

THE WATFORD OBSERVER FOURTEEN14 2019 RULES

COMPETITION RULES

1. The competitions will be called the Watford Observer Fourteen14 Shield and Plate. They will be run by the Watford Observer sports desk.
2. The Watford Observer Fourteen14 is open to Saracens Herts League-registered clubs and/or CCC-registered clubs and/or teams representing secondary (or equivalent) schools based within the Watford Observer circulation area.
3. The entry fee is £45 (forty-five pounds) to help cover costs and prize money.
4. Once an entry form, entry fee and the club's/school's squad list(s) is submitted to the Watford Observer sports desk, it is deemed that the club concerned accepts all rules for the Shield and Plate, and that the Watford Observer sports desk's decision is final for all aspects of the two competitions.
5. The Shield and Plate will be run as knockout tournaments.
6. Teams without a recognised home ground are permitted to enter but they will be drawn away for every round of the competitions they reach prior to the semi-finals and final.
7. A seeding system will operate in the Shield competition. This will be made up of the eight teams who contested the 2018 Shield quarter-finals, subject to their entries being received this year. If there is any shortfall, preference will be given to the highest ranking league club(s) who did not contest the 2018 Shield quarter-finals.
8. Only players registered to a participating club, and who play regular Saturday league cricket for that club, are permitted to take part in the Watford Observer Fourteen14. Players are not permitted to represent more than one club/team in the competitions.
9. With regard to school teams, players are permitted to be current and/or former pupils and/or current staff members. School teams are permitted to select players who play for Saracens Herts League clubs but they are not permitted to represent more than one club/team in the competitions.
10. Clubs/schools are required to submit a squad list of 18 players with their entry into the Watford Observer Fourteen14. Failure to do this will invalidate their entry. Clubs/schools entering more than one team must submit a separate squad list for each team. Players are not permitted to switch between those squads.
11. A draw for the Shield will be made by the Watford Observer sports desk and published in the Watford Observer and on its website, together with advance notification of the dates for each round, providing weather conditions are stable. If not, dates could be changed.
A draw for the Plate will be made by the Watford Observer sports desk and published in the Watford Observer and on its website after the required numbers of rounds of the Shield have been completed.
PLATE QUALIFICATION: The teams to qualify for the Plate will be the losers of the first round Shield ties. Any shortfall will be made up from the second round Shield ties based on worst net run rate.
Clubs drawn first in each competition will play at their recognised home ground. Teams may be asked to consider conceding home advantage to assist with the administration of the competitions.

12. To allow clubs maximum flexibility in fulfilling their ties, matches should be played in a specified week(s), rather than on specific dates.
Upon receipt of the competition information pack, it is the responsibility of the HOME side to contact the away team and come to a mutual agreement on which date a match should be played. When this is decided, the HOME side should inform the Watford Observer sports desk.
Dates for the semi-finals and final are binding.
13. Clubs can only play on dates not in the specified week(s) in the following circumstances:
 - (a) As a result of postponement because of bad weather conditions or unforeseeable circumstances
 - (b) With the prior permission of the Watford Observer sports deskClubs failing to fulfil a fixture will forfeit the tie.
14. Clubs are required to provide their own qualified umpire, as specified in the Laws of Cricket 2017 Code, up to an including the quarter-final stage of the Shield and Plate. For legal reasons, the umpire should be a member of the England and Wales Cricket Board Association of Cricket Officials (ECB ACO) and will have a current Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate. The sports desk will appoint umpires for the semi-final and final of the Shield and Plate.
15. Clubs/schools who do not have an ECB ACO umpire are required to contact the Watford Observer sports desk at least five days prior to the date of a match. The competitions' umpire coordinator will appoint an umpire and a fee of £20 will be payable at the toss by the team who has requested an umpire.
16. Clubs are required to provide a scorer for all matches in the Shield and Plate.
17. The winning captain is responsible for the production of a completed scorecard, which must include the names of all of the winning team's players from the match and both umpires, along with the club they were representing. This must be handed into the Watford Observer offices within three days of the completion of the match or e-mailed to amatthews@london.newsquest.co.uk. This is compulsory and failure to do so will result in that team forfeiting the match and the match will be awarded to the opposition.
18. Any allegation of an infringement of the rules of the Watford Observer Fourteen14, or of misconduct against a club, player or official in a competitions match, must be reported within three days of the alleged offence to the Watford Observer sports editor, Anthony Matthews. Reports must be made in writing to Anthony Matthews by email at amatthews@london.newsquest.co.uk. Once an allegation is received, the sports editor will launch an immediate investigation into the allegation.

