

LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND CRICKET LEAGUE - CONSTITUTION & PLAYING RULES

1. NAME

The League shall be known as the "Leicestershire & Rutland Cricket League".

2. AIMS & OBJECTIVES

To provide organised competitive cricket for teams of all abilities based in Leicestershire and Rutland. In addition to this, the League aims to develop and promote the sport of cricket with emphasis on encouraging participation in a safe environment and upholding the traditional values and spirit of the game.

3. LEAGUE ADMINISTRATION

The business of the League will be conducted by the members of the Management Committee.

4. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Management Committee of the League shall consist of a Chairman, Vice Chairman, President, Secretary, Treasurer, Fixtures & Registrations Secretary, Facilities Secretary, Discipline Secretary, Commercial Secretary, Press Secretary, Tier 1 Representative, Tier 2 Representative, Tier 3 Representative, Tier 4 Representative, Tier 5 Representative, ACO Representative & LRC Ltd Representative. These Officers (with the exception of the ACO & LRC Ltd Representatives) will be elected each year at the Annual General Meeting. The Tiers referred to above are as follows:

Tier 1 Premier League

Tier 2 Divisions 1-3

Tier 3 Divisions 4-6

Tier 4 Divisions 7-8

Tier 5 Divisions 9-11

The Management Committee shall meet at any time as the business of the League shall require. Seven days notice of all meetings shall be given to all Management Committee members. Nine members of the Management Committee shall form a quorum. The Chairman shall have the casting vote. The Management Committee may appoint Sub-Committees to deal with specific matters when deemed necessary.

The Management Committee in general meeting should apply the rules in accordance with the wording of the League rules, unless exceptional circumstances apply or the matter in question is not fully covered by the rules. In those situations, the Management Committee in general meeting should be able to determine those matters in the best interest of the League and shall have the discretion and authority to do so in a full and final manner.

The Premier Division reserves the right to implement its own playing rules independently of the League.

The League Constitution and Playing Rules may be amended by the Management Committee at the AGM or an EGM. Clubs wishing to propose alterations to the Constitution or Playing Rules should have their suggestions received by the League Secretary at least fourteen days before the AGM. This will allow the Management Committee to consider any proposals and provide guidance to clubs. The Management Committee shall inform the AGM of any proposals that have been received and the rationale that has led to the guidance being provided.

5. LEAGUE MEETINGS

The Management Committee may call a meeting of the League's clubs at any time as deemed necessary. Seven days notice of all meetings shall be given to all clubs. If a club fails to have a representative attend a League meeting the club shall be fined £30.

6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

The Annual General Meeting shall be held as soon as practicable after 31st October each year. The business shall be:

- a) To receive a report of the previous season.
- b) To receive the balance sheet.
- c) To consider any proposals affecting the League, of which due and proper notice has been given to

the Secretary.

- d) To vote on any proposed changes the League constitution
- e) To elect the Management Committee.

Clubs will be able to vote on changes to the League Constitution, but not the League Playing Rules. Each club shall be allowed a maximum of one voting member at the A.G.M. Non-voting members may also attend if they so wish. Other interested parties shall have rights of attendance at the A.G.M. but shall have no voting rights. Any club in arrears at the time of the AGM shall have no voice or vote on any matter. For a proposal to be implemented it must receive the votes of over 50% of the clubs comprising the League.

An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be called by the Management Committee at any time. Clubs may also request an EGM providing they have the support of at least 25% of the current member clubs. For clubs to call an EGM a written request must be received by the League Secretary

If a club fails to have a representative attend an AGM or EGM the club shall be fined £30.

7. MEMBERSHIP

- a) The League shall consist of up to 4 teams from as many clubs as shall be decided annually by the Management Committee.
- b) Applications for membership of the League shall be made in writing to the Secretary. Applications in writing should comprise:
 - i) the club's current fixture list.
 - ii) details of ground and facilities.
 - iii) any other relevant information.

No club shall be admitted to membership unless its ground, dressing accommodation and facilities are of a satisfactory standard and have been certified by the Management Committee.

- c) Applications for membership of the League shall be put to a vote of the Management Committee after having given due consideration to the applicant's playing strength and quality of ground. No club shall be admitted to the League unless it fields at least one regular Saturday XI and its ground is situated in the area covered by Leicestershire and Rutland Cricket Ltd. Any club entering the League for the first time will play in the appropriate lowest division in the first season, unless otherwise decided by the Management Committee.

