

READERS GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET LEAGUE HANDBOOK 2011

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THE SPIRIT OF CRICKET

I. CONSTITUTION

1. League Objectives

The objectives of the League are to further the cause of cricket at all levels and to encourage the improvement in standards in the club game. It provides a level of league cricket in the pyramid between the District Leagues and the West of England Premier League (WEPL).

The League will be known as the Gloucestershire County Cricket League with the name of the sponsor prefixed. The League will affiliate to the Gloucestershire Cricket Board (GCB) and through that body to the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB).

2. Management Committee & its powers

The League will be administered by a Management Committee (the Committee), which will comprise the Officers defined below. As far as possible no playing club should be represented on the Committee more than once.

Chairman	nominated and approved by the GCCL Clubs
Vice Chairman	nominated and approved by the GCCL Clubs
Secretary	nominated and approved by the GCCL Clubs
Treasurer	nominated and approved by the GCCL Clubs
Divisional Reps (see below)	nominated and approved by the GCCL Clubs
Results Officer	nominated and approved by the GCCL Clubs
Reports Officer	nominated and approved by the GCCL Clubs
Web Administrator / Fixtures Sec	nominated and approved by the GCCL Clubs
Representative to the GCB	nominated and approved by the GCCL Clubs
Umpires Representative	nominated by GACUS

To ensure coverage for all clubs there will be a Divisional Representative for each division in which there is at least one first XI

The Committee will meet on a regular basis and will be responsible for day-to-day affairs, including financial matters. Cheque signatories will be two from Chairman, Treasurer or Secretary. The Committee will have power to appoint sub-committees as required.

The Officers will be elected to the Committee annually at the AGM. The Gloucestershire Association of Umpires and Scorers (GACUS) will appoint the Umpires Representative. In the event of a Committee Office becoming vacant between AGMs, the Committee shall have authority to fill the vacancy. All Officers shall be entitled to apply for re-election.

The Committee and its sub-committees and officers are required to manage the League according to this constitution and rules.

If asked to do so, member clubs must respond to correspondence from the committee. Failure to reply to League correspondence within 14 days will result in a fine of £10 for each transgression. The League will state at times that the reply must be written or e-mailed etc.

The Committee's interpretation of these rules will be final. The Committee is empowered to deal with any matter directly or indirectly affecting the League and covered by these rules.

3. Meetings

There shall be two meetings of clubs each year, which shall be known as the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the Spring General Meeting (SGM). At the AGM and SGM only member clubs may vote. Each member club will have one vote and be entitled to vote on any proposition stipulated in the agenda. Decision will be by a majority where a quorum is present. A quorum will consist of 30 member clubs. Where playing rules apply to a single division, the playing rules shall be altered by a majority vote of the clubs that will be playing

in that division.

Failure of a member club to send a representative to either the AGM or SGM will result in a fine (£25) for each occasion.

The Annual General Meeting will be held in October. Notice of the AGM shall be submitted to each club 21 days before the meeting date. This notice shall stipulate the venue, time, date and the agenda for the meeting. The agenda shall include: -

- Reports from the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer
- Election of Officers
- Admissions to the League
- Payment of the annual affiliation fee
- Setting of affiliation fees and fines for the new season

No other business shall be transacted at the AGM, excepting as may be stipulated in the agenda. Written proposals for items to be included in the agenda must be received by the Secretary 28 days before the AGM.

The Spring General Meeting will be held in the first week of April for the purpose of:

- Receiving progress reports from the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer
- Distribution of the specified match balls, League Handbooks and other items for the season

The Committee may call an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) when appropriate to do so in the interests of the League and its constituent members. An EGM may also be called, by written request to the Secretary, of one third of the member clubs. The Secretary is then required to call an EGM of the member clubs within 42 days from receipt of the request, stating the business to be conducted. The quorum, voting rights and attendance at meetings will be as for the AGM.

4. Member Clubs. Affiliation Fee

The list of member clubs and their teams will be subject to a recommendation by the management committee for approval by member clubs at the League AGM.

All member clubs are bound to meet the facilities criteria of Section 6 below as part of their continued membership of the League.

All member clubs must be affiliated to the ECB, the GCB and one of the district associations with all affiliation fees to those bodies paid by the end of April each year. All clubs must have a constitution that includes the words "membership shall be open to all irrespective of age, disability, race, ethnic origin, creed, colour, social status and sexual orientation". All clubs must have a current child welfare officer, registered with the GCB. All clubs must have Public Liability Insurance. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in the club being expelled from the league.

The affiliation fee for 2011 is £20. Clubs will also pay for balls at cost.

5. Entry into the League

Clubs relegated from the West of England Premier League (WEPL) will be accepted into the League if they apply.

The County League will accept from each District League at most one of the winner (first choice) or runner-up provided they apply and meet facilities criteria.

