

## SHROPSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET LEAGUE CONSTITUTION

### 1. NAME

The organisation shall be known as **The Shropshire County Cricket League**, hereafter referred to as "the League". The name of the League's sponsor(s) shall wherever appropriate be incorporated into that of the League, the form of such to be as decided by the Management Committee.

### 2. OBJECT

To foster and develop the spirit of cricket within Shropshire and its bordering counties and to promote the best interests of its member Clubs.

### 3. MEMBERSHIP

- (a) The League shall consist of member Clubs who satisfy the requirements of the League and the Committee with regard to status, playing strength and standard of grounds and facilities (see Appendix A).
- (b) All member clubs must be in possession of Public Liability Insurance cover and shall produce written confirmation of same to the League if requested to do so.
- (c) All member clubs shall abide by the current England and Wales Cricket Board's (ECB) Directives regarding safety and child protection.
- (d) All member clubs must be affiliated to their relevant Cricket Board. Failure to do so could result in expulsion from the League.
- (e) Before the start of each season, each member Club shall send to the League Secretary a Declaration signed by its Chairman and Secretary committing the club to abide by the Constitution and Rules of the League and to observe the Code of Conduct and The Laws of Cricket. Failure to do so will mean that none of the club's teams will be credited with any points until the Declaration is received.
- (f) All member Clubs with a team playing in the Premier Division, Division One or Reserve Division One shall possess Clubmark accreditation, or shall achieve such status not later than October 31, 2013. Failure to achieve this status by the deadline will mean that the club will not be eligible to play in any of the above Divisions in the 2014 season.
- (g) The teams of member Clubs shall play in Divisions and there shall normally be promotion and relegation between Divisions, as determined by the Committee.
- (h) Promotion to the Premier Division and Division One shall be open only to the first teams of member Clubs:-
  - that have more than one team playing in the League; and
  - whose facilities as defined in Clause 3(a) hereof are considered by the Committee to have satisfied the standards for further promotion within the ECB's pyramid structure. The facilities of such clubs shall be inspected by a sub-committee set up by the Shropshire Cricket Board who will advise on their suitability for promotion.

If a member Club fails to meet the required standards at the time of inspection, the League shall give written notice to the Club Secretary not later than 31st October, listing what action the club must take to achieve those standards. The club shall give a written undertaking to the League that it will meet the required standards by 1st March of the following year, otherwise the club will not be eligible for promotion.

Promotion to Reserve Division One will apply only to the second team of a member club whose facilities already meet, or will meet by 1st March of the following year, the required standards for Premier Division and Division One clubs.

In exceptional circumstances the Committee may make other arrangements and shall notify all member Clubs of its decision.

- (i) At the end of each season, the first and second teams of the Premier Division Champion club will normally be offered promotion to the Birmingham and District Premier Cricket League. The club shall inform the League Secretary by 15th October whether they intend to accept promotion. If such promotion is declined for any reason, the Committee may at its discretion deduct points from the club's first and second teams at the start of the following season, withhold any prize money that may otherwise have been awarded by the League and impose an additional financial penalty.
- (j) Any club desiring admission to, or any member Club seeking to change the number of its teams in, the League, shall apply in writing to the League Secretary not later than 15th October, indicating the number of teams it wishes to enter next season. Each application shall be considered by the Committee in accordance with the requirements of Clauses 3(a) 3(b), 3(c), 3(d), 3(e) and 3(f) above. The Committee shall have the power to refuse any application and may if it wishes, but is not bound to, give reasons for its decision. In exceptional circumstances, applications received after the closing date may be considered.
- (k) Any member Club wishing to resign from the League shall give notice in writing to the League Secretary not later than 15th October.
- (l) Clauses 3(j) and 3(k) above shall not apply to any club promoted to or relegated from another recognised League forming part of the ECB's pyramid structure.
- (m) In the event of any of the League's former member Clubs currently playing in the Birmingham and District Premier Cricket League applying to return to this League for reasons other than relegation, there will be a presumption in favour of acceptance, subject to the application complying with the requirements of Clause 3(j) above.
- (n) The Committee shall have powers to require any member Club to resign if, in its opinion, the general conduct of the club does not satisfy the requirements of the League. Any member Club against which such action is proposed shall receive not less than 14 days prior notice in writing of the date of the meeting at which the matter is to be considered and shall be invited to be represented at that part of the meeting. This action shall be in addition to any steps taken under 'Rules for the Conduct of Matches'.
- (o) Players and team officials shall refrain from any form of abusive comments or actions against fellow players, officials, members and supporters. Clubs must operate an active open-door membership policy whilst respecting player qualification regulations and shall welcome players/members irrespective of ethnic origin.
- (p) A member Club which removes its first team from the League shall be deemed to have resigned its membership: it may, however, apply to re-enter one or more of its lower teams and the application will be considered in accordance with the requirements of Clause 3(j) above.
- (q) Any Club which ceases to be a member of the League shall at once forfeit any rights of participation in the assets of the League.
- (r) Following a recommendation from the Committee, the Annual General Meeting may confer the honour of Life Membership of the League on any person whom it considers worthy of special recognition by reason of services rendered to the League. Life Members shall be entitled to attend meetings of the Management Committee.