- d) Any member club whose ground, dressing accommodation and facilities are allowed to deteriorate to an unsatisfactory standard may be subject to an inspection by the Management Committee. The Management Committee shall be empowered to consider the matter and request that the club concerned carries out such remedial measures as appear necessary. In the event of no satisfactory improvement being made, the Management Committee may take whatever action is felt necessary.

- e) Any club wishing to withdraw from the League must notify the Secretary in writing by the 31st October following the end of the previous season.

- f) All clubs must submit up-to-date contact information for their Secretary, Club Welfare Officer, Team Captains, Match Day Contact and Alternative Match Day Contact, together with completed leading averages forms for publication. Any clubs that have not provided this information by 31st January will be fined £30.

8. FINANCE

- a) The annual subscription to the League shall be £60 per team plus a £50 combined affiliation to LRC Ltd & LRACG. Clubmark accredited clubs shall pay a further annual fee of £15. In the event of a club failing to pay its subscription by 31st January, a fine equal to the annual subscription shall be imposed.

- b) All monies shall be banked in the name of the "Leicestershire & Rutland Cricket League" with such financial institutions as may be engaged by the League from time to time. Two signatures shall be required to make a withdrawal and the signatories shall be any of the following Officers: - Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Secretary, Chairman or Vice Chairman.

- c) All income generated from Sponsorship activities shall be banked in the name of the "Leicestershire & Rutland Cricket League Grants Account".

9. INSURANCE

Each club shall be responsible for its own insurance and public liability insurance must be taken out to cover any claim that may arise in respect of visiting teams and umpires.

10. ARREARS

Any club in arrears at the time of the A.G.M. of the League shall have no voice or vote on any matter. The League shall hold all members of such clubs responsible for the debt and no member of that club shall be allowed to transfer to another League Club until the player can prove to the Management Committee that he/she has paid his/her personal liabilities to the club in arrears.

11. SELECTION OF LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVE SIDES

A Selection Committee shall be formed prior to each season, to be responsible for the selection of all teams playing matches as representatives of the League. This committee shall be made up of the League Assistant Secretary or other person appointed to carry out the duties of administering the representative side and its fixtures. The Captain of the League XI will be appointed by the Management Committee. Any player suspended by the League from playing for his club, may not play for the League representative side.

12. HONORARIUMS

The Management Committee may award an honorarium to an individual to compensate that person for their time, travel or material costs. These awards will be decided annually by the Management Committee and details made available to all clubs.

13. DISSOLUTION

a) Should the League be dissolved, any funds in hand will be shared equally among those clubs that are members of the League at the time of its dissolution with funds being distributed proportionately based upon the number of years membership each club has with the League. The Everards Trust fund shall not form part of this distribution. Trophies will be retained by the current holders of those trophies.

b) The Everards Trust Fund will be shared out pro rata among those clubs that were members of the former Everards Leicestershire County Cricket League at the time of dissolution. The split will be based on the number of years that the member club was a member of the ELCCCL whilst being sponsored by Everards.

14. ARRANGEMENT OF FIXTURES

a) Fixtures shall normally be arranged to take place on consecutive Saturdays as decided by the Management Committee. The season will commence for all clubs in the League from the date of the first arranged fixture in any Division of the League. The League fixtures shall normally be published by 31st December prior to the commencement of the season.

b) All fixtures shall be played on the arranged date. Rearrangements shall only be allowed in exceptional circumstances with the agreement of the Management Committee. Requests to rearrange fixtures should be submitted to the League Secretary no later than 31st March. If a club cannot fulfil a fixture, they will forfeit the game to their opponents in accordance with Rule 28(f).

c) Where a rearrangement is requested due to unavailability of the home team's ground the fixture shall be played on the original date at the opposition's ground, if it is available, and treated as a home fixture by the team that is hosting the match. In such circumstances all match reporting requirements will be carried out by the 'new' home side and they will also supply teas, however, the new away side will pay for reasonable costs in respect of pitch hire or preparation, the costs of the teas (subject to a maximum of £50) and provide all match balls.

If neither ground is available on the original date the home side shall establish whether an alternative ground which meets the rating required for their Division is available. If such a ground is available the match shall be played on the alternative ground on the original date and the home side shall be liable for any reasonable costs that the alternative venue may charge. The home side will treat the match as a normal home fixture.

