

TARANAKI CRICKET ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED BYLAWS: SENIOR COMPETITION RULES & REGULATIONS 2026-27

1. THE SPIRIT OF THE GAME

At all times, the traditions and Spirit of Cricket must be respected and maintained.

Cricket owes much of its appeal and enjoyment to the fact that it should be played not only according to the Laws, but also within the Spirit of Cricket. The major responsibility for ensuring fair play rests with the captains, but extends to all players, umpires and, especially in junior cricket, teachers, coaches, and parents.

Respect is central to the Spirit of Cricket:

- Respect your captain, team-mates, opponents, and the authority of the umpires.
- Play hard and play fair.
- Accept the umpire's decision.
- Create a positive atmosphere by your own conduct and encourage others to do likewise.
- Show self-discipline, even when things go against you.
- Congratulate the opposition on their successes and enjoy those of your own team.
- Thank the officials and your opposition at the end of the match, whatever the result.

Cricket is an exciting game that encourages leadership, friendship, and teamwork, which brings together people from different nationalities, cultures, and religions, especially when played within the Spirit of Cricket.

The players, umpires, and scorers in a game of cricket may be of any gender, and the Laws apply equally. The use, throughout the text, of pronouns expressing a binary he/she is as inclusive as practicable, whilst retaining clarity. Except where specifically stated otherwise.

2. DEFINITIONS

TCA: shall mean the Taranaki Cricket Association Incorporated, a body duly incorporated under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908.

General Manager: shall mean the General Manager of TCA or his/her appointed deputy.

3. TCA AUTHORITY

TCA, in its absolute discretion may:

- a) Alter any competition at any time that it deems necessary.
- b) Fine clubs and/or deduct points for any prescribed breach of the conditions contained within these rules.

- c) Make dispensation decisions or rulings concerning any TCA competition match or rule and in such case the decision or ruling will be final.
- d) Delegated authorities: For competition related matters, contact is to be made in the first instance, to the General Manager, Ryan Evans – 027 467 7924.

4. THE LAWS OF CRICKET

Except as specifically provided hereafter, the 2017(2022) Code of the Laws of Cricket, together with the most recent First Class (for Premier red ball competitions) or List A (for Premier white ball or other limited overs competitions) Playing Conditions as laid down by NZC will apply.

5. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- 5.1 To be eligible to play in any TCA competition a player:
 - a) must live in Taranaki, and
 - b) must be a fully registered member of a club affiliated to TCA.
- 5.2 For the purpose of this rule a student who normally lives in Taranaki but has been attending primary, secondary or tertiary education outside Taranaki is deemed to live in Taranaki.
- 5.3 The General Manager may, at his sole discretion, grant any player dispensation from the requirement to live in Taranaki. The General Manager's decision in respect of any grant or refusal of such dispensation shall be final.
- 5.4 Any player in default with his/her subscription or fines to any club or association affiliated with New Zealand Cricket (Inc) may be debarred by the General Manager from taking part in any TCA competition.
- 5.5 A player shall be free to change clubs in Taranaki between the end of a season and the start of the next season if the player has no outstanding subscriptions owing to his/her club they are transferring from.
- 5.6 Any player may change clubs in Taranaki during a season provided the written consent of TCA is obtained and a written clearance from his/her former club is presented to the new club before the player starts to play for the new club. No part may be taken in a match that commenced prior to full consent being obtained. This clearance is not required by primary, secondary or tertiary students while at school in Taranaki or transferring from a school to a club upon completion of their secondary school education.
- 5.7 A player shall be deemed to be a member of the club for which he/she first plays in any season even if a subscription has not been paid.
- 5.8 No club shall refuse to release a player from a club without good reason. What shall constitute good reason shall if necessary be determined by the General Manager. A club shall act promptly on a transfer request.

