



Dr George Christos
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Mr David Richards
Chief Executive
International Cricket Council
"The Clock Tower"
Lord's Cricket Ground
London NW8 8QN
England

Re: proposal for a short cricket match ("smatch"?)

Dear Mr Richards,

Recently I sent you a copy of my paper "**It's just not cricket**", where I propose a solution to the now infamous 'rain-rule' problem in one-day cricket.

Discussions with a colleague, Dr Giannini, has indirectly led me to another simple solution to this problem. Dr Giannini complained that the current 1D game was much too long, and it was especially difficult for families to attend matches for 6-7 hours or so, especially with the kids. The problem could be solved if the game was somewhat shorter, say on the order of 2-3 hours, which is more comparable with a football match, of any code. In such a time, the teams could bat for say 20 overs each. As this is obviously not enough time for the entire team to bat, one might suggest that only the batsmen bat, say the top 6 batsmen = 5 wickets. One could have 5 bowlers (4 overs each), or 4 bowlers (5 overs each, in this case the wicketkeeper only keeps). Being such a short game, one will probably never have to worry about the rain-rule problem, but one can easily incorporate my deselection idea in this case by assigning one wicket for every 4 overs. One of the other things I like about this idea, as well as my previous idea, is that it eliminates the ridiculous situation in the game at present where the bowlers are required to score at the highest run-rate of the match in the last few overs, to win.

I believe that a 20 over a side short match could be an interesting concept.

Yours sincerely,

cc. Chief Executive, Australian Cricket Board, 90 Jolimont St., Jolimont, Vict. 3002
Dr. A. Bacher, Managing Director, United Cricket Board of South Africa, PO Box 55009,
Northlands 2116, South Africa.
Mr. T. Lamb, English Cricket Board, Lord's Cricket Ground, London NW8 8QZ, England.
Mr B. Hughes, Chief Executive, NSW Cricket Assoc., 9th floor, 51 Druitt St., Sydney, NSW
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