

Submission on rule change for Under 10 and Under 11



March, 2016



We request that the 'Average runs per wicket' rule for determining the winner of an Under10 and Under 11 match be reinstated for the 2016 / 17 season.

We surveyed our Under 10 and Under 11 parents after significant concerns were raised about the current rule used to determine the winner of a match versus the previous rule. i.e. total numbers of runs Vs average runs per wicket.

Of 138 emails sent out requesting parent's comments we received feedback from 36 parents, representing 26% of the total emails. This is considered a normal response rate for survey of this type. Please note, the results reflect the views of those 36 parents and may not represent the view of all parents in this group.

Profile of children's participation in each age group, this year and last year

	U11	U10	T20 Blast	In2 Cricket
This Year				
Child 1	46%	46%	8%	0%
Child 2	18%	36%	36%	10%
Child 3	0%	50%	0%	50%
Last Year				
Child 1	10%	40%	40%	10%
Child 2	0%	18%	46%	36%
Child 3	0%	0%	50%	50%

This table shows that, of the parents that responded, their children's playing experience last year is primarily in In2Cricket and T20 blast. This year those same children have transitioned to an older age group.

Which rule do you prefer to determine a winner for U10 competitions?

83% responded with 'Average runs per wicket'

14% responded with 'Total runs'

3% responded with 'No preference'

Which rule do you prefer to determine a winner for U11 competitions?

79% responded with 'Average runs per wicket'

18% responded with 'Total runs'

3% responded with 'No preference'

Do you want WDJCC to put a submission into the CJCC for a rule(s) change?

60% responded YES

17% responded NO

23% responded UNDECIDED



We asked for parents comments on their choice of current rule Vs old rule and received the following.

Parent's view (selected – average runs per wicket)

- This puts equal focus on scoring and protecting your wicket as a batsmen as well as a focus on the bowling and fielding side taking wickets and reducing runs scored
- It seems the fairest, if there is no penalty for losing a wicket it is only viewed as not making a run off of the ball bowled. The players at this age are able to understand and accept getting out (whilst still able to stay in) ... good preparation for the coming years
- Average runs per wicket teaches the kids to value their wicket
- We need to teach batsmen the value of not getting out. Otherwise we have reduced the game to tip and run, as there is nothing to lose. Even in backyard cricket, wickets do count - surely we are aiming for something above this level
- I believe the rule that awards the most runs scored does not recognise the importance of keeping your wicket and not just trying to belt every ball. Another option would be a deduction of say 5 runs per wicket would also work
- I believe it is important for the children to learn to protect their wicket as batsmen, and also reward the bowlers and the fielders for their on ground performance
- Teams are now sacrificing wickets to make more runs
- "Total runs scored without any limitation on the wickets that are able to fall does not teach the players to appropriately value their wickets. Rather, it encourages a level of risk-taking that is inappropriate in any of the senior forms of the game, and therefore detrimental to player development. Furthermore, total runs scored completely devalues the wicket-taking role of the bowler, which is also very different to the reality of the pinnacle of the sport, where a win requires 20 wickets
- However, if our coach decides the game on total runs and the other coach on the wicket quotient and both sides "win" according to the goals of their respective coaches and their respective teams, then what's the problem? Equally, both sides could lose ... I kind of like it, but I understand that most people are a bit more binary, so let's go with a submission because if I was forced to choose, it wouldn't be total runs
- We think the average runs per wicket values players that are good at fielding and bowling. It will also help to reinforce the importance of communication between the batter and their partner so that they are not run out. We have well thought out rules in place that value batters, bowlers and fielders. The game is not about bashing balls and running. It is knowing when to block. I grew up in the US and am still learning a lot about cricket but I see the value in using the average