Clubs will be encouraged to have a first and second XI in the competition. If the League is not deemed by the committee to be "full", additional teams belonging to clubs already in the League will be accepted on application provided those teams play on grounds that meet the facilities criteria.

6. League Facilities Criteria

a) The ground and playing facilities must be under the control of the club's executive committee, which ensures that improvements, pitch preparation and fixture arrangements can be undertaken without hindrance.

b) The home club must be fully responsible for the preparation of the pitch. The pitch must be flat and correctly repaired where required. There is to be no watering of the pitch after midday on Thursday. The whole pitch must receive the same treatment. Water should be available at the square. Clubs must provide adequate cutting equipment, light and heavy rollers, rake and brush.

The first cut and roll must be at least a week in advance, on a pitch that will not be used during the week Mon-Fri before the game. The final cut and roll must be on the day of the game, or the day before. If a club normally does this on the day before the game, and the weather rules that out, then it must be ready to prepare the pitch on the day of the game instead. This implies there must be resources - manpower and equipment - available, if needed, on the day of the game.

c) The outfield must be in good condition without potholes, bare patches or stones. The outfield must be rolled as part of pre-season preparation, particularly where winter sports are played. Cutting equipment must be available to maintain the grass at a short length. The boundary must be clearly marked with a rope or white line and boundary markers.

d) The pavilion or clubhouse must be situated adjacent to the playing area, and should be kept in a clean and well-maintained state. Separate changing rooms should be provided, supplying hot and cold water with a minimum of two showers for the visiting team. Where showers are communal with four or less showerheads,

the visiting team must be given first use. Where possible, clubs should make provision for the attending umpires. Clubs must provide

indoor tea facilities to accommodate the teams, umpires and scorers. The accommodation must offer both teams shelter in inclement weather.

e) A scoreboard, visible from the square, must be provided, showing as a minimum, the total score, number of wickets, number of overs and the opposition score. It is recommended that clubs provide a scorer, who is not a playing member of the team.

f) There must be adequate seating for players, officials and spectators. Where the boundary edge is more than 25 yards from the pavilion, or there is some other reason that makes it impractical for the scorers and waiting batsmen to remain at the pavilion, then there must be at least 10 seats, a scorer's table and a large fixed umbrella or other shelter (for protection against light rain while the game is still in play) beside the boundary.

There must be adequate ladies and gents toilet facilities for players, officials and spectators. Car parking must be available adjacent to the ground for players, officials and spectators.

g) In the interests of health and safety, Clubs must ensure the playing areas are clear of animal fouling and that fences and hedges are secure, and that access gates and stiles are well maintained. A first aid kit must be available.

Clubs wishing to join the League or move to a different ground must have their facilities in place and available for inspection by September 10th in the year previous to that for which entry is desired.

Failure to comply with the League Facilities Criteria, without prior agreement by the Management Committee, may result in corrective action

The development of the Gloucestershire County Cricket League and a club's suitability for higher grade cricket will be dependent on meeting the minimum criteria set out above. However, the Committee will also take into consideration the general surroundings of the ground, its location to traffic or other disturbing air-borne noise and other concurrent sporting activities. Facilities are liable to inspection by the Committee or an appointed sub-committee at any time.

6x. Additional Criteria for Division 1 Teams

For teams in division 1, there must be sight screens at each end of the ground (*recommended min. dimensions 12ft square*). The screens must be large enough, or easy to move during the game, to cover all bowling angles. Clubs wishing to be promoted to division 1 must have sight screens in place or show the committee how these will be in place for their first game in division 1.

Teams playing in the first division must have a second XI playing in the League except at the committee's discretion.

7. Ground, pitch and facilities marking

The visiting captain will mark the state and playing condition of the pitch and ground as well as awarding marks for the adequacy and condition of the accommodation and facilities. GACUS appointed umpires will also mark the pitch and outfield. Where marks are low, a comment should be added to explain why. The committee will review markings and may request corrective action.

8. Player Registration

Player names must be entered in to each their own club's "play-cricket" website database of players. They must be registered to play County League cricket, using the means specified on the league web site, no later than 23rd April each year. Players who play in *Saturday leagues* for other clubs are not eligible to be registered to play in the County League.

Only players who are registered are eligible to play in League games. However an unregistered player may play provided he / she is registered by 6 p.m. the following Wednesday. This registration is done by adding the name to the club's "play-cricket" database, and registering the player using the registration method specified on the league's web site.

If a club fails to register a player by the deadline, or plays someone ineligible, it will forfeit the game as a loss with 0 points, and will incur a £25 fine. The opposition will win with the maximum number of points awarded in that division on that day. There will be no right of appeal against this decision.

The Disciplinary Committee may decide other penalties, particularly on subsequent offences.

