

## RULES AND PLAYING ARRANGEMENTS

### 1. GENERAL

1.1 The Rules and Playing Arrangements set out below apply to all Divisions of the Shropshire County Cricket League (hereinafter referred to as "the League" or "SCCL") and will continue in force until officially amended on the authority of the Management Committee of the League.

1.2 These Rules are binding on all players and clubs in the SCCL and the League may take action against defaulting clubs, officials or players.

1.3 The Committee shall adjudicate on all matters not specifically covered by these Rules, having particular regard to the best interests of the League, fair play and the spirit of the game. The League's judgment shall be binding on all clubs.

1.4 The subscription shall be £25.00 per team, to be paid to the Treasurer not later than 1st May, by Direct Debit or Standing Order, if possible. (See also Rule 34.1.)

1.5 All clubs in the League must appoint a Welfare Officer and must register, in writing, any changes to that appointment with the League's Welfare Officer.

1.6 All matches shall be played in accordance with current MCC Laws of Cricket (2000 Code, 4th Edition – 2010).

1.7 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 October 15 of the preceding year.

### 2. PLAYERS

#### 2.1 Registration

2.1.1 All players in SCCL matches must be registered with the League; player registration must be in accordance with current ECB regulations.

2.1.2 Registration of players will be via the League's Play-Cricket website. Alternatively clubs may register players by phone or by text to the Registrations Co-ordinator before 12 noon on the day of the game, provided that the player's details are entered onto the Play-Cricket website within 48 hours. Any team playing unregistered players will be deducted two points per player per offence.

2.1.3 No permission will be granted to register players for matches in the Premier, 1st and 2nd Divisions and Reserve Division One after 1st August 2013 unless exceptional circumstances arise (decisions on such requests will be determined by the League Rules Committee). In all other divisions, clubs can register players until the end of the season, provided that the provisions of Rule 2.1.2 are complied with. Players so registered after 1st August will not be permitted to play in any of the top three Divisions, as above.

2.1.4 All clubs fielding three or more teams in SCCL or Birmingham and District Premier Cricket League (BDPCL), must register 14 nominated players on the Play-Cricket website who will not play below their second team. Nominated players must be regular players. In the event of a breach of this rule, points will be awarded or deducted in accordance with Rule 2.6.1. Applications to relax this provision, which will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances, must be made to the Registrations Co-ordinator at least 48 hours before a match.

2.1.5 Clubs must declare the date of birth of any player aged 19 or less on 31st August of the previous year.

2.1.6 Any player who plays Saturday cricket for a different club in BDPCL will have his/her registration with SCCL cancelled forthwith and will then be ineligible to play in SCCL.

#### 2.2 Qualification

2.2.1 No player shall be brought in from a different club in another league to play in the League during the playing season without first obtaining the written consent of the SCCL (this does not apply to SCCL clubs with teams competing in BDPCL). SCCL reserves the right to deduct points from any club fielding players who are not bona fide members of the SCCL club.

2.2.2 No player suspended by another League will be permitted to play in the SCCL.

#### 2.3 Player Categories including Overseas Players

2.3.1 Definitions of player categories are shown in Appendix A.

2.3.2 Clubs must ensure that all relevant regulations are complied with by checking evidence of any such player's continuous residence in the UK, e.g. utility bills, council tax bills, entry and departure dates on passport. If the relevant regulations are not complied with, such player will be deemed to be ineligible for registration.

2.3.3 At least nine Category 1 players must play in every team.

2.3.4 No player Category 2 (contracted to First Class County) may play in the SCCL.

2.3.5 Only one Category 3 player and one Category 3 (exempt) may be registered per club each season.

2.3.6 No replacement Category 3 player nor Category 3 (exempt) player will be permitted to play under any circumstances at any stage of the season.

2.3.7 The League will enforce these Rules strictly for the top divisions (Premier, One and Reserve One) but will exercise discretion in all other divisions.

#### 2.4 Transfers

2.4.1 Transfers cannot be undertaken on the League's Play-Cricket website.

2.4.2 Any club wishing to transfer a player from any other club shall complete an official Transfer Form, obtainable from the League Registrations Co-ordinator. The completed form must be forwarded to the

Registrations Co-ordinator, together with a letter from the player's previous club confirming that he has fulfilled his obligations to that club. He may not play in a League match for his new club until permission has been granted.

2.4.3 No transfers will be permitted after 1st August.

## 2.5 Eligibility

2.5.1 A player who has played in a total of 12 or more first/second/third team matches during the season shall not be allowed to play in any of the last three matches in a lower division without the prior approval of the Registrations Co-ordinator or a League Executive Officer.

2.5.2 The 3rd, 4th and 5th teams of clubs whose senior sides play in the BDPCL may use players from their senior teams provided those players are registered with the SCCL and are in compliance with Rules 2.1.4 and 2.5.1.

## 2.6 Penalties for Playing Ineligible Players

2.6.1 Any team that fields a player in contravention to Rules 2.1.4, 2.3.1–2.3.7 or 2.5.1 shall have all points gained from that match disallowed. The offending team will also be deducted a further 10 points, and the non-offending team shall be awarded 22 points, all subject to the discretion of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee.

2.6.2 A two-point deduction will apply for fielding each unregistered player not covered by Rule 2.5.1. The League may, at its discretion, refer an issue to the Disciplinary Sub-Committee, who may take action.

## 3. PREPARATION OF PITCHES

3.1 Preparation of pitches must be in accordance with the MCC Laws of Cricket and the instruction that pitches should not be watered in the 48 hour period preceding any match.

3.2 Matches will normally be played on grass pitches. However provided both captains are in agreement on match day, a match may be played on an artificial pitch when conditions would otherwise prevent it being played. If captains fail to agree, the match shall be treated as cancelled and points awarded accordingly.

3.3 No side higher than Division Four and Reserve Division Three may schedule its home games on an artificial pitch. From 2015 artificial pitches will only be allowed in Divisions Five and Six and Reserve Division Three.

3.4 Premier One & Reserve One Division: Each club shall provide leak-proof covers, of sufficient area to cover the entire pitch, which should be covered from the Thursday evening prior to League matches getting underway, but not necessarily for the whole time span as the covers may be removed for drying purposes during this period at the discretion of the groundsman.

3.5 Pitches should be marked as shown in the diagram on page 53 of the handbook.

3.6 The protected area of the pitch shall be marked – five feet in front of the popping crease, one foot either side of middle stump on the bowling crease.

3.7 Home clubs are responsible for setting up both sets of wickets before the start of the match and for the sweeping and remarking of creases. It is also responsible for the operation of the roller between innings if requested to do so. The match will not restart until this work is completed.

## 4. TEAM SELECTION

4.1 Every club which has a team playing on a Sunday must email selections for all of its teams for the weekend to Registrations Co-ordinator by 6 p.m. Friday before the game. Any alterations must be emailed to the same address by 12 noon on the day of the match. Failure to do so will result in a 2 point deduction for each team.

4.2 Clubs are under an obligation to field 11 players for all matches. In the event of a shortage of players, the club must endeavour to fill its highest ranked teams first. If a club fails to do this, and the League consider that it is attempting to gain an advantage in doing so, points may be deducted.

## 5. CANCELLATION OF MATCHES

### 5.1 Weather

5.1.1 In the event of bad weather a pitch inspection should be carried out on the day of the match no earlier than 3 hours maximum and 2 hours minimum before the scheduled start time.

5.1.2 Normally both teams must report to the ground before making a decision if conditions are fit for play. However, the match may be called off before the start without the away team travelling, subject to the following conditions:

- Captains of both teams agree (see 5.1.3 below for failure to agree).
- The weather conditions and the weather forecast are such that the state of the pitch and/or the outfield means that there would be no chance of the game starting by the latest time allowable by the rules, even if the usual drying methods are employed.
- The home club must report the abandonment of the fixture to the Results Co-ordinator immediately after the decision has been taken.
- The home club must inform the appointed umpires. Should they have cause to travel they shall be entitled to claim their full attendance fee.