#### **4. MANAGEMENT**

Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the control and management of the League shall be vested in the Management Committee, hereafter referred to as "the Committee", which shall make rules governing the general principles of the conduct of the League's affairs and shall have the powers to create, apply, amend or revoke such rules as it sees fit.

## 5. OFFICERS

- (a) The Officers of the League shall be the President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, League Secretary, Treasurer, Results and Registrations Secretary, Fixtures Secretary and Child Protection Officer.
- (b) The Officers shall be elected annually at, and shall take office from the end of, the Annual General Meeting.
- (c) The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, League Secretary and Treasurer shall collectively exercise day-to-day administration of the League and shall hold executive powers to deal with urgent matters which may arise between Committee meetings or which are not specifically covered by the Constitution.

## 6. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- (a) The Committee shall consist of *ex officio* the Officers in 5(a) above, fifteen Elected Members and one nominated member from each of the Shropshire Cricket Board and Shropshire Association of Cricket Officials.
- (b) One-third of the elected Members shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting for a term of three years, after which time they shall retire from the Committee and, if they wish, offer themselves for re-election.
- (c) Not more than two Elected Members from any one Club shall serve on the Committee at the same time.
- (d) At least ten days notice of meetings shall be given. Accidental omission to give notice of any meeting or non-receipt of such notice by any Committee member shall not invalidate any resolution passed at any such meeting.
- (e) The Chairman shall preside at meetings of the Committee. If the Chairman is absent the Vice-Chairman shall preside; if both are absent, the Committee members present shall, before any other business is transacted, choose one of their number to preside at the meeting.
- (f) Seven members of the Committee shall form a quorum.
- (g) A Life Member shall be entitled to attend and speak at meetings of the Committee but shall not be eligible to vote. If a Life Member also sits on the Committee in accordance with the provisions of Clauses 6(a) or 6(j) hereof he/she shall be entitled to vote in that capacity only.
- (h) All questions arising at a Committee meeting, other than questions of order, shall be decided by a simple majority of votes: in the event of an equality of votes, the chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
- (i) Committee members are not representatives of their clubs and shall "declare an interest" when an issue directly affecting their own club is to be discussed and shall normally abstain from any vote on such matter.
- (j) The Committee shall have power to co-opt to fill a vacancy. Co-opted members shall serve until the next Annual General Meeting when the vacancy shall be filled by election.
- (k) The Committee may appoint sub-committees with such powers and terms of reference as it thinks fit.
- (l) The Committee shall have power to review and, if considered appropriate, to reject any nomination received for Officers of the League or Elected Members of the Committee if it considers that there are reasonable grounds to believe that such nomination would be contrary to the best interests of the game of cricket or the smooth functioning of the League.
- (m) The Committee shall have residual powers to consider and adjudicate upon any matter not specifically covered by this Constitution.
- (n) The decision of the Committee is final.
- (o) Committee members are expected to attend all of its meetings. Anyone other than a Life Member who fails to attend three or more consecutive meetings is liable to expulsion from the Committee.
- (p) Any Committee member whose club ceases to be a member of the League may be required, at the discretion of the Committee, to resign from the Committee.
- (q) The Committee may at its discretion appoint an Honorary Legal Advisor.

