

ANTHONY AXFORD NORTH WEST CRICKET LEAGUE

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2026

Format 2026 Season; Premiership - 12 teams playing 22 matches, 11 home 11 away. Championship - 9 teams playing each other twice on a home and away basis, plus 6 matches in a third fixture. Conference Premiership - 11 teams playing 10 home and away matches. Conference Two as Conference Premiership. Conference Three 8 teams playing each other three times.

Format 2027 Season; A decision will be taken before the start of the 2026 season, but the Executive are aware clubs could decide to leave or join the NWCL before the 30th June deadline. The preference of the Executive is for a greater numerical balance between the Premiership and Championship. Two clubs will still be promoted from the Championship, but three teams may need to be relegated.

Again subject to clubs joining or leaving, it was agreed the present set up should continue, with 11, 11 and 8 teams, two clubs promoted and two relegated.

Safeguarding; Dates and venues for Safe Hands Courses for new Club Safeguarding Officers and Club Safeguarding Officers who are due to renew their certificates, all are 6.30pm to 9pm -

9th February - Chorley C.C.

9th March - Bradshaw C.C.

25th March - Wavertree C.C.

6th April - Stand C.C.

13th April - Little Lever C.C.

11th May - Bacup C.C.

Register via Safeguarding Courses on the LCF Website

ECB Safety Regulations and Guidelines; All cricketers are strongly advised to wear neck protectors at all times that they are required or recommended to wear helmets.

It is recommended that ball throwers and bowling machines are only operated by adults who are suitably experienced, competent, and familiar with their safe operation.

Neuro Diversity; The Executive are looking at ways the needs of neuro diverse players in the NWCL are taken into consideration.

Development League; There will be a meeting for teams in the Development League at Brinscall C.C. on 26th March.

Umpires; The Umpires Training Day will be 29th March.

League Meeting Dates;

Monday 9th March - Brinscall

Monday 13th April - Tonge

Tuesday 9th June - Brinscall

Tuesday 11th August - Tonge

Monday 28th September - Brinscall

Monday 30th November - Tonge AGM

Juniors; On appeal, it was agreed that Farnworth Social Circle Under 15 player Josh French could continue playing junior cricket at FSC while playing for Lytham first team. The decision was due to a number of factors including; the impracticality of playing junior cricket at Lytham, the unlikelihood of him having the opportunity of playing meaningful first team cricket at FSC in 2026 and his families long term association with FSC.

In 2026 juniors will be using the Reader balls.

Lancashire KO; Fixture dates - 17th May, 7th June, 28th June, 19th July (plus reserve date), 30th August.

Sunday Fixtures:

Sunday 19th April

Sunday 26th April

Sunday 3rd May = Ramsbottom Cup 1st Round(12/14 matches)- No Reserve Date

Sunday 10th May = Championship Sunday(1)(4 matches)

Sunday 17th May = Lancashire KO Cup 1st Round/Hamer Cup 1st Round(5 matches)

Sunday 24th May = Hamer Cup Reserve Date(5 matches)/Ramsbottom Cup 2nd Round (8 matches)

Sunday 31st May = Lawrenson Cup 1st Round(4/6 matches)/Ramsbottom Cup Reserve Date 2nd Round (8 matches)

Sunday 7th June = Lancashire KO Cup 2nd Round/Lawrenson Cup 1st Round Reserve. Date(4/6 matches)/Championship Sunday(2)(4 matches)

Sunday 14th June = Hamer Cup 2nd Round(8 matches)

Sunday 21st June = Hamer Cup 2nd Round Reserve Date(8 matches)/Lawrenson Cup Quarter Finals(4 matches)

Sunday 28th June = Lancashire KO Cup Quarter Finals/Lawrenson Cup Quarter Finals.
Reserve Date(4 matches)

Sunday 5th July = Hamer Cup Quarter Finals(4 matches)/Ramsbottom Cup Quarter Finals.
(4 matches)

Sunday 12th July = Hamer Cup Quarter Finals Reserve Date(4 matches)/Ramsbottom Cup
QuarterFinal Reserve Date (4 matches)

Sunday 19th July = Lancashire KO Cup Semi Finals/Championship Sunday(2)(3 matches)/Ramsbottom Cup Semi Finals (2 matches)/Lawrenson Cup Semi Finals(2 matches)

Sunday 26th July = Birtwistle Cup 20/20 Finals Day/Ramsbottom Cup Semi Finals Reserve Date(2 matches)/Lawrenson Cup Semi Finals Reserve Date(2 matches)

Sunday 2nd August = Hamer Cup Semi Finals (2 matches)

Sunday 9th August = Hamer Cup Semi Finals Reserve Date(2 matches)/Ramsbottom Cup
Final(1 match)/ Lawrenson Cup Final(1 match)

Sunday 16th August = Ramsbottom Cup Final(1 match)/ Lawrenson Cup Final(1 match)

Sunday 23rd August = Hamer Cup Final(1 match)/Ramsbottom Cup Final Reserve Date(1 match)/Lawrenson Cup Reserve Date Final(1 match)

Sunday 30th August = Lancashire KO Cup Final/Hamer Cup Final Reserve Date(1 match)

Sunday 6th September

Sunday 13th September

T20 dates: Fridays 22nd May, 29th May, 5th June, 12th June, 19th June