- 5.9 Prior to the start of the season each premier club excluding the schools will name a list of 8 players, these players will not be available to play lower grade cricket, all players playing premier cricket outside of this list will be free to play lower grade cricket, with the exception of finals matches per rule 5.16.c.
- 5.10 Dispensation will be granted to clubs to allow them to list only 7 players for premier cricket on a season-by-season basis.
- 5.11 Prior to the start of the season, clubs with more than one team in any one grade must provide team lists of at least 7 players for each team, to TCA. These team lists will be posted on the website under their club. Players listed may only play in the nominated team.
- a) Club officials will be responsible for policing this rule.
 - b) Teams not complying with this rule may have up to 2 competition points deducted on each occasion they are found to have breached the rule.
- 5.12 Any player who is a regular member of a Premier or Div 1 grade team may NOT play in the secondary school grade competition.
- 5.13 Where a player is released by the selectors from a representative team because of injury, he/she shall not play in a club match on any day of the representative match unless he/she has been given leave to do so by the team's Head Coach and the General Manager.
- 5.14 Where evidence is provided by a club official that an ineligible player has taken the field of play without the consent of the opposing captain, all points accrued for that match by the infringing team will be deducted for that round and a penalty deduction of up to 2 competition points may be imposed. TCA's decision on these matters will be final.
- 5.15 In Premier Grade competition finals:
- a) A player must have played at least two days of cricket for that club that season to be eligible for the semifinal or final of the Premier One-Day (50-over) Competition.
 - b) There is an exemption for tertiary students studying outside of Taranaki where they are required to play only one day of cricket for the club prior to the semifinal or final of the one-day competition
 - c) Players may only play for one club/school in the Premier One-Day Competition.
 - d) For the Premier Two-Day Competition a player must have played at least five days of cricket for the club, in any grade or format, that season to be eligible for the semifinals or final.
 - e) For the Premier T20 competition a player must have played in at least one match for the club, in any grade or format, that season to be eligible for the semifinal or finals.
- 5.16 In Division 1, 2 and 3 competition finals:
- a) A player must have played at least three games for that team that season to be eligible to play in a semifinal or final.

- b) Matches that are abandoned due to weather without a ball being bowled cannot be included towards a player's tally of games for a team for the season.
- c) Once a player has played more than five Premier Grade One-Day or Two-Day competition games they are unable to drop more than one grade within their club to play playoff matches (semifinals and finals).

5.17 In the Friday T20 Competition finals:

- a) A player must have played at least two games for that team that season to be eligible to play in a semifinal or final.
- b) The Friday T20 competition is considered a standalone competition and, with the exception of the conditions of 5.17 (a), flexibility is permitted around club and grade eligibility for players. Any issues of eligibility are to be raised with TCA which will make a ruling at its absolute discretion.

5.18 A player cannot play in more than one end of season lower grade semifinal or final in the same season.

5.19 A player unavailable due to representative commitments and is away with that representative team on any given Saturday throughout the season will count towards a playing day so that they are eligible for any finals.

5.20 All teams participating in a final in any grade must submit a squad list of all players that have met the eligibility criteria set out for the relevant competition to the General Manager by 5pm on the Tuesday immediately prior to their scheduled final. These squad lists will be made available to respective opponents. Each team will have until Thursday 5pm prior to the final to question any players eligibility of their opponent.

5.21 Clubs must enquire to the General Manager if there is doubt on a player's eligibility for the semi-finals and finals matches. It is the responsibility of the club to ensure that all players meet the eligibility criteria.

5.22 TCA has in its absolute discretion the power to disqualify a team from playing or receiving a trophy if any eligibility laws are not observed.

5.23 TCA, after consultation with The Taranaki Cricket Umpires & Scorers Association, can stop a team playing in a semifinal or final if a player, or team, has indulged in conduct prejudicial to the interests of cricket in Taranaki.

5.24 For all player eligibility matters, contact is to be made in the first instance to: TCA General Manager – Ryan Evans – 0274677924 – ryan@taranakicricket.co.nz. Any eligibility complaints must be lodged in writing within 48 hours of the completion of the match.

6. MATCHES

6.1 All matches shall be played at the time and venue as set down by TCA unless prior approval for any change is obtained from the General Manager. If approval is granted the host team is responsible for notifying the opposition and the umpires.

