

CONSTITUTION OF THE CHESHIRE COUNTY CRICKET LEAGUE

(2015 changes shown in bold type)

1. TITLE

The League shall be called the 'Cheshire County Cricket League', hereinafter referred to as the League. The Management Committee shall have the power from time to time to approve the insertion of the name of a sponsor in the title of the competition run by the League. The object of the League is to play, foster and encourage recreational cricket of the highest standard throughout Cheshire.

2. PATRON

The Patron of the League shall be the current President of Cheshire County Cricket Club.

3. MEMBERSHIP

(a) Full member clubs shall compete in at least the 1st and 2nd XI competitions.

New full members are accepted into the League in two ways. Normally at the end of a season, the two bottom clubs in the competition will be replaced by the two top clubs in the recognised feeder league in the Cheshire pyramid structure (currently the Cheshire Cricket League). This process is subject to the promoted clubs satisfying the Cricket Committee as to their suitability to enter the League.

The other method by which new clubs can enter full membership shall be by election by a two thirds majority of those present and voting.

Associate membership of the League shall be granted to, or withdrawn from, clubs elected under Rule 17 competing in any of the 3rd/4th/5th XIs, Junior or Over 40s competitions.

(b) To be a full member of the League, a club must be affiliated to the ECB through the Cheshire Cricket Board and have adopted the ECB Child Welfare Policy. Any club not accredited for Clubmark on September 30th in any year will not be eligible for promotion within the League for the following season.

No club may be admitted to full membership of the League without Clubmark accreditation.

- (c) An Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting shall be empowered by a two thirds majority of those present and voting to expel any club on the following grounds:
- (i) A serious breach, or persistent breaches, of the Constitution or League Playing Regulations, or
 - (ii) Poor conduct, playing conditions, or failing to pursue the object of the League.

4. MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

(a) League Officers

The League officers shall comprise:

President, Chairman, Deputy Chairman, League Secretary, Treasurer, Competition Secretary, Assistant Secretary, 1st XI Results Secretary, 2nd XI Results Secretary, 3rd XI Saturday Results Secretary, two 3rd XI Sunday Results Secretaries, Junior Chairman, Junior Secretary, Ground Chairman, Discipline Chairman and Website Administrator.

The President shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting for a term of two years; all other officers shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting for one year. Nominations for each officer shall be proposed in writing by full member clubs; nominations shall be in the hands of the Secretary by November 30th each year for consideration at the Annual General Meeting. At that meeting, nominations from the floor shall be permitted only if no written nominations have been received.

Election of officers at the Annual General Meeting shall be by simple majority of full member clubs present and voting. In the event of a voting tie the Chairman shall give a casting vote.

(b) Management Committee

- (i) The representative body of the League shall be the Management Committee which shall consist of the League officers, one representative from each club and a representative of the League

Umpires & Scorers Association.

Representatives of 24 full member clubs shall form a quorum. League officers shall not be counted as representatives of clubs of which they may be members, but, with the exception of the Chairman, shall have the power to vote. In the case of a voting tie, the Chairman shall give a casting vote.

Where a representative of a club on the Management Committee is unable to attend a meeting a substitute may attend and vote in his or her place.

Where a person is both the representative of a club on the Management Committee, and an Officer of the League, that person will only be entitled to a single vote. In these circumstances if that person wishes to exercise the right to vote as an Officer, that person's club must be represented by an alternative individual at the meeting if the club wishes to vote.

- (ii) The Management Committee shall be empowered by a two thirds majority of those present and voting to suspend for one season any XI which defaults on more than two senior League fixtures in a season without an explanation acceptable to the Management Committee. Such suspensions shall apply to the season following that in which the defaults occur.

(c) Executive Committee

- (i) The Executive Committee shall manage the routine business of the League on behalf of the Management Committee. The Executive Committee shall comprise the officers, with the exception of the President. Seven members shall form a quorum. Decisions of the Executive Committee shall be by simple majority of those present and voting. In the case of a voting tie on any matter, the Chairman shall give the casting vote.
- (ii) The Executive Committee may appoint sub-committees, except the Cricket Committee, and shall determine their powers and terms of reference.
- (iii) The Executive Committee shall have the power to co-opt as the

Chairman deems necessary and relevant to the specific agenda items. Co-opted members shall have no voting powers.

- (iv) The Executive Committee shall circulate the minutes of its meetings to members of the Management Committee.

(d) Cricket Committee

- (i) The Cricket Committee shall be responsible for matters directly concerned with the playing of cricket within the League. The Cricket Committee shall comprise the League Officers as defined above, plus six members elected at the Annual General Meeting for a term of three years, all of whom shall be eligible to vote with the exception of the Chairman. No two of the six directly elected members of the Cricket Committee shall be members of the same club. There shall be at least one elected member from a Premier League club. The nomination procedure for the six elected members shall be the same as that for the League officers. Two elected members shall stand down by rotation each year, but shall be eligible for re-election. In the case of a voting tie on any matter, the Chairman shall give a casting vote.
- (ii) The Cricket Committee shall have the power to co-opt as the Chairman deems necessary and relevant to specific agenda items. Co-opted members shall have no voting powers.
- (iii) The Cricket Committee shall circulate the minutes of its meetings to the Management Committee and Executive Committee.

5. STATEMENT OF INTENT

- (a) The League is committed to the concept of integration within the Cheshire Pyramid with the Cheshire Cricket League.
- (b) The Management Committee shall have the power to decide the number of teams in each of the League's divisions, the numbers to be promoted and relegated and any other relevant criteria.

6. LEAGUE SECRETARY

The League Secretary, hereinafter referred to as the Secretary, shall be

responsible for convening meetings as required by these rules and, in the case of Management Committee meetings, shall give at least seven days' notice, keeping the minutes of all meetings of the League and administering such decisions as the League may make. All correspondence except where otherwise provided for in these rules, shall be addressed to the secretary. He shall address all correspondence on behalf of the League.

7. THE TREASURER

- (a) The Treasurer will submit an audited statement at the Annual General Meeting, together with a statement in relation to monies received exclusively for the Premier League competition. He will be responsible for receiving all monies due to the League and will be responsible for making all payments due.
- (b) Any monies received by the League exclusively for the Premier League competition between April 1st and September 1st each year shall be applied between the clubs competing in the Premier League in that season and thereafter be applied between clubs competing in the Premier League competition the following season.

8. THE FINANCIAL YEAR

The League's financial year shall end on November 30th.

9. THE AUDITOR

An Honorary Auditor shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

10. SUBSCRIPTIONS

All clubs shall pay an annual subscription to be fixed by the Annual General Meeting. Such subscriptions fall due for payment on April 1st and should be submitted to the Treasurer on demand.

11. FIXTURES AND RESULTS

The Cricket Committee shall arrange all fixtures and designated officers shall receive all results and arrange for the publication of these results and League tables in the Press, submitting copies to member clubs. No fixtures shall be arranged except by the sanction of the Cricket Committee.

All member clubs shall provide at least one e-mail address for a club official, as listed in the League Handbook, or another member as requested, to which copies and other information pertinent to the administration of the League can be sent by League officers.

12. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

The AGM of the League shall be held no later than February 28th in any year. Notice of such a meeting shall be given by the Secretary offering members 14 days' notice in writing and will include a copy of the detailed agenda, audited financial statement and, if any, a copy of the proposed alterations to rule.

Twenty four full member clubs' representatives shall form a quorum at the AGM. There shall be no limit to the number of individuals who may attend such meetings, but each full member club shall have only one vote on all matters arising.

13. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING (SGM)

A SGM shall be called at the written request of not less than two thirds of the full member clubs, or by the Management Committee. The notice convening the meeting shall state the business and only such business shall be considered. A SGM must be held not later than 28 days after being requested, members to be given 14 days' notice of such a meeting. Attendance and voting shall be in accordance with the provisions applicable to an AGM.

14. ALTERATIONS TO RULE

These rules may only be altered by a two thirds majority of those present and voting at an AGM or SGM called for the purpose. Proposed alterations to rule must be in writing and submitted to the Secretary to arrive in time to be considered in principle at the November management meeting in respect of AGMs. Each resolution must be proposed and seconded by a full member club.

15. RESIGNATIONS & APPLICATIONS

- (a) No club in membership of the League shall negotiate with any other League for membership thereof without first obtaining the written permission of the Management Committee. Such permission shall not be withheld unless the club has failed to discharge all its obligations to the League. Such permission shall not be interpreted as either resignation or dismissal;

- (b) Resignations from the League must be in writing and received by the Secretary not later than June 1st to be effective for the following season. Resignations received after this date will make the club liable for their League subscription for the following season. Any club resigning from the League or excluded under Rule 3 shall forfeit any claim on the League's assets.
- (c) Applications for full or associate membership must be received in writing by the Secretary not later than December 31 of any year to be effective for the following season.
- (d) If a team concedes three League matches during a season, the relevant Results Secretary, on behalf of the Cricket Committee, shall seek assurance from that team that they will be able to complete their remaining fixtures. If that team concedes further matches the Cricket Committee may, by means of a simple majority vote, choose to expel that team from its competition.
- (e) **When a team or club leaves the league in mid season their loss will be handled as follows;**

Where the number of games the team has played is less than the number remaining, then their record is expunged from the tables with all points earned by other teams deleted. Where the number of games played is equal or greater than the number of fixtures remaining then all future games will be treated as 25-0 wins for their opponents. If they are still in their Cup - Their next opponents will be awarded a bye.

16. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

By a two thirds majority of those present and voting, the Management Committee may elect to Associate membership of the League, any clubs applying to enter the 3rd/4th/5th XI competitions. The Management Committee shall also be empowered by a two thirds majority of those present and voting to expel any Associate member club on grounds set out in Rule 3 (b). Associate member clubs may also enter Over 40s and Junior competitions.

Clubs whose first two XIs are relegated from the League as part of the Cheshire Pyramid system and who have other teams already participating in League competitions, will automatically be accepted into Associate Membership for

the following season.

The rights of Associate member clubs shall be restricted to the following:

- (a) Attendance at Annual General Meetings and Special General Meetings, without the right to vote
- (b) Representation at Management Committee meetings with the right to vote only on items relating to 3rd/4th/5th XI and/or Over 40s matters. Subscriptions for Associate members shall be fixed in accordance with Rule 10.

In all other respects, Associate members shall comply with the rules and playing regulations of the League. Any matter relating to Associate membership not covered by this rule shall be resolved by the Management Committee.

17. POWERS OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Management Committee shall have the power to decide on all other matters not specifically provided for these rules. All decisions taken by the Management Committee on sub-committee recommendations shall be considered binding.

ORGANISATIONAL & ADMIN MATTERS

(No changes in 2015)

1. The League Championship shall be run by the Management Committee whose duty shall be to ensure the efficient running of the competitions within the framework of these rules and they will:
 - (a) Prepare League fixtures each season
 - (b) Prepare League tables and submit copies to clubs
 - (c) Receive results of each match and arrange weekly publication of results in the Press, with the cooperation of the clubs
2. League Championship trophies, an Aggregate trophy, Runners Up awards and any other meritorious awards shall be authorised by the Committee

and awarded annually on behalf of the League.

3. The Management Committee shall have the power to organise the League into divisions, with promotion and relegation at all levels considered necessary and have the power to designate the titles ascribed to each division.

In the event of two or more teams in any division gaining the same number of points, they shall be ranked as follows:

In descending order of matches won;
If still equal, in ascending of matches lost;
If still equal, in descending order of batting bonus points gained;
If still equal, in descending order of bowling bonus points gained;
If still equal, the points gained in matches against each other;
If still equal, then if a title is at stake, it shall be shared,
otherwise decided by the toss of a coin.

