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CONSTITUTION OF THE SURREY CHAMPIONSHIP

R1 - TITLE	
	<p>The Association shall be called "The Surrey Championship The Championship" ("the Championship").</p> <p>The Championship may elect a President and Honorary Life Vice-Presidents at its Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting and nominations for Honorary Life Vice-Presidents are to be first approved by and nominated by the Executive Committee to the Championship at its Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting.</p>
R2 - INTENTION	
	<p>The intention of the Championship shall be to organise cricket on a predominantly amateur basis for the Members of the Championship, with the object of playing club cricket in the Spirit of Cricket as enshrined in our Code of Conduct.</p>
R3 - COMPOSITION	
(a)	<p>The Championship shall consist of such number of Clubs as is needed to enable the various Leagues set out in R4 below to function with an appropriate number of teams in each. The Championship will manage its Leagues in conjunction with the Surrey County League, and the Leagues within the two organisations, taken together, are referred to for the purposes of these rules as "the Structure".</p>
(b)	<p>To qualify for membership of the Championship a Club must have a minimum of two teams (ie a 1st XI and 2nd XI) playing within the Structure and at least one team playing in a Championship League. Member clubs must have a main ground considered for cricket purposes by the Surrey Cricket Board to be within the county of Surrey. To maintain membership, clubs must pay fees and other dues to the Championship set out elsewhere in these rules and must at all times hold public liability insurance. Only Clubs with a 1st XI in one of the 1st XI Leagues will be voting members (see R7 below).</p>
(c)	<p>The normal means of entry for a Club to the Championship will be as a result of one or more of its teams gaining access through promotion from the Surrey County League. Under the same principle, the normal means of exit from membership will be when a Club no longer has a team playing in any Championship League as a result of relegation from those Leagues. The arrangements governing promotion and relegation between the Championship and the Surrey County League are set out in detail at PC9 of Appendix 1 of this constitution.</p>
(d)	<p>A Club which fails to meet the qualifying requirements in R3b above will forfeit its right to continuing membership. However, a Club which as a result of a shortage of playing members finds itself unable during the course of any season to fulfil its 2nd XI fixtures, wherever that 2nd XI may be playing within the Structure, may continue to field a 1st XI within the Championship for the remainder of that season. To retain membership subsequently, the Club must be able to satisfy the Executive Committee that it will be able to fulfil its 2nd XI fixtures in the following season. The Executive Committee will have discretion over the acceptance or otherwise of such assurances.</p>
(e)	<p>Under R3d above, the Executive Committee will have ultimate discretion to terminate the membership of any Club which it does not consider capable of sustaining two viable XIs within the structure. Expulsion of a Club for other reasons must be by way of a proposal considered and voted on at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting.</p>
R4 - THE FORM OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP	
(a)	<p>Each game shall be played under the prevailing MCC Laws of Cricket, and the playing conditions of the Championship as set out in the Schedules to these rules.</p>
(b)	<p>The Championship shall comprise the following:-</p>

	<p>(i) The First XI League consisting of six Divisions known as the Premier Division, the First Division, the Second Division, the Third Division, the Fourth Division and the Fifth Division of the First XI League.</p> <p>(ii) The Second XI League consisting of six Divisions known as the Premier Division, the First Division, the Second Division, the Third Division, the Fourth Division and the Fifth Division of the Second XI League.</p> <p>(iii) The Third XI League consisting of Divisions to be decided from time to time at the discretion of the Executive Committee.</p> <p>(iv) The Fourth XI League consisting of Divisions to be decided from time to time at the discretion of the Executive Committee.</p> <p>In deciding the format of the Third XI and Fourth XI Leagues the Executive Committee will have regard to ensuring competitiveness by virtue of having teams of broadly equal strength within each Division, and maintaining reasonable travel distances for teams in lower Divisions.</p> <p>Promotion and relegation between Divisions in all Leagues will be as set out in Playing Condition 9 in Appendix 1 of this document.</p>
(c)	It is a condition of our Premier League accreditation that for any club to play in the Premier Division First XI they must have obtained and retained the official “ClubMark” accreditation by the 31 October of the prior year (or any such date as shall be determined by the ECB).
R5 - ADMINISTRATION	
(a)	The affairs of the Championship shall be governed by a Council of Representatives (“the Council”) made up of one Representative from each Member Club of the Championship, presided over by the Chairman who shall be elected each year at the Annual General Meeting. The Council shall, amongst its other duties, be responsible for ensuring that the intention and spirit of the Championship be adhered to. It shall be empowered to take whatever action it considers fit to do this.
(b)	The Council shall elect at each Annual General Meeting an Executive Committee (“the Executive”) to carry out the routine business of the Championship and to deal with, inter alia, the administration of the Championship's finances, the arrangement of fixtures, the administration of the Umpires Panel, the production of the Year Book and the enforcement of the Playing Conditions in accordance with the powers given to it in this constitution and all the associated playing conditions herein.
(c)	The Executive shall consist of the Chairman, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Fixtures Secretary, the Registration Secretary, a member of the Umpires Panel and up to eight members from Member Clubs, all of whom shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
(d)	Members of the Executive may offer themselves for re-election. Nominations for all places on the Executive may also be proposed, and seconded, by Member Clubs, such nominations to be submitted to the Secretary no later than six weeks before the Annual General Meeting.
(e)	Those persons elected as President, Officers or Members of the Executive shall not serve as Representatives on the Council.
(f)	The Executive shall have the authority to co-opt members and to appoint ex-officio members, for the purpose of complying with their functions. The Executive shall also be empowered to fill any casual vacancies that may occur.
(g)	Every officer of the Championship and every Member of the Executive shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Championship against any liability of whatever nature incurred in defending any civil proceedings in relation to the affairs of the Championship.

R6 – MEETINGS

(a)	The Annual General Meeting of the Championship shall take place on the fourth Monday of January. The Honorary Secretary will publish the exact date of the AGM on the website of The Championship and shall publish, in writing, the AGM Agenda and notices to Member Clubs at least 4 weeks prior to the exact date of the AGM. It may be attended by any current member of Member Clubs, but the voting shall be as defined in Rule 7 below. The meeting shall transact the annual business of the Championship and consider items submitted, in writing, to the Honorary Secretary not later than six weeks prior to the date of the meeting. A quorum at such meeting shall be the Representatives of not less than one-half of Member Clubs.
(b)	A Special General Meeting may be summoned at any time by the Executive or on application to the Honorary Secretary in writing. The application must bear the signatures of the Secretaries of not less than five Member Clubs, and shall state clearly the motion(s) which it is required shall form the purpose of the Special General Meeting. This meeting shall take place within six weeks of the receipt of the application and shall discuss only the motion(s) which form the contents of the application. Notice of this meeting and a quorum shall be given as defined in Rule 5(a) above.
(c)	The Council shall meet in October, and at other times as necessary. Notice of meetings and a quorum shall be as defined in Rule 6(a) above.
(d)	The Executive shall meet at a suitable frequency to ensure the efficient administration of the Championship's affairs.

