained by clubs until the conclusion of the season.

7.4 Reporting Deadlines

All match results must be submitted by Wednesday at 6:00 PM following the scheduled match. Failure to comply shall result in a deduction of two (2) competition points.

7.5 Competition Points

Match Result	Points
Win	6
Tie	4
No Result	3
Default	-3
Missing Statistics	-2

7.6 Run Rate Calculations

Where the second innings is incomplete, applicable run-rate methods shall determine the result.

7.7 Tied Matches

Matches with identical scores and equal overs completed shall officially be recorded as ties.

7.8 Defaults & No-Shows

A team failing to attend a scheduled match without a minimum of twelve (12) hours' notice shall:

- Receive a three (3) point deduction;
- Pay all applicable umpire fees;
- Be fined CAD 100.

7.9 Repeat Defaults

A club accumulating two (2) defaults during the season may face:

- Suspension from competition;
- Ineligibility for participation in the following season.

7.10 Minimum Overs for Official Result

Where fewer than eight (8) overs per innings are completed, the match shall be declared a No Result.

7.11 Refusal to Play

Any refusal to participate in a scheduled match shall be treated as a default unless genuine safety concerns exist.

8. Toss & Start Time Regulations

8.1 Minimum Players Requirement

By 8:30 AM, each team must have a minimum of seven (7) properly equipped players present at the ground.

8.2 Home Team Responsibilities

The designated home team is responsible for ensuring the field is properly prepared before match commencement.

8.3 Toss Entitlement

Where one team is fully prepared and the opposing team is not ready by the scheduled toss time, the prepared team may claim the toss.

8.4 Delay Penalties

For every four (4) minutes of delay attributable to a team, one (1) over shall be deducted from that team's innings allocation.

8.5 Automatic Forfeiture

Delays extending beyond 9:20 AM may result in automatic forfeiture of the match.

8.6 Waiver of Delay Rules

The opposing team may voluntarily waive delay-related penalties prior to commencement of play. Once play has officially commenced, such decisions may not be reversed.



9. Player, Coach & Club Responsibilities

9.1 Mandatory Protective Equipment

Helmets are mandatory for:

- All batters;
- All wicketkeepers standing up to the stumps.

9.2 Player Welfare

Players are encouraged to bring their own water, snacks, and personal hydration supplies.

9.3 Coaching Restrictions

Coaches may communicate with players only during scheduled breaks unless permitted by the match officials.

9.4 Proper Cricket Attire

All players must wear appropriate cricket clothing and protective equipment.

9.5 Fair Team Distribution

Clubs are expected to distribute stronger players fairly across multiple teams wherever practical.

9.6 Scheduling Coordination

Clubs should avoid avoidable scheduling conflicts between age divisions.

9.7 Official Communication

All competition-related communication shall be directed through the TDCA Youth Coordinator.

9.8 Match Changes & Rescheduling

Any requested game changes require a minimum of fourteen (14) days' notice and payment of a CAD 100 administrative fee. Exceptions may apply for city ground recalls, confirmed scheduling conflicts, CCO or Cricket Canada conflicts, and administrative scheduling errors.

9.9 Multiple Teams in Same Division

Where a club fields multiple teams within the same age division and more than one team qualifies for playoffs, players may not transfer between those teams after playoff qualification.

9.10 Playoff Roster Integrity

Once playoffs commence, players must remain with their originally assigned playoff team. No roster switching shall be permitted.

10. Junior Participation in Senior Cricket

Junior players may participate in senior competitions provided that:

- No scheduling conflict exists with their junior match obligations;
- Their registered senior club does not require their services on the same day;
- Approval is granted by the junior coach;
- The player is registered with only one senior club in that division.

Any uncertainty regarding eligibility shall be referred to the TDCA Youth Coordinator.

11. League Standings & Tie Breakers

Where two or more teams finish level on competition points at the conclusion of league play, standings shall be determined using the following sequence:

- Most Wins;
- Head-to-Head Result;
- Best Net Run Rate (NRR);
- Eliminator Match (if still tied).

12. Female Participation Policy

To encourage increased participation and development of female cricketers within the TDCA Youth League, female players may participate one age division below their eligible age category, subject to player safety considerations.

12.1 Age Division Participation

Female players may participate one age division below their eligible age group. Examples:

- U15 female players may participate in U13 competitions;
- U13 female players may participate in U11 competitions.