5.1.3 If captains fail to agree in 5.1.2 above, the away team may advise the home team that it wishes to exercise its right to travel to the appointed venue, and in these circumstances the match can only be called off at the scheduled starting time with both teams present and available to play [there will however be no right to travel if the home team's ground is owned or controlled by a third party, and the third party has insisted that the game should be called off].

5.1.4 If the away team exercises its right to travel under 5.1.3, but the match is abandoned without any play, the away team will be responsible for paying the cost of teas, up to a maximum of £50, and the full attendance fees of any independent umpires.

5.1.5 If an away team cancels a fixture within 48 hours of the scheduled start of a match it may be required to make a contribution towards any reasonable costs unavoidably incurred by the home team in preparing for the match.

5.1.6 Premier League Only: If play is possible after the away side exercises the right to travel, the umpires will report the matter to the League Secretary, who following discussion with the Disciplinary Sub-Committee, may impose a penalty of 10 points on the home side.

#### 5.2 Other reasons

5.2.1 In the event of a League club qualifying for the final of the National Club Championship Trophy or the Village competitions, any club desirous of re-arranging their League fixtures for that day may do so.

5.2.2 A club wishing to re-arrange the date of a published fixture must first obtain the agreement of the opposition, and, subject to that being forthcoming, must then give written notice to the League Secretary not less than ten days before the date of the proposed alteration. Such changes must receive the sanction of the League Secretary, and will only be allowed in exceptional circumstances. Any re-arranged match taking place without the League's consent will be deemed to be void, and no points will accrue to either side. Changes of venue must be agreed with the visiting team and the League Secretary should be advised of any agreed change.

5.2.3 If clubs have to cancel a fixture owing to being unable to raise a team, it shall cancel the match of the lowest-ranked team and shall have points deducted from the record of its teams as follows:

- First offence – 5 points deduction for the offending team
- Second offence – 10 points deduction for the offending team
- Each subsequent offence – 10 points deduction for the offending team plus 5 points deduction for all of the club's teams in the League.

5.2.4 Should a team be deprived of a game of cricket for reasons outlined in Rule 5.2.3, it shall be awarded 22 points.

5.2.5 Any team which fails to fulfil five matches in any one season will be expelled from SCCL forthwith. All results and points gained in any fixtures involving this club will be deleted from SCCL records, subject to the Management's decision.

### 6. VOID MATCHES

6.1 The League shall have the discretion to call a match void if they deem it necessary and may award or deduct points at their discretion.

### 7. CLOCK

7.1 All Member Clubs are expected to have a working clock on their ground, sufficient in size to be readily visible by players and umpires, during the course of League matches.

### 8. NOMINATION OF TEAMS

8.1 The team captain must nominate his players on the team sheet card provided, denoting the overseas player, if any, and all players under the age of nineteen with their date of birth. The team sheet card must be signed and handed to the umpires before the toss is made.

### 9. HOURS AND DURATION OF PLAY

9.1 All matches inclusive of Saturday, April 20th through to Sunday, August 11th shall commence at 1.00 p.m. for Premier, One and Reserve One and at 1.30 p.m. for all other divisions. The last five matches of the season commencing Saturday, August 17th through to Sunday, September 15th shall commence at 12 noon for Premier, One and Reserve One and at 1.00 p.m. for all other divisions.

9.2 Premier, One and Reserve One will normally play matches of 100 overs, except as provided for in Clauses 5.1 (Delayed Start), which provides for a minimum of 60 overs in a match. The Lower Divisions (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, Reserve 2 and Reserve 3) will normally play a 90 over match. In the Lower Divisions, a shorter game (minimum 60 overs) will be permitted only if weather threatens to prevent a result being achieved from a full 90 over match, provided that such reduction is agreed by both captains prior to the toss. Captains will be under an obligation to play the longest game possible in the circumstances, and their performance will be monitored by the League.

9.3 The side batting first may, if they so wish, bat for no more than half of the allotted overs. The side batting second shall utilise the balance of the overs not used by the side batting first, unless bad weather intervenes (see Rule 9.1). Any odd balls bowled shall constitute an over.

9.4 Before the toss is made, the home captain shall advise his opposite number whether covers and a roller are available.

9.5 Prompt starts are essential and the toss for innings shall take place at least 15 minutes before the scheduled starting time. In the event of a team not being able to comply, the opposing team may, if it so wishes, exercise the right to claim the toss. Clubs who arrive late without a satisfactory explanation will be dealt with by the League Management Committee who may deduct 2 points from the record of the offending team.

9.6 A player arriving more than 2 hours after a match has started will only be permitted to play if the opposing captain agrees, and must have been nominated on the team sheet before the start of the match.

9.7 Normally tea will be taken between innings and 30 minutes will be allowed.

9.8 However, if a team is dismissed (or a declaration is made) and tea is not ready, a 10 minute interval between innings will be taken and play shall continue for a minimum of 15 overs or 50 minutes, whichever is the longer (unless a result has been obtained earlier). In this instance the tea interval shall be reduced to 20 minutes in duration.

## 10. DELAYED STARTS AND INTERRUPTIONS

### Premier, One and Reserve One Divisions

#### 10.1 Delayed Start

10.1.1 In the event of inclement weather causing a delayed start, the umpires shall reduce the number of overs by one over per team for every complete seven minutes of time lost between the scheduled start time and the actual commencement.

10.1.2 Appendix C should be used to calculate the number of overs to be played relative to the time lost.

10.1.3 No game may start unless a minimum of 60 overs (30 overs each side) is possible. No game may start after 4.00 p.m. for matches scheduled to start at 1 p.m. or 3.00 p.m. for matches scheduled to start at 12 noon (minimum 60 overs plus 10 minute break between innings, tea having already been taken.)

#### 10.2 Interruptions in Play after the match has started

10.2.1 The first 30 minutes lost to inclement conditions after the match has started shall be ignored.

10.2.2 Where more than 30 minutes is lost due to inclement weather after commencement of the game, the number of overs to be played shall be reduced by one over for every full 3.5 minutes lost after the initial 30 minutes.

10.2.3 The team batting first shall complete its initial allotted overs (unless it is dismissed or opts to declare) and the number of overs to be received by the team batting second will be reduced by one over for every full 3.5 minutes lost since the commencement of the match.

10.2.4 Appendix D should be used to calculate the number of overs to be deducted for every full 3.5 minutes lost

10.2.5 In their calculations, the umpires shall aggregate all interruptions for inclement weather and shall count all fractions of overs as completed overs.

10.2.6 Should subsequent interruptions reduce the number of overs to be received by the team batting second the match must be completed unless both captains agree that their sides cannot obtain a result or further draw, batting or bowling points. If inclement weather prevents completion of the scheduled overs the match shall be deemed to be abandoned.

10.2.7 If the second innings is interrupted, play may not recommence until a revised target for the draw points calculation has been agreed between umpires, scorers and captains.

10.2.8 If play is suspended during an over, then when the remaining number of overs is calculated before resumption of play, any balls not bowled in the uncompleted over shall be added to the new number of overs.

#### 10.3 Lower Divisions (2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and Reserve Divisions 2 and 3)

10.3.1 No match shall start later than 3 hours after the official starting time.

10.3.2 In the event of interruption by weather, light or other unforeseen circumstances amounting to 30 minutes or more after the scheduled starting time, play shall cease on the completion of at least 20 overs in the final hour of play (accepting that play will continue until the end of that hour, as per the Laws of Cricket), commencing at 7.00 p.m. (6.30 p.m. on or after the third Saturday in August), or on the completion of the number of overs that constitute that particular match.

10.3.3 If a further interruption of play occurs during the final 20 overs, the number of overs will be reduced by one over for every full three minutes lost. Play will continue until the completion of the reduced number of overs, or 8.00 p.m. (7.30 p.m. on or after the third Saturday in August), whichever shall be the later.

10.3.4 If the teams are off the field of play at the scheduled closing times detailed above, play shall be abandoned.

10.3.5 If the side batting second does not receive as many overs as the side batting first without achieving a result then the game shall be deemed to be abandoned and points will be awarded accordingly.