A player who has played *Saturday league* cricket for another club anywhere in the UK may only play for a GCCL team in the same season by a transfer. This is achieved by means of a letter of clearance from the exporting club indicating that all dues have been paid and that the player is released. This letter is to be sent to the League Secretary before the player's first game in this League, i.e. there is no one week's grace as there is for registration. Transfer of players between clubs will cease after 31 July for the current playing season.

Students returning into the League area from outside for the holidays, or living and playing outside in the holidays, but studying in the area in term-time do not need letters of transfer to play in this League.

Overseas players, using the ECB definition, are limited to one per team.

If, at the end of a season, a player owes a club any money then the name of that player may be sent to the League before the end of October of the year in question. The Disciplinary Committee will then suspend the player from playing cricket for any County League club until either the debt is cleared or an acceptable explanation is received from the player. Clubs will need to provide evidence that they have taken reasonable steps to both recover the debt and prevent its escalation.

9. Divisions, Promotion and Relegation

The League shall consist of a number (at least 6) of divisions, and each division will have ten teams, except in the lowest divisions where ten is preferred but may not be possible.

Promotion and relegation shall be as decided by the management committee as required to maintain divisions of ten clubs, or as near as possible. At least two teams in each division (other than the 1st division) will be promoted. Clubs relegated from WEPL will have their 1st team placed in division 1 and their 2nd team in division 6.

Clubs joining the League as winners or runners-up of a District League will be placed in Division 5.

New second teams will be placed in the lowest division. Second XI's will be admitted in the order of their first XI positions in the League until the League is full. If the League is already full, at most one second XI will be admitted.

Sufficient teams will be relegated, from each division, to accommodate the promotions and new teams described above. At any stage clubs or teams may opt to return to the District Leagues. The League may also at any stage declare a maximum number of teams it wishes to accommodate, and provided this is declared by the first game of the season, the League will relegate at the end of the season to the District Leagues from its lowest division in order to make room for clubs and teams entering by the rules above.

A club's second XI must be in a lower division than its first XI, and promotion will be denied to the second XI or relegation enforced on the second XI to ensure this.

10. Fixtures

Fixtures must be played on the date specified unless an alternative date is agreed by both clubs in writing and approved by the management committee. Approval will normally only be given for *force majeure* (e.g. prior call on ground by parish council etc.) All proposals to re-arrange matches must be received by the Web administrator / Fixture Secretary by 28 February before the season. All approved re-arrangements must fall within the playing season (prior to the last Saturday). In exceptional circumstances the League management committee shall have the power to resolve a contested re-arrangement. Their decision shall be final and binding on both clubs.

11. Disputes and Misconduct. Disciplinary Committee

(a) The Committee shall appoint a Disciplinary Committee and its chairman to carry out and manage the disciplinary process.

Disciplinary Process

(b) The Disciplinary process starts when there is an incident of misconduct or a breach of league rules occurs. If the incident or breach is to be dealt with by the league's process, (see later for a different "on the spot" process) the league must receive formal notification. Complaints arising from incidents associated with a match must normally be notified to the league by 6 p.m. on the Wednesday after the game (except for extremely serious incidents such as actual violence or child abuse where there is no time limit). To be official, notification of a dispute or complaint must come from either:

- (i) a club chairman or secretary, writing on behalf of the club, or
- (ii) a GACUS appointed umpire, or
- (iii) any umpire reporting an incident when required to do so by the Laws of Cricket, or
- (iv) a team captain, or any umpire standing at the time of an incident, in a report supported by the club chairman or secretary, of an incident of abuse, dissent or absence of the Spirit of the Game, or
- (v) a League Committee member reporting that a breach of league rules has occurred.

Unless agreed otherwise with the chairman of the Disciplinary Committee, reports about incidents in a match must use a standard form supplied by the league (on the web site). If the Disciplinary Committee considers the report received is inadequate it will revert to the originator before taking further action.

(c) On receipt of a complaint, the Disciplinary Committee shall resolve either to

- (i) take no action, or
- (ii) note the content and issue a warning, or
- (iii) to endorse any action already taken by the club(s) involved, or
- (iv) to ask the offending club to take action, or
- (v) to call for a Disciplinary Hearing, or
- (vi) to refer the matter up to the full League Committee for action

In each case the complaint shall be recorded and clubs and others involved will be notified of the action taken.

(d) The League expects clubs to take ownership of disciplinary issues. Under (c)(iv) above, the Disciplinary Committee will inform the club of the misconduct cited. The club must hold its own disciplinary meeting and report back to the Disciplinary Committee its findings and actions taken. The club meeting must take place and the league must receive the report back within 7 days of the request for action by the league. The club may seek advice and further information about an allegation, from the Disciplinary Committee and may request, for good reason, an extension to the deadline. The club must refer to the tariff of penalties and apply immediately the appropriate penalty when it concludes that an offence has occurred. In reporting back its conclusions, unless agreed otherwise the club must use the standard

incident report form supplied by the league (on the web site) to describe its understanding of the incident. It must add to that report the conclusion of the meeting (that penalties should or should not be applied) and actions taken (e.g. that sanctions have actually been applied).

