

Rules of the Worcestershire County League (Est. 1999)

1. Name

The name of the League shall be the Worcestershire County League (the League). The Management Committee may add the name of a sponsor if appropriate.

2. Aims and Objectives

- (a) To provide competitive, recreational, structured cricket for its member clubs.
- (b) To provide a cricket pathway to develop local cricketers.
- (c) To provide an opportunity for clubs to reach the highest level of Club cricket.
- (d) To provide support and encouragement for the training of players, coaches and officials.
- (e) To encourage clubs to maintain and improve their facilities.
- (f) To encourage high standards of discipline and behaviour within the "Spirit of Cricket".

3. Membership

(a) Any cricket club wishing to join the WCL must apply in writing by 30th September in the season preceding the one in which they wish to join and include a statement based on the club's ability to fulfil all the appropriate criteria under the League's current Club Accreditation form as displayed on the league website. Following this the Management Committee may invite the club to be admitted to membership.

(b) A club shall cease to be a member of the League if:

- (i) It shall terminate its membership by notice in writing signed by its Chairman or Secretary to the Administrator to be received no later than the 30th September preceding the season end at which the club wishes to resign, or
- (ii) It shall be expelled from membership by the Management Committee for gross misconduct. Any club resigning not in accordance with the foregoing may be subject to an admin fee as determined by the committee.

(c) It is a condition of membership of the League that clubs shall be members of the England and Wales Cricket Board by virtue of their being members of their County Cricket Board.

(d) Before the start of each season, the Chairman and Secretary or Delegate of each member club are required to sign a declaration, agreeing, on behalf of the Club, to all approved principles and behaviours determined by the League. Clubs failing to submit the declaration before the start of the season, will not be credited with any points until a signed copy is received by the Administrator.

4. Management Committee

(a) The League shall be administered by a Management Committee as provided by this Rule.

(b) The Management Committee shall comprise of 12 members elected by the clubs, the Treasurer and the Administrator of the League. One third of the 12 elected representatives shall retire each year, in rotation, and shall be eligible for re-election should they so wish.

(c) Nomination of Management Committee members shall be made by notice in writing to the Administrator signed by the Chairman or Secretary of the nominating Club at least 35 days prior to the Annual General Meeting. The Committee member so nominated and elected in accordance with sub-clause (d) hereof shall remain in office for a period of 3 years unless he shall resign by notice in writing to the Administrator.

(d) The Management Committee members shall be elected by a majority vote of those clubs present at the Annual General Meeting.

(e) The Management Committee shall elect an Honorary Treasurer, who shall serve for a period of 3 years and be eligible for re-election should they so wish. The election should take place at a Management Committee Meeting to be held at least 40 days before the Annual General Meeting. The Honorary Treasurer may attend all Management Board meetings and be entitled to vote.

(f) At the first Management Committee meeting following the Annual General Meeting, the Management Committee shall elect, from among its number, the following officers:-

(i) A Chairman, who will have a second or casting vote, if required.

(ii) Minuting Secretary, Disciplinary Panel Chairman, Cricket Sub-Committee Chairman, Marketing & Development Sub-Committee Chairman and Facilities Sub-Committee Chairman, Umpires Sub-Committee Chairman, Disciplinary Sub-Committee Secretary and Umpires Sub-Committee Secretary.

(iii) Other officers and Sub-Committee Chairmen as deemed appropriate.

(g) At every meeting of the Management Committee and Sub-Committees the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

(h) A League Welfare Officer should be appointed by the Management Committee. This officer may be an elected member of the Management Committee. If this is not the case the League Welfare Officer may be invited to attend Management Committee or Sub-committee meetings as appropriate.

(i) At a meeting of the Management Committee a quorum shall be five. At a meeting of a Sub Committee a quorum shall be three.

(j) The Management Committee may propose the appointment of a President for the forthcoming year. The Management Committee may also propose the appointment of Vice-Presidents. These proposals must be approved by a majority vote at a general meeting.

(k) The Management Committee shall have the power to co-opt additional membership as necessary to conduct the league's affairs. Any formally co-opted member shall be entitled to a vote.

(l) The Administrator is appointed by the Management Committee and is an ex-officio member of all Committees and Sub-Committees.

(m) The Management Committee shall have the following powers and responsibilities:

(i) To manage the League in accordance with these rules and playing conditions and in particular to determine: Fixture Lists Player registration Appointment of a Treasurer Appointment and remuneration of an Administrator Standards of grounds and facilities Conditions of play Umpiring policy Discipline standards and regulation Any other policies which may become necessary

(ii) To comply with all current ECB policies and directives (See Rule 8)

(iii) To create and delegate powers to sub-committees as required.