12.2 Adult Female Participation

Female players aged sixteen (16) to forty (40) years may participate in TDCA Youth competitions. The lowest eligible division permitted shall be U15. Participation in U13 or lower divisions shall not be permitted.

13. Safeguarding & Child Protection

The TDCA is committed to maintaining a safe, respectful, inclusive, and positive environment for all participants. All clubs, coaches, volunteers, players, parents, and officials are expected to:

- Promote player welfare at all times;
- Maintain respectful conduct;
- Prevent bullying, harassment, discrimination, or abuse;
- Encourage positive sideline behavior;
- Report safeguarding concerns immediately.

The TDCA reserves the right to investigate any safeguarding concern and take disciplinary action where necessary.

14. Weather & Heat Policy

14.1 Extreme Weather

Matches may be delayed, suspended, shortened, or abandoned due to: unsafe ground conditions, lightning, extreme heat, air quality advisories, or severe weather warnings.

14.2 Hydration Breaks

Umpires or league officials may introduce additional hydration breaks during periods of excessive heat.

14.3 Lightning Policy

Where lightning is observed in the immediate area, play must be suspended immediately until conditions are deemed safe.

14.4 Player Safety Priority

Player safety shall always take precedence over match completion.

15. Code of Conduct

All participants shall:

- Respect umpires and officials;
- Respect teammates and opponents;

- Refrain from abusive language or behavior;
- Promote the Spirit of Cricket;
- Avoid discriminatory conduct of any kind;
- Maintain professionalism on and off the field.

The following behaviors may result in disciplinary action:

- Verbal abuse;
- Threatening behavior;
- Physical misconduct;
- Social media misconduct;
- Match disruption;
- Equipment abuse.

 **TDCA maintains zero tolerance for discrimination, harassment, or abusive conduct.**

16. Communication Protocols

All TDCA Youth-related communication must be conducted via email for official record-keeping purposes. Only communications transmitted by email or text message shall be recognized as official communication.

Verbal discussions or unofficial side communications shall not constitute confirmation, approval, or commitment. This policy is intended to minimize misunderstandings and maintain operational transparency.

17. Discipline, Penalties & Enforcement

The TDCA reserves the authority to investigate and enforce disciplinary measures relating to:

- Player eligibility violations;
- Registration irregularities;
- Unsportsmanlike conduct;
- Match defaults;
- Abuse of officials;
- Safety violations;
- Administrative misconduct.

Penalties may include:

- Fines;
- Suspensions;
- Point deductions;
- Match forfeitures;
- Removal from competition.

All disciplinary decisions issued by the TDCa Board shall be considered final unless otherwise specified.

18. TDCa Authority & Final Interpretation

Where circumstances arise during the season that are not specifically addressed within these playing conditions, the TDCa reserves the right to make decisions in the best interests of the competition, fair play, player safety, league integrity, and operational efficiency.

All participating clubs, players, coaches, officials, and parents shall accept such decisions as binding.

19. Match Day Operations Checklist

Each participating team should ensure the following are available prior to the commencement of play:

- Approved match ball;
- Stumps and bails;
- Boundary markers;
- First aid kit;
- Match sheets;
- Scoring device or scorebook;
- Drinking water access;
- Player identification documentation;
- Proper safety equipment.

20. Sponsor & Partner Recognition

The TDCa acknowledges the valuable support of:

- League Sponsors;
- Community Partners;
- Ground Providers;
- Volunteers;
- Participating Clubs;
- Parents and Families.

Dedicated sponsorship and partnership pages may be incorporated into the final printed edition.

21. Appendices

Appendix A – Match Day Checklist

- Match Ball
- Stumps & Bails
- Boundary Markers
- First Aid Kit
- Scorebook / Online Scoring Device
- Match Sheets
- Drinking Water
- Player Identification Documents

Appendix B – Spirit of Cricket Principles

All participants are expected to:

- Respect opponents;
- Respect officials;
- Play fairly;
- Promote inclusion and development;
- Maintain professionalism on and off the field.

22. Contact Information

Toronto & District Cricket Association (TDCA)	admin@tdca.ca
Youth Coordination & Competition Support	senjey.joshi@gmail.com

All official correspondence should include both email addresses wherever applicable.

 *TDCA 2026 Youth Cricket — Building the Future of the Game* 