

Staffordshire Association of Cricket Officials

Scorer Newsletter – as at 29th March 2020 (links clarified and corrected)

Dear Staffordshire Scorer

I trust you are keeping well and isolating as appropriate. Sorry we had to cancel so many events. Time drags but why not use the opportunity to explore the many features of PCSPro 3.0.2 – details of update at <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!topic/play-cricket-scorer-pro/suPOXSuDaiw> . (you may need to click “**subscribe**” for this and “**download**” or “**create account**” to access other links below.)

This is a special opportunity for the youngsters, especially keen cricket players, to have a break from home schooling and teach Mum, Dad and/or grandparents something instead! Encourage Players, Umpires as Spectators to take a look. Try some wagon wheels!

If you did NOT complete our scorer survey in 2019, <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2SZNS67> please do so now - and encourage any other scorers, especially non-members to do the same. We can then provide you with relevant news and other material. Scorers should do more than count runs!

COURSES

The FREE ONLINE BASIC SCORING COURSE is useful as a quick refresher (and prevent boredom!) at <https://booking.ecb.co.uk/c/express/b3ff5124-d7fd-4e6b-acb4-806ca3d33e56> . There is also Laws of Cricket Online Learning at <https://laws.lords.org/login/index.php> . “**create account**”.

We hope to have more material available soon – details next month

PRACTICE

If you want to practice matches, then you could download future matches for your club but be very careful to operate as local scorer, preferably offline and delete afterwards. When you load the same match for real later, it will ask you to download a fresh copy for the server. You may be able to create matches for NV Play North v South. I have also generated a delicately poised D/L match (see below). NB: In some matches, you will need to enter a location before it will allow you to start scoring.

For general computer scoring, use a ball by ball commentary from CricInfo’s Stats Guru at- <https://stats.espncricinfo.com/ci/engine/records/index.html> - probably choose T20 and, initially, do not worry about the match type & conditions – explore those later. NB you will find PCSP now asks you to START innings rather than allowing you to jump straight in. Also a new default screen layout.

GRADING

Scorer members of ACO are graded according to experience and can reach a high level of multi-day cricket. This involves an observation report and a short interview. You must be an ACO member before you apply to colinp@a-b.co.uk for further details appropriate to your existing experience.

Meanwhile **download** <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1yg4O7msRLYrjUFeka8A7lB-sZd168x5e> for the documentation – if you have time, and information, please try and complete your match log for 2019 and have a go at the planner for the last match you can remember.

Congratulations to Caroline Cartwright for achieving Level 3 recently.

APPOINTMENTS

SACO appoints scorers (as well as umpires) to various county matches (youth, women, disabled etc) and other representative fixtures using WtU (Who's the Umpire!). Whilst priority will be given to SACO members, there are opportunities for non-members.

Everyone who scored last year will be included automatically. If you would like to participate this year, then you must complete the online survey. I will then ensure you are included on WtU shortly. Caroline will be in touch with appointments when we know what will happen, in a few weeks time.

ROADSHOW (North) and DUCKWORTH LEWIS – STANDARD VERSION

James Emmerson conducted a very successful Roadshow for 10 Scorers and 7 Umpires, mostly from NSSCPCL. Whilst it covered latest PCSP, it concentrated on the application of Duckworth Lewis Standard edition, clarifying a number of misconceptions, and we discovered some unknown aspects.

PCSP and PCS (Tablet/Phone) have DLS Standard Calculator built in. PCS also has a standalone calculator (do NOT login!) They will all yield the same results for the same input data

G50 is an important factor in the calculations based on some historic averages for particular fixtures. In the professional game, **245** is considered the par score for a 50 over match and this is the default in the standalone app. However in lower tiers, including NSSCPCL, a figure of **200** is recommended and this is preset in downloads to PCSP and PCS (live). Please ensure your correct value is used.

In all interruptions, Umpires will determine how many overs (and balls) remain to be bowled and notify the Scorers of the total number of overs available to each team. In the absence of a match Manager, Umpires have the responsibility to ensure that the correct calculations are then performed - whether by themselves or by Scorers. The Umpires must communicate this to both captains, including the number of overs and being clear about both the **par** and the **target** (=par+1).

If the Scorers are using PCSP or PCS, BEFORE THE MATCH STARTS, they must ensure that it is set for **DLS Standard with the correct G50 figure**. (click Scoring, Revised Overs, Auto Update, Standard, 200, Display End of Over.) Sophisticated scoreboards can be driven from the PCSP laptop!