If no alternative venue is available the fixture may be rearranged to an alternative date (ie. a Sunday) which will be no later than the last scheduled Saturday of the normal playing season for the Division in question. The opposition shall be offered three alternative dates and they shall inform the home side of which date is suitable within 7 days. If neither side can agree a date the Management Committee shall determine the date for the rearranged fixture.

This procedure must be completed before submitting the request to the Secretary in accordance with Rule 14(b).

d) No games shall be re-arranged having initially been cancelled.

15. PLAYER REGISTRATION AND ELIGIBILITY

a) Clubs must register all players (including junior players) with the Fixtures & Registrations Secretary each year immediately prior to the commencement of the season, having previously confirmed with players as to their availability. Players' forename, surname and date of birth are required in all cases.

b) Once the season has commenced further registrations may be made by submitting a written application (including e-mail notification) to the Fixtures & Registrations Secretary - to be received within five days following the player's first League match. These additional registrations can only be for players who have not played Saturday league cricket during the current season and can be made up to and including the final game of the season. Players who have played Saturday league cricket during the current season are covered by subparagraphs (c) and (d).

c) No player shall play for more than one club in the League in any one season except in special circumstances and where prior approval of the Management Committee has been granted. It is the responsibility of the club wishing to gain the player to obtain written financial clearance from the player's former club (see Rule 15h) and submit this with the transfer request to the Fixtures & Registrations Secretary. For Divisions which contain 12 teams all transfers must be completed by midnight of 20th August. For Divisions which contain less than 12 teams all transfers must be completed by midnight of 6th August. Any rearranged fixtures being played after these dates will also be subject to this rule.

d) If a player has played in another Saturday league in the current season (this includes players previously registered by the applicant club) the player shall not be registered with the League or play for the applicant club without the prior approval of the Management Committee. For Divisions which contain 12 teams all such registrations must be completed by midnight of 20th August. For Divisions which contain less than 12 teams all such registrations must be completed by midnight of 6th August. It is the responsibility of the club wishing to register or re-register the player to gain written financial clearance from the club in the other Saturday league and submit this with the registration request. Any infringement of this rule must be reported to the Fixtures & Registrations Secretary within 10 days of the offence for the penalties imposed in Rule 15(i) to be applied.

e) No club shall be allowed to play an England-qualified first class county player or any other player who has played in a first class match anywhere in the World since the end of our previous season without the specific permission of the Management Committee. Each club shall be allowed only one such player a season, to play in their 1st XI, and he will not play in another Saturday league during the current season. An England-qualified first class county player who has played continuous Saturday league cricket for a club for at least two full seasons immediately before becoming such a player, is exempt from the conditions of the sub paragraph

f) No club shall be allowed to play an overseas player without the specific permission of the Management Committee. Each club shall be allowed only one such player a season, to play in their 1st XI and he will not play in another Saturday league during the current season. He may exceptionally play 2nd XI matches with the specific permission of the Management Committee. An overseas player is defined by the current ECB registration criteria. However a person who has been ordinarily resident in this country for a period of twenty four consecutive months before the date of his/her registration, and has not been out of this country for longer than 35 days consecutively or 70 days in total during the previous twenty four months is exempt from this qualification.

g) No club shall play a player who is under suspension either by the League or his club. Any such player will be deemed ineligible.

h) No player in arrears with his/her subscriptions or match fees to one club in membership of the League may be registered in a later season or transfer to another member club until those arrears are met to the satisfaction of the former club. Clubs with players who are not clear on their books must notify the League Secretary by March 31st and they will not be allowed to play for any club in the following season until they have settled the debt.

i) No club shall play an ineligible player. A club playing an ineligible player in a league match shall:

- i) gain no points for the match
- ii) lose an additional 30 points
- iii) their opponents shall be awarded 30 points for the match

Any club playing an ineligible player in a Knock-Out Cup match shall:

- i) be deemed to have lost the match
- ii) their opponents shall progress to the next stage of the competition
- iii) maybe subject to further sanctions as determined by the Management Committee

j) No club shall be allowed to pay players for playing cricket from club funds. Any club offending in this way may be expelled from the League.

k) After 20th August 2014 (6th August 2014 for Divisions which comprise of less than 12 teams) a maximum of only two 1st XI players will be allowed to play in a 2nd XI League match. A 1st XI player is defined as a person who, during the current season, has played more than 50% of the games they have played (for any club in our League) in 1st XI matches. No 1st XI players will be allowed to play in their club's 3rd XI or 4th XI at any time during the season . These same principles apply to players who are considered 2nd XI or 3rd XI players and are selected to play in 3rd XI or 4th XI fixtures respectively. Any rearranged fixtures being played during this period will also be subject to this rule. In exceptional circumstances clubs may seek the permission of the Management Committee for dispensation where deemed appropriate.

