

Aberdeen Evening Cricket League – Spirit of the Game

The AECL owes much of its appeal to the fact that it should be played not only within its Laws but also within the Spirit of the Game. Any action which is seen to abuse this spirit causes injury to the game itself. The responsibility for ensuring the spirit of fair play rests with all the players.

The Spirit of the Game involves RESPECT for:

- Your opponents
- The roles of the umpires
- The game's traditional values

The Aberdeen Evening Cricket League (AECL) is available to all cricket enthusiasts whatever the level, from the Grade cricketer looking for some much needed match practice, to the novice cricketer trying the game for the first time. All matches adopt the 20/20 limited over format. The league encourages all matches to be played in a good natured, relaxed atmosphere with the main aim being involvement and enjoyment by all. Play fair!!

Players who play regularly throughout the season in the AECL are expected to be given every opportunity to play in the Cup competition, in particular the Cup Final at Mannofield.

Details:

- Matches take place on Tuesday evenings (early May until Mid August) between 6.30 p.m. and 9.00p.m
- League AGM takes place in March
- All matches take place at **Duthie Park**, the **Links** and **Sheddocksley** (or specific home grounds provided by teams).
- League and Cup Competitions
- All matches are 20 overs per side (a minimum of 15 overs).
- Batsman retire after reaching 30 runs
- A maximum of 4 overs per bowler
- Cup Final at **Mannofield**
- League batsman and bowler of the year awards
- Membership is £20 per team per annum

The AECL generally follows the Laws of Cricket from the MCC. A full set of the Laws of Cricket, from the M.C.C. can be found at: <http://www.lords.org/laws-and-spirit/laws-of-cricket/>

Special attention should be given to the following:

Dangerous or Unfair Bowling

- A ball which, irrespective of pace and the risk of physical injury, pitches and passes above the shoulder of the striker (standing upright at the crease) must be called a No Ball by the Umpire. Such deliveries may not be considered dangerous or unfair in themselves, but are included to ensure all standards of batsman in the AECL are protected from injury, in particular when the light deteriorates towards the end of a match.
- A ball, other than slow delivery, passing above waist height (if the batsman were standing upright at the crease) without pitching shall be called a no ball by the Umpire.
- A slow delivery which passes the batsman above shoulder height (if the batsman were standing upright at the crease) without pitching shall be called a no ball.
- The bowling of fast, short pitched balls in very poor light towards the end of the evening should be avoided. Such deliveries can be dangerous. The umpire at the bowler's end can remind the bowler and the Captain of the fielding side to pitch the ball up in the spirit of the game.

For further details, see Law 42.6 (Fair and unfair play).

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Wides

The interpretation of a wide must be agreed between captains before the start of the match. There are different standards of teams in the AECL and therefore the onus is on both captains to agree in advance an appropriate ruling and make sure all team members are aware.

Two approaches are suggested depending on the type of match:

Matches involving inexperienced cricketers

A ball shall be considered a wide unless it is sufficiently within a batsmans reach to play a normal cricket stroke. The Umpire should take into consideration the pace of the delivery. A wide should not be given for every ball that misses leg stump at slow / medium pace. After warning the bowler, persistent transgression down legside shall be called a wide.

Matches involving experienced cricketers

A ball shall be considered a wide for any ball straying down leg side. This will be the interpretation during the Oxy Cup semi-finals and final.

For further details, see Law 25 'Wide Ball'.

LBW

The AECL must not be mistaken for a previous midweek league in Aberdeen (Wednesday evening approx. 15 years ago) where all players bowled 2 overs each and there was no LBW rule. The LBW law applies fully in the AECL.

For further details, see Law 36 (Leg Before Wicket).