- (e) On receiving the report back from the cited club, the Disciplinary Committee will either
 - (i) agree with the club's decision and action, thus closing the matter, or
 - (ii) call a Disciplinary Hearing, or
 - (iii) give an order (with reasons and full evidence) to the offending club to impose a specified penalty.

(f) The Disciplinary Committee will also consider, after or during each case, the

actions of the clubs involved during the disciplinary process. If there is evidence that a club failed to take ownership of its problems, shirked its responsibilities or tried to play the system, then the club itself will be brought before a Disciplinary Hearing. The penalties in this case are likely to be league points deducted.

“On the spot” Process

(g) When a minor incident occurs at a match, which will not be the subject of a GACUS umpire's report or any umpire's report as required by the Laws of the Game, an official of each club (e.g. the captains) can decide to resolve it there and then, on the day. They must meet with the offender(s), who must agree their behaviour was unacceptable, and apologise. A ban should be proposed if appropriate for the offence. If officials from both clubs agree that the matter has been appropriately dealt with on the day, then a record of this agreement must be sent to the league, and any proposed sanction stated. Such sanction shall take effect immediately. If the officials cannot agree that the matter has been dealt with then the incident must be escalated using the league Disciplinary Process described above.

Conduct of League Hearings and Appeals

(h) If a Disciplinary Hearing is required, notice of at least 7 days shall be given to clubs and individuals involved. The hearing will normally be before a panel of 3 appointed by the Disciplinary Committee. Clubs and individuals called to a hearing may request changes in the panel to avoid connections with a person or club involved. Clubs attending a hearing shall have a club official present, and club members under investigation shall also be invited to attend. Both sides in a dispute will be asked to present evidence and both sides will see all the evidence presented. If relevant, umpires will also be asked to give evidence. At the conclusion of a hearing the panel will come to a decision on the matter. That decision will be conveyed to the attendees at the end of the hearing, and also formally in a letter to the clubs involved.

(i) An Appeal Hearing will normally be conducted in the same manner as described above. However the panel taking an appeal shall always be different from that involved in the relevant Disciplinary Hearing, if there was one. Where an appeal is against a decision imposed without a Disciplinary Hearing, those involved in the initial decision may give evidence, but may not be part of the appeal panel.

(j) The panel in a Disciplinary Hearing and Appeal Hearing shall have the power to agree, reduce, change or increase penalties already proposed at an earlier stage in the disciplinary process.

(k) Disciplinary and Appeal panels will briefly explain their reasoning to affected parties. The decision of the Appeal Hearing, or if no appeal, of the Disciplinary Hearing, shall be final and binding.

Right of Appeal

(l) Once a Disciplinary Hearing has imposed a penalty, or once a club has been ordered by the Disciplinary Committee to impose a penalty different from the

penalty that the club proposed, a player, official or club shall have the right to appeal as long as there are grounds. Grounds for appeal must be either that it is clear or alleged that evidence was missed or new evidence has come to light, or that the due process was not followed. Notice of Appeal, setting out the grounds, shall be sent in writing to the chairman of the Disciplinary Committee within 7 days of the notification of the penalty. If Notice of Appeal is given, the penalty shall not take effect pending the hearing of the appeal. The player, official or club lodging an appeal in these circumstances must send a deposit of £50 to the league. The deposit will only be returned if a penalty is reduced or cancelled on appeal.

(m) For the fixed tariff offences, see (p), where a penalty is automatically applied, there are not normally hearings involved. If a club appeals against such a penalty it must provide a statement of the grounds for the appeal. In these cases the appeal will be considered at the next league Committee meeting who may either turn down the appeal, or uphold the appeal, or refer the matter to the Disciplinary Committee who may then decide a hearing is necessary.

(n) There is no appeal to the league against a penalty proposed by a club and imposed, whether on behalf of the league or not, on its own members.

Penalties

(o) A club disciplinary meeting held at the request of the Disciplinary Committee, or an “on the spot” meeting shall have the power to impose one or more of the following penalties:

- (i) To require a player, official, or the club, to write a letter of apology within a set time.
- (ii) To record a reprimand and give a warning as to future conduct.
- (iii) To suspend a player or official for one or more matches, or for a stated period of time.
- (iv) Impose payments for damage

Without a hearing, the league Disciplinary Committee has the power to impose the four penalties above. They may also

- (v) Impose a fine.
- (vi) Impose financial loss repayments.
- (vii) Declare a game void and / or require a re-match.

As well as all the penalties above, a Disciplinary Hearing or Appeal Hearing may also:

- (viii) Deduct league points.
- (ix) Relegate a team.
- (x) Expel a team or club from the league.