4. The League Disciplinary Code of Conduct shall apply to all matches played under the auspices of the League.
5. Proposed alterations to Playing Regulations must be made in writing by clubs and submitted to the Secretary to arrive prior to the November Management Committee meeting.
6. These regulations may only be altered by a two thirds majority of the clubs present and voting at a Management Committee meeting.
7. The Management Committee shall delegate to the current Premier League clubs the right to alter the Premier League Match Regulations in line with current ECB guidelines and mandates. A two thirds majority of such clubs present and voting at a Management Committee meeting shall be required for such an alteration. For the purposes of defining 'current' the League year shall start at the end of each playing season.
8. Representations against breaches of Match Regulations which involve potential points reductions will not be considered after October 31 of the same season.
9. The Committee shall have the power to determine any matter not provided for in these Regulations.

PLAYING REGULATIONS (ALL MATCHES)

(2015 changes shown in bold type)

1. Subject to special conditions incorporated in these regulations, all matches must be played under The Laws of Cricket as laid down at the time by MCC, together with any experimental Laws currently in force.
2. Only balls approved by the Cricket Committee shall be used in League matches. Clubs will bowl with their own ball in each match. In 1st XI matches, each side shall use a new ball at the start of each innings. If a team does not use a League-approved ball the League may take action against the team including a fine and/or the deduction of points.
3. The Appendix 'Match Format Details' sets out match parameters. Matches which, for any reason, do not start on time, are subject to over reductions in line with the table with both teams sharing equally in the reduction. Once the first ball of a match has been bowled, the match duration and bonus points levels etc. are fixed.
4. The tea interval will normally be taken between innings and shall not exceed 25 minutes. If tea has been taken at some other time, such as during a stoppage for rain, the interval between innings shall not exceed 10 minutes. No overs shall be lost either for the time taken for tea or the interval between the innings.
5. Weather delays after the match has started are not dealt with by the 'Match Format Details' appendix. Once a match has started (whether on time or late) the first 30 minutes of aggregated playing time lost shall be discounted and overs will not be lost until that time has elapsed. As soon as 'in match' lost time exceeds 30 minutes, overs will be reduced at the rate of one for every 3.5 minutes lost. Panel umpires shall be the sole judges of the suitability of the conditions. In matches where a panel umpire is not standing, the Captains shall decide whether conditions are suitable for play. When the Captains do not agree status quo shall prevail.
6. It's important to recognise that in matches that start late and are then rain affected during the match, both the above paragraphs will apply.
7. A game shall be considered as abandoned if it has neither been completed nor is in progress at the recalculated scheduled finishing time.

8. All member clubs shall compete in their respective competitions on all scheduled dates unless otherwise agreed by the Cricket Committee. In the event of a club defaulting on a League fixture in the 1st, 2nd or 3rd XI competitions, the maximum points for a win shall be awarded to their opponents.
9. In addition to forfeiting all points, the defaulting club shall have a further 10 points deducted from their record for each default. If the defaulting club is playing away and withdraws after midnight on the Thursday prior to the weekend of the fixture, they will be required to pay a default fee of £40 to the host club.
10. Where a club defaults on an away fixture before the return fixture has taken place, the venue for the latter fixture can be reversed at the request of the innocent party.
11. In the event of a club defaulting on a 1st, 2nd or 3rd XI Cup match, they shall not be eligible to enter the competition the following season and will receive a fine. If a club voluntarily withdraws from any Cup competition they must do so in writing to the relevant Competition Secretary. To be readmitted the club must formally contact the Competition Secretary to confirm this.
12. In the case of a club flouting the Spirit of Cricket or including players at an inappropriate level, the League may take action including the deduction of points.
13. On a day when a club is due to field two or more teams in League competitions, the senior side must take precedence in fulfilling the fixture and preference in the fielding of 11 players. **Failure to observe this rule will result in penalty wins (points 25 / -10) being awarded to opponents in games played by lower teams the defaulting club fields on the same day.**
14. A League fixture postponed for any reason must be re-arranged within seven days of the original fixture even if the new date is well into the future, along with notification to the relevant Results Secretary. Failure to comply by one or both clubs may result in the match being awarded to either of the teams (25/0) or declared void (7/7) by the Results Secretary based on the conduct of the clubs.

15. If a League fixture is postponed due to ground unavailability, the home club must inform their opponents and the relevant Results Secretary no later than five days before the scheduled date of the match. Contact with visiting clubs about fixture re-arrangements should only be made through League Handbook listed club officers
16. In the case of a fixture brought forward from its set date, anyone playing in the re-arranged fixture will not be eligible to play in any League fixture on the original date. In the case of a fixture put back from a set date, anyone playing in any League fixture on the original date will not be eligible to play in the rearranged fixture.
17. In all 1st XI League matches teams must bowl at an average of at least 17 overs an hour. Where appropriate, points may be deducted by the Competition Secretary acting on behalf of the Cricket Committee acting on information provided on the result sheet signed by the Umpires and Captains. Umpires should inform the fielding captain of the passage of each full hour of playing time and the number of overs then bowled. One point may be deducted from the points awarded for the match for each over not completed within the time allotted, calculated at the rate of 17 overs per hour. Penalties, if any, will only be applied in Premier League games completed more than seven hours after the scheduled starting time, or in Division One and Division Two games completed more than six and a half hours after the scheduled starting time.

Games which commence at earlier times need to finish correspondingly earlier to avoid penalties, either seven or six and a half hours after the scheduled starting time. The Competition Secretary will take weather conditions into account when making a decision and no penalties will be applied in rain-affected matches. Umpires will allow five minutes per drinks interval, if taken, and will make appropriate allowances for unavoidable stoppages caused by injuries or other extenuating circumstances, which shall all be recorded on the result sheet. Clubs must provide Umpires with a spare ball.

18. For the purposes of these regulations, the following definitions shall apply:

LEAGUE MATCH: Any competitive match organised by the League between member clubs.

PLAYING MEMBER: Any player who is a paid-up cricket subscriber to his club in accordance with the club's regulations.

CONTRACTED PLAYER: A player currently under a professional contract to play for a First-Class County Club. **Contracted Player status is only available for England qualified players.**

HOME GROWN CONTRACTED PLAYER: Any player that has been at the same club continuously since the age of 15 should not be counted as a contracted player for that club if they are given a professional county contract. Such a player should be registered as a Home Grown Contracted Player. Continuously should be understood to mean that the player has played in at least 11 senior league games for the club each season since the season in which the player played (or would have qualified for) Under 15 cricket. Allowances may be made for injuries/illness and other exceptional circumstances under the special dispensation of the Cricket Committee.

OVERSEAS PLAYER: Any player not qualified to play for England or Scotland by virtue of the regulations governing the Qualification and Registration of Cricketers current at the date of the written application and who does not satisfy either of the Ordinarily Resident definitions that follow:

ORDINARILY RESIDENT (2 year option): A player not qualified for England under current ECB regulations, but who

- (a) has been resident in the UK for 24 consecutive months before the date of his registration request;
- (b) has not been out of the UK for longer than 35 consecutive days or 70 days in total within the previous 24 months;
- (c) any remuneration he receives from playing cricket is not his main source of income

ORDINARILY RESIDENT (180 day option): A player not qualified to play for England under current ECB regulations, but who:

- (a) as defined by the UK Border Agency (UKBA) holds a tier 1 Visa (high valued migrant); a tier 2 Visa (skilled worker) or a tier 4 Visa

(adult student) **or is the spouse/partner of the holder of such a Visa;** or is a national of the European Economic Area (EEA) including Switzerland.

- (b) has been resident in the UK for at least 180 days immediately prior to playing his first match and has not been out of the UK for more than 21 days during that period.
- (c) **any remuneration he receives from playing cricket is not his main source of income**

VERIFICATION NOTE: Clubs will be wholly responsible for obtaining copies of passports with relevant Visas together with evidence proving residence for 180 days when registering such players with the League.

19. Any club wishing to field a player who is **neither English-qualified nor Ordinarily Resident on the 2 year basis** must complete a registration application on the prescribed form and seek the prior approval of the Cricket Committee before such a player appears in the League. Such approval shall cover the whole or remainder of the current season. No club is permitted to play more than one Overseas player in a season unless approved by the Cricket Committee.
20. A player is eligible to play cricket for England if:
- (a) He is a British or Irish citizen and
 - (b) He was born within England and Wales or
 - (c) He has been resident in England and Wales for the immediately preceding four consecutive years and
 - (d) He has not, during the immediately preceding four consecutive years, either played cricket for any Full ICC Member country outside the EEC at Under 17 level or above; or played first class cricket in any Full CC Member country, except as an overseas cricketer or in any other circumstances approved by ECB.
 - (e) He makes, when requested by the ECB, a declaration on the form provided for in ECB regulations
 - (f) In the case of a cricketer seeking to become qualified under (c) above he will (until he becomes qualified to play for England) only be treated as having been resident within England and Wales for

the relevant consecutive period if he spent a minimum 210 days in each year within England and Wales (for which purpose 'year' shall mean ending on April 1).

21. To participate in a League match, a player must be as bona fide member of the club he represents. The Cricket Committee shall have the right to seek evidence of any player's membership.
22. No player shall play for more than one club in the League in the course of a single season without the consent of his current club and the permission of the Cricket Committee. A player wishing to transfer must make a written application to the Assistant Secretary enclosing the written consent of his current club at least 24 hours before he wishes to play for his new club. It is the responsibility of the club the player is joining to ensure that this transfer procedure is properly completed and has been successfully received, acknowledged and accepted by the Assistant Secretary. An appropriate transfer form is available from this officer or from the League website.
23. No player playing in any other league shall be permitted to play in any league or cup match under the auspices of the League without the permission of the League
24. No player currently playing in the League may play in a league or cup match outside the auspices of the League without the permission of the League;
25. Any club wishing to either select a player from another league or to request permission for one of their players to play league or cup cricket outside the League must apply at least 48 hours in advance to the Cricket Committee for approval.
26. If approval is not sought or granted and the player appears in another league or cup competition outside the League, the player will be deemed to be ineligible and the club may be punished under the Playing Regulations for the subsequent League game(s) in which the player plays for the club following his appearance(s) outside the League. The League reserve the right to punish the player with a fine or suspension if deemed appropriate.
27. This rule does not apply to permanent transfers into or out of the League or to full-time students

28. Any player wishing to transfer into the League during the season must provide written clearance from his previous club prior to taking part in any League fixture. It is the responsibility of his new club to ensure that such clearance is lodged, acknowledged and approved by the Assistant Secretary at least 24 hours prior to the player appearing for his new club. (*A transfer form is available to effect this transfer*)
29. No player may make his maiden 1st or 2nd XI appearance of the season for his club during the last five Saturdays unless he has already played in a game under the auspices of the League **prior to the 5th last week of the season** (including Over 40s fixtures (parent club only)), without obtaining permission from the Cricket Committee. Similarly a player who transfers into a club in the last five weeks of the season will not be allowed to play in the remaining 1st/2nd XI games for his new club.
30. Clubs must submit written applications to the Assistant Secretary for Overseas players and 180 day Contracted players at least 24 hours before they are due to appear in League matches. For Overseas players, a detailed CV of the individual concerned is required and current first-class cricketers, as defined by ICC, will not be allowed. (A current first-class cricketer is someone who appeared in first-class cricket - not one-day cricket - during the domestic season immediately preceding the League's current playing season). No club is permitted to play more than one Overseas player in a season unless the club can satisfy the Cricket Committee that the player has left the country for compassionate reasons, or is unavailable due to serious injury and not available to play for the rest of that season. No application to register an Overseas player will be considered after May 31.
31. A Contracted player may not be registered to play in League matches unless it is possible for him to play in four matches before June 30. If he does not play in four League matches before that date he will be ineligible to continue playing after June 30 in the current season. This cut-off does not apply to players who satisfy the Cricket Committee that they have been long-term playing members of their club before becoming contracted to a county.
32. A Contracted player may only play for his club's 1st XI. No club is permitted to register more than one Contracted player in a season **unless all the players are Home Grown Contracted Players.**

33. A Contracted player who appears as a professional for a club in an outside league shall be debarred from playing in the League for the remainder of the season unless he was instructed to play for the club by his county and subject to written confirmation of this instruction by his employer.
34. No club shall employ a player to play for the club in League matches
35. No player currently playing in other league cricket shall be permitted to play in League championship or League Cup matches without reference to the Cricket Committee.
36. A player is regarded as having played in a game when at least one ball has been bowled.
37. In all League matches, clubs must observe the ECB Directive laying down the number of overs a bowler under the age of 19 on September 1 of the previous year may deliver in a spell and in a match, and also the interval between spells. They must also observe the safety guidance on the use of helmets. In the case of a club flouting the directive and / or guidance without a satisfactory explanation to the Cricket Committee, the League may take action including a fine and/or the deduction of points. (*The Fast Bowling Directive and Use of Helmets Guidance are detailed elsewhere in the Handbook*).
38. The League will designate which matches will be umpired by a Panel Umpire. This will normally be all 1st XI fixtures and as many 2nd XI fixtures as possible. For fixtures where there are no Panel Umpires it is left to clubs to provide umpires. Where only one non-playing umpire is available then, if he or she wishes, he or she should operate as the bowling end umpire throughout. That umpire becomes the sole judge of the fitness of playing conditions.