At the end of each interruption, if Scorers are using PCSP or PCS to score the match, then follow the link, enter the available overs and the program automatically populates runs, wickets & overs from the existing score and provide the revised **target** and **par** for this ball and for the end of the current over.

If PCS is only being used for the DLS calculator (i.e. the match is not being scored on PCS) one of the Scorers or Umpires should use a tablet/phone on which they have previously downloaded PCS, click on 'tools' and select the 'D/L App' (NB: do not log-in). The relevant information, including the correct G50 factor, should then be entered into the D/L calculator, as above. This yields the revised **target** and the **par** for the current ball. It could well prove wise to write ALL these figures down for ease of reference and checking.

When the match has a reduced number of overs, PCSP, as usual, will display a warning when that number is completed HOWEVER it does not appear to warn about a bowler exceeding a revised allocation.

The **target** score set by D/L is the score that has to be **reached** for the side batting second to win. If there are then further interruptions and overs are lost, this target will be reduced (as will the available overs to bat) – again, entering the relevant information into the D/L calculator will yield the required figures. If using the standalone calculator in PCS, care must be taken to ensure that all interruptions are entered separately and correctly, as well as G50 if necessary.

If the first innings is interrupted, then Team 2 may have a target greater than runs scored by Team 1.

If the actual final score is equal to **par**, local regulations will determine how a side can win the game.

The **target** score must not be confused with the **par** score. The **par** score is a dynamic figure (ball by ball) and is displayed elsewhere on the scoreboard in professional matches, indicating the required score to be reached at the end of the over about to be bowled for the batting team to be at **par, i.e. level**. If the team batting second are ahead of the displayed **par** score when a match is interrupted and then terminated with no further play, they have definitely won. If they are behind the exact par score (in mid-over, this may be slightly different to the displayed figure), then they have lost.

The **par** score can be calculated per ball as well as per over. This is a very clever feature of DLS although in practical terms would only be needed in extreme circumstances – i.e. a very close match being imminently threatened with a terminal weather interruption. **Download** the mid-over dilemma from https://drive.google.com/open?id=13zIejo_vKDZH23s2VF6X95ezBK7Iww1i and then **import** into PCSP. Umpires are recommended not to interrupt matches in mid-over to avoid ambiguity!

Much of the discussion centred around the scoreboard display of the relevant DLS information. In an uninterrupted match, the first innings **total** is displayed in the display labelled "**last innings**" and the second team have a **target** of one greater to win. In an interrupted match, then DLS will provide a

new **target**, for which a **par** is one run less. It would seem sensible to display that **par** figure in “**last innings**” (possibly retitled in some way) since that is the total to be exceeded, just like any normal match. There must be a display of the revised overs available in whole of the current innings.

There was some debate about whether to count these down but this could cause confusion in the case of further interruptions and it is better to have a fixed display for available overs and final **par**.

Ideally your league should lay down a standard to be used everywhere but it is recognised that some clubs may have scoreboards that cannot comply. Whatever method is used, clear communication between umpires, scorers and captains is crucial, to ensure that all players know what the scoreboard will communicate, what and how the various figures will be displayed.

Additionally, if clubs wish to display the dynamic **par** score during a match then it is recommended that an extra person, likely from the batting side, assists the scorers by displaying it via ‘tins’ or spare numbers. The scorers can instruct on the value to be displayed – or the players themselves can work it out by using the D/L calculator – and thus Scorers can carry on with their other duties without having to get up and down at the end of each over or fall of a wicket to organise the par score display.

The display of the par score gives the batting side an indication of how they are faring relative to DLS – bearing in mind, of course, that the batting side should be fully focused on achieving the runs required to win rather than **par** score figures which are only a guide as to progress. Umpires must ignore the par score when considering the fitness of conditions, making a decision to suspend/resume play purely on safety considerations.

In the event that the interruption causes the end of the match, then both PCS and PCSP will be able to indicate the result.

Unless the match is abandoned without completing Team 2's innings, then the result is stated in the normal way - Team 2 wins by so many wickets or Team 1 wins by so many runs.

If the match is abandoned during Team 2's innings, provided 15 overs have been bowled, then, as above, their total is compared with the exact **par** score and the result is stated as a win for the relevant team by the difference in the number of runs.

The result should be appended by "(DLS Standard Method)". For a full explanation and 20 examples, **download** https://drive.google.com/open?id=1fvB3nzCXMkeKahZ5A5_wsmmQ02am6lv5 .

For this, and any other queries about scoring, please email colinp@a-b.co.uk

For league related matters, please contact the relevant league official.

Stay safe – we shall have cricket again eventually.

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