R7 – VOTING

	<p>At the Annual General Meeting, at a Special General Meeting, and at the Council the voting shall be on the basis of one vote per Member Club who have a First XI in the Championship.</p> <p>At all times a simple majority of those present shall be decisive except in the case of an alteration in the Rules and/or the Playing Conditions or in the membership of the Championship where a two-thirds majority of those present and voting shall be required.</p> <p>In the event of a tied vote, the Chairman or his nominated Deputy, who shall not otherwise vote, shall have the casting vote.</p>
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R8 - WITHDRAWAL FROM THE CHAMPIONSHIP

(a)	Voluntary withdrawal from the Championship shall take effect from the end of the Annual General Meeting next following notice of such withdrawal having been given to the Honorary Secretary.
(b)	A club may be expelled from the Championship. Any proposal for the expulsion of a Member Club shall only be dealt with at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting. In the event that a Member Club is expelled such expulsion shall have immediate effect

R9 – FINANCE

(a)	An audited account for the year ended 31st December shall be prepared and be available at the Annual General Meeting.
(b)	The Championship's Accounts shall be held by a local Bank as decided upon by the Executive. Cheques drawn on this must bear signatures of any two of the Honorary Treasurer, the Chairman and the Honorary Secretary.
(c)	Each Member Club shall be required to pay on or before 1st April prior to the commencement of each season an annual subscription at a rate that shall be decided from time to time and any unpaid outstanding debts owing to the Championship. The Championship will invoice each member club such amounts owing on or before 1 st

	March each year.
(d)	<p>Any Member Club who has any outstanding Championship debts whatsoever when the first league game is played will be deducted 20 points for each match until full payment is received. However, any Member Club who subsequently pays the full outstanding debt will have those points re-instated, provided payment is made on or before 15th May in that season.</p> <p>If full payment of any such outstanding debt has not been received by 15 May in that season, the Treasurer of the Championship will give the Member Club in default a written notice requiring immediate payment.</p> <p>For the purpose of this rule the Treasurer shall be responsible for confirming to the Member Club that the outstanding debt has been paid in full.</p>
(e)	Member Clubs are required to use, during all league games, only league approved and league supplied cricket balls. All clubs will pay for their cricket balls at the time of ordering the cricket balls from the league.
(f)	All clubs with two or more sides in the Championship must take a minimum of four tickets for the Annual Dinner and clubs with one side must take a minimum of two tickets. The ticket price to be decided by the Executive Committee each year.
R10 – MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBER CLUBS	
(a)	<p>All clubs are required to comply with the mandatory requirements detailed herein.</p> <p>The Executive of the Championship reserve the right to levy a penalty, of up to £100 in any one season, on a club for persistent failure to comply with these mandatory requirements, detailed herein R10 (b-h), at its sole discretion, and subject to the appeals process contained in R11 (b).</p>
(b)	All Member clubs must return to the designated officer, the completed Club Information Sheet by 1 st February each year, or within 10 days of their respective AGM if such AGM is after 1 st February each year.
(c)	If any Member Club fails, in the opinion of the umpires, to have a competent scorer in any 1 st XI match officially covered by the Umpires Panel the Member Club so in default will be fined £25.00.
(d)	<p>All XI's in the Championship must follow the following timetable for reporting of results onto the play-cricket website:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Home side – input summary result by 10am Sunday following the match II. League – Lock the Summary Result by 10.30am Sunday following the match III. Home side – input detailed scorecard by 11pm Monday following the match IV. Away Side – Verify the detailed scorecard by 11pm Wednesday following the match. <p>All detailed scorecards will be “locked” after 11pm on Wednesday following the match and no material revisions will be made thereafter, except in the case of Executive intervention.</p>
(e)	The Captain of each side in every match in the Premier Division and any other First XI Divisions covered by the Umpires Panel, must complete an “Umpires Report” online within 10 days of the completion of the match.
(f)	All clubs must make available within seven days of a request, to the Executive Committee, their score sheets for any match, in the event of either a dispute or the failure of the Play-

	Cricket web site.
(g)	If any Member Club in a home match in the Premier Division of the 1 st XI League, and any other 1 st XI Division covered by the Umpires Panel, fails to sweep and re-mark its pitch at all intervals the Member Club so in default will be fined £25.00 for each default. If the Umpires record in their Match Report that no sweeping or re-marking was necessary in the particular circumstances of the match, then this rule is waived for that instance only.
(h)	If any Member Club fails to send a representative to any Council Meeting, Annual General Meeting, Special General Meeting, Divisional Meeting or the Year Book/Cricket Balls Collection Meeting the Member Club so in default will be fined £25.00 for each occasion not present.
(i)	If a Member Club fails to forward to the Year Book Editor or the Secretary of the Championship by the date of the October Council Meeting in every year the Reports of each of its XIs who participated in the Championship that year the Member Club so in default will be fined £25.00 in respect of each Report not so forwarded.
(j)	A member club shall inform the Secretary of any proposed merger with another club, whether already a member of the league or not, as soon as practical after initial discussions have commenced.
R11 – DISCIPLINE, DISPUTES AND BREACHES	
(a)	The Executive Committee shall appoint, at the first meeting after the Annual General Meeting, a Disciplinary Sub-Committee to consider and deal with all such discipline matters. This committee must comprise of at least 3 members of the Executive Committee. All such disciplinary matters are detailed in Appendix Two - CODE OF CONDUCT, SPIRIT OF CRICKET AND DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS.
(b)	The Executive shall be empowered to deal with any query, dispute or breach concerning the Rules, General Organisation and All Playing Conditions of the Championship and except as set out below its decision shall be final. If the Executive or the RPC Sub-Committee consider the matter under consideration to be a disciplinary matter then it shall be referred to the Disciplinary Sub-Committee. The Executive Committee shall appoint, at the first meeting after the Annual General Meeting, a Rules and Playing Conditions Sub-Committee to consider and deal with all such matters concerning the rules, general organisation and all playing conditions of the Championship. This committee must comprise of at least 3 members of the Executive Committee. Where any affected club wishes to appeal against a decision of the Sub-Committee, such club must do so within 14 days of notification of the sub-committee decision, accompanied by a deposit of £50.00. Such appeal will be considered by the Executive committee in full session, who may amend or revoke the original decision or allow it to stand. Should any affected club wish to make a further and final appeal such club must do so within 7 days of notification to it of the decision of The Executive Committee and must accompany the final appeal with a deposit of £350.00. The Executive will establish an appeals committee (“the Appeals Committee”) to reach a final decision, the Appeals Committee to consist of at least three individuals who have not previously been involved in discussion of the relevant breach, or are not members of the Executive but have been appointed by the Chairman as having the necessary judgment, impartiality and understanding of club cricket affairs.