(p) Fixed tariff penalties shall normally apply for the following offences:

- (i) Cancellation of a game for improper reasons, e.g. failure to raise a team, failure to have a ground available: 22 points deducted and one "lost" game added. Fine of £25.
- (ii) If, in addition to the above, an away team cancels at short notice, and repayment is requested, the away team shall pay the standard away team tea cost to the home team.
- (iii) There are other fixed fines specified in sections 2, 3, 8 and 15 of the handbook

Playing bans

(q) Playing bans will be normally be stated in terms of "completed games" of the team playing when the offence occurred. Games cancelled or abandoned will not count. For long bans, it is likely to be more appropriate to specify dates rather than games for the ban. Names of players banned will be shown on the league's web site, and the GCB will be informed. The GCB will normally extend the ban to all cricket, and the GCB ban will last while the GCCL ban is in place.

(r) Players receiving playing bans will also receive a further ban of the same length, but which is only applied if the player offends again within a year (for 1 and 2 match bans) or two years (for longer bans), these further bans being referred to as 'suspended' bans.

(s) When a player is banned, the player's club will also be fined (Level 1 - £25, level 2 - £50, level 3 - £75, higher £100), this fine to be reduced by 50% if the ban is set by the club without the need for a League disciplinary hearing.

Acceptance of the constitution and discipline rules

(t) If it is found that a club is failing to accept this constitution and the Committee's authority on any matter, including discipline, or if its players are repeatedly found to be not playing according to the Spirit of Cricket, or if a club fails to accept its responsibility for its players and officials conduct then the Committee will recommend to the AGM or to an EGM that the offending club or team be excluded from the league.

The next section shows a list of offences and a tariff of penalties. It is there to guide both on what sort of behaviour is considered unacceptable and on the appropriate punishment when it occurs. Captains must note that the Laws of Cricket state that they are "responsible at all times for ensuring that play is conducted within the Spirit of the Game as well as within the Laws". Captains who fail to do this are guilty of an offence.

Levels 1 and 2 cover bad behaviour that continues only briefly and stops.

Level 1

Minimum penalty: 1 game ban

A minor offence that, after a warning, happens again (but then stops), e.g.

- sledging e.g. by disparaging a batsman's performance or gratuitous talk about or to the batsman
- audible, but not loud, swearing at oneself or a teammate.
- overt and excessive display of petulance at one's own team's actions
- appealing when it is plain a batsman is not out
- an irritatingly excessive amount of noise from the field in the guise of "encouragement"
- behaviour, by word or gesture or manner, that aims to provoke
- a captain fails to step in to halt a recurrence of a minor offence

Level 2

Minimum penalty: 2 game ban

Very poor behaviour (that then stops), e.g.

- Abuse or obscenities towards an opponent or spectator, or abuse or obscenities about an opponent or spectator spoken in a way others can hear.
- Loud verbal obscenities
- Threatening or intimidating behaviour towards an opponent
- A captain fails to step in to control such poor behaviour

Dissent made obvious after the heat of the moment, e.g. a batsman remaining pointedly at the wicket some while after being given out, or stopping briefly to complain or make a point while walking off; a bowler showing obvious displeasure for a short while after

an umpire's decision.

As well as covering more serious offences, the higher levels also cover level 1 and 2 behaviour that continues for a protracted period.

Level 3

Minimum penalty: 3 game ban

Abuse or obscenity directed at an umpire, or abuse or obscenities about an umpire spoken in a way that others can hear. Threatening or intimidating behaviour towards an umpire.

Repeated level 1 offences, e.g. repeated sledging, bad language.

Captain fails to stop continued level 1 offences

Level 4

Minimum penalty: 4 game ban

Protracted continuation of level 2 or level 3 behaviour. E.g. Bad language, directed at anyone, that continues long after warnings have been issued; continuing to show dissent at an umpire's decision long after the event. Continued threatening or intimidating behaviour.

Captain fails to stop repetition of level 2 or 3 behaviour.

Threats of physical violence, actual violence towards a person, abuse of a child, are examples of more serious offences that are regarded as higher than level 4 and these will be taken at a Disciplinary Hearing.

II. PLAYING RULES

12. Match regulations

(a) All League fixtures commence at 1.30 p.m. The toss must be made 15 minutes before the game is due to start, otherwise the defaulting side will concede the toss to the opposition. Both sides must complete a team sheet (the ECB card) by the time of the toss, or in the absence of a toss, by the start of play.

(b) Each match will be played in accordance with the current laws of cricket as specified by the MCC and consist of a maximum of 45, six-ball overs per innings. The option of batting first to be decided by the toss of a coin. Each bowler is limited to 12 overs maximum. In the event of a bowler being unable to complete an over for

any reason, another bowler shall complete that over. Any balls bowled by the replacement bowler shall count as part of his allowance of overs.

