

ATHLETIC SPORTS AND RECREATIONS FOR BOYS

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Athletic Sports and Recreations for Boys by J. G. Wood

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J. G. WOOD

**ATHLETIC SPORTS
AND RECREATIONS
FOR BOYS**



ATHLETIC RECREATIONS.

ATHLETIC SPORTS

AND

RECREATIONS FOR BOYS.

COMPRISING

CRICKET.
CROQUET.
LAWN BILLIARDS.
KNOCK-EM-DOWN,
AUNT SALLY.
GYMNASTICS.
SWIMMING.
SKATING.

ARCHERY.
FENCING.
BROADSWORD.
RIDING.
DRIVING.
ROWING.
SAILING.
ETC. ETC.

BY

Wm. Wood
THE REV. J. G. WOOD, M.A.

ETC. ETC.

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ATHLETIC SPORTS.



CRICKET.

UNTIL within the last eighty years this game was very rarely played, but there is plenty of evidence as to its existence as a game in the sixteenth century, and probably earlier even than that. But it is chiefly in the present century that cricket has become popular with all classes, and that it has taken the position which it now enjoys, as the leading national game played out of doors. There are several peculiarities in which cricket stands unrivalled at present, and which I trust may long be preserved to it. These are—first, its uniting all classes; for the peer and the peasant are constantly seen in the same eleven; and in a county match the best men will be selected, let their position in society be what it may; secondly, the general absence of gambling; for though betting cannot be entirely prevented, it is less associated with cricket than with any other sport of the same degree of popularity; thirdly, its healthful tendency; and

fourthly, the absence of intemperance as an adjunct. It is now the favourite game of the country village and the county town, as well as of the larger commercial cities and of the great metropolis itself, where the M.C.C. at Lord's, and the Surrey Club at the Kennington Oval, as well as some others of less note, keep cricket going throughout the season. This lasts from spring to late autumn, depending a good deal upon the weather, for it is a game which requires a dry sod, as well as freedom from any present fall of rain.

The game of cricket is played either as what is called "The Single-Wicket Game," or as "Double-Wicket."

SINGLE-WICKET requires one wicket, one popping crease, one bowling crease, one ball, one bat, and any number of players arranged in two sides, not exceeding seven or eight of a side. With these the game is played subject to the special laws of single-wicket, which differ in some essential points from those of double-wicket.

DOUBLE-WICKET is played with one ball, two bats, two wickets, two popping creases, two bowling creases, and two sides of players—one of which shall consist of eleven, but the other, though usually confined to the same number, may be extended to any other. Two **UMPIRES** are also appointed to decide upon the proper carrying out of the rules.

THE LAWS OF CRICKET.

The following laws are those which are now universally employed throughout England and Scotland, having been carefully revised by the Marylebone Club, that being the highest authority in this game:—

1. The **BALL** must weigh not less than five ounces and a half, nor more than five ounces and three-quarters. It must measure not less than 9 inches, nor more than $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches in circumference. At the beginning of each innings either party may call for a new ball.

2. The **BAT** must not exceed $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in the widest part; it must not be more than 38 inches in length.

3. The **STUMPS** must be three in number; 27 inches out of the ground; the bails 8 inches in length; the stumps of equal and of sufficient thickness to prevent the ball from passing through.

4. The **BOWLING CREASE** must be in a line with the stumps; 6 feet 8 inches in length; the stumps in the centre; with a return crease at each end towards the bowler at right angles.

5. The **POPPING CREASE** must be 4 feet from the wicket, and parallel to it, unlimited in length, but not shorter than the bowling crease.

6. The **WICKETS** must be pitched opposite to each other by the umpires, at the distance of 22 yards.

7. It shall not be lawful for either party during a match, without the consent of the other, to alter the ground by rolling, watering, covering, mowing, or beating, except at the commencement of each innings, when the ground may be swept and rolled at the request of either party, such request to be made to one of the umpires within one minute after the conclusion of the former innings. This rule is

not meant to prevent the striker from beating the ground with his bat near to the spot where he stands during the innings, nor to prevent the bowler from filling up holes with sawdust, &c., when the ground is wet.

8. After rain the wickets may be changed with the consent of both parties.

9. The BOWLER shall deliver the ball with one foot on the ground behind the bowling crease, and within the return crease, and shall bowl four balls before he change wickets, which he shall be permitted to do only once in the same innings.

10. The ball must be bowled, not thrown or jerked, and the hand must not be above the shoulder in delivery; and whenever the bowler shall so closely infringe on this rule in either of the above particulars as to make it difficult for the umpire at the bowler's wicket to judge whether the ball has been delivered within the true intent and meaning of this rule or not, the umpire shall call "no ball."

11. He may require the striker at the wicket from which he is bowling to stand on that side of it which he may direct.

12. If the bowler shall toss the ball over the striker's head, or bowl it so wide that in the opinion of the umpire it shall not be fairly within the reach of the batsman, he shall adjudge one run to the party receiving the innings, either with or without an appeal, which shall be put down to the score of wide balls; such ball shall not be reckoned as one of the four balls; but if the batsman shall by any means bring himself within reach of the ball, the run shall not be adjudged.

13. If the bowler deliver a "no ball" or a "wide ball," the striker shall be allowed as many runs as he can get, and he shall not be put out except by running out. In the event of no run being obtained by any other means, then one run shall be added to the score of "no balls" or "wide balls," as the case may be. All runs obtained for "wide balls" to be scored to "wide balls." The names of the bowlers who bowl "wide balls" or "no balls" in future to be placed on the score, to show the parties by whom either score is made. If the ball shall first touch any part of the striker's dress or person (except his hands), the umpire shall call "leg bye."

14. At the beginning of each innings the umpire shall call "play;" from that time to the end of each innings no trial ball shall be allowed to any bowler.

15. The STRIKER is OUT if either of the balls be bowled off, or if a stump be bowled out of the ground;

16. Or, if the ball, from the stroke of the bat, or hand, but not the wrist, be held before it touch the ground, although it be hugged to the body of the catcher;

17. Or, if in striking, or at any other time while the ball shall be in play, both his feet shall be over the popping crease, and his wicket put down, except his bat be grounded within it;

18. Or, if in striking at the ball, he hit down his wicket;

19. Or, if under pretence of running, or otherwise, either of the