All clubs are expected to provide a scorer for 1st XI games and will be fined for non-compliance.

39. All 1st and 2nd XI League and Cup matches must be played on the club's main ground unless permission is otherwise granted by the Cricket Committee. If 3rd XI League or Cup matches are to be played on a ground other than home club's main or second ground, permission should first be obtained from the Cricket Committee to use that ground.

40. Players should wear traditional white cricket clothing (shirts, trousers, sweaters and footwear) for all League matches.
41. Panel Umpires shall not allow play to commence or to resume after an interval or stoppage while it is raining.
42. All questions regarding the eligibility and/or appropriateness of players as defined in the Playing Regulations will be dealt with by the relevant Competition/Results Secretary, except where that Secretary is compromised through his own club's direct or indirect involvement. In this case a member of the Cricket Committee will be deputed to deal with the issue. If a team is considered to have infringed, the normal outcome will be loss of all points earned plus a penalty of 10 points for each game where the ineligibility occurred. The match will be awarded to their opponents. Decisions made by the Competition / Results Secretary may be appealed as below.
43. All other issues appealed by the disciplinary process will also be dealt with by the appropriate Competition/Results Secretary except where the Secretary is compromised through his own club's direct or indirect involvement. In this case, a member of the Cricket Committee will be deputed to deal with the issue.

If a team is deemed to have infringed, then penalties may be imposed at the discretion of the Competition/Results Secretary. Decisions made by this official may be appealed as below:

44. All Appeals against League rulings must be lodged with the Assistant Secretary within seven days of that ruling. A deposit of £50 (returnable if the Appeal is successful) should be submitted at the same time. Subsequently the Assistant Secretary will disclose to the respective parties the date on which the Appeal is to be considered and offer each party the opportunity to make a written submission. Such documentation must be lodged with the Assistant Secretary at least 24 hours prior to the hearing. The Appeal will be heard by a sub-group of the Cricket Committee. The Appeals chairman will determine whether his sub-group will only consider written submissions or whether he will allow / require interested parties to attend. The result of the Appeal will be circulated in writing and is final and binding.

NOTE: The same procedure will apply to appeals against disciplinary decisions.

45. The Cricket Committee shall have the power to determine any matter not provided for in these regulations.

3rd XI COMPETITIONS ONLY

46. Where possible in 3rd XI cricket promotion will be on the basis of the 'two up, two down' principle. However, there are occasions where 'one up, one down' or another system is more appropriate. Examples of these include, but are not restricted, to:
- (a). Regionalised divisions feeding a non-regionalised league
 - (b). Where divisions are unusually small
 - (c). Where divisions are being reorganised

Decisions will be taken by the **Cricket** Committee in line with Regulation 5b of the League Constitution.

47. By mutual agreement if a ground is unfit for play, teams may switch the venue to the away team's ground without reference to a League official. Only grounds sanctioned by the League will be allowed.
48. If any Sunday League fixture result sheet has not been received by the appropriate Results Secretary 10 days after the scheduled date of the game, the home club will be notified by email to the address provided by the member club as required in the Constitution. If the sheet has not been received by the appropriate Results Secretary 14 days after the scheduled date of the fixture (see Club Duties & Advice) the home club will forfeit all points they gained in the match. In the case of a team conceding ground advantage to their opponents as above, they will still be regarded as the home club.
49. The following players shall be deemed ineligible to play in 3rd XI cricket:
- (a) Any adult player who has appeared at County level during the current season;
 - (b) Anyone who appeared in a club 1st XI on a Saturday cannot play on the Sunday or Bank Holiday

- (c) Any player **aged between 21 and 40** (based on the player's age at midnight on August 31 the previous year) who played for his club's 2nd XI on a Saturday, **except for players who have previously played eight or more 3rd XI League matches in the current season.**

NOTE: The last paragraph does not apply to players whose 2nd XI appearance was in the Cheshire League or Cheshire Alliance or in a league of equivalent standard. The Assistant Secretary will maintain a register of such leagues.

50. In all 3rd XI League matches, bowlers are restricted as follows. **Failure to observe these restrictions may result in penalties being imposed which may include fines and loss of points.**

- (a) Saturday - max of 15 overs per match;
(b) Sunday - max of 10 overs (40 over games) 12 overs (45 overs)

NOTE: Allowances are not reduced in weather impacted matches.

MATCH REGULATIONS *(2015 changes shown in bold type)*

1. Match starting times shall be:

Premier League

April to the penultimate Saturday in August	12.30 p.m.
The last Saturday in August and in September	12 noon

1st XI, 2nd XI and 3rd XI Saturday

April to the penultimate Saturday in August	1 p.m.
The last Saturday in August and in September	12.30 p.m.

3rd XI, 4th XI & 5th XI Sundays & Bank Holidays

April to the end of July	2 p.m.
In August and September	1 p.m.

2. The duration of all matches shall be:

Premier League	Max. 110 overs
1st, 2nd and 3rd XI Saturday Division 1	Max. 100 overs
3rd XI Saturday Div. 2 & Sunday Premier	Max. 90 overs
All other 3rd XI Sunday divisions	Max. 80 overs

3. Before the scheduled starting time, matches may only be cancelled by the mutual agreement of the two Captains.
4. No match shall begin later than 2 hours 55 minutes (2 hours 20 minutes, 1 hour 45 minutes) after the scheduled starting time; or 3 hours 20 minutes (2 hours 45 minutes, 2 hours 10 minutes) if tea has already been taken.
5. The home team is responsible for the protection of the pitch and immediate surrounds during inclement weather and shall carry out such duties without delay when play has been suspended, as directed by the Umpires. It is expected that the home side will ensure full access to all equipment needed to clean up in the advent of adverse weather and use it as soon as the rain has ceased, or as directed by the Umpires (See Ground Criteria re availability of rolling and mopping up equipment etc.)

Umpires will sound the bell five minutes before the start of play in all games, when the field shall be cleared. They will also sound the bell five minutes before the start of each subsequent session of play.

6. At least one drinks interval shall be allowed in each innings as agreed by the Umpires and Captains before the game. These shall normally not exceed 5 minutes, but intervals of up to 10 minutes in each innings may be taken if the Umpires so direct.
7. The result of a match shall be decided by one innings only and points will be awarded as follows:
 - (a) For a win - 25 points
 - (b) For a tie - the maximum points attainable in a drawn game +1.
 - (c) For a draw:

For the team batting first in a drawn match - 3 points

For the team batting second in a drawn match - 1 point

In a match where interruptions cause an uneven split of points resulting in the team batting second batting for fewer overs than the team batting first - 2 points each

For a draw where both sides have scored an equal number of runs the side batting second will be awarded the tie points and the team batting first shall earn draw points plus bonus points as normal

- (d) For matches cancelled - 7 points
- (e) For abandoned matches, each side shall be awarded either bonus points gained plus 2 draw points or 7 points, whichever is greater.
- (f) When a match is reduced to less than 80 overs then both sides are guaranteed to receive at least the equivalent points as awarded for an abandoned match as an underpin**
- (g) When the team batting second in a reduced overs drawn match receives 10 overs (or more) less than their opponents batted they are guaranteed to receive at least the equivalent points as awarded for an abandoned match as an underpin**

IN UNINTERRUPTED GAMES OR IN GAMES WHERE THE START IS DELAYED BY WEATHER

- (a) Batting bonus points will be earned as per the Match Format table and will be available for the whole innings except where a declaration or dismissal of the team batting first has given the side batting second surplus overs. In this case, batting bonus points will be available for only half the original overs.
- (b) Sides batting first will receive double batting bonus points
- (c) Bowling points will be available throughout the game, with points awarded at the fall of the 3rd, 5th, 7th and 9th wickets.
- (d) Where a team fielding less than 11 players is bowled out, then four bowling points will be awarded when appropriate.

GAMES THAT ARE INTERRUPTED AFTER THE START

- (a) Batting and bowling bonus points shall be earned as in an uninterrupted game
- (b) Whatever happens subsequent to the start of the match in terms of time lost, the side batting first will be entitled to bat for half of the starting overs in the match.

MATCH FORMAT DETAILS

Minutes lost prior to start of game					Batting Bonus Points			
1st XI Premier	Other 1st XI 2nd XI 3rd XI Sat D1	3rd XI Sat D2 Sun Premier	Other Sun 3rd XI	Overs in match	Point 1	Point 2	Point 3	Point 4
0				110	130	160	190	220
7				108	130	160	190	220
14				106	130	160	190	220
21				104	130	160	190	220
28				102	130	160	190	220
35	0			100	110	140	170	200
42	7			98	110	140	170	200
49	14			96	110	140	170	200
56	21			94	110	140	170	200
63	28			92	110	140	170	200
70	35	0		80	100	120	150	180
77	42	7		88	100	120	150	180
84	49	14		86	100	120	150	180
91	56	21		84	100	120	150	180
98	63	28		82	100	120	150	180
105	70	35		80	100	120	140	160
112	77	42	7	78	100	120	140	160
119	84	49	14	76	100	120	140	160
126	91	56	21	74	100	120	140	160
133	98	63	28	72	100	120	140	160
140	105	70	35	70	80	100	120	140
147	112	77	42	68	80	100	120	140
154	119	84	49	66	80	100	120	140
161	126	91	56	64	80	100	120	140
168	133	98	63	62	80	100	120	140
175	140	105	70	60	80	100	120	140

JUNIOR CRICKETERS IN ADULT MATCHES

(No changes in 2015)

INTRODUCTION

The ECB have confirmed the following guidance covering the participation of young cricketers in adult matches. This applies to boys and girls and any reference to he/his should be interpreted to include she/her. Age groups are based on the age of the player at midnight on August 31st in the year preceding the current season. This guidance applies to all cricket played in England and Wales.

GUIDANCE FOR CLUBS & LEAGUES

All clubs must recognise that they have a Duty of Care towards young players representing the club. This Duty of Care also extends to leagues that allow the participation of young players in adult teams. The Duty of Care should be interpreted in two ways:

1. Not to place a young player in a position that involves an unreasonable risk to that young player, taking into account the circumstances of the match and the relative skills of the player.
2. 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 adult matches:

3. All young players who have not reached their 18th birthday **MUST** wear a helmet with a faceguard when batting, when standing up to the stumps or when keeping wicket. A young player acting as a runner must also wear a helmet even if the player for whom he is running is not doing so.
4. The current ECB fielding regulations must be adhered to and enforced by the umpires and captains.
5. The umpires are empowered by these fielding regulations to stop the game immediately if a young player comes within the restricted distance.