- 6.2 There shall be no general notice of cancellation of any matches. It is the responsibility of the teams involved in any match to cancel matches.
- 6.3 In the event of a team defaulting a match:
- a) the Secretary or a representative of that club must notify the Secretary or Club Captain of the opposing club and TCA by 8 pm on the Thursday preceding the match.
 - b) The defaulting team may be penalised by having 2 competition points deducted.
 - c) No team shall be eligible to commence or resume play unless there is a minimum of seven players ready and available to take the field. This applies to both the batting and fielding sides. If any team fails to field a team of seven players, the game shall be called off and the team with less than seven players will be deemed to have defaulted that game and points will be awarded to their opposition accordingly. Any team which does not have the required number of players ready to take the field 20 minutes after the scheduled commencement or resumption of play shall have defaulted the match. This applies to both the batting and fielding sides.
 - d) A defaulting team shall forfeit the game to the opposing team. If a club fails to observe the default procedure it will be liable of a fine of \$50.00 (except for a premier team where the fine may be \$500) and the team shall not play any further matches in the competition until the fine has been paid to TCA.
 - e) The non-defaulting team shall be awarded points equivalent to the highest number of points by any other team in the grade for that round of matches.
 - f) Premier Grade - In the event of any team in the Premier grade defaulting a match, the defaulting team and all its club teams may not be awarded any points earned during that round of matches.
- 6.4 Any team that refuses to play for any reason other than for rain and wet conditions shall be deemed to have defaulted. The match and match points equivalent to the highest number of points by any other team in the grade for that round of matches shall be awarded to the non-offending team.

7. PITCHES

- 7.1 All Premier Grade matches shall be played on turf pitches from November 1st each season, except where dispensation for One-Day or T20 Competition matches on artificial pitches may be given at TCA's discretion due to weather conditions early in the season (pre-Christmas).
- 7.2 Only concrete based artificial will be used for premier grade matches if not played on grass.
- 7.3 Premier Grade grass pitch surfaces must be protected by adequate waterproof coverings no later than the Thursday night prior to the game or earlier if the forecast is detrimental to the preparation of a grass pitch before the scheduled game.
- a) This rule also applies to Premier Grade artificial pitches.

- b) Clubs that do not adhere to this requirement may be deemed to have defaulted the match as decided by TCA, at its absolute discretion.
- 7.4 Grass pitches that, for any reason, are deemed unable to be suitably prepared for a match must be notified immediately to TCA and their opposition no later than Monday preceding the match. Clubs that do not adhere to this requirement may be deemed to have defaulted the match as decided by TCA at its absolute discretion, if a suitable alternative venue cannot be found for the match.
- 7.5 TCA may prevent a club team playing Premier Grade in the following season if that club's turf pitch surface or the surrounding playing area are not up to an acceptable level as determined by TCA. The club shall be given until the 30th of May to rectify the pitch and/or surrounding playing area. TCA's decision shall be final.
- 7.6 All grades other than Premier Grade may play on artificial pitches.
- 7.7 All artificial pitches must have the proper crease markings plus the wide markings in place.
- 7.8 All artificial pitches should have no concrete visible in the playing area of the pitch.
- 7.9 Division 1, 2 and 3 artificial pitches must be covered Friday night from 6pm or earlier if the forecast predicts rain ahead of semifinals or finals matches.
 - a) Clubs that do not adhere to this requirement may be deemed to have defaulted the match as decided by TCA at its absolute discretion.
- 7.10 It is the captain's responsibility to ensure that all players of his team who are to play on artificial surfaces do not wear sprigs of any type on their footwear. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action being taken against offenders.
- 7.11 Clubs with multiple grounds are responsible for informing the opposing team where they will be playing prior to the day of play.

8. MATCH REQUIREMENTS

- 8.1 The club, on whose ground the match is played, shall ensure that the ground is properly marked; that stumps and bails are available; that the ground is in good order for play; and the amenities are serviceable. A scoreboard must be provided. When matches are played on outside grounds the team named first on the draw for matches shall be the host team.
- 8.2 Drinks must be available and provided by the home side for all drink breaks, which also include lunch and tea breaks.
- 8.3 If the ground is not properly in order for play the host team may be deemed to have defaulted the match, as decided by TCA at its absolute discretion.

9. FITNESS OF PITCH, GROUND, WEATHER AND LIGHT

- 9.1 If at any time the umpires together agree that the conditions of ground, weather and light are so bad that there is obvious and foreseeable risk to the safety of any player or umpire, so that it would be unreasonable or dangerous for play to take place, then

they shall immediately suspend play, or not allow play to commence or restart. The decision as to whether conditions are so bad as to warrant such action is one for the umpires alone to make.

- 9.2 If no TCUSA appointed standing umpires are present, then the captains shall agree on any decision to start or continue play.
- 9.3 The fact that the grass and ball are wet and slippery does not warrant the ground conditions being regarded as unreasonable or dangerous. If the umpires, consider the ground is so wet or slippery as to deprive the bowler a reasonable foothold, the fielders the power of free movement, or the batters of the ability to play their strokes or to run between the wickets, then these conditions shall be regarded as so bad that it would be unreasonable for play to take place.