## 11. GROUND, WEATHER AND LIGHT

11.1 After the toss has been made, the umpires shall be the sole arbiters of ground, weather and light conditions and are instructed that play shall not start, restart or proceed until the rain has stopped, unless both captains agree to start, unless it is dangerous to do so. When only one non playing umpire is provided, he will be the sole arbiter as above.

## 12. UMPIRES

### Premier Division

12.1 An umpire may be required to satisfy the League Management Committee as to his competence either on appointment or at any time thereafter; panel umpires shall be L1 ECB ACO members.

12.2 An umpires panel is provided for the Premier Division by the Shropshire Association of Cricket Officials.

12.3 Each umpire will receive a match expenses fee of 80% of the BDPCL amount from the home team who must pay the umpires before the toss takes place. It is also payable when no play is possible if the umpires are in attendance.

12.4 In the event of an umpire standing alone, he will umpire at the bowler's end throughout and be entitled to receive one and a half of the match expenses fee.

12.5 Panel umpires are responsible for noting the times and duration of play and calculating the over rate which must be stated on the Match Result Sheet and post it first class to the League Results Co-ordinator.

12.6 Captains are required to complete an Umpire's Performance Report and e-mail it to the Umpire's Secretary, to arrive not later than the Thursday following the match (see Rule 27.1).

Divisions One, Two, Three, Four, Five, Six and Reserve Divisions One, Two and Three

12.7 Teams in all divisions shall endeavour to provide an umpire and a scorer in all League games. Division One clubs may request a panel umpire for the season and will pay the match expenses fee direct to the umpire before the toss is made. If the panel umpire is standing alone, he is entitled to receive one and a half of the match expenses fee divided equally between both teams.

12.8 A suitably qualified umpire is one who has either passed the ECBACO Level 1 Exam or has obtained a certificate from the League following attendance at the League's own courses.

12.9 Clubs must register their umpires with the Umpire's Secretary before the start of the season.

12.10 In Divisions 2, 3, 4 and Reserve 2, 1 point will be awarded to a team in every match where it provides a suitably qualified and registered umpire for the whole match (see rule 26).

12.11 If one side provides an umpire and the other does not, that one umpire shall be the official umpire for the match and shall stand at the bowler's end throughout the match.

12.12 Captains will be required to assess the umpire's performance as indicated on the scorecard. Umpires are encouraged to comment to the Results Co-ordinator on the conduct of teams and captains.

### 13. SCORERS

13.1 Teams in all divisions shall endeavour to provide a scorer in all League games.

13.2 Sheltered, weatherproof facilities must be provided for scorers, e.g. provision of a gazebo or similar, where no other covered accommodation is available. The League reserves the right to impose any appropriate penalty if this requirement is not met.

13.3 Premier Division only: Two people must be in the score box or equivalent during the duration of the game. If this instruction is not followed, umpires may halt the game until such time as two people are in attendance in the score box or equivalent.

13.4 The umpires shall ensure that the scorers sit together in close proximity to the scoreboard ensuring that overs, runs and wickets are correctly recorded and adequately displayed at the end of each over.

13.5 Immediately upon the conclusion of each innings the captains, scorers and umpires shall agree the accuracy of the recorded scores. The umpires' decision shall be final.

### 14. THE BALL

14.1 In all Divisions, two new balls, specified by and purchased through the League, shall be used in each game. The home team shall provide both balls.

14.2 Home clubs must ensure that a selection of at least 6 suitable spare balls of varying ages and use are available to the umpires prior to the start of the match.

14.3 If the home team fails to provide two new balls for the start of the match, it shall forfeit the toss. The team claiming the toss will be deemed to have won the toss and points will be allocated according to the playing regulations. If the side claiming the toss elects to field, the match will be delayed until the new balls arrive. If the side claiming the toss elects to bat the match will start at the scheduled time and the fielding side will bowl with used balls throughout the innings.

14.4 The cost of balls shall be notified to member clubs and payment shall be made to the Treasurer by the due date (see also Rule 14.5).

14.5 If a team is withdrawn from SCCL after its allocation of balls has been ordered or purchased by SCCL that club shall be liable to reimburse SCCL for the cost of same.

14.6 Balls, Handbooks, Teamsheets, etc., will be available for collection at the pre-season Captain's Meeting. Any club not attending that meeting may be penalised at the Committee's discretion.

### 15. NEW BATSMAN

15.1 The incoming batsman must pass the outgoing batsman, before the latter leaves the field of play.

### 16. SIGHTSCREENS

16.1 Sightcreens shall be operational in all matches and will be moved by the batting side to accommodate left and right handed batsman batting together.

### 17. RESTRICTION ON PLACEMENT OF FIELDERS

17.1 At the instant of delivery a minimum of four fielders plus the wicket-keeper and bowler must be within an area bounded by two semi-circles centred on each middle stump, each with a radius of thirty yards and joined by a parallel line on each side of the pitch. In the event of an infringement the striker's end umpire shall call and signal "No Ball".

17.2 The fielding circles may be marked by white painted dots at five yard intervals, or preferably by white plastic or rubber discs, not metal, measuring approximately seven inches in diameter.

17.3 In the event of the striker's end umpire failing to call and signal "No Ball" when the fielding restrictions have been breached or when Law 41.5 has been breached, immediately the ball becomes "dead", the striker may draw the matter to the attention of the umpire. If the striker's end umpire is able to verify the breach he shall call and signal "No Ball". If the striker's end umpire is unable to verify the breach, he shall confirm that the events of the delivery shall be unchanged.

17.4 Fielding Regulations – For reference, the ECB Fielding Regulations (applicable to all cricket in England and Wales) are as follows:

- (i) No player in the Under 15 age group or younger shall be allowed to field closer than 8 yards (7.3 metres) from the middle stump, except behind the wicket on the off side, until the batsman has played at the ball.
  - (ii) For players in the Under 13 age group and below the distance is 11 yards (10 metres).
  - (iii) These minimum distances apply even if the player is wearing a helmet.
- Should a player in these age groups come within the restricted distance the umpire must stop the game immediately and instruct the fielder to move back.
- (iv) Any 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 6 yards (5.5 metres) of the bat, except behind the wicket on the off side. Players should wear appropriate protective equipment whenever they are fielding in a position where they feel at risk.

## 18. PROTECTIVE HELMETS

18.1 All batsmen, close fielders and wicket-keepers standing up to the stumps, under the age of 18 on the last day of August, in the year preceding the current season, must wear protective helmets. ECB has directed that parental consent forms will not override this requirement.

## 19. E.C.B. FAST BOWLING DIRECTIVES

19.1 It is the responsibility of the Captain to inform the umpires, prior to the commencement of the match, of the names and relevant age group of any player under the age of 19 as at midnight on 31st August of the preceding year.

19.2 Captains are expected to ensure that any fast bowler who falls within the under 19 age group and younger does not exceed the ECB Directives for maximum overs per spell, maximum overs per day and minimum rest periods between spells. If the circumstances of the match result in a situation where the available overs per day are bowled in more than the maximum number of spells it is essential that the maximum overs per spell and minimum rest period Directives are strictly followed.

19.3 In these circumstances, should the Captain refuse to withdraw the bowler, the umpire will inform the Captain that he will be in breach of the ECB Directives and therefore (a) he will personally assume full responsibility for this action including transfer of all legal liabilities to him from the umpires and (b) both Captain and bowler will be reported to the league.

19.4 On receiving such a report, the league will advise the County Board of the breach and may impose sanctions against the Club, Captain or bowler, which may include suspension and/or deduction of points.

19.5 The definition of a fast bowler, as one to whom the wicket-keeper in normal circumstances would stand back to take the ball, should be interpreted according to the age group of the bowler – for example, if the bowler is under 17 would it be reasonable to expect an under 17 wicket-keeper to stand up? If Captains have any doubt as to whether a young fast bowler is covered by the Directives they should consult the County Coach for the relevant age group guidance.

19.6 All Club Captains and Coaches must be made aware of this procedure.

## 20. BOWLING REGULATIONS

20.1 Over Rate – Premier Division only

20.1.1 Overs are required to be bowled at a minimum of 17 overs per hour in each match. Note: Allowances will be made for unavoidable breaks in play which are of duration of three minutes or more and confirmed to the fielding captain and the batsman at the wicket at the time of delay. Breaks of less than three minutes are to be ignored and no allowance made.