5. General Meetings

(a) Notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be given in writing to all member clubs by the Administrator at least 56 days prior to the date of the meeting. Proposed alterations to these Rules must be submitted in writing to the Administrator at least 35 days prior to the Annual General Meeting. The Administrator shall give due notice of all such amendments to all member clubs at least 28 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

(b) The Annual General Meeting shall be held in November each year at a time and place to be fixed by the Management Committee for the following purposes:

(i) To receive from the Management Committee a general report of the preceding year's activities.

- (ii) To receive from the Management Committee financial statements for the year to the preceding 30th September which are to include an Accountant's report.
- (iii) To fix the membership subscription for the ensuing year.
- (iv) To elect the Management Committee members for the ensuing year in accordance with Rule 4.

(c) A Special General Meeting may also be called upon the requisition of any ten member clubs, in writing to the Administrator, stating the purposes for which the meeting is required. A Special General meeting may also be called by a majority of the Management Committee. In either case the meeting shall take place within 28 days of the requisition and member clubs shall receive at least 14 days' notice of such a meeting and the proposed agenda.

(d) At every General Meeting each member Club and the Umpires Panel shall be entitled to be represented by two persons. All persons so present shall be entitled to speak at a General Meeting but on any resolution each member Club and the Umpires Panel represented shall only have one vote.

(e) At every General Meeting the Chairman of the Management Committee shall take the Chair, but if he shall not be present, a Chairman of the Meeting shall be appointed from amongst the members of the Management Committee in attendance.

(f) In the case of an equality of votes, the Chairman of a General Meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

(g) At every General Meeting the quorum shall be 15 Clubs represented.

(h) For the purpose of these Rules an Extraordinary Resolution shall be a Resolution passed at a General Meeting by a two-thirds majority of the member Clubs represented and voting.

(i) Any Club which does not send a representative to attend the Annual General Meeting, any divisional meetings called that involve team(s) from their club, Resources Meeting, Captains' Meetings, or any other official meeting called by the Management Committee will automatically incur a fine or sanction for each meeting not attended in that year. This will be increased for each subsequent meeting not attended in that year. The amount of the fine or nature of the sanction will be determined by the Management Committee and published annually. Apologies will not be accepted.

6. Subscriptions

(a) The annual subscription of each member Club for the ensuing year shall be decided at each Annual General Meeting with power for the Management Committee to levy a supplementary subscription as necessary. The annual subscription plus payment for cricket balls, dinner tickets and fines, MUST be paid to the Treasurer no later than the annual pre-season Resources meeting in April.

(b) Subscriptions paid by the end of December following the AGM of that year will be eligible for a discretionary discount but only if there are no outstanding dues. Should any of these sums remain unpaid after the Resources meeting, the Committee reserves the right to allocate no match points to any teams of the offending club until the sums are paid in full. An invoice is to be raised for each club and records of non-payment advised in the minutes of Management Committee meetings.

7. Cricket Board Affiliation

All clubs must be affiliated to Worcestershire Cricket Board in order to participate in the Worcestershire County League. If the club is geographically situated outside the county of Worcestershire, the club must be primarily affiliated to the County in which the ground is situated and must hold a secondary affiliation to Worcestershire Cricket Board.

8. ECB Conditions

ECB requires clubs to play cricket in accordance with the ECB Code of conduct (available on the League website) and within the Spirit and Laws of Cricket. Clubs must adhere to the ECB Fast Bowling and Fielding directives for young cricketers. Clubs are expected to promote and ensure a duty of care to all who are involved in its activities by adopting and implementing the ECB “Safe Hands” Policy for Safeguarding Children in Cricket and any future versions of the Policy. Clubs are expected to support and promote the ECB Cricket Equity Policy and ECB antiracism initiatives. The League is committed to Drug Free Cricket and adopts the ECB Anti-Doping Policy and Rules for all its activities. (All ECB policies can be viewed at www.ecb.co.uk)

9. Trophies

Any cups, shields or other trophies awarded to clubs must be carefully looked after and returned when requested by the Administrator. Clubs are responsible for insuring the league's trophies and will be charged with the costs of replacing any trophies that are lost.

10. Alteration of Rules

These Rules shall only be amended by an Extraordinary Resolution passed at a General Meeting.

11. Dissolution

If upon winding-up or dissolution of the League there remains, after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, any property or money, this shall not be distributed among member clubs but shall be transferred to the Worcestershire Cricket Board (or any successor organisation) as the Governing Body for recreational Cricket in Worcestershire.