PLAYING REGULATIONS

1. Except where stated within these rules, the **Laws of Cricket 2017 Code** will apply throughout the Shield and Plate competitions, with special reference to the Spirit of the Match and direct control by the umpires of dangerous and unfair play. The penalties outlined in Law 42 with regard to player conduct shall not apply in either competition. If the umpires deem it necessary, any breach of the clauses within Law 42 should be reported to the sports desk, who will take the actions outlined in Competition Rule 17 above. All entrants are reminded that the competitions should be played within the terms of the **Spirit of Cricket** as shown in the Laws of Cricket 2017 Code. The umpires are also responsible for the correctness of the scores.
2. Every team is required to hand a team sheet to the umpires at the toss prior to every match in the competitions. Failure to do this will be deemed as a forfeiture of the match and the match will be awarded to the opposition.
3. All matches in the Shield and Plate will start at 6.15pm, and any team not on the square by 6.30pm will forfeit the toss. Their opponents will be given the choice of batting or bowling first. The side batting first is required to complete its innings in 75 minutes playing time (i.e. if the innings start at 6.15pm, it should be completed by 7.30pm). If this requirement is not met, the batting side still completes its innings after 14 overs but the fielding side will ONLY receive the number of overs that they bowled within the 75 minutes.
To prevent unnecessary time-wasting, the following rules will apply:
 - (a) Each innings will consist of a maximum of 14, eight-ball overs, with a maximum of 4 (FOUR) overs per bowler, and the nominated wicket keeper will not be allowed to bowl.
 - (b) Each bowler is limited to a 12-yard run-up, which should be clearly marked prior to the start of all matches.
 - (c) In the event of an injury to a batsman, no substitutes or runners are permitted. If the batsman is unable to continue, the batsman must retire.
 - (d) During the last over of each innings, when a "No Ball" or "Wide" are called they will incur a penalty of 1(ONE) run. This is in addition to any other runs scored or penalties awarded. An extra ball will be bowled.
 - (e) During the other overs in each innings, when a "No Ball" or "Wide" is called, it will incur a penalty of 4 (FOUR) runs. This is in addition to any other runs which are scored and awarded. No extra ball bowled.
4. If a match does not start before 6.30pm, due to unforeseen events involving one or both teams, the umpires have the sole responsibility of shortening the match down to a minimum of ten, eight-ball overs per side. As a guide, the length of match should be reduced by two overs (one over per innings) for every full 10 minutes lost.
Alternatively, the umpires may, in consultation with the captains, cancel the match and a new date should be set. If a new date cannot be agreed, the matter should be referred to the Watford Observer sports editor.
5. Each team will provide one USED cricket ball for each match, which will be used during that team's batting innings. This ball must be of Saturday league regulation standard and be in GOOD condition with a reasonable quality seam.
6. All umpires are reminded that one-day cricket guidelines must be applied, with particular reference to the judging of "Wides" for leg-side bowling and "No balls" for short pitched deliveries and beamers as specified in the Laws of Cricket 2017 Code. A leg side wide shall be called if, irrespective of where the ball pitches, it passes outside the line of the Striker and the leg stump, irrespective of any movement by the batsman. For clarity, a ball that passes between the batsman and the leg stump shall not be called a "Wide".

7. From and including the quarter-final stage of the Shield and Plate, a fielding circle will be introduced. This circle is to be indicated using white discs, or similar, and will be placed 30 yards from each centre stump and joined parallel with the pitch. For the duration of each innings, four members of the fielding team (excluding the bowler and the wicketkeeper) MUST be outside the circle at the moment the ball is delivered. If this condition is not met, the striker's end umpire will call and signal "No Ball".
8. The winning team, when a match is abandoned for any reason, must be decided by the umpires. If any disagreement follows between the two teams, this must be referred to the Watford Observer sports editor, whose decision is final. A result cannot be declared unless the team batting second has received a minimum of half of its allotted overs. To avoid confusion, in a reduced overs match, if an innings consists of an odd number of overs, the team batting second must have received the minimum number of COMPLETED overs (i.e. if the innings is due to be 11 overs, the team batting second must have received 6 overs).
9. The winner of a full-length match will be:
 - i) The side scoring the most runs at the end of the scheduled playing time, or at any earlier time when the first innings total has been passed.
 - ii) In the event of both sides' run totals being equal at the end of the scheduled playing time, the side losing least wickets will be declared the winner.
 - iii) If the scores are still equal, the side scoring the most runs at the completion of the first half of its allotted overs will be declared the winner.
 - iv) If the scores are still equal, the side losing the least number of wickets at the completion of the first half of its allotted overs will be declared the winner.
10. In the event of a match being abandoned and where the team batting second has received a minimum of half of its allotted overs, the winner will be:
 - i) the side scoring the most runs at the equivalent point of each innings (based on the number of valid balls received).
 - ii) If the scores are still equal, the side losing the least number of wickets at the equivalent point of each innings (based on the number of valid balls received).