

ACCS Best Practice Guide for scoring with PCS Pro in matches in the NV Play database

Starting a match – Home Scorer

- Prior to match day, download the match to confirm that all the information is correct, including date, match type, venue, officials, analyst, values of wides/no balls, power plays, over limits and use of a super over. If anything is incorrect, inform your County's Cricket Administrator, who will instruct the ECB of the correct details. This will ensure that umpires, match referees, both Counties and any media will be alerted to the changes.
- On match day, where relevant locate the analyst, OPTA representative and scoreboard operator and ensure that they all have the correct match information.
- The Home Scorer should download and create the match in PCS Pro as early as possible on match day (or day 1), using the "Start Match from Fixture" option, then locating the relevant match.
- The Home Scorer should confirm that the match setup details are still correct. If they are not, contact the FCC Support Desk via the PCS Pro help system. Click on Help – Play Cricket Helpdesk and complete the online form. In the drop-down menu under "What is your query regarding?", select "All First-Class County issues".
- Both teams will be auto populated with the players from the last match played by that team on the NV Play server (excluding abandoned matches). The option "Start with No Players" can be used to avoid publicising names before the toss.
- If an analyst is present at the match but is not listed in the set-up screen, select the relevant analyst's name in the Analyst field, to activate collaborative scoring.
- The Home Scorer should adopt the role of Live Scorer. unless agreed otherwise with the Away Scorer.
- Both scorers (Home and Away) should check that all the match players exist in the NV Play database and are linked with the correct teams (using Tools – Edit Database – Players). If a player cannot be found in the database (by clearing all filters and searching on Surname), then as a last resort a new player can be created in preparation for use in the match. If a new player is created, inform the FCC Support Desk via the PCS Pro help system, so that player duplication can be checked and avoided.
- If adding a new player in a FCC 2nd XI match, ensure the relevant player completes the Association of Cricket Statisticians & Historians - 2nd XI New Player Form, including all forenames. Send the form to the FCC Player Support Person (currently Paul Parkinson) at the end of the match in progress. Forms can be sent via email.
- As soon after the toss has taken place as possible, the Home Scorer should update both playing teams, record the toss and ensure that the Scoring Sync Status (right end of Task Bar) is 'Up To Date'.
- If the Scoring Sync Status is not up to date, right click on the Sync Now icon on the PCS Pro task bar and from the pop-up menu choose Upload Now. If there still upload problems, Force Full Upload can be chosen from the pop-up menu, but only as a last resort.
- Where relevant inform the OPTA representative and scoreboard operator of the team players.
- Check and test communication methods with on-field umpires (where appropriate) or third umpire in the case of televised matches.

Starting a match – Away Scorer

- Once the Home Scorer has created the match, the Away Scorer can download the match by using the Open Match option on the File menu and using the filters to locate the correct match. This will ensure that you are both scoring the same match with the same set-up data (not scoring two different versions of the same match) and allow end-of-over checks to occur.
- Do not add any players in the match setup screen. Leave this function to the Home Scorer but do assist the Home Scorer in identifying the correct match players for the away team.
- The Away Scorer should adopt the role of Support Scorer unless agreed otherwise with the Home Scorer. In the absence or incapacity of the Home Scorer or malfunction of the Home Scorer's computer, the Away Scorer should adopt the role of Live Scorer.

Collaborative Scoring

- Independent scoreboard scorers (if also using PCS Pro) should adopt the role of Local Scorer.
- Ensure that the "Show end of over check when other scorers are connected" option is ticked. Tools – Configuration – Network tab – Collaborative Scoring section.
- At the end of the over a dialog box should appear comparing your scoring with up to two other writers (Scorers/Analysts) connected to this match. Any anomalies between writers will appear in red text and the words "Scores Differ" will be shown in the bottom left corner of the dialog box.
- Please check that your scoring is in perfect agreement with the other writers (Scorers/Analysts). If the dialog box says "Scores Identical", you can dismiss the box.
- If scores differ, DO NOT ignore the dialog box. Use it to find what the error is and who made it. Check with your colleague to determine that you both have the correct scores and if not, take steps to rectify the situation immediately. If necessary, pass information to other writers connected to this match (e.g. analyst) to help them rectify their score if they are the ones with the error. Remember that an analyst is recording a lot of information per delivery and so might overlook a last-minute run or umpire's signal.
- If you have remedied a scoring error highlighted by the end-of-over score check, it will re-trigger the check as you exit Edit Mode to confirm that the amendment is correct. In this circumstance the end-of-over check will only be seen by the person who corrected the error and anyone else who still has the previous end-of-over check dialog box open.
- If at any time you want to know how many people are connected to this match using PCS Pro, look at the numbers on the right-hand side of the task bar. The number next to the pencil relates to writers (e.g. scorers, analysts). The number next to the person icon relates to readers (coaches, managers, media staff etc.). To find out exactly who is connected to this match, hover the mouse pointer over these numbers and a tooltip will reveal the user's names and roles.
- The Home Scorer should keep an eye on their internet connection (very important at an out-ground) and the Sync status of the match. Whilst keeping an accurate recording of the match is a scorer's primary role, if there is a prolonged interruption in connection to the NV Play server and there is a suitable person to alert in the ground/stadium, please alert them to the situation and ask them to remedy the fault if possible.