For Division 1 games, at the instant of delivery a minimum of 4 fielders, not counting the bowler and wicketkeeper, must be inside a fielding "circle". The square leg umpire shall call "No Ball" if this rule is infringed. The minimum of 4 applies whether the fielding side has 11 players or not. The fielding "circle" is defined by two semi-circles centred on each middle stump with a radius of 30 yards and joined by parallel lines on each side of the pitch, marked by white plastic or rubber discs, at least 6 inches diameter, at intervals of not more than 10 yards.

(c) The side batting first can declare before the end of 45 overs, but they will be considered as "all out".

(d) A new ball, supplied by the League, will be used for all games. Satisfactory substitute balls shall be made available to the umpires prior to the start of the game. Games in divisions 6 and above will use one new League ball per innings, the home side providing both.

(e) Matches can be shortened either by agreement between the captains before the game starts, or because of weather, light or ground conditions, to a minimum of 35 overs per innings. If the start of a game is delayed by weather, light or ground conditions, teams should wait for at least 1 hour after the appointed start time, unless the captains agree that the match should be abandoned. If weather, light or ground conditions, or any other reason, mean that the start has to be delayed by 15 minutes or more, or that play is suspended during the first innings for 15 minutes or more in total, then the number of overs must be reduced according to the following table, the first column showing accumulated minutes lost. If tea is taken while play is suspended, the 20 minutes allowed (or 30 minutes if the tea is between the innings), see rule k below, does not count towards time lost.

Total minutes lost	Overs per innings	Total minutes lost	Overs per innings
15-21	42	43-49	38
22-28	41	50-56	37
29-35	40	57-63	36
36-42	39	Over 63	35

Overs per innings	Max per bowler
43-45	12
39-42	11

In a reduced match, each side must have the chance of the same number of overs. This means there can be no (further) reduction of overs if play is suspended in the second innings. GACUS appointed umpires, or the captains, by agreement, can decide that, after suspension of play in the second innings, there remains little chance of completing and thus abandon the game.

35-38	10
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(f) Once a game has started, bowler limits are not changed by later reductions of overs. But if a game starts with a reduced number of overs, the maximum number of overs per bowler will be reduced as shown in the table at the right.

(g) GACUS umpires, if appointed, will be the final arbiters as to whether the conditions are fit to start, continue or resume play. In the absence of GACUS

appointed Umpires, the two captains must agree on further play following a stoppage due to weather conditions. Failure to agree must result in an abandoned game. NB If any umpire (GACUS appointed or not) considers conditions to be actually dangerous then by the laws of cricket the game must be stopped.

(h) In the event of a game being cancelled for reasons other than weather, then the penalty shown in rule 11(p)(i) will normally be applied to the defaulting club. The non-defaulting club shall normally be awarded a win with the highest league points awarded that day in that division, unless that would lower the club's average points per game.

(i) If a club with two teams in the League is only able to raise one side due to shortage of players, the first XI match shall be played in preference to the second XI match

(j) Where covers are available, full covering of the pitch is permitted. This should be under the supervision of the Umpires.

(k) The Home Team shall be responsible for providing suitable refreshments and drinks. The Away team will pay the Home team £35 for teas. Tea will normally be taken between innings when the interval shall not exceed 30 minutes; otherwise the tea interval shall not exceed 20 minutes and the interval between innings, 10 minutes. Mid innings drinks shall be taken as agreed between the umpires and captains before the toss.

(l) When both innings have been completed, whether by duration of overs, dismissal of a team or by declaration, the winning team shall be the one who has scored the most runs. In the event of both teams scoring the same number of runs the match shall be considered as tied.

(m) Captains are responsible at all times for ensuring that play is conducted within the Spirit of Cricket as well within the Laws (see "The Spirit of Cricket" at the end of the booklet). Players and officials must at all times accept the umpire's decision. Players and officials must not behave in a provocative or intimidating manner towards an umpire, another player or spectator. Players and officials shall not use crude or abusive language or make gestures deliberately to offend or intimidate. Players shall not "sledge" or deliberately attempt to distract an opponent. Clubs must take adequate steps to ensure the good behaviour of their members and supporters towards players, umpires and visiting supporters.

(n) At the end of a game the captains (and appointed umpires) must agree on the scores and make sure both scorebooks are complete and signed by both captains before leaving the ground.

NB – see section 17(g) on the use of under-18s as umpires.

13. Cancellations

The home team shall be responsible for notifying the away team of a cancellation, stating the reason. Where there are GACUS appointed umpires the home team shall notify the Umpires.

No game shall be called off other than by mutual agreement more than 3 hours

before the start of the match. The home team can suggest a cancellation on the day before a scheduled fixture, if the pitch is unplayable at that stage and there is little chance it will improve. However the away team are entitled to refuse to call off at this stage. If this is the case, the home team must then, on the morning of the match, inspect and call off, or prepare the pitch.