20.1.2 Three minutes will be allowed for each drinks interval, plus two minutes for each wicket that falls in an innings, up to and including the fall of the 9th wicket. There will be no allowance for the 10th wicket that falls, in either innings, or for any wicket taken, immediately before a declaration.

20.1.3 The captain of the fielding side is solely responsible for the over rate. However it is within the spirit of the game for umpires to inform the captains during the match that they are behind the over rate.

20.1.4 Time allowance will not be subject to retrospective negotiation. The umpire's decision will be final and there will be no right of appeal.

20.1.5 In the event of the fielding side failing to achieve an average of 17 overs per hour, the umpires shall advise the captain that they will be notifying the Results Co-ordinator via the umpires report completed at the conclusion of the match.

20.1.6 There will be no penalty for slow over rates in any innings that lasts less than 30 overs.

20.2 Bowler's Restrictions – Premier, One and Reserve One Divisions

20.2.1 No Bowler may bowl more than 30% of the available overs in any innings up to a maximum of 15 overs per bowler.

20.2.2 In the event of the start of a game being delayed due to bad weather, no bowler may bowl more than 30% of the revised number of overs agreed for each side, e.g. in a game reduced to 60 overs, no bowler would be allowed to bowl more than 9 overs.

20.2.3 If on resumption, in the second innings, a bowler has already exceeded the new maximum number of overs, he shall not be allowed to bowl again, other than to complete an unfinished over. Prior to the resumption, the umpires shall advise captains and scorers of the maximum number of overs available per bowler (tables for the guidance of umpires as shown in Appendix E).

### 20.3 Divisions (Two, Three, Four, Five, Six and Reserve Divisions Two and Three)

20.3.1 In these Divisions, teams must use at least five bowlers in their allotted overs, all of whom must bowl a minimum of four overs each; alternatively, the overs of any bowler may be shared with a 6th, 7th or 8th bowler, provided that the aggregate of overs bowled by these players is at least 4. Irrespective of the number of overs agreed by the captains and the ECB Fast Bowling Directive for U19s, no bowler may bowl more than 15 overs.

## 21. NO BALL

21.1 If, after pitching, a ball passes or would have passed over shoulder height of the striker standing upright at the crease, the umpire at the bowler's end shall indicate to the bowler and the striker that he is allowed only one such ball per batsman per over. If the bowler repeats the action, the umpire shall call and signal "No Ball" and invoke the procedure as laid down in Law 42.7. In addition any ball after pitching which passes or would have passed over the head of the batsman standing upright at the crease, the umpire shall call and signal "No Ball".

21.2 Any high full pitched ball (regardless of its pace) which passes or would have passed over waist height of the striker, standing upright at the crease, shall be called and signalled "No Ball" by the umpire at the bowler's end. In addition, if this high, full pitched ball is fast, it shall be deemed dangerous and unfair and the umpire at the bowler's end, in addition to the call and signal of "No Ball" will adopt the procedures of Law 42.7. If the umpire considers that a high full pitch, which is deemed to be dangerous and unfair as defined in Law 42.6(b) was deliberately bowled, then the caution and warning prescribed in Law 42.7(c) shall be dispensed with. The umpire shall call and signal "No Ball", direct the captain, when the ball is dead, to take the bowler off forthwith and complete the procedure laid down in Law 42.7(c)

### 21.3 Law 24.6 is replaced by:

The umpire at the bowler's end shall call and signal "No Ball" if a ball which he considers to have been delivered without having previously touched bat or person of the striker

Either (i) bounces more than ONCE before it reaches the popping crease

Or (ii) rolls along the ground before it reaches the popping crease.

## 22. WIDE BALL

The following criteria should be adopted as a guide to umpires –

22.1 If in the umpire's opinion the ball passes either side of the wicket, sufficiently wide to make it virtually impossible for the striker to play a "normal cricket stroke" – both from where he is standing and where he should normally be standing at the crease, the bowler's end umpire shall call and signal "Wide Ball". On the leg side, a ball landing clearly outside the line of leg stump, going further away and passing outside the batsman shall be called and signalled "Wide Ball".

22.2 In Premier, One and Reserve One Division matches, umpires are instructed to apply a strict and consistent interpretation of the law covering "Wide Ball" in order to prevent negative bowling, especially down the leg side. The one day wide regulations should be brought into use for bowlers bowling persistently down the leg side. The bowler's end umpire must inform the fielding captain, the bowler, the batsmen, and his colleague before this is invoked.

22.3 As a guideline to the umpires for the calling of wide on the off side, clubs should expand pitch markings to include lines 17' inside either return crease at each end of the pitch (see diagram p 53). The usual wide ball criteria will apply – i.e. wide ball should not be called if the ball makes contact with the striker's bat or person outside the 17' mark.

## 23. PENALTY RUNS

23.1 In the Lower Divisions (Two, Three, Four, Five, Six and Reserve Divisions Two and Three), penalty runs (as defined in Law 42) will not be awarded, except those accruing from:–

- No balls and wides;

- Ball striking protective helmet belonging to the fielding side whilst it is on the ground within the field of play (Law 41.3);

- Unfair fielding of the ball (Law 41.2).

## 24. CALL OF LAST OVER

24.1 Before the first ball of the last over of each innings, the umpire shall call "last over" clearly so that both sides understand.

## 25. TEAS

25.1 The home team shall provide teas for the away side, umpires and scorers free of charge.

25.2 A separate table must be provided for the match officials.

## 26. ALLOCATION OF POINTS –

Win: 24 points except that a team winning the toss and electing to bat second will gain 20 points [plus, in both cases, Umpires bonus points, where applicable – see below].

Lose: Bonus points only.

Draw: Bonus points for both sides, plus 10 points divided between the teams as follows (points for side batting first are shown first):–

5 – 5 If the number of runs scored in both innings is the same

6 – 4 If 90% or more of the first innings total is scored

7 – 3 If 80% but less than 90% of the first innings total is scored

8 – 2 If 70% but less than 80% of the first innings total is scored

9 – 1 If 60% but less than 70% of the first innings total is scored

10 – 0 If less than 60% of the first innings total is scored.

Bowling bonus points: 1 point for every 2 wickets taken (2, 4, 6, 8 and 10) – but see Rules 26.1 and 26.2 below.

Batting bonus points: 1 point for reaching 125, 150, 175, 200 and 225 runs.

Umpire bonus points: 1 point for teams (in Divisions 2, 3, 4 and Reserve 2 only) providing a suitably qualified and registered umpire – see Rule 12.10.

Not Started: 5 points to each side.

Abandoned: 5 points to each side plus bonus points including Umpire bonus points (Note: Umpires bonus points will only be available if a minimum of 10 overs is played).

Incomplete Match (Premier, One & Reserve One only): Draw points as set out below, plus bonus points but excluding abandonment points.

Following an interruption in play of more than 30 minutes, if the side batting second would be entitled to receive fewer overs than the side batting first, and an outright win is not achieved, the allocation of draw points will be decided by calculating a revised target score as follows, subject to at least 20 overs remaining:

- calculate the average run rate (to 2 decimal places) of the team batting first by dividing its total score by the number of overs received (or would have received had it not been dismissed). When the team batting first declares its innings closed, only the number of overs received, rounded up to the complete over, must be used in the calculation.
- multiply the average run rate by number of overs to be received by the side batting second. Then increase this total by 20%. This will be the Target Score.

• The allocation of draw points compares the score achieved by the side batting second to the target score and is divided between first and second innings as follows (points for side batting first are shown first):–

0 – 10 If 140% or more of the Target Score is scored

1 – 9 If 130% or more of the Target Score is scored

2 – 8 If 120% or more of the Target Score is scored

3 – 7 If 110% or more of the Target Score is scored

4 – 6 If more than 100% of the Target Score is scored

5 – 5 If the runs scored are the same as the Target Score

6 – 4 If 90% or more of the Target Score is scored

7 – 3 If 80% but less than 90% of the Target Score is scored

8 – 2 If 70% but less than 80% of the Target Score is scored

9 – 1 If 60% but less than 70% of the Target Score is scored

10 – 0 If less than 60% of the Target Score is scored.