## **7. FINANCE**

- (a) Each member Club shall pay to the Treasurer, not later than the end of April, an annual subscription for each team. Any club which fails to pay by the due date may be charged an additional penalty for each month or part of a month that it is in arrears. The amounts of the subscription and the penalty will be determined each year by the Committee and notified to all member Clubs.
- (b) If the subscription income is found to be insufficient to meet the League's needs, the Committee may levy an additional subscription on member Clubs.
- (c) The Committee shall cause proper account to be kept of all sums of money received and paid out by the League.
- (d) The financial year of the League shall end on 31st October.
- (e) The accounts of the League shall be examined annually by a qualified accountant, who shall certify their correctness.
- (f) A statement of accounts shall be presented by the Treasurer to the Annual General Meeting.
- (g) The funds of the League shall be invested as the Committee decides after considering the recommendations of the Treasurer and the day-to-day transactions shall be dealt with by and through one or more Bank accounts in the name of the League.
- (h) No moneys shall be paid from any account in the name of the League except upon the signatures of any two from the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, League Secretary and Treasurer who shall be the authorised signatories.

## **8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

- (a) The Annual General Meeting, hereafter referred to as "the Meeting", shall be held in November each year or as practicable thereafter.
- (b) Notice of the Meeting shall be given in writing to all member Clubs at least twenty-eight days before the date thereof.
- (c) The President shall preside at the Meeting. If the President is absent the Chairman shall preside; if the Chairman is absent the Vice-Chairman shall preside; if all are absent, the member Clubs present shall, before any other business is transacted, appoint a chairman of the Meeting.
- (d) Nominations for the Officers of the League and elected Members of the Committee shall be submitted in writing by member Clubs and received by the League Secretary at least twenty-one days before the Meeting.
- (e) Each member Club shall have one vote. In the event of an equality of votes, the chairman of the Meeting shall have a single casting vote.
- (f) Proxy votes will not be accepted.
- (g) No changes shall be made to the Constitution except at an Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting and any such changes shall require the assent of at least two-thirds of the votes cast.
- (h) Proposals to change the Constitution must either be submitted by the Committee or be proposed and seconded by at least two member Clubs and received by the League Secretary not later than September 30. The wording of any such proposed changes to the Constitution shall be included in the Notice of Meeting.
- (i) One-third of the member Clubs shall form a quorum.

## **9. EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING**

- (a) An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be called by the Committee either at the discretion of the Committee or on receipt by the League Secretary of a written request, signed by not less than one-third of member Clubs, stating the reason(s) why the meeting is being requested.
- (b) The provisions applicable to the Annual General Meeting shall, with the exception of 8(a) and 8(h) above, apply also to the Extraordinary General Meeting.
- (c) Proposals to change the Constitution must either be submitted by the Committee, or be proposed and seconded by at least two member Clubs and submitted in writing to the League Secretary. The wording of any such proposed changes to the Constitution shall be included in the Notice of Meeting.

## 10. TROPHIES

- (a) Trophies will be awarded to the Champions and Runners-up in all Divisions.
- (b) Additional awards may be made at the Committee's discretion.
- (c) Trophies that are the property of the League must be returned in good condition not later than September 1.

## 11. FIXTURES

- (a) All League matches shall be played on the dates published in the League Handbook.
- (b) Any Club that fails to fulfil a fixture shall be penalised for that offence in such manner as shall be determined by the Committee and published in the League Handbook. Any club that repeatedly fails to fulfil its fixtures may be required to resign its membership of the League in accordance with the procedures contained in Clause 3(n) hereof.
- (c) Member Clubs will be informed of the dates on which a League Representative XI may be taking part in a Competition. Clubs shall not under any circumstances withdraw a player selected to play in such match in favour of a Club competition.

## 12. WINDING UP

- (a) The League may be wound up only by the passing of a resolution by a majority of at least two-thirds of the member Clubs present and voting at an Extraordinary General Meeting convened for the purpose of considering such resolution.
- (b) In the event of the passing of a resolution to wind up the League, the meeting at which such resolution is passed shall appoint a committee which shall be empowered to distribute the League's assets, including cash and investments, between member Clubs, or other organisations having similar aims and objects as the League, in such proportions as they may, by simple majority, decide, provided that the same shall not be paid to, or divided between, any individual members of the Committee or the Officers. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, League Secretary and Treasurer shall be *ex officio* members of that committee. In the event of an equality of votes the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.
- (c) In the event that such committee is unable to reach a decision with regard to the distribution of the assets, the Chairman shall have power to refer the matter to an independent arbitrator, the costs, if any, of such arbitration being a proper charge on the assets of the League.