	<p>In addition to the penalties laid down in these Rules and All Playing Conditions, the Executive shall be empowered, and may so empower the Sub-Committee and/or the Appeals Committee, to take whatever other action and impose whatever other penalties it deems appropriate against a club or any individual member or members of a club found to be in breach.</p> <p>This condition shall not give the Executive the power to override any disciplinary matters, by expelling a Member Club from the Championship.</p>
R12 - ALTERATION TO THE RULES	
(a)	No alteration shall be made to the Rules of the Championship except at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting called in accordance with R5 (a) &(b) above. Notice of the proposed alteration shall be given to the Honorary Secretary in writing six weeks prior to the meeting in question, and must be proposed and seconded by four Member Clubs. Such a proposed alteration shall be circulated with the notice convening the meeting.
(b)	Any amendments to the Playing Conditions required under the ECB Premier League accreditation shall be made and notified to member clubs, but will not require a vote by Member Clubs.
(c)	Paragraphs and or Schedule numbers will automatically be changed if and when any of these Rules & Playing Conditions are amended.

APPENDIX ONE - GENERAL ORGANISATION & GENERAL PLAYING CONDITIONS OF THE SURREY CHAMPIONSHIP

PC1 –FIXTURES	
(a)	Each side of Member Clubs of the Championship shall play each other side in its respective Division twice during the season, unless the weather makes it impossible for an arranged fixture to take place.
(b)	All fixtures shall be arranged by the Honorary Fixture Secretary of the Championship in consultation with the Honorary Fixture Secretary of the Surrey County League and shall commence and be played on such days notified by the Executive.
PC2 –TEAM SHEETS	
(a)	The Captain of each side in every match will supply to the Umpires, or in their absence the captain of the opposing side, before the toss, on the current official ECB team sheet, their list of players for the game which shall include details of the age of any player who was under 19 at midnight on 31 st August in the previous year.
PC3 – LUNCHES AND TEAS	
	In all Divisions lunch and/or tea shall be provided by and paid for by the home side for the umpires and scorers and also for all players.
PC4 – SWEEPING, RE-MARKING AND COVERING PITCHES	
(a)	Each club must, in any match in the 1 st XI covered by the Umpires Panel, sweep and re-mark its pitch at all intervals, subject to R10(g) above.
(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In all Premier and First Division 1st XI matches the whole pitch shall be fully covered as required to keep the pitch, and as far as possible, bowlers’ run-ups dry for 24 hours preceding the match and in the event of play being interrupted during the match by rain. • In all other matches Clubs may cover pitches and run-ups before and after the commencement of play if either captain wishes, in the event of inclement weather;
PC5- POINTS	
(a)	<p>TIME MATCHES : The results of these matches played in the Championship shall be tabled in league form on the following points basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Win – 24 points • Lose – 0 points • Tie – 12 points each <p>In a drawn game where the side batting second has received a minimum of 20 overs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the side with the faster scoring rate 2 points. • For the side with the slower scoring rate 0 point will be awarded. • Where both sides have an identical scoring rate 1 point (each). • In an abandoned match or a drawn match where the side batting second has not received twenty overs 4 points (each). <p>NB: Scoring rate shall be determined by dividing the number of runs scored by the number of legitimate balls received.</p>
(b)	LIMITED OVERS MATCHES: The results of these matches played in the Championship shall be tabled in league form on the following points basis:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Win 20 points. • Lose – 0 points • Tie - 10 points each. • Abandoned - 4 points each
(c)	<p>BONUS POINTS</p> <p>For <u>all</u> matches completed where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The side loses the game • A side has either a winning draw or a losing draw in the time game • Each side share an equal draw in the time game <p>The following points will be awarded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 150 runs or more and less than 175 runs – 1 point • 175 runs or more and less than 200 runs – 2 points • 200 runs or more and less than 225 runs – 3 points • 225 runs or more and less than 250 runs – 4 points • 250 runs or more – 5 points • 5 or 6 wickets taken – 1 point • 7 or 8 wickets taken – 2 points • 9 wickets taken or “the complete dismissal of a side” – 3 points <p>For the avoidance of doubt the maximum number of bonus points that can be awarded in any one match is eight points and only to sides that draw or lose a match.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A side that wins the match cannot receive any bonus points. • A match that results in a Tie in any format cannot have any bonus points awarded to either side. • Where one side concedes a match no bonus points will be awarded to either side (see PC11). • A game that is abandoned cannot have any bonus points awarded to either side. • “The complete dismissal of a side” is defined as the maximum number of wickets that can be taken in the event of a side fielding less that eleven players. • Bonus points are awarded when any form of recalculation is made for any reason, subject to all of the requirements in this Playing Conditions (such as abandoned, tied, conceded matches).
PC6- PANEL UMPIRES	
	The Championship shall run a Panel of Umpires to umpire all matches in the Premier Divisions of the First XI League and any other Division when it is decided that there are sufficient umpires to be so appointed. The Executive shall appoint an Umpires Panel that is accountable to the Executive. The Panel of Umpires shall operate and organise the umpiring of all matches in accordance with guidelines laid down by the Executive from time to time.
PC7- SCORERS	
	In all Divisions of the Championship each Member Club shall provide its own Scorers.
PC8 – BALLS	
(a)	The home club shall provide two new official league balls for the match. A new ball shall be used at the start of each innings in the match.
(b)	The home club must have available spare balls of the same make as the match balls and in varying degrees of wear.