• Once the run rate has been calculated it shall remain as the run rate even though a later interruption may further reduce the number of overs that the side batting second may receive – see example 2 below.

• In all situations, except stopping for inclement weather, matches should continue until the scheduled number of overs has been received by the side batting second, unless both captains agree that their sides cannot obtain a result or further batting, bowling or Target Score points.

• The Target Score is only used when an outright win has not been achieved (there may be matches where the calculated Target Score is more than the score of the side batting first).

• If the number of overs available to the side batting second is less than 20, no Target Score points are available. The match should continue to a conclusion, mindful that only batting and bowling bonus points could be available, together with abandonment points (unless of course one of the teams achieves an outright win).

### EXAMPLES

1 1st innings score [Team A]: 222 for 7 (50 overs)

2nd innings [Team B] reduced to 35 overs

$222 \div 50 \text{ overs} = 4.44 \text{ runs per over}$

$35 \text{ overs} \times 4.44 = 155.4 + 20\% = 186.48$

Therefore Target Score for awarding draw points calculation only is 187 unless overs are lost during the second innings (see Example 2) when a recalculation is required.

If Team B's response is 190 for 7 (in 35 overs), (representing 101.6% of the Target Score – i.e. Target Score points are 4–6 in their favour), the points are calculated as follows:

Team A: 4 (batting) + 3 (bowling) + 4 (target draw) = 11 points

Team B: 3 + 3 + 6 = 12 points

2 (a) 1st innings score [Team C]: 207 for 9 (45 overs – match reduced to 90 overs)

2nd innings [Team D] reduced to 35 overs



$207 \div 45 \text{ overs} = 4.60 \text{ runs per over}$

$35 \text{ overs} \times 4.6 = 161 + 20\% = 193.2$

Therefore Target Score for awarding draw points calculation only is 194.

- (b) Interruption of 20 minutes during the second innings – Further 5 overs are lost (Appendix D)

Revised target for awarding draw points calculation only is:

$30 \text{ overs} (35-5) \times 4.6 = 138 + 20\% = 165.6$

Therefore Target Score for awarding draw points calculation only is 166.

If Team D score 183 for 8 (30), this represents 110.2% of the revised Target so

Target Score points are 3–7:

Team C:  $4 + 4 + 3 = 11$  points

Team D:  $3 + 4 + 7 = 14$  points

- (c) Further interruption of 14 minutes – Further 4 overs are lost (Appendix D)

Revised target for awarding draw points calculation only becomes 144 from 26 overs ( $4.6 \times$

$26 = 119.6 + 20\% = 143.5$ )

If Team D score 140 for 8, Target Score points (97%) are 6–4:

Team C:  $4 + 4 + 6 = 14$  points

Team D:  $1 + 4 + 4 = 9$  points

- (d) Further interruption of 25 minutes meaning that a further 7 overs are lost (Appendix D)

No Target Score – fewer than 20 overs remain.

Teams play for Bonus Points + Abandonment Points (or an outright result)

If Team D scored 120 for 5, only bonus + abandonment points are available:

Team C:  $4 + 2 + 5 = 11$  points

Team D:  $0 + 4 + 5 = 9$  points.

- 3 1st innings score [Team E]: 190 all out in 46.2 overs (50 over innings)

2nd innings [Team F] reduced to 32 overs

$190 \div 50 \text{ overs} = 3.8 \text{ runs per over}$

$32 \text{ overs} \times 3.8 = 121.6 + 20\% = 145.92$

Therefore Target Score for awarding draw points calculation only is 146 unless overs are lost in the second innings (see Example 2) when a recalculation is required.

If Team F score 140 for 7 (32), this represents 95.9% of the Target Score (6–4):

Team E:  $3 + 3 + 6 = 12$  points

Team F:  $1 + 5 + 4 = 10$  points

- 4 1st innings score [Team G]: 247 for 6 declared after 45.2 overs (50 overs innings)

2nd innings [Team H] reduced to 33 overs

$247 \div 46 \text{ overs} = 5.37 \text{ runs per over}$

$33 \text{ overs} \times 5.37 = 177.21 + 20\% = 212.65$

Therefore Target Score for awarding Target Score points calculation only is 213, unless overs are lost in the second innings (see Example 2) when a recalculation is required.

If Team H score 148 for 5 (33), this represents 69.5% of the Target Score, so:

Team G:  $5 + 2 + 9 = 16$  points

Team H:  $1 + 3 + 1 = 5$  points

26.1 In the event of a declaration or, if a side is still batting at the end of its allotted overs, only wickets taken shall count towards the number of bowling bonus points awarded.

26.2 If the innings ends because a side is all out, the fielding side shall be awarded maximum bowling points.

## 27. POINTS DEDUCTION – Premier Division only

27.1 Umpires Performance Reports – Failure to send umpire performance reports to arrive by the prescribed date will result in a three point penalty deduction for each and every occasion.

27.2 Scorers – Teams will lose one point in each match if they fail to provide an official competent scorer (not a player) throughout the duration of the match.

27.3 Over Rate – The minimum over rate to be achieved by both sides in each match will be 17 overs per hour and the following penalty points deduction shall apply if this is not achieved:

1st occasion during the season – warning from Results Secretary.

2nd occasion during the season – 1 point deduction

3rd occasion during the season – 2 points deduction

4th occasion during the season – 3 points deduction

5th and subsequent occasions – a further 1 point deduction each time

## 28. NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS

### Premier Division Matches

28.1 It shall be the responsibility of the Match Umpires, in Premier Division matches, to telephone the scores of matches, along with the relevant details, as soon as possible on Saturday evenings, to the Results Co-ordinator (01952 275914) – an answering service will be available to receive your call.

28.2 Premier Division Result Sheets must be signed by both captains and match officials at the end of matches and handed to the Match Umpires, who will then post them First Class to the Results Co-ordinator.

## All Divisions

28.3 All home teams shall enter a full scorecard on their Play Cricket website within 48 hours of the completion of the game. Failure to do so will result in the home team receiving a 2 point deduction.

28.4 It is the home club's responsibility to complete a full match result sheet (including all players' names as they appear on league registration) and, except for the Premier Division, post it First Class on Monday following the match to the Results Co-ordinator. Failure to do so will result in the home team being deducted 2 points for each offence.

28.5 Clubs shall make every effort to email the result of their game to the media in time for publication and in any event within 24 hours of the end of the game.

## 29. LEAGUE POSITIONAL PLACINGS

29.1 Teams will be ranked in a league table according to the number of points awarded.

29.2 In the event of two or more sides finishing equal on points with each other, then in order to ascertain their respective finishing positions in the respective divisions, both generally and for the purposes of promotion and relegation, the position shall be determined in the following manner:

- (i) Most points gained by the teams in matches played between them during the season
- (ii) The highest number of wins as a percentage of completed matches
- (iii) The lowest number of defeats as a percentage of completed matches
- (iv) The highest number of wickets taken in the season.
- (v) The highest number of runs scored in the season.

## 30. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

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

30.2 All divisions will look to operate a two-up two-down promotion and relegation system, although from time to time, more or fewer clubs may be promoted or relegated at the Management Committee's discretion. To be eligible for promotion from Division Six (into Division Five and Reserve Three), teams must finish in the top four, again subject to the Management Committee's decision.

30.3 Toilets, running water and a fully-stocked up-to-date first-aid box (accessible and clearly signposted) must be provided at all grounds, and from the 2015 season all grounds must provide both male and female toilets.

30.4 SCCL reserves the right to withhold promotion from any team if its pitch and facilities (including toilets and running water) are not up to the required standard – see also Constitution Clause 3(h). The Committee will give due consideration to any assurances that facilities will be upgraded during the close season.

30.5 Any team that fails to fulfil any undertakings given, may be liable to points penalty(ies), at the discretion of the Management Committee.

