

I. CONSTITUTION

Extracts from the 2008 Handbook

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 and approved by the 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 two-thirds majority where a quorum is present. A quorum will consist of 30 member clubs.

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 and fines due
- 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
- Payment for match balls not covered by the affiliation fee

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. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in the club being expelled from the league.

The affiliation fee for 2008 is £100. This includes payment for the first set of balls.

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.
- 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) Clubs should provide seating accommodation and adequate ladies and gents toilet facilities for players and spectators. Car parking should be available adjacent to the ground for 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 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 airborne 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 & 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. Also each club in the League must send a list of players it wishes to register to the League, using the registration method specified on the 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 midnight of the following Wednesday. This registration is done by adding the name to the club's “play-cricket” database **and** sending the name to the league, using the registration method specified on the 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 means of a letter of clearance from the exporting club indicating that all dues have been paid. 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.

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 cricketing reasons (e.g. tours) or *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 within 28 days of the fixtures being issued (posting day to count as day zero). 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 of three who will normally deal with disputes and misconduct. Any dispute arising from any League matter or any complaint regarding any club or club member must be notified officially, in writing or e-mail to the League Secretary, who will inform the Disciplinary Committee. Complaints must be notified to the league no later than 10 days after the incident. To be official, the 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 by the Laws of Cricket, or
- (iv) a team captain, in the form of a match report, supported by the club chairman, 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.

(b) Upon receipt of such complaint, the Disciplinary Committee shall resolve either

- (i) take no action, or
- (ii) note the content and issue a warning, or
- (iii) to endorse any action already taken by club(s) or resulting from fixed tariff penalties (see below), or
- (iv) to ask the offending club to take action, or
- (v) to take the matter at 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.

(c) Under (b)(iv) above, the Disciplinary Committee will inform the club of the misconduct cited, with the evidence presented to it. It will propose a penalty according to the tariff below. It will request that the club holds its own disciplinary meeting, and applies the penalty, or greater penalty, or appeals against it. This action must take place within 7 days of receipt of the request for action from the League. The club must then inform the League of the action it has taken, within 7 days of the action. Failure to convene a disciplinary meeting at the club will be treated by the League with extreme severity, at least a £50 fine, and possibly, expulsion from the League.

Tariffs for disciplinary offences, and examples of types of offence, that are referred to clubs for action:

Level 1. e.g. Continued use of verbal obscenities despite a warning from the umpires. Banned for 1 played game, with a further 1 game suspended for 2 years.

Level 2. e.g. Showing dissent to the umpire (without abuse); captains failing to control their players despite a warning. Banned for 2 played games with a further 2 games suspended for 2 years. £25 fine for the player's club

Level 3 e.g. Showing dissent to the umpire (with abuse); repeated "sledging" of opposition players. Banned for 3 played games with a further 3 suspended for 2 years. £25 fine for the player's club

Level 4 e.g. Showing dissent to the umpire and continuing to argue after the game. Banned for 4 played games with a further 4 suspended for 2 years. £25 fine.

More severe issues will be taken at a League Disciplinary hearing.

To discourage clubs from shirking the action above and simply referring it to the Disciplinary Committee by appeal, clubs proposing to appeal will present a deposit of £50 with the League, which will not be returned unless no penalty or a penalty less than that originally proposed is applied by the League Disciplinary Committee.

(d) A Disciplinary Hearing will be held either because of a decision under (b)(v) or because, under (c) a club appeals against a penalty it was asked to apply. In any case which is referred to a Disciplinary Hearing, at least 7 day's notice shall be given in writing to clubs and individuals involved. Both sides in a dispute will be asked to present evidence. If relevant, umpires will also be asked to give evidence. Both sides in a dispute shall be entitled to see all the submitted evidence. The Disciplinary Committee will normally hear the case, but the League Committee may appoint alternative persons, and appellants and defendants may request alternatives, to hear the case, to avoid connections with a player or club affected in the dispute. Clubs attending a Hearing shall have a club official present. Club members under investigation shall also be invited to attend.