What to record

- Updating PCS Pro is your primary function and should always be done first, before anything else.
- When scoring a professional match with PCS Pro you are connected to the NV Server with other people who are adding valuable data to the match. Scorers play a central role in creating the match in PCS Pro and it is off this which everyone else's entries hang. The scoring entry must be made in a timely manner once the ball is dead, to link in with all other entries for the same delivery.
- Technology is not failsafe and whilst a colleague could take over as Live Scorer, a written record is recommended as a backup.
- Ensure all deliveries are logged in the sequence that they occurred to correspond exactly with analyst data, video recording and any other match information being recorded. If only five balls are bowled (or seven), record what has happened, even if it is by mistake – do not invent or delete entries. Remember, everything is captured on video and logged accordingly.
- In FCC 1st XI cricket, the scorer should only record the score. It is the analyst's responsibility to record all other information including wagon wheels. Statistical information such as wagon wheels will be taken from the analyst's entry in preference to the scorer's, so you will be wasting time and effort logging information that may be overwritten.
- In FCC 2nd XI cricket, where fewer analysts are present, a small amount of statistical information may be recorded by the scorer to aid coaches/managers. Check with the coaches/managers to identify what they require and only attempt to record the additional information if you are competent enough to retain scoring accuracy at the same time.
- Don't edit players, venues, officials in the NV Play database. If you find an anomaly, contact the FCC Support Desk via the PCS Pro help system with a request to make the change.
- Ensure that any Innings Notes recorded are accurate and factual. Use the "Hide Notes" option (right click on a note) to obscure personal notes from public view.
- When recording fielders involved in Run Outs, enter them in the sequence in which they touched the ball (i.e. Primary Fielder = first touch, followed by any others in Assistant Fielder roles). When recording catches this is reversed, so that the actual catcher is in Primary Fielder.
- If no analyst is present, record helmet strikes or medical issues using the relevant button in the Event panel. To turn on the Event panel, click on View – Scoring Entry – Events. Both 'Struck on Helmet' and 'Medical' buttons will send notification to the ECB medical team at Loughborough. Clarify what happened with an Innings Note.
- In pre-season friendlies when players may bat multiple times in the same innings, if all wickets are entered as Retired Not Out, dismissed batsmen will be able to return as an incoming batsman without the need to create additional players in the database.
- When the Decision Review System is being used and a review is requested, wait until the final decision is given before recording any wicket which may result.

Interruptions in play

- Don't forget to use the Play State drop down menu to set the correct status for the match during any interruption. This can be a planned interval such as tea/lunch or an interruption caused by weather or other reasons. This important not only to maintain a history of the match but to inform those following the match via the Live Scores facility.
- Add all interruptions in the sequence that they happened (i.e. rain interval with lunch taken early) both interruptions should be entered in the correct order.

- Having set an interruption using a regular entry on the Play State menu (e.g. Rain or Ground Delay), once you have been informed of a pitch inspection or resumption time (or other such information), use the “Other” option at the bottom of the Play State menu to type in the additional information (e.g. Rain – pitch inspection at 2 pm).
- Don’t forget to add interruptions in play before the toss is made or before play starts on subsequent days of a multi-day match. All this is useful information for people watching Live Scores to know when to come down to the ground for start of play (for example).
- If overs are lost before a match starts, use the “Overs Rem” option to reduce the match overs. Do not attempt to change the number of overs being played in the Match Type.
- If a match is abandoned without a ball being bowled it is imperative that the Home Scorer has “Started the Match From Fixture” and ticked the option to “Start with No Players”. If the match is abandoned without the toss taking place, click on “Scoring” – “End Match”. This will prompt with “Are you sure you want to abandon this match?”, to which you should tick “Yes” and save the abandoned result in the next dialogue box. This will ensure the match is ended on the NV Play server, but players will not be accredited with a match appearance.

End of day/match

- At the end of a day’s play in a multi-day match, use the Play State drop-down menu to set the match status to End of Day, immediately. This will reset any Overs Remaining for the day and ensure all statistics (such as session data) are recorded against the correct day/session.
- Either at the end of a day’s play or at the beginning of a subsequent day’s play, it is good practice to speak to the umpires (if possible) and confirm the figures that they have calculated with regards to over rates. If there were any interruptions in play on previous days, you should also confirm with the umpires the number of overs in the day to be played and the expected timings of intervals. Most of this information can then be fed into PCS Pro (especially important for scoreboard display) and will prepare you for the inevitable questions from coaches, captains, media etc.
- At the end of a match, check that the scorecard shown on <http://live.nvplay.com/ecb/> is up to date and correct before ending the match.
- At the end of a match, if a win/lose result has been achieved or the required number of overs has been bowled, PCS Pro will offer you a Results box to complete. In a multi-day match this may not happen, and you may need to use the Play State drop-down menu to select End of Innings and then use the tick box within the End Innings dialog box to end the match. You must do this to ensure that the scored match has an ‘ended’ status.
- At the end of a multi-day match, confirm the final over rates with the umpires and pass this information to the OPTA representative (if applicable), ensuring that all scorers’ data is in total agreement. This should be happening on a session-by-session basis in conjunction with the Match Referee – they are responsible for the calculations and they enter it after speaking with the umpires at the end of each session. Once logged, it CANNOT be changed, unless a major calculational error has been made. This is where a scorer can play an advisory role e.g. saying that no allowance has been made for a change of innings or interval in the calculations.
- When you are happy that your scoring is correct and complete, contact the analyst (if present) to inform them that scoring is finished, so that the match can be signed off together. To check that you both agree, click on Live – Compare with Server/Sign off.
- Check that the result has been identified correctly by PCS Pro and that match points (if applicable) are correct.