6. The umpires and the opposing captain must be notified of the age groups of all players participating in an adult match in the Under 19 age group or younger, even if the player is not as fast bowler. This requirement also covers any young player taking the field as a substitute fielder. ECB Team Sheets / cards are available to facilitate this.
7. Before participating in adult cricket, any player in School Year 8 must have both explicit written consent from a parent or guardian and the permission of a person within the club, either the club's Head Coach, a Coach qualified to at least the UKCC2 level, or the Club Welfare Officer. Clubs must ensure that their player registration procedures ensure that this consent is obtained.
8. The guidance related to changing and showering (see 'Safe Hands - Welfare of Young People in Cricket Policy') must be adhered to. School Year 7 pupils will not be permitted to play in adult cricket in the League.
9. It is strongly recommended that a parent, guardian or other identified responsible adult is present whenever a player in the Under 13 age group or younger plays in an adult match. This could include the captain or other identified adult players taking responsibility for their young player.

FIELDING REGULATIONS

For reference, the ECB Fielding Regulations are as follows:

1. No young player in the under 15 age group or younger shall be allowed to field closer than eight yards (7.3 metres) from the middle stump, except behind the wicket on the offside, until the batsman has played at the ball;
 - a. For players in the Under 13 age group and below the distance is 11 yards (10 metres);
 - b. These minimum distances apply even if the player is wearing a helmet.
2. 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;
 - a. 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 six yards (5.5 metres) of the bat, except behind the wicket on the offside. Players should wear appropriate protective equipment whenever they are fielding in a position where they feel at risk.

- b. These fielding regulations are applicable to all cricket played in England and Wales.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

All questions and comments on this guidance should be addressed to Paul Bedford, Head of Operations (non First-class Cricket) at Lord's, telephone 0207 432 1216, by fax 0207 289 5619 or by post to ECB Cricket Department, Lord's Cricket Ground, London NW8 8QX. His e-mail address is: paul.bedford@ecb.co.uk

LEAGUE & COUNTY WELFARE OFFICER

The Welfare Officer for the Vivio Cheshire County League and the Cheshire Cricket Board, who can be contacted about all problems connected with Junior Cricket in the county, is

Andrew Margeson,
29, Shakespeare Close,
Northwich
CW9 7GB.

Telephones 01606 43045 (h)
 07958 244 794 (m)

His email address is: a.margeson@yahoo.co.uk

Mr. Margeson must be notified about all discipline cases involving junior cricketers.

ECB FAST BOWLING MATCH DIRECTIVES

(Issued October 2009)

AGE	MAXIMUM OVERS PER SPELL	MAXIMUM OVERS PER DAY
Up to 13	5	10
U14, U15	6	12
U16, U17, U18, U19	7	18

- For the purposes 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.
- Age groups are based on the age of the player at midnight on 31st August in the year preceding the current season.
- Having completed a spell the bowler cannot bowl again, from either end, until the equivalent number of overs to the length of the spell have been bowled from the same end.
- A bowler can change ends without ending his current spell providing that he bowls the next over that he legally can bowl from the other end. If this does not happen the 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 the 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 bowl can commence the new spell immediately.
- Once a bowler covered by these Directives has bowled in a match he cannot exceed the number of overs per day for his age group even if he subsequently bowls spin.

RULES & REGULATIONS OF LEAGUE CUP COMPETITIONS

(2015 changes shown in bold type)

1. The winners of the 1st XI Cup competition shall be awarded the Fred Graham Memorial Trophy, or other trophy nominated by the Cricket Committee. The format involves both group and knock out stages before an eventual Finals Day. The matches will normally be played on fixed dates. Games can be re-arranged in exceptional circumstances and moved to a date mutually agreed by both clubs BEFORE the original scheduled fixture. The group stage will be played in eight groups in 2014 with each team playing three games. Each team is guaranteed at least one home fixture.
2. The winners of the 2nd XI Cup competition shall be awarded the Red Insure Trophy, or other trophy nominated by the Committee;
3. The winners of the 3rd XI Cup competition shall be awarded the Jack Gardner Trophy, or other trophy nominated by the Committee. The first round shall be played in mini leagues with each team playing every other team in mini-leagues on specified dates. Two points shall be awarded for a match won and one point each for a tied, unfinished or cancelled match. In first round matches, if the ground of the home team is unfit for play, the venue may be changed to the ground of the away team if it is fit for play. Any team bowled out shall be deemed to have received their full allocation of overs. The winning team in each mini league shall be that with the most points. In the event of a tie, the team with the higher overall scoring rate (total runs scored over total overs batted) shall be the winner. If still a tie, the toss of a coin shall decide the winner. The winner of each mini league shall go forward to the knock-out stage.
4. No player may play for more than one team in each of the League's Cup competitions.
5. Eligibility to play in these competitions is as defined in the League Playing Regulations. Additionally:
 - (a) Each player taking part in the 2nd XI Cup must have played more matches for their 2nd, 3rd and 4th XIs as for the club's 1st XI in

the League during the same season. Each player must have played at least one League game in the current season prior to **his first appearance in the Cup in the season.**

- (b) Eligibility to play in the 3rd XI mini- league matches is comparable with eligibility to play in 3rd XI League fixtures. If a player is eligible for a Sunday 3rd XI Cup game on a particular day, he will be eligible for a 3rd XI Cup mini-league game on that date or in midweek, until the following Sunday
 - (c) For the knock out stages, each player taking part in the 3rd XI Cup must have played in at least as many matches for his club's 3rd, 4th or 5th XI as for any other XI in the League during the season;
 - (d) A player selected to play for any League or Cup representative team may not play in a League Cup game the same day
 - (e) A player cannot make his first appearance of the season in the quarter-final onwards.
6. In the 1st XI Cup, the League shall appoint Umpires for all matches, their expenses to be met by the clubs. On Finals Day, the Umpires' expenses shall be met by the League.
 7. In all stages of the 2nd XI Cup before the quarter-finals, each club shall provide an Umpire. For the quarter-finals, semi-finals and final the League shall appoint Umpires. Their expenses shall be met by the clubs except in the semi-finals and final when they will be paid by the League.
 8. In all stages of the 3rd XI Cup before the semi-finals, each club shall provide an Umpire. For the semi-finals and final the League will appoint Umpires. Their expenses will be met by the clubs except in the semi-finals and final when they will be met by the League.
 9. The Committee shall decide the dates when each round of the various competitions shall be played.
 10. If a Knock out round Cup tie reaches no conclusion for any reason on the specified date, then the clubs concerned shall re-arrange the match within the cut off date set for the next round.
 11. In the event of clubs being unable to agree date, venue and duration of the

game, the decisions shall be taken by the Cricket Committee.

12. If, due to bad weather, postponed matches cannot be re scheduled more than seven days prior to the date set for next round, the match shall be resolved by bowling at stumps involving all players from both teams. Alternatively, matches must be resolved by the toss of a coin by the Captains, or under the supervision of the Cricket Committee.
13. The Cricket Committee will decide the venues for the respective Finals Days.
14. The Cricket Committee's decision on all matters not covered by these rules shall be final.

ALL T20 KNOCK-OUT CUPS

1. All matches shall be played under the Laws of Cricket and any ECB directives published from time to time.
2. All matches including the semi-finals and final to be of 20 overs each side, unless bowled out earlier.

Bowlers may bowl a maximum of four overs. In the event of a bowler breaking down and being unable to complete an over, the remaining balls shall be delivered by another bowler. Such part of an over shall count as a full over only in as far as the bowler's limits are concerned. In a reduced overs match, or in an innings that has been reduced, the number of overs to be bowled by one bowler shall be reduced accordingly. In the event of an innings being reduced after the start, the bowling limit shall remain the same as when the innings commenced. A chart shall be produced to aid Umpires and Captains.

3. The limit dates laid down for each round shall be strictly adhered to. Home clubs shall be responsible for informing the relevant Results Secretary of the dates agreed for all matches so that Panel Umpires can be appointed. If a match cannot be played on the original date, it should be mutually re-arranged as soon as possible or by mutual agreement with the Umpires before the start of play. Alternatively, it can be resolved immediately by a bowl-out or a toss of the coin. Games may be played on Sundays by mutual agreement, but scheduled Sunday 3rd XI League fixtures should not be

disrupted. Sunday games shall be governed by the same time limitations as those played in mid-week. If a match is not played by the limit date, the outcome shall be resolved by the Cricket Committee.

4. Matches to start at 6 p.m. if re-arranged for mid-week and by mutual agreement on week-ends or Bank Holidays although a default time will be set. In the event of a late start, the number of overs remaining shall be calculated working back from the scheduled cut-off time. The interval between innings shall be no more than 10 minutes. The Umpires shall be the sole judges of the fitness of light for play.
5. When the match is being officiated by Panel Umpires if the team bowling first do not complete their 20 overs within the stipulated time of 75 minutes, they may be required to forfeit part of their reply under the direction of the Umpires. For example, if they bowl only 19 overs in the permitted time, they themselves may bat for only 19 overs. Any over in progress when the limit time is reached shall count as a completed over for calculation purposes. This rule also applies to matches with reduced overs. A chart outlining the cut-off times is produced to aid Umpires and Captains.
6. When a match is being officiated by Panel Umpires, if the team bowling second do not complete their 20 overs within the same stipulated time of 75 minutes, 10 runs shall be added to the total of the team batting second for every incomplete over. Any over in progress when the time limit is reached shall count as a completed over for calculation purposes.
7. In the 1st XI Cup, each side shall use a new ball for its innings.
8. In matches where the start of play is delayed or suspended, the following rules shall apply:
 - (a) Where the innings of the side batting first is suspended, they shall be entitled to bat the full amount of overs at the start of the innings;
 - (b) If, owing to the suspension of play during the innings of the side batting second, it is not possible for that team to have the opportunity to bat for the same number of overs as the side batting first, they will bat for as many overs as are deemed possible by the Umpires, provided the minimum of 12 overs are bowled in an innings

- (c) The team batting second shall not bat for a greater number of overs than the team batting first unless the latter have been bowled out in less than the agreed number of overs;
 - (d) The minimum length of a match shall be 12 overs per innings unless one or both teams have been bowled out in less than the agreed number of overs;
9. In matches with a 6 p.m. starting time if, in the Umpires' opinion, either team is not ready to start batting by 6.15 p.m., the opposing Captain shall have the choice of batting or bowling.
10. The winners of the match shall be the team scoring the higher number of runs or, if the scores are level, the team that has taken the most wickets. If still equal:
- (a) In a 20 overs per side or reduced, but equal overs game, the score at the end of the penultimate, the antepenultimate over and so on, shall be the winner;
 - (b) If both sides have been dismissed in a 20 overs or equal overs game, the side with the higher overall scoring rate shall be the winner. If still equal the winners shall be the side with the higher scoring rate after 20 overs, then 19 and so on until a winner is decided.
 - (c) If a match is abandoned the result shall be decided on the average run rate throughout both innings provided the team batting second have received at least 12 overs;
 - (d) If the team batting second has batted for as long as conditions permit and not received 12 overs, but have scored sufficient runs to have a higher overall scoring rate had they batted for 12 overs, they shall be the winners
11. The Captain of the batting side shall not declare his innings closed at any time.
12. When the match is being officiated by Panel Umpires in the event of a foot-fault no ball, a free hit shall be awarded for the next delivery for each foot-fault no ball bowled. If any other type of no ball is bowled or wide called during the delivery of a free-hit, one run shall be added to the total

for the no ball or wide and another free hit shall be bowled next delivery.