16. TROPHIES

The League shall provide trophies for Divisional Winners, Divisional Runners-up, Knock-out Cup Winners and Knock-out Cup Runners-up with trophies presented annually. A shield for these teams shall also be provided for them to retain.

17. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

a) It shall be a disciplinary offence

- i) for any player in the course of or in connection with a match to misconduct himself or to act at any time in a manner calculated to prejudice the good name or interest of the League and
- ii) for any Club to fail to properly control or discipline its players of to act in a manner likely to prejudice the good name of interests of the League

the player and/or Club committing an offence shall be liable to penalties in the manner as described hereafter.

b) For the purposes of these rules, the expression "the player" shall throughout these rules be deemed to mean and include not only any player but any member or official of any Club or if appropriate any other person involved in any incident of possible misconduct occurring on the field of play or on the premises of the Club as may be appropriate in the particular circumstances.

c) Such incidents must be reported to the Discipline Secretary within 5 days of the offence by the officers of either club involved. A copy of the report shall also be sent to the League Secretary. Before any penalty is imposed, there shall be a disciplinary hearing before the Discipline Sub-Committee which will comprise of 5 members of the Management Committee including the Discipline Secretary. At least 7 days notice of the hearing and of the offence alleged shall be given to the player and/or the Club via the contact supplied for the League Handbook. The cost of the hearing will be up to a maximum of £75 and shall be borne by the defendant player and/or Club. The player and/or Club shall be entitled to attend the hearing (in the case of a Club by its Secretary or other official) to be legally or otherwise represented and to call witnesses.

d) If at the hearing the Disciplinary Sub-Committee find the offence alleged proved, it shall have the power to impose one of the following penalties.

In the case of a player,

- i) expulsion from the League
- ii) suspension for one or more matches
- iii) a fine
- iv) a reprimand

Save that a player may be for the same offence both suspended and fined.

In the case of a club,

- i) expulsion from the League
- ii) expulsion from any cup competition of the League
- iii) deduction of points in the League
- iv) a fine

Save that a Club for the same offence may be subject to both deduction of points and a fine.

- v) relegation to a lower Division

e) A player or club found by the Disciplinary Committee to have committed an offence or upon whom the Disciplinary Sub-Committee has imposed a penalty shall have the right of Appeal to the Appeals Sub-Committee. Notice of Appeal setting out the grounds must be given in writing to the Discipline Secretary within seven days of the decision of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee together with a deposit of £100. Upon giving Notice of Appeal the penalty shall not take effect pending the hearing of the Appeal.

f) The Appeal shall be by way of rehearing. The player or Club shall have the same rights of attendance and representation and to call witnesses as they have before the Disciplinary Sub-Committee.

g) The Appeals Sub-Committee may confirm, vary or reverse the decision of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee. The Appeals Sub-Committee shall also have the power where they consider the appeal to be without merit or order, that the deposit be forfeited.

h) The decision of the Appeals Sub-Committee, or if no appeal of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee shall be final and binding.

i) Notwithstanding the above, any player reported by a neutral Umpire of the League's official Umpire's Panel for using abusive language or for general bad behaviour will receive an automatic suspension of three league matches starting the following week with no right of appeal. Longer suspensions can be imposed for very serious incidents through the League's disciplinary procedures.

j) In any circumstance where a player has been reported by the Umpire for any offence and duly informed on the day, and who does not wish to challenge the situation, the Disciplinary Sub-Committee of the League will have the power to enforce the appropriate punishment subject to ECB guidelines without holding a formal hearing.

k) Copies of disciplinary reports must be sent to the Secretary and Discipline Secretary. Any umpire intending to submit a disciplinary report must inform the Captain of the team concerned before leaving the ground. Copies of umpires' reports must also be sent to the Secretary and Discipline Secretary.

Teams who re-offend may have umpires allocated to their matches at their cost (and not of their opposition).

