



BACKYARD CRICKET RULE BOOK

Use these rules to keep your backyard cricket game fun and safe this summer. We've done the deliberating for you so that you can focus on the fun!

1.

NO SUNSCREEN, NO GAME.

If it's a hot one, sunscreen is mandatory. It means you can spend longer on the pitch and be in fine form for a rematch tomorrow.

2.

FIRST BALL IMMUNITY.

Everyone deserves their time in the sun, especially if they've been doing their bit as a bowler. Any first ball wicket is just a test-run.

3.

SIX AND OUT.

Any player that hits the ball out of the backyard or beyond the established boundaries forfeits their right to the bat. It's just not backyard cricket.

4.

ONE HAND, ONE BOUNCE.

If you're skilled enough to read the bounce of a makeshift cricket ball on the bumpy backyard pitch, surely you deserve the wicket. The same applies for any catch taken from a ball coming off a house, tree or fence.

This rule also helps to ensure the batters make an effort to keep the ball on the ground – saving lots of broken windows in the process.

5.

RESPECT THE UMP.

Remember, without no rules, we don't have a game. Appoint an umpire (mum and dad are a good pick) to keep the game fair and fast. And most importantly, respect their decisions.





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6.

TIP AND RUN.

Quick game's a good game right? Making a concerted effort to be run out (and give someone else a turn to bat) is in the spirit of the game.

That being said if you have time for a longer game, feel free to consult the umpire and scrap this one.

7.

NO TO LBW.

Backyard cricket is about fun, not sweating the small stuff. The LBW rule is too tricky to umpire. Instead, batters are 'strongly encouraged' not to block the wicket with their legs.

8.

DOGS ARE TEAMMATES TOO.

You're on their turf, so it's only fair that dogs get a call-up for the fielding team. Any catch taken by a pet is considered fair-play. Likewise, any time spent chasing said pet to release the ball is more time for batters to notch up runs.

9.

GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP.

In the spirit of the game, batters should be prepared to start hitting catches after 10 minutes at the crease. Bowlers must also assess the skill of the batter when choosing how to bowl.

10.

END OF GAME.

If dinner's ready or light is fading, the game shall be called off. But only before everyone's had the chance to face at least two balls.