13. When the match is being officiated by Panel Umpires a batsman may be given out off a free-hit in the same way as off a no ball (e.g. run out etc.), even if the free hit is called a wide. The field may not be altered for a free hit after a foot-fault no ball, unless the batsmen have changed ends.
14. Umpires are required to apply a very strict and consistent interpretation of a Wide Ball in order to prevent negative bowling wide of the wicket.
15. When a match is being officiated by Panel Umpires normal fielding circles at a radius of 30 yards centred on the two middle stumps will be applied. At the instant of delivery, a minimum of four fielders plus the bowler and wicket-keeper must be within the fielding circle. In the event of an infringement, the striker's end umpire shall call and signal no ball. For the first six overs of each innings only two fielders are permitted to be outside the fielding circle at the time of delivery. See Chart 3 in the event of a reduced overs match.
16. Any player who has not fielded in the first innings due to arriving late shall not be permitted to bat in the second innings. If a fielder arrives on the field late during the first innings, he may only bat in the second innings after the same number of overs have been bowled for which he was absent, or alternatively bat at number 11.
17. Batsmen are urged to cross on the field of play and Umpires should advise on this before the start of each innings.
18. Coloured clothing may be worn, in which case the appointed Umpires should be advised in advance.

Teams wearing coloured clothing must use white pads and bowl with a normal red ball.

19. Home teams are urged to provide refreshments at the close of play.
20. The results of all matches up to and including the quarter-finals should be telephoned to the Results Secretary as soon as possible after the match and a result sheet submitted within 48 hours. Umpires are not required to provide ground markings in T20 games.

RULES SPECIFIC TO 1ST XI T20 IN 2014

1. The 1st XI knock out cup will be played under the rules for all knock- out cups outlined above. The following additional rules will apply in 2014:
2. Matches played in the groups cannot be re-arranged after Friday, May 9 (one week before the competition begins). Group games are scheduled to be played on Thursdays, but as this is not practical for all clubs, in liaison with the Competition Secretary clubs may mutually agree a new date, if required, by Friday, May 9 if they are unable to play on the scheduled Thursday dates. All re-arranged fixtures must be played in the same week (Sunday to Saturday) as the original fixture.
3. Quarter final knock-out matches can be played either on Sunday, July 6, Thursday, July 10 or Sunday, July 13. The date must be agreed by both clubs and confirmed with the Competition Secretary by Monday, June 30. If the date cannot be mutually agreed by this date, the Competition Secretary shall decide on the date for the game.
4. If play is not possible on any of the three scheduled quarter-final dates, the game(s) should be rearranged to a date agreed by both Captains and completed by Sunday, July 20.
5. In the quarter-finals, semi-finals and final, should the scores finish level regardless of the number of wickets which have fallen, a Golden Over shall be bowled. Each team shall select three batsmen and one bowler; each team bats for one over six-ball over with the team batting second in the original game now batting first. The loss of two wickets shall end the innings. If the scores finish level after the Golden Over, the team with the most six hits in their two combined innings shall be the winners. If still level, the team that has lost fewest wickets in their two combined innings shall be the winners. If still level, the winners will be the team with the highest score in the original game after 19 overs, then 18 and so on until a winner is found.
6. The starting time for evening games shall be 6 p.m. If a match starts after 6.15 p.m. Umpires have been instructed to deduct overs immediately.
7. The group games will involve a maximum of three matches. Two points will be gained by the winning team, with none for the losers. One point

will be awarded to each team in the event of a cancelled match. The away team has the right to travel and allow Umpires to determine the fitness of the ground for play.

8. A group winner will be determined by the team which has gained most points. Where two or more teams are level on points at the end of their group stage, the average run rate (teams' total runs scored divided by total overs received, a team bowled out is deemed to have received all their overs) in all group games shall decide the winner.

AIDS TO UMPIRES & CAPTAINS

CHART 1: MAXIMUM OVERS PER BOWLER

20 overs:	4 - 4 - 4 - 4 - 4
19 overs:	4 - 4 - 4 - 4 - 3
18 overs:	4 - 4 - 4 - 3 - 3
17 overs:	4 - 4 - 3 - 3 - 3
16 overs:	4 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3
15 overs:	3 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3
14 overs:	3 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 2
13 overs:	3 - 3 - 3 - 2 - 2
12 overs:	3 - 3 - 2 - 2 - 2

CHART 2: MAXIMUM TIME PERMITTED TO BOWL OVERS

Overs to be bowled	Mins Allowed 3.5 mins per over	Additional Allowance (mins)	Maximum Time to bowl overs
20	70	5	75
19	66.5	4.75	71
18	63	4.5	67.5
17	59.5	4.25	64
16	56	4	60
15	52.5	3.75	56
14	49	3.5	52.5
13	45.5	3.25	49
12	42	3	45

CHART 3: FIELDING RESTRICTION OVERS

In circumstances when the number of overs of the batting team is reduced, the number of 'fielding restriction overs' (fro) will be reduced as set out below. This applies to both the first and second innings of the match.

Overs in innings is

12 – 13; fro = 3

14 – 16; fro = 4

17 – 19; fro = 5

Following the 'fro' and for the remainder of the innings, at the instant of delivery a minimum of four fielders plus the bowler and wicketkeeper must be within the fielding circle. In the event of any infringement to these restrictions, the strikers end umpire shall call and signal no ball.

OVER 40'S MATCH REGULATIONS

(No changes in 2015)

1. (a) The object of the competition shall be to increase the interest in, and popularity of, the game of cricket as well as to encourage the late developer and delay imminent retirements.
(b) Membership shall be restricted to Full or Associate Member of the League unless otherwise determined by the Management Committee.
2. All players must be over the age of 40.
3. Each side shall play with their own cricket ball as provided by the League.
4. All matches shall be of 20 overs per innings and shall start by 6.15 p.m. with bowlers restricted to a maximum of four overs. Matches that start at 6.30 p.m. shall still comprise 20 overs per innings. In matches which begin after 6.30 p.m. the captains may either agree to play the full 40 overs or reduce the number of overs per innings by one for every seven minutes lost. A minimum of 10 overs per innings must be bowled. In reduced games, the number of overs bowled by each bowler shall be reduced

accordingly. Clubs are strongly urged not to cancel matches after 5 p.m. when visiting teams are normally en route.

5. (a) Games which are cancelled due to rain may be re-arranged by mutual agreement provided they take place within 14 days of the original date and no other League fixtures are affected. The Competition Secretary must be informed of all agreed new dates.

(b) In exceptional circumstances, fixtures may be reversed or played on an alternate day during the same week or the following week, by mutual agreement, in which case the Competition Secretary must be informed.

6. No player shall be permitted to play unless suitably attired for cricket. Teams may play in coloured clothing.
7. All matches shall be played under MCC rules except where otherwise provided for in these regulations.
8. Batsmen shall retire upon completion of the runs which take their score to 30 or more. They are not permitted to return to the crease later in the innings.
9. The results of all games shall be submitted to the Competition Secretary by telephone (01606 888 745) or e-mail (mike.t-b@virgin.net) the information to arrive not later than the Saturday after the match.. Failure to comply will result in a £15 fine.
10. Points shall be awarded as follows:

For a win: 4

For a tie: 3.

For a cancelled or abandoned game: 2.

For a defeat: 0.

Any match that finishes with level scores, regardless of wickets lost is to be classed as a tie.

Where a fixture is conceded the defaulting club shall forfeit the points, with 4 going to their opponents.

In the event of all matches being called off due to bad weather, any defaulting team shall receive nil points and their opponents 2 points.

11. Quarter-final games shall be played between the top two teams in each group, the group winners having home advantage. These games to be played on the Wednesday after the end of the group fixtures or by a later date to be agreed annually. The Competition Secretary to be notified of all agreed dates.
12. There shall be play-offs between the four quarter-final winners. They will meet in the semi-finals and final on a neutral ground to be agreed annually, normally on Late Summer Bank Holiday Monday. A trophy shall be awarded to the play-off winners.

In the play-off semi-finals and final, should the scores finish level regardless of the number of wickets which have fallen, a Golden Over shall be bowled. Each team shall select three batsmen and one bowler; each team bats for one six-ball over with the team batting second in the original game batting first. The loss of two wickets shall end the innings. If the scores finish level, the team with most six hits in their two combined innings shall be the winners. If still level, the team which has lost fewest wickets in the two combined innings shall be the winners. If still level, there shall be a toss of the coin to decide the winners,

13. The Management Committee shall agree to a League format proposed by clubs on a season-by-season basis. The champion team in each group shall be awarded a trophy. If two teams finish level on points in their group, they shall toss a coin once all the clauses in Organisation and Administrative Matters item 3 ii have been observed.
14. The home club in group fixtures and quarter-finals shall be responsible for providing adequate refreshments, preferably at the close of play.

CLUB DUTIES & ADVICE

(2015 changes in bold type)

MEETINGS: ANNUAL, SPECIAL, MANAGEMENT & OTHER

Clubs are reminded of the importance of attending Annual General, Special General, Management Committee and other Special meetings which may be called during the year.

Notices are sent by the League Secretary to club representatives at least two weeks in advance of AGMs and SGMs and one week for Management Committee and other meetings. Deputies may attend.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Clubs must provide at least two regularly checked e-mail addresses to the League Secretary for correspondence purposes.

PRESENTATION DINNER

Clubs are expected to support the League's Annual Presentation Dinner and must buy at least three tickets for the event each year. Fines at a rate of the annual ticket price (currently £30 per head) will be levied on any club failing to comply.

All fines listed above will be levied by the Treasurer and clubs will be expected to pay immediately they receive an invoice. They may appeal to the Treasurer and/or Competition Secretary where relevant, giving evidence to evidence such an appeal.

AVERAGES

The averages of all players except 1st XIs, who have qualified for inclusion in the Handbook must be submitted by October 31st.

2nd XI averages should be submitted to the 2nd XI Results secretary and the remainder to the appropriate 3rd XI Results secretary.

Junior averages should be sent to the Junior Section secretary

LEAGUE COMPUTERS

Clubs in the Premier League are provided with a League computer on loan to

facilitate computerised scoring.

The clubs are responsible for the safe storage of this kit and are liable for any loss or damage that may be sustained. Relegated clubs must return the equipment for use by promoted clubs the following season.

LEAGUE WEB SITE / NEWSLETTER

The official League website address is:

www.cheshirecountycl.play-cricket.com/home/home.asp

All year round League news can be obtained by visiting the official and regularly up-dated website and by means of the Newsletter which is normally distributed weekly during the playing season and monthly in the close season.

RECORDING RESULTS ON LEAGUE WEBSITE

All home clubs must accurately enter their results on the League's play-cricket.com website.

1st XI data must be entered in summary (line scores and points) by 10 p.m. on the day of the match either in League or Cup, and in full within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match.

2nd XI data must be entered in summary within 48 hours and in full within 96 hours, of the conclusion of the match.

3rd, 4th and 5th XI data must be entered in summary within 96 hours of the conclusion of the match

TELEPHONING RESULTS ETC.

For all 1st XI League and Cup matches played on Saturdays, Sundays, Bank Holidays and in mid-week, the home team must telephone the result and brief highlights to the 1st XI Results secretary immediately after the close of play and not later than 9 p.m. on a Saturday or 10 p.m. in mid-week. An answerphone may be operating on Saturdays, so please speak slowly and clearly.

The telephone number to use is 01606 888 745. Please be patient if the line is engaged due to heavy use on Saturdays. A 'Call Waiting' system is installed.

Cancelled matches must notified by telephone immediately the clubs reach

a decision. Result sheets need not be submitted for 1st XI cancelled matches once the cancellation has been notified by telephone. Matches which have been started and abandoned at any stage should be reported in the normal way by telephone and result sheet.

It is NOT required to telephone the results of matches outside of 1st XI cricket unless specially requested to do so.

RESULT SHEETS & CARDS

Home teams must submit result sheets or cards for all matches played under the auspices of the League except the Over 40s (see below). Cancelled matches should be notified unless the appropriate Results Secretary indicates otherwise on being informed by telephone. To ensure that result sheets arrive within three days of matches being played, first-class post should always be used, although Results Secretaries may accept other methods of receipt (e.g. faxes or emails) in which case both sides of the result sheet should be transmitted in case essential information is contained on the reverse.