If the game is still in doubt or there is disagreement between the two clubs, then the away team must travel and both teams must be prepared to play.

If the home team calls the game off, an experienced representative from the away team is entitled to travel to the ground to inspect, but must inform both the home team by phone and the league secretary, by e-mail, before the scheduled start of the match, that this is taking place. The away team must then (even if they conclude that the game was properly called off) submit an official report to the league on the state of preparation they find and the fitness of the pitch for play. The home team, having been informed that the away team are inspecting the ground, are advised to call on an experienced player or groundsman from another club, or an independent qualified umpire to carry out an inspection. The League Disciplinary Committee may award a game or impose other penalties if it finds that the home club has improperly called off a game. The League will refuse to accept a report from the away team if the home team were not informed before the due time of the game that the away team were sending representatives to inspect the ground.

Fixtures cannot be postponed in any circumstances except as provided in paragraph 10 above.

The Committee, whose decision will be final, will determine disputes arising from cancelled fixtures.

14. Points Scoring System

Points shall be awarded in respect of each completed match as described below.

- (a) Match Result
- | | |
|-------------------------|----|
| winning team | 10 |
| each team in tied match | 5 |
| losing team | 0 |
- (b) Bonus Points.
- | | |
|--|--------------|
| for reaching 100, 125, 150, 175, 200 runs | 1, 2, ..., 5 |
| for each two wickets taken | 1 |
| for bowling the opposition out for 120 or less | 2 |
| side batting 2nd and winning, for each 2 wickets in hand | 1 |

If a team batting short-handed is dismissed before their allotted overs have been bowled, the bowling side shall be awarded 5 points regardless of the number of wickets actually taken

(c) Maximum Points

Notwithstanding the points allocation system in (a) and (b) above, the winning side, whether batting first or second, can only attain a maximum of 22 points.

15. Result Reporting and other match reports

- (a) Failure to observe the following rules will result in the offending club being fined £10 for each transgression, subject to appeal and committee discretion.
- (b) Each club will have a “play-cricket” website through which it notifies results.
- (c) The home team must enter the result of the match on its “play-cricket” website by 10.00 a.m. on the day after the fixture. Outstanding performances should also be entered. The home team must also enter the full scorecard for both innings by 6 p.m. the following Wednesday (the away team is encouraged to help in completing the scorecards).
- (d) Cancelled and abandoned matches must be notified by the home team as in (c) above. Scorecards are not required for cancelled games, but are for abandoned ones.
- (d) For games played, the away captain will be responsible for completing the report, using the form available from the League website. This has marks for pitch, facilities and tea quality. If low marks are shown, an explanatory comment must be added. This report must be completed no later than 6 p.m. of the Wednesday following the game.
- (e) To report incidents of abuse, dissent and lack of adherence to the Spirit of Cricket to be brought to the Disciplinary Committee’s notice, either team should also complete and send in a separate report (using the form available from the website, or a letter as specified in section 11(a).
- (f) Should the away side be concerned about the accuracy of the result and scorecards entered by the home side, they should contact the league web administrator.

16. League Table ordering

League division tables will be ordered by decreasing average points gained per match completed. If average points are identical, then the order is by decreasing number of wins. If this is not conclusive then the order is by decreasing value of (runs for per wicket) divided by (runs against per wicket).

Division champions, runners up, and promotion and relegation issues will be determined by final position in the division tables.

III GENERAL NOTES

17. Umpires

- (a) GACUS will appoint umpires to as many games as possible, filling division 1 appointments before division 2 and so on. Each GACUS appointed umpire will receive an attendance fee (**£25 for the 2011 season**), which will become due on arrival whether the match is played or not. Attendance fees will be set by GACUS. These are paid directly to the umpires, each club contributing half the total due. The list of appointments will be made available by GACUS to affected clubs.
- (b) If only one GACUS appointed umpire is available he/she will operate from the bowlers end throughout the match and will be paid (**£36 for the 2011 season**). It is the responsibility of both captains to agree an umpire at the strikers end. If the captains and GACUS appointed umpire agree, the replacement umpire may stand as a full umpire.
- (c) Where there are no GACUS appointed umpires then the home side and the away side must each appoint an umpire. (NB A side can “appoint” an umpire who is affiliated in some way to the other side.) A side can appoint one of their own players, and can change umpires during the game (i.e. the normal arrangement if there are no other umpires available). If the side fielding cannot appoint their own umpire, because they are all in the field, then their right to appoint an umpire passes to the batting side.

(d) Whoever actually stands is, at that time, The Appointed Umpire. All umpire's decisions must be accepted and implemented. Dissent during or after the game, in all cases, whoever is the umpire, must be reported to the League Disciplinary committee by the GACUS appointed umpire or by the team that appointed the umpire. A ban will normally be applied on players showing dissent, and can also be applied to the captain, who is responsible for ensuring his side plays by the Spirit of the Game.