PC9 - PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

(a)	<p>At the end of each season the two sides with the most points in each division will be promoted to the next division higher, unless that division is the highest division, except in the following leagues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">I. 3rd XI East and West – one side from Division West and one side from Division East divisions will be promoted to the 3rd XI Division TwoII. 4th XI East and West – one side from Division West and one side from Division East will be promoted to the 4th XI Division One.
(b)	<p>At the end of the season the two sides finishing with the most number of points in the top Divisions of the First XI League and the Second XI League and the Third XI League of the Surrey County League shall be promoted respectively to the Fifth Divisions of the First XI League and the Second XI League, and the respective East Division and West Division of the Third XI league..</p>
(c)	<p>At the end of each season the two sides with the least points in each division will be relegated to the next division lower, unless that division is the lowest division, except in the following leagues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. 3rd XI Division Two – one of the sides to be relegated will be relegated to the 3rd XI Division West and one side to be relegated will be relegated to 3rd XI Division Eastii. 4th XI Division One - one of the sides to be relegated will be relegated to the 4th XI Division West and one side to be relegated will be relegated to 4th XI Division East
(d)	<p>At the end of the season, in the following divisions, the number of clubs indicated, with the least number of points in the respective division shall be relegated to the respective divisions in the Surrey County League:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. 1st XI Division 5 – Two Sidesii. 2nd XI Division 5 – Two Sidesiii. 3rd XI Division East – One Sideiv. 3rd XI Division West – One Side
(e)	<p>In the event of two or more sides finishing on equal points with each other, then in order to ascertain their respective finishing positions, in their respective Leagues, generally, and for the purposes of promotion and relegation the position shall be determined respectively in accordance with the Playing Conditions of the Championship and the Playing Conditions of the Surrey County League. For the Championship, the position shall be determined in the following manner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">I. The side or sides with the most number of wins (this to be the total of the timed and limited over matches) shall be placed higher.II. If there are still two or more sides with an even number of points in equal position then the side with the most number of ties shall be placed higher. (this to be the total of the timed and limited over matches)III. If there are still two or more sides with an even number of points in equal position then the side with the most number of winning draws shall be placed higher.IV. If there are still two or more sides with an even number of points in equal position then

	<p>the side with the most number of equal draws shall be placed higher.</p> <p>V. If there are still two or more sides with an even number of points in equal position then the side with the most number of losing draws shall be placed higher.</p> <p>VI. If there are still two or more sides with an even number of points in equal position then their position shall be decided by the result of the match played between each other in that season, i.e. the side which won that match or had a winning draw in that match shall be placed the higher. In cases of two matches between clubs in that season the greater number of points attained will decide their position.</p> <p>VII. If there are still two or more sides with an even number of points in equal position then their position shall be decided by the side who has taken the most number of wickets in the season.</p> <p>VIII. If there are still two or more sides with an even number of points in equal position then their position shall be decided on the basis that the side which finished in a higher position in the League in the previous season shall be deemed to be the side finishing higher.</p>
(f)	In the event of a team resigning from the Championship the necessary adjustment will be made to teams being relegated.
PC10 – GROUNDS & FACILITIES	
(a)	Clubs that have XI's that are to be promoted to the Championship from the Surrey County League are required to meet a minimum standard as set out in the Grounds and Facilities Strategy published by the Championship from time to time. Such Clubs will have their facilities assessed, in accordance with the Grounds and Facilities Strategy. In the event that a Club due for promotion from the Surrey County League to the Championship fails to meet the minimum standard then that side shall remain in the Surrey County League for the following season and the team due for relegation shall remain in the Championship for the following season.
(b)	<p>All Clubs within the Championship are required to meet the minimum standard as set out in the Grounds and Facilities Strategy published by the Championship from time to time. Clubs will also be required to undertake improvements as the Grounds & Facilities Sub Committee and ratified by The Executive, may reasonably request. Failure to do so will render a club liable to sanction by the Executive Committee as The Executive see fit</p> <p>All Clubs are obliged to advise the Grounds & Facilities Sub Committee of:</p> <p>(i) Any intention to build an extension to, or a new Club House and or changing rooms, and that the subcommittee is reasonably consulted regarding revised / new plans and is given the opportunity to comment on such plans prior to submission for Planning Consent.</p> <p>(ii) Possible disruption owing to the rebuilding or construction of such facilities in (i) above during the playing season, and such temporary facilities to be provided where appropriate in such an event.</p> <p>(iii) Any permanent change of ground and reasons for so doing together with new location and full plans of the facilities proposed.</p> <p>(iv) Any proposed agreement regarding ground sharing. Permission to do so would be refused if the Grounds & Facilities Sub Committee considered this to be detrimental to the best interests of the Championship.</p>
PC11 – CANCELLING AND CONCEDING MATCHES	
(a)	No game shall be cancelled prior to the agreed starting time unless by the express agreement of

	the two Captains.
(b)	No game shall be conceded by one club to another, without the prior approval of the Executive. Points equivalent to a win shall be awarded to the club to whom the game has been conceded. The Executive may deduct points – and or levy a financial penalty if a conceded match is not notified to the Executive beforehand, after having given due consideration to both the reason for requesting a concession and to any other mitigating circumstances.
(c)	If any side of any Member Club in the 1 st , 2 nd or 3 rd XIs who is forced during the course of one season to concede five matches, other than for weather, then that Member Club may be required to withdraw that side from their respective Division and its record will be expunged from the relevant divisional table. The Executive Committee shall have an overriding discretion to waive, suspend or in any way modify this sanction in its absolute discretion, which shall not be subject to appeal by any Member Club.
(d)	Any Member Club who concedes a match must inform the opposition as early as possible – but if it is after mid-day on Thursday will be liable to pay the other club £45 towards their costs.
(e)	<p>It is expected that at all times selection of the higher XIs in a club must take precedence over lower XIs with 11 players playing in the higher XIs wherever practicable and any shortfall of players being in the lower XIs. In the event of a Member Club being unable to fulfil all its fixtures on any day, the playing of the 1st XI fixture shall take precedence over the playing of the 2nd XI fixture which shall in turn take precedence over the playing of the 3rd XI fixture (if any) which shall in turn take precedence over the playing of the 4th XI fixture (if any) and so on.</p> <p>For the purpose of this Playing Condition matches to be played in the Championship take precedence over all other leagues and subsequently matches in the Surrey County League will take precedence over all other Leagues below that league.</p> <p>The Executive may, at its discretion impose a financial or points penalty on a club for failure to observe this playing condition.</p>
PC12 - CONTRACTED PLAYERS	
(a)	<p>In each Division of the Championship no Member Club may play more than one player in any match who is at that time contracted to a County Club or who is on the M.C.C. Groundstaff ("a Full Contracted Player").</p> <p>Any player who is a "Full Contracted Player" but who has been a member of the registering club for at least two seasons prior to the current season and prior to gaining a contract, or who has played at least 12 games across two immediately prior seasons shall be registered as a "Home Contracted Player"</p>
(b)	A Contracted Player (either Full or Home) shall only be entitled to play in the First XI side of a Member Club. For the purpose of this Main Playing Condition 12(b), a Contracted Player shall mean any Contracted Player including such players as defined in PC13(f).
(c)	A club may play any or all Home Contracted Players.
(d)	<p>(i) No Contracted Player as defined in Main Playing Condition 12(a) above shall play in any match until he has been registered by his Member Club with the Executive as a playing member of that club.</p> <p>(ii) Any new contracted player must be registered by 31 May unless he obtains his contract after the 31 May in that same year. If a player obtains a contract with a County Club or the MCC Groundstaff after 31st May then he must be registered immediately and before he plays. (See Playing Condition 14 (a)).</p>