Note: To facilitate play at the earliest possible moment after rain, the umpires shall see that all necessary steps are taken to improve the playing area, including the pitch, by instructing the host home club to use every practicable means to remove water from the pitch itself and any other water surrounding the pitch or elsewhere on the playing area. Mats or blankets may remain on the ground whilst play is in progress.

10. RESULTS, SCORING & REPORTS

- 10.1 Each person wishing to submit results must have created a PlayHQ profile and be given administration rights by the TCA General Manager or Club Administrator with rights to the club team he/she wishes to submit a result for.
- 10.2 Premier Grade scoring:
- a) Premier teams are obligated to live score matches on PlayHQ and provide accurate and up to date scores of games when contacted by the media. Failure to live score matches or report scores accurately may be penalised by the deduction of 2 competition points.
 - b) It is the responsibility of the home team to upload the result, including in abandoned and or no-result matches.
 - c) If the results are not submitted to PlayHQ by 8pm on the day the match is completed, all match points earned by the home team will be deducted.
 - d) The General Manager may consider waiving this condition in situations where genuine technology issues prevent this happening. The GM must be notified where this has occurred no later than 8pm on the day the match is completed.
- 10.3 Both premier team captains, if their games have officially appointed umpires, may be required to complete a Captain's Match Report.
- a) Captains will be advised the method of submission ahead of the season beginning.
 - b) The captain's report must be completed by 8pm on the Sunday following the completion of the match. Failure to meet this deadline may result in a two-point deduction.
- 10.4 All other Divisions scoring:

- a) The winning team must submit results of all games via PlayHQ.
 - b) In the case of a tie or abandoned game the home team is responsible for submitting the result.
 - c) If the results are not submitted to PlayHQ within 24 hours of the completion of the match, any match points earned by the winning team will be deducted. Similarly, the home team will lose any points entitlement for failing to submit a “tie” or an abandoned game.
 - d) The General Manager may consider waiving this condition in situations where genuine technology issues prevent this happening. The GM must be notified where this has occurred no later than 8pm on the day the match is completed.
- 10.4 When the result of a match is in dispute the captains of both teams must notify TCA by 8pm of the day the match is completed and make a written submission to TCA within 48 hours of completion of the match including a complete written explanation stating the reason for the dispute and including copies of their respective team’s scorebook (if available/applicable) and signed by an office bearer of the club.
- 10.5 Where there is a disputed result in a match that will affect a team’s contention for a semifinal match that is scheduled to occur within 48 hours of the completion of the disputed match, TCA must be notified within 2 hours of the completion of the match.

11. DRESS CODE

- 11.1 It is the responsibility of clubs to ensure that all players wear white or TCA-approved coloured clothing, this includes coloured shorts. If a team is wearing coloured shorts, then these should be a uniformed short and all members of that team wearing them.
- 11.2 When playing in competitions with a white ball, teams should wear coloured shirts as a minimum and coloured pads while batting.
- 11.3 Club or other motifs as approved by TCA may be worn on shirts, pullovers, and hats.
- 11.4 The design and placement of insignia on playing strips must be submitted to TCA for approval who retain the right to prohibit the use of any insignia.
- 11.5 All players in finals must wear whites or TCA-approved coloured clothing to be eligible to win a final. If players in the winning team do not comply, then the competition trophy may not be awarded to that team and the team may not be recognised as winning the Grade.
 - a) In this event, the competition trophy will not be awarded to the second placed team.

12. FINALS VENUES

- 12.1 In any Grade or Division, if Pukekura Park is unavailable to host a finals match, the venue for the final will be the home ground of the highest qualifying finalist.

- 12.2 If the home venue of the highest qualifying finalist is unavailable, TCA will appoint a venue to host the final at its discretion and its decision will be final.

13. TROPHIES

- 13.1 Trophies shall be deemed to be held in trust for TCA by the holders for the time being, and the holders shall be responsible for the care and maintenance of such trophies whilst in their possession.
- 13.2 The cost of replacing lost or damaged trophies may be passed on to the holder at the time damage was incurred or the trophy lost.
- 13.3 All engraving shall be the responsibility of TCA.