

Council meeting – 14 October 2019

Discussion Points

As usual the Council will not be asked to take any decisions about rule changes but will be asked for views on options for change which may lead to specific proposals to be voted on at the AGM in January.

The Executive Committee has 5 points to put forward for consideration this year but on several issues it considers that the clubs should have an opportunity for discussion, without putting forward a view of its own. An indicative show of hands will be taken as seems appropriate on selected issues in the light of the debate and it is important that clubs are represented so that the decisions on what goes to the AGM are based on a good understanding of clubs' views.

1 Limited overs

Having introduced a new format for Tier 4, with variable length of matches, we would welcome feedback from teams in each division within that Tier as to how the new format works for them and whether they consider the length of matches, the start times and the adoption of a limited over format for all matches works for them.

2 The case for timed cricket

There has been some debate during the season about whether teams playing in Tiers 1, 2 and 3 wish to keep timed cricket. Among the opinions expressed to RPC is that timed cricket is still popular amongst the teams that play it and that winning in the timed format is perceived to be a greater achievement than winning in the limited overs format. Other views are that timed cricket is not popular with younger players who expect there to be a definite outcome of a match for which they give up their time to play.

Where timed cricket is retained, there have been some comments about whether the points system (4 for a winning draw and 2 for a losing draw) ought to be revisited. The Committee's would be interested in clubs' views on an increase in those numbers, while considering that such change should be modest, to ensure neither team is incentivised to play for a draw.

We would also welcome the thoughts on Tier 1 teams who play 120 overs as to whether they wish to shorten the game to 100 overs.

3 Premier 2nd Division – a request to move to Tier 2.

The clubs in the Premier Division of the 2nd XI have requested, almost unanimously, to move to Tier 2, so that they will play to the same playing conditions as Tier 2, save those that only apply where there is a panel umpire standing (for which the Tier 2 playing conditions already make provision). The practical effect of such a move would be to introduce into Premier Division 2nd XI cricket the Tier 2 rules for limited covers cricket that relate to: Leg-side wides; wide lines for off-side

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wides; free hits for no-balls; and powerplays. We would welcome the views of other teams within Tier 3, particularly the 5th division of the 1st XI, as to whether they would like to make a similar move.

4 Non-panel Umpires

We have received a number of queries about whether non-panel umpires have to right, but not the obligation, to stand at the bowler's ends, in the event that one team fails to provide an umpire. The old Tier 3 playing condition previously included the following provision:

"Each Member Club shall provide its own umpire. In a match where only one side provides an umpire who is not a player, if he is prepared to do so, he shall always stand at the bowler's end while the batting side provides a striker's end umpire."

If there is a consensus that this rule should apply to all games where the clubs have to provide their own umpires, we consider it would be appropriate for the club without an umpire to pay the umpire who does stand at the bowler's end throughout the match £30, as an umpire's fee.

5 Eligibility to play for a lower XI in the last 5 matches of the season

PC 15 (j) currently states as follows:

"No Member Club shall play without the prior sanction of the Executive on application made by 9.00pm on the Wednesday prior to the date of the Match, any player in any game of The Championship in the last five matches of any season of the Championship who has played during that season in twelve or more matches for any Member Club in any of the Divisions of a higher League"

Given that a player would have had to have played in all matches bar one in order for the rule to have any effect on the 14th game of the season, the Executive Committee considers that the requirement to have played 12 games is now too high and recommends that it reduces the number of games required to bring this playing condition into force to 10.