### Premier Division only

30.6 Premier Division 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.

### 30.7 Declaration of Intent

30.7.1 Prior to the last 6 games of the season, the leading clubs in the Premier Division at that point, will be required to sign a Declaration of Intent confirming that the club will apply for entry to the BDPCL in the event that the club becomes Champions.

30.7.2 Any club that fails to sign and return the document to the SCCL Secretary by 31st August, will have sufficient points deducted by the SCCL Management Committee upon completion of the final round of fixtures, to ensure that the club does not finish the season in first place. This will also automatically apply to any club in contention for the title, who do not fully comply with the provisions of the BDPCL Club Accreditation Document.

30.7.3 Should a club that has properly signed and returned the Declaration of Intent confirming that it will accept an invitation to join the BDPCL, subsequently inform the SCCL Secretary that it is no longer able to accept the invitation, such a retraction will be regarded as a serious breach of trust by the SCCL, and will result in the imposition of a substantial financial penalty at the league's discretion together with a significant points deduction at the start of the following season.

Notes 1. It will be in the best interests of all Premier Division clubs, to fully consider this issue in good time so that they are in a position to sign and return the Declaration of Intent by the deadline of 31st August.

2. Clubs are advised that it is the League's intention to require all clubs in the Premier Division to implement the standards required by BDPCL, by the start of the 2015 season, with assurances being given by no later than 31st October 2014 that all criteria will be in place for the start of the new season. Clubs failing to meet these standards may be relegated.

### 30.8 Other divisions

30.8.1 The League will inspect the grounds of all clubs seeking promotion to the Premier Division with a view to giving instructions or guidance as to what is needed to ensure promotion for the following season.

#### 30.8.2 Prerequisites for divisional membership:

- 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 Divisions One, Two, Three – 2nd and 4th XIs.

- Division Six – No restrictions.

30.8.3 For Divisions 2–6, a leeway until 2015 will be allowed to implement any future criteria decisions for any pre-existing teams in these divisions.

30.8.4 No team will be promoted to Division Two unless it has, or gives an undertaking to have by the start of the season: a roller, covers, sightscreens (except in exceptional circumstances) and changing facilities, including showers.

30.8.5 No team will be promoted to Division Three unless it normally schedules its home matches on a grass pitch.

30.8.6 The League may, at its discretion, give pre-existing teams in Divisions 2–6 leeway until 2015 to implement the criteria in 30.8.2.

## 31. DISPUTES, PROTESTS AND DISCIPLINE

In all cases involving Disputes, Protests and Discipline, SCCL will be mindful of the ECB Guidelines concerning:

- The right to a fair hearing
- Prior notice of the hearing
- Opportunity to be heard
- Avoidance of bias

N.B. Complaints about bad behaviour are dealt with in Section 32. Complaints about breaches of rules will be dealt with by the Disciplinary Sub-Committee as a “Protest” and treated as such.

### Disputes and Protests/Complaints

31.1 Any protest shall be lodged with (i) the League Secretary, (ii) the Chair of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee and (iii) the Secretary of the club against whom the protest/complaint is made, by the Club Secretary (or other authorised club official), in writing, within five days of the alleged breach. N.B. If this is done electronically, the protest must be in the form of an attachment.

31.2 The protest must be accompanied by a fee of £20. No fee will be required for complaints of discipline or bad behaviour.

31.3 Only clubs directly affected by the alleged breach shall have the right to lodge a protest.

31.4 When making a protest, clubs shall state under which rule the protest is being made.

31.5 The Sub-Committee will normally hear the protest at its regular meeting. However, an earlier date may be arranged at the discretion of the Sub-Committee Chair. In all cases, SCCL will give at least seven days notice of the hearing.

31.6 The Sub-Committee may, at its discretion, require officials and/or players from all clubs involved in the dispute to attend the hearing of that protest or dispute. Umpires may also be invited.

31.7 The Sub-Committee may, at its discretion, impose fines against clubs, ban players or award or deduct points.

31.8 The Sub-Committee’s decision shall be conveyed by letter, or if previously agreed, by email, to all parties within seven days of the hearing.

31.9 Any protest which arises from interpretation of the Laws of Cricket may be referred to the appropriate national body for settlement and their decision shall be final; on all other matters SCCL shall be the final arbiter.

## 32. DISCIPLINE AND PLAYER BEHAVIOUR – REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES

### Aims and Jurisdiction

32.1 These regulations shall apply to any player who plays for any club, at any level, under the auspices of SCCL and they are intended to provide assistance and uniformity to all Clubs in dealing with any alleged breach of “The Spirit of Cricket” and Disciplinary Rules.

32.2 Any alleged breach must be reported to (i) the League Secretary, (ii) the Chair of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee and (iii) the Secretary of the Club against whom the alleged breach occurred, by the Panel Umpire, Club Secretary (or other authorised Club Official), in writing, within five days of the alleged offence. All correspondence relating to the report should also be received within five days and will be made available to both parties. Failure to meet this deadline may result in a complaint being ruled “out of time”. The allegation will be investigated by the Disciplinary Sub Committee (DSC) and, if proven, the appropriate penalty as outlined in Para. 32.9–32.17 (Penalties) will be applied. N.B. If the report is from a Panel Umpire in a Premier Division match the penalty for Level 1 and 2 offences will automatically be applied.

### Introduction to Disciplinary Procedures

32.3 Discipline at cricket matches is an issue which SCCL takes very seriously. To this end, several stages have been built into the procedures which deal with discipline breaches. The aim is to simplify the procedure for minor offences, whilst providing full rights for all accused and wronged, in accordance with ECB Guidelines.

Three main stages are involved:

a. Before the start of each season, the League’s Constitution requires each member club to sign a declaration to comply with the League’s Rules and Playing Conditions and the Laws of Cricket. Every player registered to play in the League explicitly acknowledges, by virtue of his registration, the Constitution of the League and its procedures and undertakes to be bound by them.

b. All breaches of discipline will be dealt with by the DSC. All reports by Panel Umpires in Premier Division matches of Level 1 and 2 breaches will result in automatic bans being imposed as outlined in Para. 32.10. Reports by non-panel umpires or a Club Secretary/Official of Level 1 and 2 breaches will be dealt with by the

DSC under the same code, but may be subject to a disciplinary hearing, with club/witness representation, as for Level 3 & 4 breaches.

c. For Level 3 and Level 4 breaches, the League will call a Disciplinary Hearing, within 10 days of the alleged offence, whether reported by the umpires or another club or individual. This hearing will be subject to formal reports by the accusers, the accused and the umpires and will be heard before three committee members with advisors present, if considered necessary. Clubs and individuals may be present and represented. They may, also, call witnesses. Decisions made at the hearing may be subject to appeals and will follow ECB guidelines.

#### Breaches of Discipline

32.4 Subject only to the proviso that further action may be taken pursuant to the implementation of the SCCL Disciplinary Rules, nothing contained in these regulations shall prejudice the right of the DSC to take appropriate disciplinary action against any person over whom it has jurisdiction.

32.5 All member clubs of SCCL have agreed to abide by the Disciplinary Rules and, in doing so, will not frivolously appeal against any sanction contained within the Rules.

32.6 SCCL is committed to maintaining the highest standards of behaviour and conduct of those subject to its jurisdiction. In pursuance of these standards, certain conduct, whether on or off the field of play, amounts to a breach of the League's Disciplinary Rules, the Laws of Cricket and/or the "Spirit of Cricket". These breaches have been categorised into 4 levels which are set out as follows:

#### 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 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 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 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 gesture that seriously offend, insult, humiliate, intimidate, threaten, disparage or vilify another person on the basis of that person's religion, sexual orientation, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin.

32.7. When dealing with breaches of discipline, SCCL will apply the ECB Guidelines on the Conduct of Hearings and Appeals and Sentencing. It should be noted that, if there is any conflict between the League's disciplinary procedures and the ECB Regulations and Guidelines, SCCL procedures will take precedence.

32.8 The Chairman of the DSC may, and within seven days of the reported incident, decide that sanctions other than those specified in Para.32.10 (Penalties) are appropriate and institute the full disciplinary complaints and appeals procedures. Any sanctions resulting from those procedures shall be in addition to those of the SCCL, and shall not be reduced.