(e) Clubs may make an official complaint about any umpire. The complaint must name the umpire and by whom the umpire was appointed, and give firm evidence to back the complaint – remembering that any umpire can be wrong at times. Complaints about GACUS appointed umpires will be passed to GACUS. Otherwise the Committee will note the complaint, and if a consistent and convincing picture emerges from more than one complaint, the League may investigate and may ask that the umpire is not appointed, or other remedial action.

(f) Where there is a GACUS appointed umpire, GACUS will normally ask the captains to mark and comment on the umpire's performance.

(g) In County League games a person under the age of 18 cannot stand as umpire at the bowler's end unless they have successfully completed a formal umpiring course. Young people may stand at the striker's end.

Clubs will be encouraged to nominate people for GACUS training and to be available for GACUS appointments to games.

18. ECB Guidelines for Young Players

All clubs must recognise that they have a duty of care towards all young players aged under 18 who are representing the club. This duty of care also extends to leagues that allow the participation of young players in open age groups in their league. The duty of care should be interpreted in two ways:

- * 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.

- * 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 recognise 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.

The guidelines are designed to help clubs to decide when to select young players in open age competitive cricket and how best to help their cricketing development when they play within open age groups.

The age group is set by the age of the player on 31 August of the year before the season start – this ties in with school age groups, e.g. Under 13 age group is those who were not yet 13 by 31 August last year, normally school year 8

Under 12 age group players and younger should not play in open age competitive cricket.

Under 13 age group players can play in open age group competitive cricket if it is considered by a qualified Level 2 coach or above that it is appropriate for their development. They will need prior explicit written parental consent to play as this recognises the need for parents or guardians to be aware of the significance of allowing their young child to participate in open age competitive cricket rather than purely junior cricket.

Older youth players are free to play open age cricket.

Helmets

All under the actual age of 18 must wear a helmet with faceguard when batting. All under the actual age of 18 must wear a helmet with face guard, or a hockey-type full face guard when keeping standing up to the stumps.

Fielding restrictions

Players in the Under 13 age group may not field closer than 11 yards from the bat, except behind square on the off side. Players in the Under 14 and Under 15 age groups may not field closer than 8 yards, except behind square on the off side.

Players in the Under 16 to Under 18 age group must wear a helmet with face guard, and a box, when fielding closer than 6 yards from the bat, except behind square on the off side.

Bowling restrictions

These restrictions apply to young fast and medium fast bowlers, relative to their own age group. They do not apply to someone who would be considered, within their own age group, to be a slow bowler.

Age Group	Max overs per spell	Max overs per day
U13	5	10
U14 & U15	6	12
U16 – U19	7	18

THE LAWS OF CRICKET
THE PREAMBLE - THE SPIRIT OF CRICKET

Cricket is a game that owes much of its unique appeal to the fact that should be played not only within its Laws but also within the Spirit of the Game. Any action which is seen to abuse this spirit causes injury to the game itself. The major responsibility for ensuring the spirit fair play rests with the captains.

1. There are two Laws which place the responsibility for the team's conduct firmly on the captain.

Responsibility of captains

The captains are responsible at all times for ensuring that play is conducted within the Spirit of the Game as well as within the Laws.

Player's conduct

In the event of a player failing to comply with instructions by an umpire, or criticising by word or action the decisions of an umpire, or showing dissent, or generally behaving in a manner which might bring the game into disrepute, the umpire concerned shall in the first place report the matter to the other umpire and to the player's captain, and instruct the latter to take action.

2. **Fair and unfair play**

According to the Laws the umpires are the sole judges of fair and unfair play.

The umpires may intervene at any time and it is the responsibility of the captain to take action where required.

3. **The umpires are authorised to intervene in cases of:**

- Time wasting
- Damaging the pitch
- Dangerous or unfair bowling
- Tampering with the ball
- Any other action that they consider to be unfair

4. **The Spirit of the Game involves RESPECT for:**

- Your opponents
- Your own captain and team
- The role of the umpires
- The game's traditional values

5. **It is against the Spirit of the Game:**

- To dispute an umpire's decision by word, action or gesture
- To direct abusive language towards an opponent or umpire
- To indulge in cheating or any sharp practice, for instance:
 - (a) to appeal knowing that the batsman is not out
 - (b) to advance towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing
 - (c) to seek to distract an opponent either verbally or by harassment with persistent clapping or unnecessary noise under the guise of enthusiasm and motivation of one's own side

6. **Violence**

There is no place for any act of violence on the field of play.

7. **Players**

Captains and umpires together set the tone for the conduct of a cricket match. Every player is expected to make an important contribution to this.