	<p>(iii) Any Contracted player CURRENTLY registered for a club in the previous season does not have to re-register each year if he continues to play for that same Member Club. However, if he changes County Club or Member Club he must be re-registered with his new details.</p> <p>(iv) Any Contracted Player who subsequently leaves a club must be de-registered from that club with immediate effect.</p> <p>(v) Member Clubs playing in The First Division will be allowed to play one "Full" Contracted Player. However, in the Premier Division, Member Clubs may play two Full Contracted Players in any one match providing that at least one player is contracted to Surrey CCC. A Member Club may therefore elect to play a Full Contracted Player who is contracted to a county other than Surrey CCC alongside a Full Contracted Player allocated to that club by Surrey CCC. If available, a Surrey CCC Full Contracted Player shall be selected ahead of a non-Surrey CCC Full Contracted Player.</p>
(e)	Once a decision on the status of a Contracted Player has been taken then this decision is final and will remain whatever Division the player may play in.
PC13 - OVERSEAS PLAYERS	
(a)	<p>An Overseas Player who is intending to be registered and play for a 1st XI Premier or Division One side is so defined:</p> <p>any player who is not qualified to play for England under current ECB Regulations and:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) has not been ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom for a period of 18 consecutive months prior to registration in the relevant season: (ii) or, if he has been so ordinarily resident, has not been out of the United Kingdom for longer than 35 days consecutively or 70 days in total during the 18 months prior to the registration date. This excludes any time whilst playing cricket on tour for a United Kingdom club. (iii) or who receives remuneration from playing cricket as his main source of income. (iv) The Member Club may be required to produce a player's passport or any other documentary evidence e.g. Bank Statements and/or Utility Bills, as the Executive may reasonably require to enable it to make its decision on the question of ordinarily resident. The decision of the Executive on any question of ordinary residence shall be full and binding on both the player and the Member Club. (v) Any player who played in the Second Division in the preceding year as a Non-Overseas Player and who would still qualify as a Non-Overseas Player within the Conditions shall not be an Overseas Player for the purposes of the above provisions when playing for the same club. <p>An Overseas Player who is intending to be registered and play for any XI other than a 1st XI Premier or Division One side is so defined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. is not ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom, and II. has spent the last English winter or part of it outside the United Kingdom. <p>For the purposes of this rule:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> III. "last winter" means the winter immediately prior to the season in question running from the 1st October to the 30th April; IV. part of "the last winter" shall mean any period or periods totalling in excess of

	<p>four weeks in the said period between 1st October and 30th April , and</p> <p>V. the definition of "ordinarily resident" shall be in the absolute discretion of the Executive who shall take into account among other factors whether the player has a home in this country, is in the country or is abroad temporarily or permanently, the length of any working contract abroad and nationality.</p>
(b)	Save as mentioned in PC13(c) hereafter no Member Club shall register more than one Overseas Player each year.
(c)	13(a) above shall be varied so as to allow registration of a second Overseas player ("the second player") prior to 31 st May of each year provided that the first player registered in the same year ("the first player") has not played in a league game that same year and on registration of the second player the registration of the first player shall lapse.
(d)	In the event that a club has a side in the Surrey County League then that player must be registered in accordance with PC14
(e)	For the purpose of this rule a playing member of a club in the Surrey County League shall be deemed to be playing Championship cricket.
(f)	An Overseas player may play in any XI subject to rules relating to players having played in higher divisions, and subject to PC13(g)
(g)	Any player who satisfies both the requirements of an Overseas and Contracted Player shall be registered as an Overseas Player. However, notwithstanding registration as an Overseas Player, all other conditions and restrictions in these Playing Conditions shall apply as if that player had been registered as a Contracted Player. In particular, any such player shall be included in the quota of Full Contracted Players permitted by these Playing Conditions, and as such the overseas player, as a contracted player, can only play in the 1 st XI of the said club.
(h)	<p>An Exempt Overseas player is a player who is not qualified to play for England but has been resident in the United Kingdom for over 18 months but under 4 years or who whilst resident in the United Kingdom for over 4 years has yet to satisfy the criteria laid down by the ECB from time to time regarding qualification to play for England</p> <p>Note: A member of the European Economic Area will be regarded under these Rules as having settled status in the United Kingdom and will be regarded as an Exempt Overseas player until such time as he meets the residency requirements as defined by the ECB.</p>
PC14 – REGISTRATION	
(a)	Each side within the Premier and First Divisions 1 st XI MUST play a minimum of eight players qualified to play for England. No side may play more than three Exempt Overseas players. Exempt Overseas Players must be registered in accordance with the rules contained herein PC14.
(b)	Each Premier and First Division Club will register all its players with the Executive by midnight on 30th April in each year in one of categories detailed herein under PC14 (a) (e) (f) (g):-
(c)	Category 1 - All players except those in categories 2 and 3 under PC14 (f) and or (g).
(d)	<p>Category 2 - Contracted Player</p> <p>(i) A Contracted Player is a player who is contracted to a County Club or who is on the MCC Groundstaff ("a Full Contracted Player"). For the purpose of this Playing Condition a player who was first awarded a County Contract or who was first taken on the MCC Groundstaff when a member of a Member Club shall not be a Full Contracted Player when playing for that same club. He will be regarded as a "Home Contracted Player" but he must still be registered. This exemption shall only apply to a player whose registration was accepted on or before 26th October 1999. Any player who has not been so registered shall only be registered as a "home" contracted if at the time of his application for such registration he shall have been a member of that same club for two whole</p>

	<p>seasons or shall have played at least 12 league games for that same club.</p> <p>(ii) A Contracted Player (either “Full” or “Home”) shall only be entitled to play in the First XI side of a Member Club.</p> <p>(iii) Member Clubs playing in The First Division will be allowed to play one “Full” Contracted Player. However, in the Premier Division, Member Clubs may play two Full Contracted Players in any one match providing that at least one player is contracted to Surrey CCC. A Member Club may therefore elect to play a Full Contracted Player who is contracted to a county other than Surrey CCC alongside a Full Contracted Player allocated to that club by Surrey CCC. If available, a Surrey CCC Full Contracted Player shall be selected ahead of a non-Surrey CCC Full Contracted Player.</p> <p>(iv) A club may play any or all Home Contracted Players.</p> <p>(v) Any player who satisfies both the requirements of an Overseas Player (including an Exempt Overseas Player) and Contracted Player shall be registered as an Overseas Player under Category 3. However, notwithstanding registration as an Overseas Player, all other conditions and restrictions in these Playing Conditions shall apply as if that player had been registered as a Contracted Player. In particular, any such player shall be included in the quota of Full Contracted Players permitted by these Playing Conditions to represent Member Clubs in Premier and First Division matches.</p>
(e)	<p>Category 3 - Overseas Player - any player who is not qualified to play for England under current ECB Regulations and:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. has not been ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom for a period of 18 consecutive months prior to registration in the relevant season: II. or, if he has been so ordinarily resident, has not been out of the United Kingdom for longer than 35 days consecutively or 70 days in total during the 18 months prior to the registration date. This excludes any time whilst playing cricket on tour for a United Kingdom club. III. or who receives remuneration from playing cricket as his main source of income. IV. The Member Club may be required to produce a player’s passport or any other documentary evidence e.g. Bank Statements and/or Utility Bills, as the Executive may reasonably require to enable it to make its decision on the question of ordinarily resident. The decision of the Executive on any question of ordinary residence shall be full and binding on both the player and the Member Club. V. Any player who played in the Second Division in the preceding year as a Non-Overseas Player and who would still qualify as a Non-Overseas Player within the Conditions shall not be an Overseas Player for the purposes of the above provisions when playing for the same club.
(f)	<p>All players of whatever category must be registered on Play-Cricket by midnight on 30th April each year. All applications for registration must provide the details requested on Play-Cricket including full name and date of birth.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Any subsequent players must be registered on Play-Cricket by 9.00pm on the Wednesday prior to the match in question. Once the Member Club has made the registration, the