Clubs should note the requirement regarding 3rd XI Sunday results: if these have not been received by the appropriate Results Secretary 10 days after the scheduled date for the game, the home club will be notified by the e-mail address provided. If the sheet has still not been received after 14 days the home club will forfeit all points gained in that match. In the case of a team conceding ground advantage to their opponents, they will still be regarded as the home team.

Result sheets / cards / e-mail messages where appropriate should be sent to the following officers:

1st XI games in League, League Cup & Over 40's Comps

Wyn/Mike Talbot-Butler

45 Sandown Crescent, Sandiway, Northwich CW8 2QN

Designated results line 01606 888 745

Normal telephone 01606 883 715

email: mike.t-b@virgin.net

2nd XI games in League and League Cup

Brian Boys 298 London Road, Appleton, Warrington WA4 5DR.

01925 604 033

07794 733 523

email: brian@mvirtual.net

Sat 3rd XI League and 3rd XI Jack Gardner Trophy games Sunday 3rd XI Premier, Central & West Division games

Ian Sharrock 17, Prestbury Avenue, Oxton, Wirral CH43 OUE

0151 608 5683

email: sawdanine@gmail.com

Sunday 3rd XI Divisions 3 East Divisions

Peter Lawson 5 The Ridgeways, Hayfield, High Peak SK22 2JQ

01663 746 657

07939 524 602

emails:P_lawson@btconnect.com / p_lawson@btinternet.com

PAYMENT OF UMPIRES' EXPENSES

Agreed expenses of Panel Umpires should be shared by the competing clubs and paid at the pre-match meeting with the Captains. It is the responsibility of the home Captain to inform the appointed Umpires by telephone if a match is cancelled. If an Umpire attends a ground and the match is not played, he will be entitled to full expenses.

SCORERS

Scorers are urged to acknowledge umpires' signals by displaying a white or coloured disc clearly visible from the middle. Scorers should ensure that the number of overs remaining for play in the second innings is displayed in descending order.

BAD WEATHER PROVISIONS

Clubs are expected to make all possible efforts to ensure that their grounds are fit to play in the event of bad weather. This requirement should take precedence over other activities such as warm-ups etc.

ARTIFICIAL PITCHES

Artificial pitches may be used for senior League and Cup matches by mutual agreement between the captains. In Junior cricket, use of artificial pitches is at the discretion of the home club who should give their opponents advance notice if possible.

ROLLING OF PITCHES

The Captain of either team may request to have the pitch rolled before the toss is made at the start of any match.

COVERS

All clubs must provide mobile covers sufficient to protect the whole of the playing area. In the event of an interruption for rain, the entire playing pitch should be covered immediately.

It is mandatory that mobile covers are used in the preparation of pitches in days preceding matches and on match days. It is urged that sheets be used to cover run ups and nearby used pitches, but only in addition to mobile covers.

BELL

All clubs are required to provide a bell which should be rung by the umpires five minutes before the start of play, when the field shall be cleared. The umpires will also ring the bell five minutes before the start of each subsequent session of play.

WORKING CLOCK

All clubs should display a large, accurate, working clock clearly visible to everyone on the field of play.

TEAS / RESULT SHEETS ANOMALY

Occasionally fixture list and/or ground constraints lead to some clubs having an uneven number of home and away fixtures. Those whose home ground in any game is being played on should be treated as the side responsible for all 'home' team duties, such as the payment for teas and compilation and despatch of result sheets etc.

This means teams may be picking up the tab for more teas but, they do have the advantage of lower travel costs and increased bar revenues

PRE-MATCH MEETING BETWEEN CAPTAINS & UMPIRES

Prior to the start of a match a mandatory meeting should take place between the Captains and Umpires. Given '1' below, the ideal time is at the toss. The meeting should achieve the following:

1. Observation of the toss
2. The exchange of fully-completed match cards ensuring that the reverse is signed (1st XI games)
3. Handing over of the match ball and spares
4. Payment of umpires' expenses
5. Discussion about the Spirit of Cricket and umpires' expectations about behaviour
6. Clarification of 'local rules' (trees inside the boundary or overhanging into field of play, etc.)
7. Clarification of match regulations (fielding circles and interpretation of wides for cup matches)
8. All parties should appreciate that Captains and Umpires together set the tone for the conduct of a cricket match and this pre-match meeting will render an efficient exchange and ensure good communications. Dialogue about the Spirit of Cricket is paramount.
9. Umpires have been advised that games should not start until all parts of the Code 1-7 have been fully discharged.

RATE OF FINES

1. Fines at the rate of £50 will be levied for defaulting on a 1st XI League or Cup match.
2. Fines at the rate of £30 will be levied for defaulting on a 2nd XI League or Cup match
3. Fines at a rate of £15 will automatically be levied for the following, unless

a satisfactory explanation is accepted by the Management or Cricket Committees:

- i. Failing to attend an AGM, SGM, Management, Special meeting or any other meeting called by the Management Committee

If an Associate member club is not represented at the April Management committee meeting, they will be responsible for any costs incurred in collecting or forwarding cricket balls, handbooks, etc
- ii. For each trophy not returned to the League Secretary by the required date as determined by the League Secretary in readiness for the Presentation Dinner
- iii. For each trophy returned to the League Secretary in an unacceptable condition (i.e. not cleaned, in a state of disrepair or not engraved to date)
- iv. Any club that fields a 1st XI which does not contain 11 players
- v. Failing to provide a scorer for 1st XI League and Cup matches
- vi. Failing to submit a completed umpires assessment card for all 1st XI League (not Cup) matches within four days of the match to the designated Umpires & Scorers Association officer
- vii. Failing to telephone a 1st XI League or Cup result by the stipulated time on match days
- viii. Failing to submit a fully completed result sheet or card for any League championship, Cup or Over 40s match by post or fax within the stipulated time and to the satisfaction of the appropriate Results secretary
- ix. Failing to submit a result sheet or card for any League championship, Cup or Over 40s match, by post or fax by the stipulated time
- x. For defaulting on a League Championship or Cup fixture
- xi. Failing to advise the relevant Results secretary of any change to a forthcoming League fixture (i.e. changes in venue, date or time)

- xii. Failing to advise the relevant Results secretary or Co-ordinator in advance of the date of any League Cup match
- xiii. Failure of home clubs to enter their results on the League play-cricket.com website accurately and on time, as defined earlier

In addition:

- 4. Clubs will be fined 10 per cent of the total amount due for failing to pay their subscriptions in full by May 31st
- 5. Clubs will be fined £50 per month for failing to pay for their ordered supply of cricket balls by March 31st
- 6. **Teams that are guilty of persistent maladministration may be subject to points penalties at the discretion of the cricket committee. This facility will only be used following repeated warnings and following a significant number of failures to comply. In the first instance within a season the penalty will be 5 points but subsequent offences can incur penalties up to 10 points. For clarification persistent maladministration can be defined as either conduct that is either willful or very negligent.**

GROUNDS CRITERIA *(2015 changes in bold type)*

The following list of Grounds Criteria should be strictly applied by all Cheshire County League clubs for their main grounds during the 2015 season.

Panel umpires, 2nd XI and 3rd XI captains will take these criteria into account when making their match reports.

SQUARE: Should be well-maintained and in good condition. The entire square should be cut prior to each game, the wicket clearly identified from the remainder of the square and fully-prepared for positive cricket.

PITCH: The objective is that the whole pitch should be firm, dry and true, providing good carry and consistent bounce with no excessive seam movement throughout.

In all cases, pitches will be judged on how they play and not whether they are dry and what colour they look. Pitches should be marked out to comply with current regulations (see Handbook diagram). Creases should always be re-marked between innings.

OUTFIELD: Should be flat, even and well-maintained with good drainage, closely-mown weekly below three quarters of an inch or 20 millimetres, with no grass cuttings left about. The ball should be able to run truly.

PLAYING AREA: Should be ideally be a minimum width of 120 yards and a length of 120 yards.

BOUNDARY. Should be clearly marked with a substantial rope or with a white line supplemented by boundary flag markers every 20 yards. The boundary should be a minimum distance of 50 yards from the playing area for all 1st XI matches and a minimum of 40 yards for 2nd and 3rd XI games.

SIGHT-SCREENS: The structure of all sight-screens, painted with non-gloss paint, should be in good condition and of adequate size for each individual ground. Boarding must be available to delineate the boundary if placed within the playing area. Two sight-screens are required at each end.

SCOREBOX: The scorers should be totally under cover. The box should be purpose-built of an acceptable standard and maintained inside and outside in good condition. Ideally, the fascia board should be clearly visible from the pavilion and throughout the field of play.

Adequate-sized numbering should be provided for the running total, wickets lost, individual batsmen's scores, last batsman out, overs used and the total of the team batting first. Whether the home or away team is batting should be indicated. Paintwork of the numbers and scoreboard should be in good condition. Automatic numbering for the total and overs is expected.

Electronic numbers should be adequate for the size of the ground and be clear for all spectators and players to see. Scorers are urged to indicate the number of overs of the team batting second in descending - not ascending order to be of assistance to newly-arrived spectators.

Scoreboxes in the Premier League should be properly equipped in accordance with electronic requirements.

ALL clubs are urged towards having mains electricity laid on as Computer Scoring becomes the norm.

COVERS: Mobile frame covers must be provided. The minimum total size should be 24 yards long by 10 feet wide. Covers should be used to protect the pitch and in the preparation of the pitch in the days preceding the game - especially on Friday and Saturday nights - as well as on match days. Clubs are encouraged to use sheets to protect the bowlers' run ups.

It is emphasised that these sheets should be used to complement the mobile covers, and not as a substitute.

MOPPING-UP & ROLLING EQUIPMENT: Clubs must provide adequate mopping-up equipment for use during wet weather. The minimum equipment recommended is a Strike Rolo Mop. This work should be done under the supervision of the umpires.

A choice of light or heavy roller should be made available for use prior to and during all matches.

BAD WEATHER PROVISIONS: It is expected that the home team will ensure full access to all equipment needed to clean up in the event of adverse weather and to use it as soon as rain has ceased, or as directed by the umpires.

Clubs are also expected to make all efforts possible to ensure that grounds are fit to play in the event of bad weather.

This requirement should take precedence over other activities, such as warm-ups etc.

GROUND SURROUNDS: Surrounding areas should be regularly cut and neatly maintained. All paintwork should be in good condition. Suitable measures should be taken to ensure that lost ball time is minimised.

It is highly recommended that adequate seating is provided around the ground to encourage and accommodate spectators

DRESSING ROOMS (players): Dressing-rooms should be of a reasonable size for home and away teams and be clean and well decorated with adequate seating and hooks for clothes. The floor should be of suitable material for bare feet, non-slip and able to be disinfected. Ideally, dressing-rooms should have a window overlooking the field of play.

SHOWERS: A minimum of four showers should be provided in a hygienic area with non-slip flooring.

TOILETS: These should be adequate and hygienic. Separate WCs for men and women should be provided. A toilet for the disabled should be included in new buildings and in refurbishing plans.

DRESSING-ROOMS (umpires): Separate and secure changing rooms should be provided for umpires, of a similar standard to those for players and with easy access to the showers. They should also be of a reasonable size. Rooms must be lockable and if this is not possible, a secure locker should be provided.

VIEWING AREA: An adequate, sheltered, seated viewing area should be available for the batting team.

HOSPITALITY: Teas should be provided to a high standard. There should also be adequate bar facilities available for post-match hospitality.

Clubs are urged to make food available for spectators if possible.

HEALTH & SAFETY: All club grounds, clubhouses and other facilities should comply with current Health and Safety legislation which comprises the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order and the Food Hygiene (England) Regulations.

FIRST AID: First aid equipment should be clearly displayed and available to all players and spectators.