#### Penalties

32.9 Warning and Reporting procedures for Panel Umpires officiating in the Premier Division are shown as Appendix B. Club captains, players and club officials should make themselves aware of these procedures.

32.10 The following is a guide to the penalties recommended for each level of breaches of discipline:—

1. Level 1 – Suspension for 2 to 6 matches
2. Level 2 – Suspension for 2 to 8 matches
3. Level 3 – Suspension for 4 to 10 matches

4. Level 4 – Suspension for a minimum of 10 matches

32.11 The DSC and Appeals Panel will take the following into account when considering the suspension to impose:-

- a. If the player has pleaded guilty
- b. The player's previous discipline record
- c. If the player is also the Captain
- d. The conduct of the player subsequent to him being warned and told that he will be reported

32.12 Players found guilty of breaches of discipline more than once in a season may, at the discretion of the DSC, be suspended for periods in excess of the recommended levels shown in 32.10.

32.13 Captains who fail to control their players, after being requested to do so by the umpires, or after cautions/warnings have been given to one or more of their players, may be given a warning and/or a suspension by the DSC.

32.14 Where the same player of a club is reported on more than one occasion, by a Panel Umpire or a Club Official and found guilty by DSC, that club shall have five (5) league points deducted from each team playing in the SCCL, on the second, and each subsequent occasion, the player is disciplined.

32.15 Any individual club having three (3) or more players reported in any one season shall have ten (10) league points deducted from each team, in addition to deductions made under 32.14 above.

32.16 Suspensions will be carried over to the following season, if applicable. Suspensions apply to all cricket played under the auspices of the ECB for the period of the suspension.

32.17 Clubs are reminded that they have a responsibility to uphold high standards of behaviour and should have in place their own code of conduct and disciplinary procedures. Clubs are encouraged to take their own action where appropriate and there is nothing in SCCL's Rules preventing or discouraging clubs from applying additional or stronger sanctions against offenders, whether or not they are subject of a report.

### 33. APPEALS

In all cases involving Appeals, SCCL will be mindful of the ECB Guidelines concerning:

- Right of attendance, representation and calling of witnesses
- Basis of the Appeal
- The form of the Appeal, i.e. it should be a complete re-hearing
- The constitution of the Appeal Panel

33.1 A club may appeal against any decision of SCCL under the provisions of Rule 32; such appeal will be heard by the Appeals Sub-Committee as constituted by the Management Committee.

33.2 Any appeal shall be lodged with (i) the League Secretary, (ii) the Chair of the Appeals Sub-Committee, and (iii) any other parties involved in the original dispute, by the Club Secretary (or other authorised club official) in writing within 14 days of SCCL's decision being notified to them, stating the reasons for the appeal in full.

33.3 The appeal shall be accompanied by a fee of £75 as a contribution towards the costs of the appeal. The Appeals Sub-Committee may at its discretion retain or refund all or part of the fee.

33.4 The Appeals Sub-Committee (referred to as the Sub-Committee throughout this section) will hear the appeal within 14 days of it being received by SCCL. SCCL will give clubs at least seven days notice of the hearing.

33.5 Clubs or individuals involved in an appeal shall have the same rights of attendance and representation as they did at the first hearing.

33.6 The Sub-Committee is empowered to confirm or over-rule the Disciplinary Sub-Committee's decision and any penalties may be increased or decreased.

33.7 The decision of the Sub-Committee shall be conveyed in writing (or by email if previously agreed) to all parties involved in the appeal within seven days of the hearing.

33.8 Decisions by the Sub-Committee shall be final and binding on all parties involved and no further appeal shall be permitted.

### 34. FINES AND SURCHARGES

34.1 Any club which has not paid its subscription by the due date (see Rule 1) shall be liable to a surcharge of £5 per team for every month or part of a month that it is in arrears.

34.2 Any club which has not paid for its allocation of League balls by the due date (see Rule 4.4) shall be liable to a surcharge of £10 per team.

34.3 Any club which does not return a trophy by September 1st will be fined and/or points will be deducted. If a trophy is found to be damaged or requires cleaning when returned, the offending club will be invoiced with the cost of the renovation work or the cost of a replacement.

34.4 Any club which resigns or withdraws any of its teams from SCCL after the date specified in Clauses 3(g) and 3(h) of the Constitution is liable to be charged the full subscription for the coming season, plus any expenses incurred by SCCL on its behalf (see also Rule 14.5).

34.5 If a club fails to pay any fine or surcharge within 21 days of the due date, one point will be deducted from each of its teams playing in SCCL for each day that the fine remains unpaid thereafter.

34.6 In the event of any contravention of these Rules and Playing Arrangements the Management Committee and its constituent Sub-Committees shall have powers to award or deduct points, declare a match void and/or levy fines on any offending member club.

### 35. LEAGUE HANDBOOK

35.1 All clubs shall submit information about their club (Club Secretary name, address and telephone; Captain(s) and telephone; weekend contacts and, where appropriate, ground information) for inclusion in the new League Handbook.

35.2 The above information must be received by the Treasurer not later than 13th March prior to the start of the season. Failure to do so by this date will result in a maximum of 5 points (at the discretion of the Management Committee) being deducted from each team when the season starts.

## APPENDIX A DEFINITIONS OF PLAYER CATEGORIES

### CATEGORY 1

A player qualified to play for England under current ECB regulations.

### CATEGORY 2 – CONTRACTED PLAYER

A player (capped or uncapped) qualified to play for England under the current ECB regulations and, currently, under contract to a First-Class County Club or MCC Young Cricketers. For the purposes of clarification, a contracted player is one who has a current full playing contract, a summer contract or a development contract, but not an academy contract (16 – 19 years).

### CATEGORY 3 – OVERSEAS PLAYERS

An overseas player is one not qualified to play for England under current ECB regulations as per ECB Guidelines.

### CATEGORY 3 (E) – OVERSEAS PLAYER (EXEMPT)

A player not qualified to play for England under the current ECB regulations, who is ordinarily resident in this country, and has been resident in this country for a period of 18 consecutive months, prior to the date of request for registration, and has not been out of the country for more than 35 days consecutively, or 70 days in total during the previous 18 months. Any remuneration received from playing cricket must not be the main source of his income.

The definition of “ordinarily resident” shall be in the absolute discretion of the body responsible for registration of the player in the relevant competition.

a) Every exempted player must sign a declaration, as follows:

“I confirm that I have been resident in England and Wales for the past 18 months and, during that period, I have not been outside England and Wales for longer than 35 days consecutively, or 70 days in total. I also confirm that any payment that I receive for playing cricket is not my main source of income. I understand that the punishment for making a false declaration in this regard, will be severe and will most likely result in a lengthy ban which will apply to all forms of recreational cricket in England and Wales.”

(Note : England and Wales Includes the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.)

b) In the event of a player making a false declaration, the club will also be liable to disciplinary action if it has failed to carry out all reasonable checks on the player’s documentary evidence. Clubs will, therefore, be expected to keep a record of all such checks.

c) As there is a continuing need to verify that the criteria are met, clubs must re-register all exempted players each season, providing evidence of their continuous residence in this country, otherwise they will be deemed to be overseas players.

d) If a Category 3 player (exempt) has unavoidably, due to personal reasons, had to leave England and Wales for longer than the permitted period, the Management Committee will consider such player’s application for continued Category 3 (Exempt) status, and its decision will be final.

e) A Player who has a home in England or Wales and has been granted “exempt” status, who subsequently accepts a temporary work assignment unconnected to cricket, in another country, may apply to re-instate his “exempt” status immediately on his return. Approval is at the discretion of the Management Committee and may not be automatic.

f) A Student may be granted Category 3(exempt) status subject to production of documentary evidence that he/she is a full time student attending a three year course of study in a bona-fide education establishment.

## APPENDIX B BEHAVIOUR – UMPIRES’ ACTIONS AND PROCEDURES – PREMIER DIVISION

The SCCL relies on its Premier Division umpires to ensure that acceptable standards of behaviour are maintained. When this is not the case, e.g. verbal or physical abuse, or verbal or physical dissent, the umpires shall follow a procedure similar to those of Caution, Warning and Report contained in the Laws of Cricket as detailed below.

