

Pairs Cricket Score-Along.

Pairs Cricket is usually played by junior players and although most of the MCC Laws of Cricket apply, many match regulations adapt the game for younger players, to give them the best possible chance to participate in all parts of the game.

One thing to note about Pairs Cricket, is that there is never a standard set of regulations to work to, so you do need to study the ones for your match in advance but the basics are the same in all formats.

Two teams consisting of an even number of players, each bat for one innings.

The batting side form pairs and each pair bat for a set number of overs. All overs are bowled from the same end and all players are encouraged to bowl.

Batters swap ends at the end of each over and when a wicket falls. If a player is dismissed, the batters swap ends but continue batting and a set number of runs are either deducted from the batting side's total or added to the fielding side's total (consistently throughout the match – depending on the match regulations). If the 'deduct runs' version is being played, the batting side start with an agreed total (usually 100 or 200). Wides and No Balls cost more than 1 run but will not be re-bowled until the final over.

Bowled, Caught, Run Out, Stumped and Hit Wicket are the only dismissals allowed, although LBWs may be given if the ball is deliberately blocked with the leg or foot.

Confused? I'm not surprised, yet this is the format of cricket many parents are asked to score with no prior experience or training. As a tutor of new scorers, I'm often asked to give advice on Pairs scoring, so this is your opportunity to have a go at something you might need to help others with later.

We will be scoring from a match narrative written up as a transcript of an actual pairs match that took place in 2014 and using an adapted Box style scoresheet, both of which can be downloaded from the links below. You will need to print 2 blank scoresheets, but the narrative will be presented on screen, so that we can all score along at the same pace.

RunWktsOvers Pairs Cricket Regulations: -

- Each team shall comprise of 8 players.
- Each game shall consist of one innings of 16 overs per side.
- Wides and no balls will score two runs but will not be re-bowled, except in the last over.
- The batting side shall be divided into pairs, each pair shall bat for 4 overs.
- Each team shall commence its innings with a score of 200 runs.
- Batsmen shall have unlimited "lives".
- For each loss of wicket 5 runs shall be deducted from the total.
- Batsmen shall change ends at the fall of each wicket except on the last ball of an over.
- Each fielder must bowl with the exception of the wicket keeper, who may bowl if required.
- No player shall bowl more than 4 overs.

Download a blank pairs scoresheet from <https://bit.ly/31Aaygy>.

Download the match narrative (optional) from <https://bit.ly/31u4Hcl>.

Thanks to Allison Bradnock of Norfolk for creating the transcript, providing the blank scoresheets and scoring the model answer (available after the session) as a beautiful work of art.