Clubs are encouraged to train a member in first aid and to make a qualified first-aider available on match days.

The acquisition is urged of a defibrillator in the event of an emergency.

CLOCK: All clubs must display a large, working clock, visible from the pavilion and all other parts of the ground. The clock should be kept accurate at all times.

BELL: A fixed bell should be provided for use by the umpires to signal the imminence of the start of each session of play.

CRITERIA FOR SECOND (3rd, 4th & 5th XI) GROUNDS

SQUARE, OUTFIELD, BOUNDARY, SIGHT-SCREENS and HEALTH & SAFETY: All requirements similar to Main Ground criteria.

SCOREBOARD: Adequate sized numbers should be provided on a board to indicate the running total, wickets down, last man and overs bowled.

COVERS: Mobile frame covers should be provided similar to Main Ground criteria. These covers should be used in preparation of the pitch the night before the game.

DRESSING-ROOMS: Dressing rooms should be clean, well-decorated and of an adequate size for both teams.

SHOWERS: All players must have access to showers.

TOILETS: Adequate, clear and hygienic toilets and urinal facilities for men and women should be provided

GROUND SURROUNDS: Surrounds should be regularly cut and neatly maintained. All paintwork should be in good condition.

Suitable measures should be taken to ensure that lost ball time is minimised.

ROLLER: Adequate-sized choice of rollers should be made available for use before and during games.

HOSPITALITY: Teas should be of a high standard.

There should be adequate bar facilities for post-match hospitality.

VIEWING AREA: If the ground does not adjoin the dressing-rooms, a seated, covered area should be provided for the batting side.

FIRST AID: Adequate first aid kit should be clearly displayed and be available for use by players and spectators at all times. The acquisition is urged of a defibrillator in the event of an emergency.

JOHN BYGATE
Grounds chairman

ECB PREMIER LEAGUE DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS

(New version for 2015)

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APPENDIX 1 – BREACHES OF DISCIPLINE

1. AIMS AND JURISDICTION

- 1.1 The England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) is committed to maintaining the highest standards of behaviour and conduct in the game of cricket. The ECB Premier Leagues (the Leagues), including the VIVIO Cheshire County Cricket League (the League), which operate within the jurisdiction of the ECB, share this commitment and take it very seriously.
- 1.2 These ECB Premier League Disciplinary Regulations, incorporating the Code of Conduct and Spirit of Cricket (as set out in paragraph 2 below) (Disciplinary Regulations), have been adopted by the Leagues and are intended to provide guidance and ensure uniformity in dealing with any alleged breach of the Code of Conduct.
- 1.3 The Disciplinary Regulations shall be complied with by all those who participate in the Leagues, including players, clubs, club officials, club members, the Leagues, representatives of the Leagues and any other person or body who is from time-to-time engaged in cricket-related activities under the auspices of the Leagues (Participants). (For the purposes of paragraph 2 below, 'players' shall be deemed to include other Participants if the context of an alleged breach of the Code of Conduct so requires.)
- 1.4 Subject to the mutual recognition provisions (at paragraph 9 below), the League shall be responsible for the enforcement and administration of the Disciplinary Regulations in relation to Participants registered to the League and/or participating in cricket-related activities under its auspices. All Participants, by virtue of their registration with the League (whether directly or via a club) and/or participation in cricket-related activities under the auspices of the League, agree to be bound by the Disciplinary Regulations.
- 1.5 All Participants are required to cooperate with the Leagues in regard to discipline. Without prejudice to the generality of this requirement, every club shall take all reasonable steps to ensure the proper conduct of its Participants in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations and shall not act in any way which is prejudicial or detrimental to the interests or reputation of the League(s) or the game of cricket.

- 1.6 There is nothing in the Disciplinary Regulations preventing or discouraging clubs from applying additional or stronger penalties in regard to breaches of the Code of Conduct beyond those set out in the Disciplinary Regulations, whether or not penalties may apply under the Disciplinary Regulations. To this end, it is important that clubs have their own code of conduct and disciplinary procedures in place.
- 1.7 At all times it is to be remembered that the core aim of the Disciplinary Regulations is to maintain the highest standards of behaviour and conduct in the game of cricket. The procedures detailed in the Disciplinary Regulations are intended to be fair, straightforward and proportionate to the needs of the Leagues and Participants, respecting fundamental principles of natural justice and fairness but recognising that those involved with the procedures will not typically be, and do not need to be, legally qualified. Therefore, as long as the principles of natural justice and fairness are not infringed, minor practical or technical points will not serve to invalidate the procedure or any decisions or findings under the Disciplinary Regulations.
- 1.8 In the event that any incident or other matter occurs which is not provided for by the Disciplinary Regulations (whether it relates to conduct, jurisdiction, procedure or penalty), then the Chairman of the League's Discipline Committee or his nominated deputy (Discipline Chairman) or the League's Disciplinary/Appeal Panel may take such action as considered appropriate in the circumstances, taking into account the specific circumstances and the principles of natural justice and fairness.
- 1.9 In the event that any alleged breach of the Code of Conduct falls under any other relevant ECB regulations (as may from time-to-time be in force), such as the ECB Safeguarding Complaints and Disciplinary Procedure, or is subject to investigation by the police or other public authority (or analogous body), or is subject to any other legal/regulatory process, the Discipline Chairman or the League's Disciplinary/Appeal Panel may stay the procedure under the Disciplinary Regulations.

2. CODE OF CONDUCT AND SPIRIT OF CRICKET

2.1. Code of Conduct

- 2.1.1 Captains are responsible at all times for ensuring that play is conducted within the Spirit of Cricket (as set out in para. 2.2) as well as within the Laws.
- 2.1.2. Players 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.
- 2.1.3. Players shall not intimidate assault or attempt to intimidate or assault an umpire, another Participant or a spectator.
- 2.1.4. Players shall not use crude and/or abusive language (known as "sledging"), nor make offensive gestures or hand signals, nor deliberately distract an opponent.
- 2.1.5. Players shall not use language or gestures that offend, insult, humiliate, intimidate, threaten, disparage or vilify another person on the basis of that person's (or that person's perceived) age, race, religion, sexual orientation, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin.
- 2.1.6. Players shall not use or in any way be concerned in the use or distribution of illegal drugs or other criminal activity.
- 2.1.7. Participants shall not make any public or media comment which is prejudicial or detrimental to the interests or reputation of other Participants or the game of cricket in general. In this instance, media shall include (but not necessarily be limited to) press, radio, television, external websites, club websites, social networking sites and club match programmes. Nothing in this provision shall prevent any comment which constitutes honest opinion in regard to cricketing matters and which is made in a fair and respectful manner.
- 2.1.8. Participants shall not publicly disclose or comment upon any alleged breach of this Code of Conduct.
- 2.1.9. Participants shall not act in any manner which is against the Spirit of Cricket, otherwise improper, or prejudicial or detrimental to the

interests or reputation of the League(s) or the game of cricket.

2.2. 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.

2.2.1 There are two Laws which place the responsibility for a 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.

2.2.2. 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.

2.2.3. 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

2.2.4. The Spirit of Cricket involves RESPECT for:

- Your opponents
- Your own captain and team
- The role of the umpires
- The game's traditional values

2.2.5. It is against the Spirit of Cricket to:

- dispute an umpire's decision by word, action or gesture
- direct abusive language towards an opponent or umpire
- 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; and
 - 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.

2.2.6. Violence

There is no place for any act of violence on the field of play.

2.2.7. 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.

- 2.3. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Code of Conduct may lead to disciplinary action, irrespective of a proven breach being related to a match not under the jurisdiction of the League.

3. BREACHES AND REPORTING

- 3.1. Any Participant in breach of the Code of Conduct shall be liable to penalties in the manner prescribed in the Disciplinary Regulations.
- 3.2. A breach of the Code of Conduct will normally be categorised as Level 1, 2, 3 or 4, as set out in Appendix 1.
- 3.3. Reporting of Breaches by umpires
 - 3.3.1. Subject to paragraph 3.3.3, for a first Level 1 breach of the Code of Conduct in a match, the umpire(s) should warn the player as to his future conduct and advise him and his captain that any repetition in the match will result in a formal report.
 - 3.3.2. If any player receiving such a warning then commits a further Level 1 breach in the match, the umpire(s) should advise him and his captain that they will be submitting a formal report.
 - 3.3.3. Should the umpire(s) consider that the first Level 1 breach is sufficiently serious, they have the authority to decide to submit a formal report without having previously issued any warning. The player and his captain should be advised accordingly.
 - 3.3.4. In all instances of any perceived Level 2, 3 or 4 breach, the umpire(s) should complete a formal discipline report.
 - 3.3.5. Any alleged breach of the Code of Conduct subject to a report by an umpire should be notified by telephone by the umpire to the Discipline Chairman within 24 hours of the end of the match. The written report should be sent, preferably by email using the standard discipline form, to the Discipline Chairman and be received within 72 hours of the end of the match.
- 3.4. Reporting of Breaches by Participants
 - 3.4.1. Any allegation of a breach of the Code of Conduct by a Participant made against another Participant which arises from an incident during the course of a match or on the field of play should be reported by a team's captain to the umpire(s).

- 3.4.2. Any allegation of a breach of the Code of Conduct by a Participant made against another Participant which does not arise from an incident during the course of a match or on the field of play should, ideally, be notified to the Discipline Chairman promptly after the incident giving rise to the allegation. Subject to any direction from the Discipline Chairman, a written report should be produced, which should allow the Discipline Chairman to understand i) the background to the alleged incident, ii) why a breach of the Code of Conduct is alleged and iii) the Level of breach alleged. Where possible, notifications and reports should be submitted to the Discipline Chairman by a club secretary or directly through playcricket.com (or in such other manner as may be directed by the Discipline Chairman).
- 3.4.3. The Discipline Chairman shall have an overriding discretion to accept or decline reports submitted under paragraph 3.4.2. Save for exceptional circumstances, such reports shall not be accepted relating to any alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct which have been, or could have been, reported by an umpire pursuant to paragraph 3.3.5 (the Discipline Chairman may contact an umpire for his observations/views on allegations/the content of any report) or where there has been undue delay in making a notification or report.
- 3.4.4. Any complaints submitted under paragraph 3.4.2 must be made in good faith. The submission of a report which is trivial, vexatious, made for tactical reasons or otherwise improper may itself be treated as a breach of the Code of Conduct under paragraph 2.1.9.

4. PROCEDURE

- 4.1. The Discipline Chairman shall, as soon as reasonably practicable following receipt of a report, inform the secretary of the concerned club (or other Participant as appropriate in the circumstances) that a report has been made.

- 4.2. Any Level 1 or Level 2 breach of the Code of Conduct should in the first instance be dealt with by the Participant's club (in accordance with the guideline penalties detailed at paragraph 6 below), and the secretary of the club shall notify the Discipline Chairman within 48 hours of any action taken by the club or which it proposes to take.
- 4.3. Within 48 hours of receipt of notification from the secretary of the club as to its action or proposed action, the Discipline Chairman shall consider the matter and resolve:
 - i. To take no further action except to record the complaint and notify the club of his decision; or
 - ii. To endorse any action taken by the club and confirm that no further action is required; or
 - iii. To refer the matter for a full disciplinary hearing (Disciplinary Hearing).

Level 3 or 4 complaints will automatically be subject to a Disciplinary Hearing.

5. DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS

- 5.1. At least seven days' notice in writing of the Disciplinary Hearing shall be given to the Participant, either directly or via the secretary of his club as appropriate. The notice shall specify the alleged breach(es) of the Code of Conduct and the Level(s) of the alleged breach(es).
- 5.2. Where a charge against a player is referred to a Disciplinary Hearing, his captain and club may be charged separately under their responsibilities as set out in the Code of Conduct above.
- 5.3. In any case which is referred for a Disciplinary Hearing, the Discipline Chairman shall convene the Disciplinary Hearing within 14 days of the decision to refer. Any delay may only be granted at the discretion of the Chairman of the Disciplinary Panel (appointed in accordance with paragraph 5.6).