### A) First Warning (Caution)

1 First caution the player as to his conduct and advise the player and his captain that it is a first warning and its possible consequences.

2 Advise colleague of this first warning.

3 At the earliest opportunity advise the opposition captain of this warning.

4 Report the warning on the Umpires’ Match Report if no further warning is given.

### B) Further Warning (Final Warning and Report)

1 Warn the player as to his conduct and advise the player and his captain that a report will be submitted to the League Secretary and the Chair of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee for automatic disciplinary action.

2 At the earliest opportunity advise the opposition captain that a report will be submitted.

- 3 Before leaving the ground inform a senior official of the offending club that a report will be submitted.
- 4 Request your colleague to submit a separate report unless it is jointly signed before leaving the ground.
- 5 Advise the League Secretary and the Umpires' Panel Coordinator by telephone within 24 hours that a report will be submitted.

The umpire might decide that a player's conduct is such that the Caution is also a Final Warning as in B1, B2, B3, B4 and B5 above when the player shows aggravated verbal or physical dissent or abuse.

#### C) Penalties

- 1 Any player reported to the Disciplinary Sub-Committee under section B above shall be automatically suspended for a minimum of two league matches.
- 2 Where the same player of a club is reported on more than one occasion, that club shall have five points deducted from each team on the second and each subsequent occasion the player is the subject of a report, in addition to any penalty already applied by the League.
- 3 Any individual club having three or more players reported in any one season shall have ten points deducted from each team in addition to any penalty already applied by the League.
- 4 Totting Up Procedure – Any player who receives a first warning (caution) on three occasions during the same season shall, at the discretion of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee, be suspended for two matches.

#### E.C.B. GUIDELINES FOR JUNIOR PLAYERS IN OPEN AGE GROUP CRICKET

The ECB has issued guidance covering the selection and participation of young players in open age group cricket. It is designed to help clubs to decide when to select young players in open age group cricket and how best to help their cricketing development when they play within open age groups. The ECB keeps these guidelines under review and, following feedback from clubs and leagues, has revised these guidelines. The ECB will continue to monitor the impact of these guidelines and you are invited to feedback your thoughts and comments in writing to the ECB Non-First Class Cricket Department.

- a) Making the step up from junior to open age group cricket is a significant event in any player's cricket experience. Ensure that the player's safety, personal development needs and overall cricket experience are considered.
- b) There is no definitive age at which they should be introduced to open age group cricket but determine each case on an individual basis dependent on their ability and stage of cognitive and emotional maturity to take part at this level; however, clubs, squad coaches and managers must take into account the requirements on age at point 9 of this guidance.
- c) ECB Fast Bowling Directives and Fielding Regulations should always be adhered to for junior players in open age group cricket.
- d) Provide an opportunity for players to show their talents in an appropriate way. Children who are just used as fielders will not fully experience the game.
- e) Be supportive at all times for all forms of effort even when children are not successful. Try and put them in situations where they will experience some success (however small) and ensure plenty of praise and encouragement.
- f) Try and involve them in all aspects of the game wherever possible, i.e. socializing, team talks, practice, decision making, etc., so that they feel part of the team.
- g) Children will often feel more comfortable and able to perform if they have a family member or friend also playing in the side.
- h) Remember, children's early experiences will remain with them always and will often determine whether they want to remain playing the game or give up and do something else!
- i) Players who are selected in a County U12 squad in Spring for a summer squad or in another squad deemed by ECB Performance Managers to be of a standard above "District level" for that season are eligible to play Open Age Cricket. This is providing they are at least 11 years old, and in School Year 7 on 1st September in the year preceding the season and have written parental consent to play. In allowing these players to play in Open Age Cricket it is essential that Clubs and Coaches recognise the "Duty of Care" obligations towards these young players.

This means that County Squad and Area Squad players, both boys and girls are able to play Open Age Group Cricket if they are in U12 Age group and are a minimum of 11 years old on 1st September of the year preceding the season. District and club players who are not in a County or Area squads must wait until they reach the Under 13 age group, 12 years old, Year 8 on 1st September of the preceding year prior to being able to play in any Open Age Cricket, again written parental consent is required for these players.

The duty of care should be interpreted in two ways:

- I. Not to place a young player in a position that involves an unreasonable risk to that young player, taking account of the circumstances of the match and the relative skills of the player
- II. 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 guidelines note the need for clubs and leagues to recognize the positive experience that young players should have in open age cricket and thus clubs should provide an opportunity for players to show their talents in an appropriate way. Children who are just used as fielders will not fully experience the game.

For the purpose 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.

Having completed a spell the bowler cannot bowl again, from either end, until the equivalent number of overs to the length of his\* spell have been bowled from the same end. A bowler can change ends without ending his current spell provided that he bowls the next over that he legally can from the other end. If this does not happen his 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 his 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 bowler can commence a new spell immediately.

Once a bowler covered by these Directives has bowled in a match he cannot exceed the maximum number of overs per day for his age group even if he subsequently bowls spin. He can exceed the maximum overs per spell if bowling spin, but cannot then revert to bowling fast until an equivalent number of overs to the length of his spell have been bowled from the same end.

If he bowls spin without exceeding the maximum number of overs in a spell the maximum will apply as soon as he reverts to bowling fast.

Captains, Team Managers and Umpires are asked to ensure that these Directives are followed at all times.

For guidance it is recommended that in any 7 day period a fast bowler should not bowl more than 4 days in that period and for a maximum of 2 days in a row.

Age groups are based on the age of the player at midnight on 31st August in the year preceding the current season.

\* Any reference to he/his should be interpreted to include she/her.

## ECB SAFETY GUIDANCE ON THE WEARING OF CRICKET HELMETS BY YOUNG PLAYERS

In February 2000 the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) issued safety guidance on the wearing of helmets by young players up to the age of 18. In brief, the guidance recommends that:

- helmets with a faceguard or grille should be worn when batting against a hard cricket ball in matches and in practice sessions;
- young players should regard a helmet with a faceguard as a normal item of protective equipment when batting, together with pads, gloves and, for boys, an abdominal protector (box);
- young wicket-keepers should wear a helmet with a faceguard, or a wicket-keeper face protector when standing up to the stumps.

With the assistance of schools, cricket clubs and leagues, the wearing of helmets by young players is now standard practice in cricket throughout England and Wales. Helmets are widely available and are covered by a British Standard (BS7928:1998). A face protector represents an alternative head protection system for young wicket-keepers. Face protectors are, at the time of publication of this guidance, a relatively new innovation. Wicket-keeper Face Protectors are covered by a new British Standard (BS 7928 – 2 :2009).

The original guidance allowed parents or guardians to give their written consent to allow a young player not to wear a helmet. However now parental consent not to wear a helmet should not be accepted in any form of cricket.

This guidance applies to all players up to the age of 18, both in adult cricket and in all junior cricket played with a hard cricket ball.

The guidance also applies during all practice sessions. Any individual taking responsibility for players should take all reasonable steps to ensure that this guidance is followed at all times.

The ECB asks that the guidance is communicated to the parents or guardians of all young players through clubs and schools, and that young players are not allowed to bat or stand up to the stumps when keeping wicket against a hard ball without wearing appropriate protection.

## FIELDING REGULATIONS

The ECB has regulations covering the minimum fielding distances for young players in all matches where a hard ball is used.

- No young player in the Under 15 age group or younger shall be allowed to field closer than 8 yards (7.3 metres) from the middle stump, except behind the wicket on the off side, until the batsman has played at the ball.
- For players in the Under 13 age group and below the distance is 11 yards (10 metres).
- These minimum distances apply even if the player is wearing a helmet.
- 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.



- 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 6 yards (5.5 metres) of the bat, except behind the wicket on the off side. Players should wear appropriate protective equipment whenever they are fielding in a position where they feel at risk.
- These fielding regulations are applicable to all cricket in England and Wales. Age groups are based on the age of the player at midnight on 31st August in the year preceding the current season.