

2019 AGM – Chairman’s note on rules and playing conditions

There are a substantial set of documents for ratification at the League AGM. The Rules and Playing Conditions Committee, chaired by Alex Anderson, have put a lot of work into getting these changes ready for consideration. You may find it helpful to have some suggestions about where amongst the documentation to particularly focus your attention and how I expect to manage the discussion and voting on the evening.

Alex has drafted a helpful explanatory note informing us why these changes are being put forward and I suggest that note is your starting point for understanding the decisions we will be seeking. How much time to spend on looking in detail at the constitution and playing conditions is a matter for clubs and individuals. We would welcome scrutiny by at least some recipients in case of any errors or omissions we may have missed.

The most important changes are those which enable the new structure for 3rd and 4th XI cricket. The structure itself was voted through at the Special General meeting in October, but playing conditions issues were left for decision at the AGM. For the Committee’s views on those matters you should see the [article](#) which was published on the League website in November. That document also explains what the outcome will be of the Committee’s proposals not being voted through.

To keep the individual playing condition booklets as easy to read as possible for any given level of game a new Tier (4) is needed. The changes which facilitate cricket in the new structure are therefore spread across three sections of the constitution. This in turn means that, in the meeting, just trawling through the changes section by section won’t be the best approach.

This is how we propose to manage and sequence the voting:

Rule changes Priority needs to be given to the change which ensures that clubs with teams whose cricket is affected by changes to playing conditions always have a vote on those changes. Rules 3 and 7 achieve this as revised. At this point we can quickly address the other changes to the Rules which are either clarificatory, tidying up or reflect the decision on structure already taken in October.

3rd/4th XI cricket We will then take the changes relating to this cricket where there are three key aspects for decision:

Match Format: The Committee is proposing a mix of timed and limited over cricket for the Premier and 1st Divisions and limited over cricket only for the regional divisions. This will be subject to vote in turn by clubs with 3rd XIs in the expanded Tier 3, and by clubs with teams in the new Tier 4

Length of game: The Committee is proposing 100 over matches for Premier and 1st Divisions, 90 overs matches for 2nd and 3rd Divisions and 80 overs for 4th and 5th. These propositions will be voted on in turn; in each case eligibility to vote will be determined by whether a club has a team in the affected division. Please note that if the vote on match formats results in timed cricket being retained in Divisions 4 and 5 the Tier 4 playing conditions will allocate a minimum of 90 overs for those matches as an 80 over minimum is not seen as being viable for timed cricket. Clubs can still vote for 80 over limited over matches.

Promotion and relegation The Committee proposal is that two teams from the same club should not play in the same division. This is provided for in the changes to playing condition 9 in Appendix 1 of the Constitution.

(Note that 12.00 starts for 100 over matches and 1.00 for 80/90 over matches were clearly established as preferences at the Council meeting and will not be subject to vote.)

Other changes

We can then work through the remaining playing condition amendments, hopefully at some speed, with the help of Alex's guidance note. This will involve votes on Appendices One and Two of the Constitution and Tiers 1, 2 and 3 Playing Conditions, in all cases excluding any changes relating to the new structure which have already been voted on.