- 5.4. The accused Participant shall be entitled:
- To submit written statements ahead of the Disciplinary Hearing;
 - To attend the Disciplinary Hearing;
 - To state his/its case
(in the case of a club, by its secretary or other official); and
 - To be legally represented or supported by a colleague; and
 - To call witnesses.
- 5.5. If the Participant is to have representation present at the Disciplinary Hearing then the details of that representation must be given to the Discipline Chairman not less than 48 hours before the date of the hearing.
- 5.6. The Disciplinary Hearing shall be conducted by a Disciplinary Panel appointed by the Discipline Chairman and shall consist of not less than three persons and not more than five persons drawn from a list approved by the League's Management Committee. The Discipline Chairman shall appoint one of the Disciplinary Panel members to act as Chairman of the Disciplinary Panel. None of the Disciplinary Panel should be connected with the Participant or any relevant opponent at the time of the alleged breach, or any Participant who might directly benefit from any disciplinary action.
- 5.7. A Participant involved in disciplinary proceedings will be solely responsible for meeting such costs or expenses as it or they may incur, including the cost of any legal or other representation.
- 5.8. The standard of proof shall be on the balance of probabilities.

6. PENALTIES

- 6.1. If at a Disciplinary Hearing a breach of the Code of Conduct is proved, the Disciplinary Panel shall have the power to impose one or more of the following penalties, together with such order as to costs as it deems appropriate:

In the case of a player:-

- To require the player to submit appropriate letter(s) of apology within a specified time;
- To record a reprimand and to give a warning as to future conduct;
- To impose a fine, not to exceed £500;
- To suspend the player for one or more specified matches and/or for a stated period of time;
- To deduct League points from the player's team; and
- To expel the player from the League.

As a guideline only the following penalties should be expected in regard to suspensions for matches:

Level 1	1 to 6 matches
Level 2	3 to 8 matches
Level 3	4 to 10 matches
Level 4	A minimum of 10 matches

In the case of a club:-

- To require the club to submit appropriate letter(s) of apology within a specified time;
- To record a reprimand and to give a warning as to future conduct;
- To impose a fine;
- To deduct League points from the club's team;
- To expel the club from any competitions of the League; and
- To relegate to any lower division of the League or to a 'linked' league.

In the case of any other Participant

- To require the Participant to submit appropriate letter(s) of apology within a specified time;

- To record a reprimand and to give a warning as to future conduct;
 - To impose a fine, not to exceed £500;
 - To suspend the Participant for one or more specified matches and/or for a stated period of time;
 - To deduct League points from the Participant's team; and
 - To expel the Participant from the League.
- 6.2. Panels may take the following factors into account when determining the penalties to be imposed:
- If the accused Participant has pleaded guilty;
 - The Participant's previous disciplinary record;
 - The position of the Participant (for example, if a player is a Captain);
 - The conduct of the Participant subsequent to him/it being warned and told that he will be reported;
 - In any case involving a player, the regularity with which the player plays cricket and at what level(s) of cricket he plays (for example, a fixed period suspension of two weeks is likely to have a more serious impact upon an ECB registered cricketer who plays regularly when compared to a purely recreational player who plays infrequently); and
 - Any other mitigating or aggravating factors relevant to the circumstances of the breach.
- 6.3. The Disciplinary Panel 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.
- 6.4. Where applicable, penalties may be carried over to apply in the following season.
- 6.5. Decisions of the Disciplinary Panel (a finding that a complaint is proved or not proved or a decision on penalty) shall be by majority vote; where necessary the Disciplinary Panel Chairman shall have a casting vote.
- 6.6. In accordance with the Cricket Discipline Commission (CDC) Regulations, it is envisaged that in any case where a suspension is lawfully imposed upon an ECB registered cricketer by the Disciplinary Panel such a suspension shall be recognised by the CDC. ECB registered cricketers have a right

of appeal to an Appeal Panel of the CDC and, in the event a suspension is imposed upon an ECB registered cricketer by the Disciplinary Panel, the Discipline Chairman shall, as soon as practicable, report the matter in writing to i) the ECB Head of Cricket Operations (First Class) and ii) the ECB Head of Non-First Class Cricket.

7. APPEALS

- 7.1. Where a breach of the Code of Conduct has been proved at a Disciplinary Hearing, a Participant shall have the right of appeal. This right should only be exercised in good faith upon reasonable grounds. Where more than one Participant (e.g. a player and his club) appeals in relation to the same incident, they must do so separately.
- 7.2. A notice of appeal setting out the grounds must be given in writing to the Discipline Chairman within seven days of the decision of the Disciplinary Panel being communicated to the Participant in writing, together with a deposit. The amount of the deposit shall be £250 for each Club and £100 for each other Participant exercising their right of appeal.
- 7.3. If a 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 and in any event within 14 days of receipt of notice of the appeal.
- 7.4. The appeal shall be by way of a new hearing before an Appeal Panel (Appeal Hearing). The Appeal Panel shall be appointed by the Discipline Chairman and shall consist of not less than three persons and not more than five persons drawn from a list approved by the League's Management Committee. The Discipline Chairman shall appoint one of the Appeal Panel members to act as Chairman of the Appeal Panel. None of the Panel should have been part of the original Disciplinary Panel, be connected with the Participant or any relevant opponent at the time of the alleged breach, or any Participant who might directly benefit from any disciplinary action. The Participant shall have the same rights of attendance and representation, and to call witnesses as they had before the Disciplinary Panel.

- 7.5. If the Participant is to have representation present at the hearing then the details of that representation must be given to the Discipline Chairman not less than 7 days before the date of the hearing.
- 7.6. Non-attendance at the Appeal Hearing by a Participant without good and valid reason for such non-attendance will automatically result in forfeiture of their right of appeal.
- 7.7. The Appeals Panel may confirm, vary or reverse the decision of the Disciplinary Panel 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 (in reaching its decision, the Appeal Panel may have regard to whether the right of appeal was exercised in good faith and upon reasonable grounds). Decisions of the Appeal Panel shall be by majority vote; where necessary, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.
- 7.8. The decision of the Appeals Panel shall be final and binding.

8. NON PAYMENT OF FINES

- 8.1. Any fine levied must be paid to the treasurer of the League within 28 days of the club being notified of such fine.
- 8.2. Any fines still outstanding at the end of that 28 day period shall be increased by 100% of the original fine. At the end of that period the secretary or chairman of the offending club shall be notified to the effect that the fine is outstanding and given a reminder that if after a further period of 14 days from that reminder, the fine is still outstanding, a deduction of five points shall be made in regard to the team from which the fine arose (or, if the fine does not arise from a particular team, the club's first team).

9. MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF PENALTIES

- 9.1 The League and clubs shall mutually recognise and give full effect to any penalty imposed by the Disciplinary and Appeal Panels of the Leagues (as defined at paragraph 1.1).
- 9.2 The League and clubs shall recognise and give effect to penalties imposed pursuant to any disciplinary or relevant regulations of all competitions under the auspices of County Cricket Boards, as defined and listed in the ECB's Articles of Association from time-to-time, and any other

competitions as directed by the ECB from time-to-time (the Recognised Competitions).

- 9.3 The League and clubs shall mutually recognise and give full effect to any disciplinary penalty imposed by all ECB Affiliated Leagues, which shall also be Recognised Competitions:
- 9.4 For the purposes of this paragraph 9, a Participant may not play in matches under the auspices of the League whilst serving a suspension given by any other of the Leagues or a Recognised Competition. For the avoidance of doubt, in the event any other of the Leagues or a Recognised Competition suspends a player for a consecutive number of matches or for a period of time, that player may not play in any matches under the auspices of the League until that suspension has been served.
- 9.5 In order to give effect to the mutual recognition of penalties between the Leagues and Recognised Competitions, the League may report and receive information in regard to penalties imposed upon Participants pursuant to the Disciplinary Regulations to and from the ECB and Recognised Competitions. Information will be shared about the penalties imposed on Participants on a 'need-to-know' basis with such Participants and other persons/bodies as are necessary to give effect to the penalty.

10. DATA PROTECTION CONSENT

Each Participant shall be deemed to have agreed, for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 1998 and otherwise, that their personal data may be processed and disclosed in accordance with, and for the purposes of the implementation of, the Disciplinary Regulations.

11. CONFIDENTIALITY

- 11.1. All disciplinary proceedings which take place under the Disciplinary Regulations shall be confidential and shall take place in private.
- 11.2. The Leagues and the ECB shall have the right to publish any written decision of a Disciplinary Panel or Appeal Panel, including (but not necessarily limited to) publication on their websites, and Participants shall be deemed to have consented to such publication.

APPENDIX 1 – BREACHES OF DISCIPLINE

Certain conduct, whether on or off the field of play of play, amounting to a breach of the Laws of

Cricket and/or the Spirit of Cricket has been categorised into 4 levels which are set out below:-

Level 1

- a) time wasting by either the fielding side or the batting side
- b) abuse of the cricket ground, equipment or fixtures
- c) showing dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action
- d) using language that is obscene, offensive or insulting and or the making of an obscene gesture
- e) excessive appealing

Level 2

- a) showing serious dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action
- b) inappropriate and deliberate physical contact between players in the course of play
- c) charging or advancing towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing
- d) deliberate and malicious distraction or obstruction on the field of play, regardless as to whether such conduct is deemed to be fair under law 42.5
- e) throwing the ball at or near a player, umpire or official in an inappropriate and dangerous manner
- f) using language or gesture that is obscene or of a serious insulting

nature to another player, umpire, team official or spectator

- g) changing the condition of the ball other than as permitted by Law 42.3
- h) the bowling of fast short pitched balls that result in the bowler being disallowed from bowling further in that innings
- i) causing avoidable damage to the pitch contrary to Laws 42.13 and/or Law 42.14 that results in a five run penalty being awarded

Level 3

- a) intimidating an umpire
- b) threatening to assault another player, team official or spectator
- c) using language or gesture that offend, insult, humiliate, intimidate, threaten, disparage or vilify another person on the basis of that person's (or that person's perceived) age, race, religion, sexual orientation, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin
- d) the deliberate bowling of any high full-pitched ball contrary to Law 42.8

Level 4

- a) threatening an umpire
- b) physical assault of another player, umpire, official or spectator
- c) any act of violence on the field of play
- d) using language or gestures that seriously offend, insult, humiliate, intimidate, threaten, disparage or vilify another person on the basis of that person's (or that person's perceived) age, race, religion, sexual orientation, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin

The conduct listed in Level 1 to Level 4 above cannot be considered to be exhaustive.

Where any alleged breach falls outside the conduct above, the Discipline Chairman shall determine the appropriate Level with reference to the following factors:

- the level of harm caused (or potentially caused) to the interests or reputation of the League(s) or the game of cricket in general;
- whether any alleged language used or gesture made may offend, insult, humiliate, intimidate, threaten, disparage or vilify another person on the basis of that person's (or that person's perceived) age, race, religion, sexual orientation, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin;
- whether it is alleged that any conduct was intended to cause physical harm to another person, or such harm was reasonably foreseeable;
- whether it is alleged that any conduct was intended to cause distress to another person, or such distress was reasonably foreseeable;
- whether it is alleged that any behaviour caused harm to a child, or such harm was reasonably foreseeable;
- the level of harm/distress the alleged conduct caused (or may have caused) to another person;
- whether it is alleged that any conduct was criminal or otherwise unlawful; and
- any other factor relevant to the particular circumstances of the alleged conduct.

In determining the appropriate level, it is again to be remembered that the core aim of the Disciplinary Regulations is to maintain the highest standards of behaviour and conduct in the game of cricket. The Level determined for an alleged breach of the Code of Conduct should be proportionate to achieve that core aim.