18. PROTESTS, CLAIMS, ETC.

a) Protests or claims must be lodged with the Secretary in writing within five days of the match concerned unless the Management Committee decides that there are reasonable grounds to extend this period.

b) The Secretary will send a copy of the claim or protest to the defending club and request a written reply within seven days. A Sub-Committee of five members whose clubs are not affected by the outcome will decide the claim or protest and their decision will be reflected in the League tables immediately. Such decisions are to be approved or over ruled at the following Management Committee meeting whose decision is full and final.

19. FORMATION OF DIVISIONS

a) The League tables shall be constructed on a points basis.

b) In the event of two or more teams tying on points, the positions will be decided on the number of matches won. If two or more teams still tie, the positions will be decided by the number of points gained in matches between these teams and then by their respective runs per wicket batting averages divided by their respective runs per wicket bowling averages.

c) At the end of each season, the sides finishing in the top two places of each Division shall be promoted to the Division immediately above, (subject to ratification by the Management Committee) except in Division 4 E/W where only the 1st placed clubs will be promoted

d) At the end of each season, the sides finishing in the bottom two places of each Division shall be relegated to the Division immediately below - subject to rule 19(e).

e) No club shall be permitted to have two teams in the same Division. This includes being in different regions of the same Division.

f) If a 2nd XI has gained the right of promotion from its Division, but the 1st XI of that club is currently in the Division immediately above, then the promotion will be denied to the 2nd XI. The same principle applies to 3rd XI and 4th XI teams.

g) If a 1st XI is relegated to the Division containing the 2nd XI of the same club, then the 2nd XI will be automatically relegated to the next lower Division. The same principle applies to 3rd XI and 4th XI teams.

h) If a 1st XI is relegated to a Division in which the 2nd XI of the same club has gained the right of promotion, then the promotion will be denied and the 1st XI relegated. The same principle applies to 3rd XI and 4th XI teams.

i) If a situation occurs where insufficient teams have the automatic right to promotion to the Division above, then the promotion position will go to the next highest placed club in the same region. If that club is also ineligible for promotion the highest placed club in the opposite region will be promoted. This format goes down to 4th place in each region but not below (except in the first 4 years of the League when teams finishing as low as 6th place can be considered).

j) If no side has the right to promotion, then no team will be relegated from the higher Division.

k) No club will be permitted to field a team in the Premier Division unless it has a current ECB Clubmark accreditation. A Club whose first team is a participant in the Premier Division that subsequently loses its Clubmark status will be relegated at the end of the season irrespective of its finishing position in the League table, subject to the discretion of the Management Committee. Promotion and relegation will be restricted in accordance with Rules 19(c) and 19(d) unless three or more clubs with a team in the Premier Division lose Clubmark status or no clubs are eligible for promotion from Division One. Promotion to the Premier Division will be denied to clubs who have not achieved Clubmark status irrespective of their finishing position in the League table. In this event promotion will be offered to the next highest placed eligible club but not to a club finishing lower than fourth place in Division One.

l) Clubs are required to meet the stated ground criteria for the Division(s) in which they are placed and playing conditions must reflect the required standards. All promotions are subject to teams achieving the required

ground grading. The Management Committee reserves the right to use their discretion when necessary. Guidance regarding the requirements for each grade of ground can be found on the League website.

From time to time the Management Committee may place teams in alternative geographical regions as deemed necessary in order to ensure that the regional split remains suitable.

20. READY FOR PLAY

A team with at least 7 players (not including substitutes) ready to play at the appointed start time must commence play, otherwise the match will start as soon as at least 7 players (not including substitutes) are available, and reported as a late start under Rule 25(c). In these circumstances the offending team only will have one over deducted from their batting innings for every 3½ minutes by which the start is delayed. Teams shall be declared in writing to the Umpires before the toss.