	<p>League Registration Secretary will process the registration. Only when the registration has been approved on Play-Cricket will the player be allowed to play for the relevant club.</p> <p>II. Any player who is currently at University or bonā fide Further Education College (FEC), and provides evidence to support this, may be registered on Play-Cricket for two Premier Leagues concurrently during their time at University or FEC; however, upon concluding their University or FEC education, the player must de-register from one of the two Premier Leagues.</p>
(g)	No category 2 player or category 3 player shall be registered after 31st May of each year save for a category 2 player who obtains a contract after that date.
(h)	Failure to register any player in any category, who is so required to be registered before he plays, will result an automatic breach of these playing condition and the matter will be referred to the Rules and Playing Conditions Sub-Committee pursuant to R11(b)
PC15 - PLAYER RESTRICTIONS	
(a)	Any player playing Saturday league cricket for a club outside of the Championship is not eligible to play on an occasional basis. (See PC14(d) above for exemption of players in Further Education who play for Premier and First Division clubs only).
(b)	No player joining a club from outside of the Championship shall make his initial league appearance of the season in any of the Divisions of the First or Second XI League in the last four matches of the current season without the prior sanction of the Executive on application made by 2.00pm on the Wednesday prior to the date of a Match. For the purpose of this Playing Condition a playing member of a club in the Surrey County League shall be deemed to be playing Championship cricket.
(c)	No Member Club shall play without the prior sanction of the Executive on application made by 9.00pm on the Wednesday prior to the date of a Match, any player in any of the Divisions of the First, Second, Third or Fourth XI League in the last four matches of any season of the Championship who has played during that season in twelve or more matches for any Member Club in any of the Divisions of a higher League. For the purpose of this Playing Condition only, higher League shall include Divisions of the Surrey County League.
PC16 – BREACHES AND PENALTIES	
	In the event that any Member Club is found to be in breach of any of the Main Playing Conditions above concerning contracted players, overseas players, registration and player restrictions by playing in any match an ineligible player the Rules and Playing Conditions Sub-Committee of the Executive Committee shall have absolute discretion under R11 (b), impose such penalty as is deemed appropriate including the imposition of a points deduction and or a financial penalty.
PC17 – ARTIFICIAL PITCHES	
	No First XI or Second XI games shall be played on Artificial Pitches. Third and Fourth XI games may use artificial pitches on a regular basis subject to the prior written approval of the Executive. If occasional use only, then this must be with the agreement of both Captains a week before the game commences.
PC18 – SPECIAL PROVISIONS	
(a)	It is a special provision of play in all Championship matches that except in the case of penalty runs for the ball hitting a helmet the power to award penalty runs according to the Laws of Cricket shall only be exercised by a Panel Umpire appointed in accordance with PC6.
(b)	If any member club in a home match is reported on the Umpires Match Report Form as having a “Poor” pitch in any form of the game they will be subject to the sanctions detailed herein: Offence One – “Poor” pitch – no deduction of points. A warning letter issued Offence Two – “Poor” pitch when previously “Poor” – 4 points deduction.

	Offence Three – “Poor” Pitch when previously twice “Poor” – 12 points deduction Offence Four – Subsequent “Poor” pitch to be referred to The Executive of The Championship to determine appropriate sanction.
(c)	If pitch is recorded as “Unfit” on the umpires Match Report Form it will be assumed by The Executive that the Umpires have deemed the pitch as unplayable in the interests of the safety of the players. The Executive of The Championship will determine the appropriate sanction within 72 hours of being notified of a pitch being declared “Unfit”, having first consulted with the Umpires standing in the match, the Captains of the match and the Chairman or their representative of the Championship club cited.

Appendix Two - CODE OF CONDUCT, SPIRIT OF CRICKET AND DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS	
1. Code of Conduct	
(a)	The Championship is committed to maintaining the highest standards of behaviour and conduct. This Code of Conduct incorporates the Spirit of Cricket as set out below. Any player playing in the Championship will be deemed as agreeing to abide by the ECB and League code of conduct and discipline rules.
(b)	The captains are responsible at all times for ensuring that play is conducted within the Spirit of Cricket as well as within the Laws.
(c)	Players and team officials must at all times accept the umpire’s decision. Players must not show dissent at the umpire’s decision or react in a provocative or disapproving manner towards another player or a spectator.
(d)	Players and team officials shall not intimidate assault or attempt to intimidate or assault an umpire, another player or a spectator
(e)	Players and team officials shall not use crude and/or abusive language (known as “sledging”) nor make offensive gestures or hand signals nor deliberately distract an opponent.
(f)	Players and team officials shall not make racially abusive comments nor indulge in racially abusive actions against fellow players, officials, members and supporters. Clubs must operate an active open door membership policy whilst respecting player qualification regulations and welcome players/members irrespective of ethnic origin
(g)	Players and team officials shall not use or in any way be concerned in the use or distribution of illegal drugs.
(h)	Clubs must take adequate steps to ensure the good behaviour of their members and supporters towards players and umpires
2. Spirit of Cricket	
	Cricket is a game that owes much of its unique appeal to the fact that it should be played not only within its Laws, but also within the Spirit of the Game. Any action which is seen to abuse this spirit causes injury to the game itself. The major responsibility for ensuring the spirit of fair play rests with the captains
(a)	There are two Laws which place the responsibility for the team’s conduct firmly on the captain. Responsibility of Captains The captains are responsible at all times for ensuring that play is conducted within the Spirit of the Game as well as within the Laws. Player’s Conduct