- The kids still need to learn to protect their wicket. Otherwise, if winning was everything (which it isn't) we would just coach them to run on every ball as no penalty if you get out
- Makes no sense at all for the wickets not to count. Only trying to make the biggest score is what is wrong with Australian cricket. No one learns to protect their wicket
- The main purpose of the game is for the kids to have fun and learn about the game. By only focussing on runs scored it fails to achieve the latter of these objectives. We played a team whose coach was focussed on simply running on every ball. The non-striker was often half-way down the pitch (not exaggerating) before the bowler had released the ball. They scored a lot of runs and we achieved seven (7) run outs. Could have been 20 or 30, but these are nine year olds. They lost nine wickets but scored more runs, and while I don't really care who won or lost, I don't believe that is how the game should be played at that age. It is not teaching them the right aspects of the game. The players should be taught to value their wicket, run well between wickets and play in the spirit of the game. When runs are the only objective at that age, you will have coaches that pursue a win at the cost of instilling the correct values and objectives of the game. Winning and losing is secondary - however, let's get them off on the right footing
- This more accurately reflects the rules of cricket. There needs to be some impact for wickets taken & players need to learn to guard their wicket
- This season changing to 'total runs' provides no motivation for a team bowling 2nd to take wickets once the total required has been overtaken by the batting side. It also tells the kids it ok to slog because runs matter, wickets don't. It really is one of the silliest changes I can think of. Please revert back to 'average runs' ASAP so this mess can be sorted out and the kids can get back to what is important, learning how to stay in and score without slogging, and learning how to win a game by taking wickets and staying alert in the field for the whole game etc etc etc
- I believe that priority should be placed upon teaching the children the value of their wicket. Having total runs, with no penalty for a wicket, means that the children can effectively run on every delivery, putting the pressure on the fielding team. Using an average will teach them to protect their wickets, and make wise decisions about shots and running
- They need to learn the disappointment of getting out in age 11 whereas in age 10 they need the practice!
- The current rule of determining the winner by highest score doesn't teach the kids the value of taking wickets. It encourages the batting team to bash and run. What's the point of taking wickets if they do not count towards the score? Further, it won't necessarily accurately reflect the match. There could easily be a situation where a team on 1/66 loses to a team on 10/67. We all try to tell the kids that scores don't matter, but the reality is that 10 year old boys keep score, so why not make the scoring fair?



Parent's view (selected – total runs)

- There are arguments for both rules, averages encourages players to not throw away their wickets while total runs encourages scoring. Ultimately senior teams will need to score more runs than their opponents and I think it should be encouraged to play that way in junior cricket. I witnessed a game where a team would not play any scoring shots in the final 4 overs. Given most batsmen in u10's only play a pull or maybe a forward defence shot, I think they should be encouraged to develop more scoring shots. Entertaining cricket in any age group should encourage scoring. Scoring runs is more fun than being not out. Particularly as there are no points for winning or losing, cricket should be about having fun for the children

- Number of runs seems to be very cut & dried

- The rule encourages the children to try to make runs, but also to learn when not to. Total runs scored is the way wins in cricket at the top levels are determined. While I understand that it is important to teach the boys to protect their wicket, the average runs per wicket rule is too harsh and makes the boys to hesitant about trying to get runs. If there could be a balance between the two rules i.e. the number of wickets lost is subtracted from the total runs that might be a good outcome

- I think there should be some penalty for wickets being lost like in t20

- In all cricket, the highest score wins, so the earlier the boys learn this, fine by me



We also asked parents to describe any suggestions for rule changes for the 2016/17 season

Comments from parents of children currently playing U11's

- Average runs per wicket is the fairest way for the junior teams
- "The game is much better when there are only a total of 9 players on the fielding side at any time. This opens up the gaps and encourages batsmen to take runs. Subbing off one of the fielding team in turn for an over will achieve this. The fielders must also be reminded not to crowd around the pitch
- Change back to average runs per wicket rule
- Age 11 to be 20 overs max ... same as age 10 where everyone bowls 2 overs. It's a hassle playing 25 and takes too long

Comments from parents of children currently playing U10's

- Should include "hit wicket" as a wicket as again, it teaches the value of wicket and standing position at the crease
- Batsmen should be encouraged to take a proper stance and use correct technique - "Batsmen are not to take guard outside off stump (so the only shot they play is a pull shot/cross bat) and Batsmen are to take guard in the traditional manner, not like a base baller
- Please go back to runs divided by wickets - the kids (and coaches) will be better for it
- I think it is important for the next season that whatever the rule that is decided on, is universally applied. The idea that the rules for determining the overall winner should be negotiated at the beginning of each game is unworkable. It just makes it very difficult for the less experienced coaches and managers to know what to do, and hard for the boys to understand the outcome. No that the outcome matters, but to the children it does, no matter how much you encourage them to focus on their own achievements etc. There should be one rule and one rule only, whatever it is
- 5 Runs to bowling team for every wicket lost seems more reasonable than the average per wicket
- I would suggest the change to determine the winner in U10 and U11 as average runs per wickets