21. UMPIRES

a) All neutral Umpires on the League's official Umpires panel will be members of the ECB Association of Cricket Officials and new entrants will have passed the Level 1 examination of that Association (or its equivalent). Whenever possible, neutral Umpires drawn from the League's official Umpires Panel shall be appointed to officiate in all matches.

b) Each Umpire shall be entitled to an expenses payment of £35.00 (or the sum determined by the League Management Committee) for each game at which he/she officiates, such expenses to be borne equally by the two clubs concerned and to be paid to the Umpires within 15 minutes after the end of the match.

c) In the event of there being only one appointed neutral Umpire present, he/she shall officiate at the bowler's end throughout and a player from the batting side, or such other person as shall be agreed by both Captains, shall carry out the duties of the square leg Umpire. The expenses due to the appointed neutral Umpire shall be £52, to be borne equally by both clubs.

d) If a match is abandoned after play has commenced, the full expenses due to the Umpire(s) present shall be paid.

e) In the event of a match being cancelled or abandoned after the Umpire(s) have arrived at the ground, half of the due expenses shall be paid to the Umpires present, to be borne equally by the two clubs.

f) In the event of neutral Umpires not being available in matches, each team shall provide a competent individual to umpire. If only one team provides an Umpire, he/she shall stand throughout the match (if available) and may, with the agreement of both Captains, stand at the bowler's end throughout. If Captains disagree then the player provided by the batting side shall be entitled to officiate at the bowler's end for alternate overs. On such occasions when neither side provides an Umpire, players from the batting side shall carry out the full duties of Umpires.

g) The Umpires Appointments Secretary shall be responsible for arranging all umpiring duties and for giving member clubs adequate notice of umpiring appointments.

h) For all matches where a panel Umpire has been appointed, clubs must submit Umpire marks no later than 7 days after the match has been played, otherwise a fine of £10.00 will be levied. These Umpire marks shall be input online onto the League website www.landrcrcl.net.

i) All Umpires must be 16 years of age or older. This applies even if the person stands at the striker's end for every over.

22. SCORERS

Each team in Division 1 shall provide a competent scorer for all league matches. Any default will be reported by the Umpires to the opposing Captain and result in a deduction of 3 points. Each team in all other divisions shall provide a competent scorer wherever possible. If a team cannot provide a competent scorer, their Captain will provide a team list to the opposition scorer before play commences, and assist as much as possible with a batting order and notification of bowling changes.

b) Scorers shall compare records at the end of each innings to ensure accuracy.

c) Any discrepancy discovered after stumps have been drawn and materially affecting the result shall be reported to the Committee through the Tier Representative.

23. MATCH BALL

Each innings shall commence with a new ball as specified and supplied by the League and sufficient spare balls shall be available to replace lost balls. The home side will provide all new and spare balls. The new balls and spare balls shall be available for the opposition Captain's inspection and approval, and shall be in the hands of the Umpires before the Captains toss. The side bowling first will have the choice of either new ball. In the event of the home side only being able to provide one new ball, the away side will have the choice of whether to bowl with the new ball or insist that the home team bowl with the new ball. Such incidences must be reported to the Tier Representative.

24. RULES GOVERNING PLAY

M.C.C Laws shall be adhered to, except where they are modified by these rules.

25. HOURS OF PLAY

a) All matches, weather permitting, will begin at:

1:30pm – From the start of the season up to and including 16th August,

1:00pm – For the last two games in August,

12:30pm – For matches in September

b) The toss shall be made by the Captains, or their representatives, not later than 15 minutes before the official starting time. A team shall lose the right to toss if the Captain, or his representative, together with six other players are not available by the designated time. The Umpires shall be notified accordingly and the offending side shall be deemed to have lost the toss.

c) Teams responsible for failure to achieve a prompt start shall be reported to the Secretary by the Umpires and/or opposing Captain, and shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £30.00, after consideration by the Management Committee.

d) In a game not affected by inclement weather the tea interval shall be of 20 minutes duration and shall be taken between innings, except when an innings closes in 35 overs or less. In these circumstances, an interval of 10 minutes shall be taken between innings and a 20 minute tea interval shall be taken after 45 overs. In a game affected by inclement weather, the tea interval may be taken at any time to maximise potential playing time (subject to agreement between Umpires and both Captains).

e) Teams are required to bowl their 45 overs in 2 hours 50 minutes or less. If this limit is exceeded in any innings (except rain affected innings) one point shall be deducted from the bowling side for each over commenced after the 2 hours 50 minutes has elapsed. If an innings exceeds 45 overs, the time allowed shall be extended by 3½ minutes for every additional over. The Umpires shall make allowances for all delays including injury, illness, lost balls and drinks breaks. Any innings exceeding the time limit (except for rain affected innings) shall be reported by the Umpires to the offending Captain, stating the number of overs late, at the end of the innings. The matter shall then be reported within 3 days to the Umpires Appointments Secretary by the Umpires stating the starting and finishing time of each innings and how many overs were late.