	In the event of any player failing to comply with the instructions of an umpire, criticising his decision by word or action, showing dissent, or generally behaving in a manner which might bring the game into disrepute, the umpire concerned shall in the first place report the matter to the other umpire and to the player's captain, requesting the latter to take action.
(b)	Fair and Unfair Play According to the Laws the umpires are the sole judges of fair and unfair play. The umpires may intervene at any time, and it is the responsibility of the captain to take action where required.
(c)	The umpires are authorised to intervene in cases of: Time wasting Damaging the pitch Dangerous or unfair bowling Tampering with the ball Any other action that they consider to be unfair.
(d)	The Spirit of the Game involves RESPECT for: Your opponents Your own captain and team The role of the umpires The game and its traditional values.
(e)	It is against the Spirit of the Game: To dispute an umpire's decision by word, action or gesture To direct abusive language towards an opponent or umpire To indulge in cheating or any sharp practice, for instance appeal knowing the batsman is not out advance towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing seek to distract an opponent either verbally or by harassment with persistent clapping or unnecessary noise under the guise of enthusiasm and motivation of one's own side.
(f)	Violence There is no place for any act of violence on the field of play.
(g)	Players Captains and umpires together set the tone for the conduct of a cricket match. Every player is expected to make an important contribution to this.
(h)	Failure to comply with the provisions of this Paragraph 1 may lead to disciplinary action, irrespective of an alleged breach being related to a match not under the jurisdiction of the League
3. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE	
(a)	Aims and Jurisdiction These regulations shall apply to any player who plays for any club in the Championship. It is intended that any breach of Paragraph 1 should in the first instance be dealt with by the player's club who shall notify the Chairman of the League of the result of any action taken against its player
(b)	The Executive shall appoint a Disciplinary Committee as defined in R11(a), who shall be empowered to deal with all disciplinary matters relating to the conduct of Member Clubs and/or their players. The Championship adopts the Disciplinary Regulations set out in appendix herein..
(c)	Any player banned from playing in any match for any period of time in any other League, shall be banned from playing in any match in the Championship for exactly the same period.
(d)	Clubs must notify the Registration Secretary immediately a player has been banned through

	<p>an internal club disciplinary action instigated in respect of a matter notified to them by the Executive. Any such player will not be permitted to change clubs during the time of the ban. However, the Registration Secretary will take into account the period of the ban when advising the date on which the player can play for the new club.</p>
(e)	<p>Procedure</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any alleged breach of Paragraph 1 above shall be notified in writing (to be known as 'a Complaint') to the Chairman of the League Disciplinary Committee. 2. Upon receipt of such complaint, and as soon as reasonably practicable the League Disciplinary Committee shall consider the complaint and resolve either: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. To take no action except to record the complaint and notify the club; or b. To endorse the disciplinary action taken by the club; or c. To refer the matter for a Disciplinary Hearing which shall be convened by the League Disciplinary Committee as soon as practicable.
(f)	<p>Disciplinary Hearing</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In any case which is referred for a Disciplinary Hearing, at least seven days' notice in writing of the hearing and of the offence(s) alleged shall be given to the player by writing to the Chairman of his club with a copy to his Council Representative and to the club by writing to the Chairman with a copy to his Council Representative. 2. The League Disciplinary Committee shall convene a hearing as soon as is practicable but may allow reasonable time to explore possible agreement with club and/or player. 3. The player and club shall be entitled to attend the hearing, state their case (in the case of a club by its Secretary or other official), to be supported by a colleague and to call witnesses. 4. The Hearing shall be conducted by the Disciplinary Committee of the League as constituted by the Executive.
(g)	<p>Penalties</p> <p>If at the hearing the Disciplinary Committee finds the alleged offence proved it shall have the power to impose one or more of the following penalties, together with such order as to costs as it deems appropriate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the case of a player – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) To require the player to submit appropriate letter(s) of apology within a specified time. (ii) To record a reprimand and to give a warning as to future conduct. (iii) To impose a fine. (iv) To suspend the player for one or more matches, or for a stated period of time. (v) To deduct League points from the player's team. (vi) To expel the player from the League. 2. In the case of a club - <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) To require the club to submit appropriate letter(s) of apology within a specified time. (ii) To record a reprimand and to give a warning as to future conduct. (iii) To impose a fine. (iv) To deduct League points from the club's team(s). (v) To relegate to any lower division of the League. 3. (i)The Disciplinary Committee shall have the power to suspend the operation of any part, or all, of the penalty it imposes for such period and subject to such terms and conditions it deems appropriate.

	(ii) Decisions of the Disciplinary Committee (a finding that a complaint is proved or not proved or a decision on penalty) shall be by majority vote; where necessary the Disciplinary Committee Chairman shall have a casting vote.
(h)	<p>Appeals Procedure</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A player or club shall have the right of appeal to the Executive Committee. Notice of Appeal setting out the grounds must be given in writing to the Chairman of the League within seven days of the decision of the Disciplinary Committee, together with a deposit of £50 if the appeal is by a player or £350 if the appeal is by a club. 2. If Notice of Appeal is given the penalty shall not take effect pending the hearing of the Appeal, which shall take place as soon as is practicable. 3. The Appeal shall be by way of re-hearing before the Executive Committee meeting in full. The player or club shall have the same rights of attendance and representation, and to call witnesses as they had before the Disciplinary Committee. 4. The Executive Committee may confirm, vary or reverse the decision of the Disciplinary Committee and it shall have the power to increase the penalty and award costs of the Appeal hearing and forfeit the whole or part of the deposit. Decisions of the Executive Committee shall be by majority vote; where necessary, the Chairman shall have a casting vote. 5. The decision of the Executive Committee or, if no appeal, of the Disciplinary Committee, shall be final and binding.

Appendix Three - JUNIOR AND YOUNG PLAYERS ECB FAST BOWLING DIRECTIVES, HELMET GUIDELINES AND FIELDING RESTRICTIONS

ECB Safety Guidance on the Wearing of Cricket Helmets by Young Players

In February 2000 the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) issued safety guidance on the wearing of helmets by young players up to the age of 18.

In brief, the guidance recommends that:

- helmets with a faceguard or grille should be worn when batting against a hard cricket ball in matches and in practice sessions
- young players should regard a helmet with a faceguard as a normal item of protective equipment when batting, together with pads, gloves and, for boys, an abdominal protector (box)
- young wicketkeepers should wear a helmet with a faceguard, or a wicket-keeper face protector, when standing up to the stumps. With the assistance of schools, cricket clubs and leagues, the wearing of helmets by young players is now standard practice in cricket throughout England and Wales. Helmets are widely available and are covered by a British Standard (BS7928:1998). A face protector represents an alternative head protection system for young wicket keepers. Face protectors are, all the time of publication of this guidance, a relatively new innovation. Wicketkeeper Face Protectors are covered by a new British Standard (BS 7928 – 2:2009)

The original guidance allowed parents or guardians to give their written consent to allow a young player not to wear a helmet. However now parental consent not to wear a helmet should not be accepted in any form of cricket.

