



HUDDERSFIELD

PREMIER CRICKET LEAGUE

Women and Girls Cricket in Huddersfield

2026 – Formats and Teams

Women and girls' cricket in Huddersfield is growing at an incredible rate. From complete beginners picking up a bat for the first time, to competitive hardball leagues, there is now a format to suit every age, ability and ambition.

In 2021 there were just a handful in the Huddersfield area. By 2026 that number has grown to over 40 teams and continues to rise. With welcoming clubs, flexible formats and a hugely supportive community, there has never been a better time to get involved.

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GIRLS CRICKET – PATHWAYS TO PLAY

1. U11 Girls Introduction Festivals

- **Ball:** Windball
- **Format:** 6-a-side, informal festivals
- **Who for:** Beginners in Years 3–6 (particularly younger U11s or those new to cricket)
- **Style:** Fun, friendly and flexible – perfect first experience
- **Typical structure:** Three short games per team, lasting around 1 hour 30 minutes
- **When:** Usually Monday evenings
- **Organised by:** Steph Bown (Almondbury Wesleyan CC)
- **Contact:** steph.bown@gmail.com

These festivals give clubs the chance to bring along players whenever it works for them, with the emphasis firmly on enjoyment and confidence building. Clubs can team up to put together sides, or lend players to give everyone a go.23. U13 Softball League – 8-a-side (Pairs)

1. U13 Softball League

- **Ball:** Incrediball
- **Format:** 8-a-side pairs
- **Organised by:** West Yorkshire Women & Girls Cricket League
- **Entry:** Complete online form:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1e5OH2MiNTaHg7viYQhV4En26XRlPs9fu7dWZ14FshB4/viewform?edit_requested=true (Deadline 8th Feb)
- **Geography:** Localised fixtures – Huddersfield clubs mostly play other Huddersfield clubs

The U13 softball league is an ideal stepping stones for girls gaining confidence before moving into hardball cricket.

3. U13 Hardball League (NEW for 2026)

- **Ball:** 4 ¾ oz junior cricket ball
- **Format:** 8-a-side hardball pairs
- **Overs:** 16 overs per game
- **Surfaces:** Astro pitches permitted with notice
- **Organised by:** West Yorkshire Women & Girls Cricket League
- **Entry:** Complete online form:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1e5OH2MiNTaHg7viYQhV4En26XRlPs9fu7dWZ14FshB4/> (Deadline 8th Feb)
- **Geography:** Wider West Yorkshire Fixtures

4. U15 Hardball League

- **Ball:** 5oz women's cricket ball
- **Format:** T20
- **Team size:** Up to 11-a-side (can be fewer by mutual agreement)
- **Wicket length:** Same as U13 mixed cricket for ease of logistics
- **Surfaces:** Astro pitches permitted with notice
- **Organised by:** West Yorkshire Women & Girls Cricket League
- **Entry:** Complete online form:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1e5OH2MiNTaHg7viYQhV4En26XRIPs9fu7dWZ14FshB4/> (Deadline 8th Feb)
- **Geography:** Regionalised Fixtures – Kirklees and Calderdale

A competitive but flexible format designed to support transition into adult women's cricket.



U11 Introduction Festival at Almondbury Wes

WOMEN'S CRICKET – SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

1. Softball Pairs League

- **Format:** 8-a-side incrediball pairs
- **Facilities:** 19 yards, astro pitches allowed
- **Divisions:** Minimum of 3 divisions per region
- **Experience limits:** Applied in lower divisions to keep cricket safe and inclusive
- **Experienced players:** Welcome to support through fielding and mentoring
- **Organised by:** West Yorkshire Women & Girls Cricket League
- **Entry:** Complete online form:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf1d8NV-LtL_Zdw4zycintazKN-aYbWoucTuHtXNs9lK4EL_Q/viewform?usp=publish-editor (Deadline 21st February)
- **Geography:** Regionalised Fixtures – Huddersfield

This is the fastest-growing format of women's cricket – sociable, fun and accessible to complete beginners. **Huddersfield-area clubs with women's softball teams in 2026 include:**

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| • Almondbury Wes | • Honley | • Moorlands |
| • Cawthorne | • Kirkburton | • Rastrick |
| • Cumberworth
United | • Kirkheaton | • Scholes |
| • Denby | • Lascelles Hall | • Shepley |
| • Denby Dale | • Lepton | • Skelmanthorpe |
| • Golcar | • Highlanders | • Slaithwaite |
| • Holmfirth | • Marsden | • Thurstonland |
| | • Mirfield | • Upperthong |

2. Women's Hardball Pairs League

- **Format:** 8-a-side hardball pairs
- **Overs:** 16 per side
- **Experience limits:** In place to support developing players
- **Experienced players:** Welcome to support through fielding and mentoring
- **Organised by:** West Yorkshire Women & Girls Cricket League
- **Entry:** Closed for 2026
- **Geography:** Regionalised Fixtures – Kirklees and Calderdale

Huddersfield-area teams in 2026:

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|
| • Holmfirth | • Mirfield | • Shepley |
| • Kirkburton | • Mavericks | |
| • Marsden | • Rastrick | |

3. Women's Hardball T20 League

- **Format:** 8-a-side T20 (additional players allowed by agreement)
- **Experience limits:** To maintain competitive balance
- **Organised by:** West Yorkshire Women & Girls Cricket League
- **Entry:** Closed for 2026
- **Geography:** Regionalised Fixtures – Kirklees and Calderdale

Huddersfield-area teams in 2026:

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| • Almondbury Wes | • Lepton Chargers | • Thongsbridge |
| • Denby | • Scholes | • Thurstonland |

4. Women's Hardball Premier League

- **Format:** Traditional 11-a-side hardball cricket
- **Structure:**
 - Division 1 – 40 overs
 - Division 2 – 30 overs
- **Organised by:** West Yorkshire Women & Girls Cricket League
- **Entry:** Closed for 2026
- **Geography:** All West Yorkshire

Huddersfield clubs competing in 2026:

- Holmfirth (30 overs)
- Thurstonland (30 overs)

This is the top competitive tier for players looking to play the highest standard of club women's cricket in the region.



Action from Women's Hardball T20 League

SUPPORT AND OPPORTUNITIES

Huddersfield Women & Girls WhatsApp Group

A friendly network for sharing fixtures, ideas and opportunities.

To join: email sara.r.begg@gmail.com

Huddersfield MCC Foundation Hub

- Based at Sixes
- Age groups: U14 and U17
- Designed to help state school players access pathway cricket and additional coaching
- Contact Hub manager Sanna Ahmed for more information
ahmedisanna@gmail.com

Regional Cricket Pathway

Organised by the West Yorkshire Women & Girls Cricket League

- Annual fee: **£220**
- Opportunities for higher-level coaching and competition
- Nomination forms available via the league

Coaching and Workforce Development

- Women-focused Foundation Coach (Level 1) courses successfully delivered in 2023
- Further Foundation courses planned for 2026
- Metro Bank Core Coach (Level 2) course planned for **May 2026**
- Yorkshire Cricket Foundation bursaries available

For Core Coach information, contact **Katie Stewart – Yorkshire Cricket Foundation**
k.stewart@yorkshirecf.com

For more information: Contact your local club or email sara.r.begg@gmail.com to find out how you can get involved.