26. DURATION OF PLAY

a) Each game shall be of 90 six-ball overs.

b) The first batting side shall not bat for more than 45 overs.

c) If the first batting side is dismissed or declares in less than 45 overs the second innings will consist of the remaining number of complete overs unless a win is achieved first.

d) A game shall not start unless both teams are able to receive a minimum of 20 overs each and in such circumstances the game will be abandoned without play.

e) In matches where the start is delayed or play is interrupted (typically due to adverse weather conditions), the object shall always be to re-arrange the number of overs so that both teams have the opportunity of batting for the same number of overs. For every 7 minutes lost through delay, either at the beginning of the match or during the first innings, 1 over shall be deducted from the 45 overs available for each team's innings. For every 3 ½ minutes lost during the second innings, one over shall be deducted from the total allocated to the team batting second. Each delay will be treated separately and breaks will not be accumulated.

f) Latest start times are:

1:30pm scheduled start time – 4:30pm latest start time

1:00pm scheduled start time – 4:00pm latest start time

12:30pm scheduled start time – 3:30pm latest start time

27. ALLOCATION OF POINTS

a) Win batting first = 30 points. Win batting second = 25 points

b) The following Differential Draw points will be awarded:

<u>Difference between the scores</u>	<u>Team batting first</u>	<u>Team batting second</u>
Scores level or tied game	7 points	7 points
1 to 10 runs	7 points	6 points
11 – 20 runs	8 points	5 points
21 – 30 runs	9 points	4 points
31 – 40 runs	10 points	3 points
41 – 50 runs	11 points	2 points
51 + runs	12 points	1 point

c) Bonus points for runs scored and wickets taken shall be retained by sides drawing or losing

Runs scored in the innings

100+ runs	1 point
125+ runs	2 points
150+ runs	3 points
175+ runs	4 points
200+ runs	5 points

Wickets taken in the innings of at least

2 wickets	1 point
4 wickets	2 points
6 wickets	3 points
8 wickets	4 points
10 wickets (or all out)	5 points

d) For abandoned or cancelled games both sides shall receive 5 points each PLUS any batting and bowling bonus points achieved during play.

e) In a match where the second innings has to be terminated or shortened because of additional rain, or rain that has only affected the second innings, the game shall count as a draw providing the second side batting has completed at least 20 overs and a win is not otherwise achieved by either side. Differential Draw points shall then be decided by reference to both sides' scores at the end of the 20th over of their respective innings. The captains shall verify the scores with the Umpires and scorers at the end of the 20th over in each innings. The differential draw points shall be as follows:

<u>Difference between the scores after 20 overs each</u>	<u>Higher scoring team</u>	<u>Lower scoring team</u>
1 to 10 runs	7 points	6 points
11 – 20 runs	8 points	5 points
21 – 30 runs	9 points	4 points
31 – 40 runs	10 points	3 points
41 – 50 runs	11 points	2 points
51 + runs	12 points	1 point

If the scores are level each team shall be awarded 7 differential draw points each.

f) No changes to results and points will be accepted after a period of 7 days of issue of the results and tables by the results co-ordinating team by the agreed process (currently e-mail), unless sanctioned by the Management Committee. For clarification, the rule refers to the updates to results and points. There will be no change to "agreed" points.

28. FITNESS FOR PLAY, CANCELLATIONS, ETC.

a) Matches will only be cancelled before the appointed start time in the most extreme weather conditions and then only with the consent of a representative of both clubs. During the initial discussion, the home club representative will ask the visitors representative whether or not they wish to travel (messages left on recording machines are not acceptable and discussion must take place). The home club will not take any steps to cancel the match until they are absolutely certain that the visitors agree to the cancellation and do not wish to travel. The away team have the right to travel before a decision is made. In the event of a protest or claim, the defendant club will be required to name the protesting team's representative that agreed to the cancellation and failure to do so will mean the claim is automatically upheld. In the event of a protest by the away team being upheld, they will be awarded the (rounded up) average number of points gained by all of the clubs in their Division (other than the offending team) on that particular day.

b) When a match is called off, the home team will be responsible for informing the appointed Umpires or Umpires Appointments Secretary if the appointed Umpires cannot be contacted.

c) The whole pitch will, if possible, be covered in the event of rain causing a stoppage of play.