This guidance applies to all players up to the age of 18, both in open age group cricket and in all junior cricket played with a hard cricket ball.

The guidance also applies during all practice sessions. Any individual taking responsibility for players should take all reasonable steps to ensure that this guidance is followed at all times.

The ECB asks that the guidance is communicated to the parents or guardians of all young players through clubs and schools, and that young players are not allowed to bat or stand up to the stumps when keeping wicket against a hard ball without wearing appropriate protection.

ECB Fast Bowling Match Directives

Issued October 2009. For any subsequent changes visit www.play-cricket.com

AGE	MAX. OVERS PER SPELL	MAX. OVERS PER DAY
Up to 13	5	10
U14, U15	6	12

For the purpose of these Directives a fast bowler is defined as a bowler to whom a wicket keeper in the same age group would **in normal circumstances** stand back to take the ball.

Having completed a spell the bowler cannot bowl again, from either end, until the equivalent number of overs to the length of his* spell have been bowled from the same end. A bowler can change ends without ending his current spell provided that he bowls the next over that he legally can from the other end. If this does not happen his spell is deemed to be concluded. If play is interrupted, for any reason, for less than 40 minutes any spell in progress at the time of the interruption can be continued after the interruption up to the maximum number of overs per spell for the appropriate age group. If the spell is not continued after the interruption the bowler cannot bowl again, from either end, until the equivalent number of overs to the length of his spell before the interruption have been bowled from the same end. If the interruption is of 40 minutes or more, whether scheduled or not, the bowler can commence a new spell immediately.

Once a bowler covered by these Directives has bowled in a match he cannot exceed the maximum number overs per day for his age group even if he subsequently bowls spin. He can exceed the maximum overs per spell if bowling spin, but cannot then revert to bowling fast until an equivalent number of overs to the length of his spell have been bowled from the same end.

If he bowls spin without exceeding the maximum number of overs in a spell the maximum will apply as soon as he reverts to bowling fast. Captains, Team Managers and Umpires are asked to ensure that these Directives are followed at all times. **For guidance it is recommended that in any 7 day period a fast bowler should not bowl more than 4 days in that period and for a maximum of 2 days in a row.**

Age groups are based on the age of the player at midnight on 31st August in the year preceding the current season.

**Any reference to he/his should be interpreted to include she/her.*

ECB Guidelines for junior players in open age cricket

These guidelines cover the selection and participation of young players in open age cricket. They designed to help clubs to decide when to select young players in open age cricket and how best to help their cricketing development when they play within open age groups. They apply to boys and girls equally. Age groups are based on the age of the player at midnight on 31st August in the year preceding the current season.

Guidance for Clubs and Leagues

All clubs must recognise that they have a duty of care towards all young players who are representing the club. This duty of care also extends to Leagues that allow the participation of young players in open age groups in their League. The duty of care should be interpreted in two ways:

- Not to place a young player in a position that involves an unreasonable risk to that young player, taking account of the circumstances of the match and the relative skills of the player.

• Not to create a situation that places members of the opposing side in a position whereby they cannot play cricket as they would normally do against adult players. In addition the following specific requirements apply to young players in open age cricket.

- Making the step up from junior to open age group cricket is a significant event in any player's cricket experience. Ensure the player's safety, personal development needs and overall cricket experience are considered
- There is no definitive age at which a player should be introduced to open age group cricket, but each case is to be determined on an individual basis, depending on the player's ability and stage of cognitive and emotional maturity to take part at this level. That said clubs, squad coaches and managers must take into account the requirements on age detailed in the last bullet of this guidance.
- ECB Fast Bowling Directives and Fielding Regulations should always be adhered to for junior players in open age group cricket
- Provide an opportunity for players to show their talents in an appropriate way. Children who are just used as fielders will not fully experience the game.
- Be supportive, at all times, for all forms of effort even when children are not successful. Try and put them in situations where they will experience some success (however small) and ensure plenty of praise and encouragement.
- Try and involve them in all aspects of the game wherever possible i.e. socialising, team talks, practice, decision making and so on, so they feel part of the team.
- Children will often feel more comfortable and able to perform if they have a family member or friend also playing in the side.
- Remember, children's early experiences will remain with them always and will often determine whether they want to remain playing the game or give up and do something else.
- Players who are selected in a County U12 squad in spring for a summer squad or in another squad deemed by ECB Performance Managers to be of a standard above 'district level' for that season are eligible to play open age cricket. This is providing they are at least 11 years old, are in School Year 7 on 1st September in the year preceding the season, and have written parental consent to play. In allowing these players to play in open age cricket it is essential clubs and coaches recognise the 'duty of care' obligations they have towards these young players

This means boys and girls who are county squad and area squad players, are able to play open age group cricket if they are in an U12 age group and are a minimum of 11 years old on 1st September of the year preceding the season. District and club players who are not in a county or area squads must wait until they reach the U13 age group, be in Year 8 and be 12 years old on 1st September of the preceding year before being able to play in any open age group cricket. As before written parental consent is required for these players.

The duty of care should be interpreted in two ways:

- Not to place a young player in a position that involves an unreasonable risk to that young player, taking account of the circumstances of the match and the relative skills of the player.
- Not to create a situation that places members of the opposing side in a position whereby they cannot play cricket as they would normally do against adult players.

In addition, the guidelines note the need for clubs and leagues to recognise the positive experience young players should have in open age cricket. Clubs should provide an opportunity for players to show their talents in an appropriate way. Children who are just used as fielders will not fully experience the game.

- 1. Any player in Year 7 or below (Under 12 at midnight on 31st August in the year preceding the current season) cannot play in open age cricket with or without explicit written consent.**

Fielding Regulations

The ECB has regulations covering the minimum fielding distances for young players in all matches where a hard ball is used.

- No young player in the Under 15 age group or younger shall be allowed to field closer than 8 yards (7.3 metres) from the middle stump, except behind the wicket on the off side, until the batsman has played at the ball.
- For players in the Under 13 age group and below the distance is 11 yards (10 metres).
- These minimum distances apply even if the player is wearing a helmet.
- Should a young player in these age groups come within the restricted distance the umpire must stop the game immediately and instruct the fielder to move back.
- In addition any young player in the Under 16 to Under 18 age groups, who has not reached the age of 18, must wear a helmet and, for boys, an abdominal protector (box) when fielding within 6 yards (5.5 metres) of the bat, except behind the wicket on the off side. Players should wear appropriate protective equipment whenever they are fielding in a position where they feel at risk.
- These fielding regulations are applicable to all cricket in England and Wales. Age groups are based on the age of the player at midnight on 31st August in the year preceding the current season.