



TRAVELBAG SURREY CHAMPIONSHIP

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Proposals for new or amended playing conditions for consideration at the Council Meeting on 15th October

Proposed changes in the Tier 3 playing conditions to apply to 3rd and 4th XI cricket if the new structure for that cricket is approved by the AGM

The motions to be considered and voted on at the SGM preceding the Council meeting are those necessary to put the new structure in place and for an immediate start to be made to fixture production. The Executive Committee propose that there should also be changes to match formats and other playing conditions for the new structure if approved, but those will be formally considered and voted on at the AGM in January giving clubs an opportunity to air their views at the Council meeting and for further debate and discussion to continue through the Autumn. The proposals are as follows:

1. All matches for the 3rd XI and 4th XI in the new agreed structure will be limited overs cricket.
2. The Premier 3rd XI and Division 1 cricket will be 50 overs per innings.
3. The top two divisions of the East and West leagues will be 45 overs per innings
4. The lower two divisions of the East and West leagues will be 40 overs per innings.
5. The start time for the Premier and Division 1 matches will be Noon.
6. The start time for all regional divisions will be 1pm, with agreement permissible between both captains, prior to the day of the match, to start up to one hour earlier. (The times quoted are subject to the normal adjustments made to start times late in the season.)
7. The official balls will be supplied by TSC and Fullers, as now – subject to agreement between TSC and Fullers Executive Committees.
8. No member club may have more than one XI in the same division – nor two clubs in divisions at the same level in the respective regional leagues.
9. To achieve sensible groupings of clubs for travel purposes, and after consultation, the Executive Committee will reserve the right to transfer centrally-located teams from East to West or vice versa between one season and another.
10. Promotion and relegation will be:
 - A. Premier Division – two down to Division One
 - B. Division 1 – two up to Premier and two down – one to each region where practical, otherwise subject to 9 above.
 - C. Regional Divisions 1 – one up and two down
 - D. All other regional divisions – two up and, except for Divisions 5 East and West, two down.
 - E. No XI will be relegated out of the bottom divisions, except by choice.

To address situations where the above rules for promotion or relegation would bring two sides from the same club together in a division, clubs are invited to consider two alternative arrangements:

EITHER:

- F. If an XI is relegated one division to where their club already has an XI, then the relegated XI will be relegated, and the XI already in that division will also be relegated one division. If the lower XI has not finished in a relegation position it will be relegated instead of the team

finishing 9th in the Division. However, if the relegation of the higher XI is to Division 5, and there is a lower XI of that club in that division, then the higher side will not be relegated.

- G. **OR:** If an XI is relegated one division to where their club already has an XI which has not been relegated, then the higher XI will be not be relegated, and the lower XI will also remain in its existing division. The side finishing in 2nd position in the lower division will not be promoted.
- H. The Executive Committee will have the right to determine a variation to the above arrangements for promotion and relegations, if there appears to be a clear injustice to any XI or any exceptional or unforeseen situation arises.
- I. No XI will “swap” with another XI of the same club – ie a higher XI cannot be relegated while its lower XI is promoted from the division into which the higher XI would drop. In that instance both clubs will remain in their respective divisions, with only one team being relegated from the lower division and one team promoted from the higher division. This will be an exception to the regulation set out in F above if that option, rather than option G, is the one which clubs prefer.

Other proposed amendments to Playing Conditions for discussion and an indication of the level of support for a change to be made at the AGM.

Playing Condition 11(c) - Concessions

The current playing condition on concessions (PC11(c)) sets a threshold of 5 conceded games above which a team may be removed from its division and its playing record expunged. The Executive Committee has discretion to allow teams to exceed this threshold without being withdrawn and has exercised this on occasions in recent seasons to allow teams to continue despite conceding up to 9 games. The reasoning has been that while a club still has the ability to raise a side in some weeks it would be wrong to discourage it by taking it out of the league. Some sides consistently default in the first half of the season making the decision to withdraw easier but availability in many clubs varies widely so lower XIs are viable in some weeks but not others. The Executive Committee recognises that its approach can create confusion for other clubs when a decision to withdraw a team late in the season leads to a very late revision of the league table, possibly even after the league programme is completed, when the withdrawn team’s record is expunged.

The Committee therefore proposes a revision of PC11(c) under which it would be required to make all decisions on compulsory withdrawal before the 15th round of matches. Logically this requires a lower number of concessions to be set as a threshold. It is proposed that the playing condition should continue to have 5 matches as the trigger point at which the Committee either acts to withdraw a team or use its discretion not to. However, an upper limit of 7 matches (i.e. half the number of fixtures a team should have played before the 15th Saturday) should be incorporated in 11(c) after which the team must be withdrawn.

Over-rate penalties

During the recent season a club asked the Executive Committee to reverse the deduction of two points which had been imposed for a slow over rate by its first XI in a panel-umpired game. The club said that it was not made aware of the risk of a deduction during the game nor of the umpires’ decision to confirm the 2-point penalty. The umpires’ version was contrary to this and to the effect

that the club had been orally informed on the day. The Committee decided there was insufficient evidence to overturn the penalty, but has since discussed the case and reached two conclusions:

- There is no current requirement for clubs to be informed of an over-rate penalty other than orally by the umpires at the end of the game. From next season it has been decided that clubs will be notified of a deduction by email in the week following the match.
- The playing condition relating to over-rate penalties should be amended to disallow challenges or appeals by clubs. The Committee cannot be expected to judge the reasonableness or otherwise of a decision reached by the umpires on the day and it is difficult to foresee it ever deciding that the umpires had been wrong on a matter of fact. The club's case on this occasion was based as much on the alleged lack of communication as the penalty itself and the introduction of a requirement for the league to notify the club formally removes that basis for a challenge.

Tier 3 Start times, finish times and assumed over rates

It became apparent during the 2018 season that there were some errors in the Tier 3 playing conditions relating to assumed finish times of matches and the underlying assumptions about the over rates expected to be achieved. This has knock-on effects for the workings of Duckworth Lewis in rain-affected matches. Amendments will be brought forward at the AGM to ensure accuracy and consistency within Tier 3. The amendments brought forward will take account of the need for the relevant playing conditions to be further adjusted if the flexibility in start times proposed above for 3rd and 4th XI cricket is approved.