d) Where a team cancels a fixture for reasons other than bad weather or a ground being unfit for play, a written explanation for the cancellation shall be sent to the League Secretary. Any team cancelling more than two fixtures in a season for reasons other than bad weather, the ground being unfit for play or an unexpected event or emergency may be subject to further sanctions as determined by the Management Committee.

e) Any club that cannot fulfil a fixture must forfeit their lowest ranking game. If a club has a team that is not able to field 11 players it is expected that their lowest ranking sides will not have more players than their higher ranking sides.

f) Any team which defaults on a fixture other than when a match has been mutually cancelled by both teams for bad weather (in accordance with rule 28a), shall forfeit the match and have 15 points deducted with 30 points being awarded to their scheduled opponents subject to verification by the Management Committee. If the defaulting team is the away side and they default on the day of the match they may also be liable to compensate the home side for the costs of preparing teas (subject to a maximum of £50).

29. BOUNDARIES

The boundaries will be marked by a line or rope (not fence). Flags or markers on their own are not sufficient. If a ball hits an overhanging branch of a tree (whose base is outside the playing area) directly, the Umpire will award six runs, regardless of the fact the ball may not have crossed the boundary whilst in the air. Any tree with its base inside the playing area, or any other obstacle within the playing area, will be disregarded and play continues normally. Local club rules do not apply in the League or League Cup matches.

30. BOWLERS ABSENT AT START OF MATCH

Cricket Law 2 will apply except that a fielder who is absent at the start of a match or at any later time, or leaves the field during a session of play for acceptable reasons other than illness and injury, may be permitted to bowl as soon as he enters the field of play.

31. BOWLING RESTRICTIONS

a) No bowler shall deliver the ball underarm.

b) Any delivery, regardless of its pace, which passes or would have passed on the full above waist height on the striker standing upright at the crease shall be called and signalled as a No Ball by the Umpire at the bowler's end, whether or not it is likely to inflict physical injury on the striker.

c) No bowler shall bowl more than 25% (rounded up) of the total overs. Therefore a maximum of 12 overs per bowler is allowed for a standard 45 over innings and a maximum of 10 overs per bowler is allowed if an innings is reduced to 39 overs due to, say, weather interruptions. If an innings is interrupted by, say the weather and upon the restart a bowler is then found to have already exceeded his/her allocation, he/she shall be permitted to complete any over that was in progress at the break in play.

In the event of the second innings being affected by weather interruptions and thus fewer overs being bowled than in the first innings, the maximum number of overs per bowler in the second innings shall be the same as the maximum number of overs allowed per bowler in the first innings. Where the team batting first declares or is bowled out before their full allocation of overs has been completed this may lead to the second innings exceeding 45 overs. In these circumstances the 25% allocation will be based upon the total number of overs due to be bowled in the second innings, however, no bowler shall exceed the standard limit (ie. 12 overs for an uninterrupted 45 over game or 10 overs for a 39 over game) until the standard number of overs have been bowled (nb. in rain affected games the standard number of overs may be less than 45 if time has been lost in the first innings).

32. TEAS

Teas will be provided by the home team and shall be free to the visiting team for League (not Cup) games.

33. RESULTS

a) Results are to be input onto the League website by 11am of the day following the match. Cancelled and abandoned games must also be entered in the same way. The Captain of the home side shall be responsible for ensuring that the result of the game is input.

b) Any club failing to submit results by the scheduled time shall be fined £30 and deducted 5 points each time they fail to meet the League requirements. The Management Committee may use their discretion where delays are due to exceptional circumstances.

34. MATCH REPORTS

a) Each away team must complete and submit a Pitch & Facilities marking form (on the League website) each time the team completes a fixture (that has not been deemed abandoned). Any team which has not submitted this information within 7 days of the fixture will be fined £10.00.

b) Each team must complete and submit a Fair Play marking form (on the League website) for each completed fixture (that has not been deemed abandoned). Any team which has not submitted this information within 7 days of the fixture will be fined £10.00.

c) Any club which considers that their opponent's ground, dressing accommodation and appointments have deteriorated below an acceptable standard are able to report the matter under Rule 32(a) so that action can be taken in accordance with Rule 7(d) where deemed necessary.

35. ARTIFICIAL PITCHES

No League matches shall be played on artificial pitches

36. ECB DIRECTIVES

Where there is evidence that the ECB Bowling Directives in Adult Cricket have been contravened this shall be reported to the League Secretary. The Management Committee shall consider what action is to be taken where it is deemed necessary.