## APPENDIX A

### SCCL Premier Division Club Criteria

- 1 Clubs must have received Clubmark Accreditation from ECB by 31st October prior to the season, by production of the Clubmark Certificate and retain it from that date onwards.
- 2 Any Premier Division champion side that rejects (or is ineligible for) promotion to the Birmingham League (BL) shall start the following season with a 75-point penalty. Reserve sides will not suffer any points penalty.
- 3 All BL requirements must be implemented by all Premier Division sides by the start of the 2015 season, preceded by reassurances no later than October 2014 that all criteria will be in place for the start of the new season. These are as follows:
  - a) The minimum distance from the centre of the pitch to a boundary to be 45 yards, with a minimum of 10 pitches on the square. The club should state the number of pitches compliant with 45-yard boundary requirement.
  - b) Clubs must run a league 3rd XI during the same season in which their 1st XI won the premier division.
  - c) Clubs must provide a non-playing scorer for 1st XI matches.

- d) An experienced groundsman (formally qualified or at least 3 years working on cricket grounds) must be available for a minimum of 20 hours per week during the season.
  - e) Sightscreen, or equivalent, at both ends of the ground.
  - f) Scorebox/scoreboard indicating as a minimum:- Total runs, batsmen's runs, wickets, overs bowled, score of side batting first.
  - g) Full-length roll-on covers or sheet covering for match pitch.
  - h) Light and heavy rollers, pitch and square mowers, outfield mower, scarifier, spiker/aerator – all to be in working order.
  - i) Practice net facilities in good condition.
  - j) Ground surrounds well-maintained with suitable measures to ensure that lost balls cause minimum delay.
  - k) Separate, secure, clean and tidy changing rooms for each team including mirror, and at least one hook per player for clothes.
  - l) Separate, secure, clean and tidy changing room for Umpires including mirror, and at least one hook per official for clothes.
  - m) Clean and hygienic showers adequate for Players and Umpires.
  - n) Clean and tidy kitchen that meets all legal health and safety requirements specified by the Local Authority in which the Club is situated, verified by certificate or letter of exemption from the Local Authority.
  - o) Meals area, including separate tea table for match officials, who should not be expected to queue or help themselves to tea.
  - p) Clean and hygienic male and female toilets.
  - q) Social area/room, including operational bar available during and after matches.
  - r) Telephone (permanent mobile if no landline) in working order.
  - s) Bell to allow umpires to signal start and resumption of play.
  - t) Clock that can be clearly seen from the playing area.
  - u) Fully stocked first-aid box for treatment of minor injuries.
  - v) Car parking.
- 4) Youth Cricket requirements.
- a) Club Welfare Officer notified to the League.
  - b) Minimum of 2 ECB qualified coaches for weekly coaching.
  - c) Must run Youth XIs at a minimum of two age levels.
  - d) Must adhere to ECB fast bowling directives, ECB safety guidance on the wearing of cricket helmets by young players, ECB fielding regulations, ECB guidelines for junior players in open age cricket.

### **Division One**

1st XIs only and no 3rd XIs.

### **Division Two**

1st XIs (with at least a 2nd XI) and 3rd XIs (with at least a 4th XI).

### **Divisions Three, Four, Five**

All 1st, singleton, 3rd and 5th XIs. Singleton clubs and 3rd XIs without a 4th XI are not eligible above Division Three.

### **Reserve Division One**

2nd XIs only.

### **Reserve Divisions Two and Three**

2nd and 4th XIs.

### **Division Six**

No restrictions.

For Divisions 2–6, a leeway of three full playing seasons will be allowed to implement any future criteria decisions.

From October 2014, artificial wickets will only be permitted in Divisions Five and Six. In exceptional circumstances the League may grant an exemption.

Toilets and running water must be provided at ALL grounds.

Twelve sides will compete in all divisions except the fulcrum Division Six, which may contain more to accommodate new entrants (subject to basic criteria and Management approval).

All divisions will look to operate a basic two-up two-down promotion and relegation system. To be eligible for promotion from Division Six (into Division Five and Reserve Three), teams must finish in the top four, subject to the Management's decision.

All 3rd, 4th and 5th XIs may, as of right, play their home games on Sundays provided these games are all staged on their club's number one ground (or immediate adjoining ground where one exists) and are confirmed to the Management no later than the end of October of the preceding year.

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