

SHORT SHARP SHOCK!

Last Man Stands is a frenetic, chaotic and rule-breaking take on Twenty20 played by time-strapped cricketers all over the world...

And you thought Twenty20 was exciting!

FIVE BALLS AN OVER, EIGHT PEOPLE PER side, extras worth three runs and a 'double play' rule where both batsmen can be off the same ball. What in the name of WG Grace is all this?

This is Last Man Stands, the latest format of a game that's gone through more changes in the past decade than it has in the past two centuries. Primarily played in parks in the early evening, the game is growing in popularity among a large group of enthusiastic players keen to get back into the game.

"Last Man Stands was born out of me and my mates wanting to play cricket but never having time at the weekends," explains the game's founder, Wayne Greve. "So we came up with a format that was short, sharp, competitive and fun."

Based on Twenty20, the rules of Last Man Stands are set up to make sure everyone who plays gets a good game within the two hours. So bowlers can bowl no more than four overs while batsmen have to retire once they get to 50 (but can return to the crease if everyone else is out).

With only eight players per side, there's much more chance of each player getting a bowl and a bat. "We realised there were going to be a few 'star' players that could dominate each game," says Wayne. "So we built in these rules to keep everyone happy and make sure they kept coming back each week for the next game."

Keeping up interest is a key component of the Last Man Stands competition structure. With 35 leagues across the country, the winners of each one go forward to compete in the England Champion's League, a knockout competition leading to the Last Man Stands Final played at Lord's. But the season doesn't end there.

"The winners of the final will then go on to compete in the World Championship," explains Wayne. "South Africa, New Zealand and Australia all have thriving Last Man Stands

"Last Man Stands was born out of wanting to play cricket but not having time at weekends" LMS founder Wayne Greve



Back to it
If you can only spare a couple of hours in the evening, LMS is for you

LAST MAN STANDS

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Last Man Stands Rules

- Each innings is made up of 20 five-ball overs
- Eight players per side
- Batsmen must retire at 50 but can return if all other players are out
- The last not-out batsman may keep batting as long as they score either two, four or six off every ball
- The square leg umpire is the next man into bat
- The first wide or no ball of an over is worth one extra run and an extra ball, but any subsequent wides or no-balls are worth three (with no extra ball)
- Double play: both batsmen can be out off the same delivery (one batsman can be caught and the other run out)
- A six struck from the last ball of the innings is worth 12

leagues, and this year the national champions will play against each other in November on the Gold Coast of Australia."

With popularity rocketing in all four countries, Wayne has his eye on other areas of the world ripe for Last Man Stands leagues, such as Singapore and Malaysia. But for the

moment, he's concentrating on getting more people in the UK donning the eye-wateringly bright kit and getting them back into cricket.

"It's all about getting people playing the game and having a great time while doing it," says Wayne. "It's just a fantastic way to spend an evening."

● For more information on Last Man Stands and where to get a game, go to www.lastmanstands.com or email uk@lastmanstands.com