(e) If the Disciplinary Hearing finds the case proven it shall have the power to agree, reduce or increase penalties already proposed under (c) and impose one or more of the following penalties:

- (i) To require a player, official or 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 impose a fine
- (iv) To impose damage / financial loss repayments
- (v) To suspend a player or official for one or more matches, or for a stated period of time
- (vi) To deduct League points and / or record games not played as "lost"
- (vii) To declare a game void and / or require a rematch
- (viii) To relegate a team
- (ix) To expel a team or club from the League

(f) 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: 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 £30 to the home club for tea expenses.
- (iii) There are other fixed penalties and fines specified in paragraphs 2, 3, 8 and 15.

(g) Appeals. Once a penalty has been imposed, a player, official or club shall have the right to appeal. Notice of Appeal, setting out the grounds, shall be sent in writing to the League Secretary within seven 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.

(h) In the case of a fixed tariff penalty applied under (f), the Appeal will be considered at the next League Committee meeting, who may either

- (i) turn down the appeal, or
- (ii) uphold the appeal, or
- (iii) refer the matter to the Disciplinary Committee.

(i) In other cases, and when there is a further Appeal against a decision resulting from sub-section (d) or (h) above, an Appeal shall be heard before a different committee, of not less than three, appointed by the League Chairman. The hearing procedure shall be as described above in sub-section (d). The Appeal Hearing may confirm, vary or reverse the previous decision. The appeal hearing will be held as soon as practical following the date the appeal was received but in any event it will be no later than 3 weeks from the date the appeal was received.

(j) The Decision of the Appeal Hearing, or if no appeal, of the Disciplinary Hearing, shall be final and binding.

(k) Playing bans will be in terms of "completed games". Games cancelled or abandoned will not count. Names of players banned and the duration of the ban will be published on the League web site, and the GCB will be informed. The GCB will normally extend the ban to all cricket, and will last until the stated number of GCCL games have been played, regardless of how many other games the clubs plays during that time.

(l) 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 a club and its players are repeatedly found to be not playing according to the Spirit of Cricket, then the Committee will recommend to the AGM or to an EGM that the offending club or team be excluded from the League

II. PLAYING RULES

12. Match regulations

(a) All League fixtures must commence by 2.00 p.m. except for the first two and last two Saturdays of the season when they must start 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 90, six-ball overs in total, with a limit of 45 overs to the side batting first. 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 and the original bowler shall not bowl again in the match. Any balls bowled by the replacement bowler shall count as part of his allowance of overs.

(c) The side batting first can declare before the end of 45 overs, but they will be considered as "all out". If the side batting first does not use its full 45 overs either by reason of declaration or by being bowled out, then all complete unused overs will be transferred to the innings of the side batting second.

(d) A new ball, supplied by the League, will be used for all games. A satisfactory substitute ball shall be made available to the umpires prior to the start of the game. Games in division 1 will use one new League ball per innings.

(e) If there is some legitimate reason why the full 90 overs cannot be played, the captains have the option to reduce the number of overs, with a minimum of 70 (35 per innings) to qualify for league points. In a reduced match, each side must have the same number of overs. The rule regarding the transfer of unused complete overs to the side batting second will continue to apply. The maximum number of overs any bowler can bowl will be reduced according to the table to the right. (However if the captains agree, because of an interruption once a game has started, to reduce overs, but without a restart, then the maximum number of overs per bowler remains as it was at the start of the innings.)

Overs per innings	Max per bowler
43-44	12
39-42	11
35-38	10

(f) If a game starts more than 15 minutes late because of weather or other circumstance or there is a restart after an early interruption, then the number of overs must be reduced at least to the figures shown below, and overs per bowler reduced as above:

Minutes late	Overs	Per innings	Minutes late	Overs	Per innings
15-21	84	42	43-49	76	38
22-28	82	41	50-56	74	37
29-35	80	40	57-63	72	36
36-42	78	39	Over 63	70	35

Teams should wait for at least 1 hour after the appointed start time, unless the captains agree that the match should be abandoned.

(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(f) 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.

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 on the day of the match. 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 under the section Match Regulations.

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 points
- tied match 5 points
- losing team 0 points

(b) Bonus Points.

- for each 25 runs over 75 (max 5 points) 1 point
- for each two wickets taken 1 point
- for bowling the opposition out for 120 or less 2 points
- for the side batting 2nd and winning, for each 2 wickets in hand 1 point

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 midnight 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 section (c). 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 posted or e-mailed to arrive not later than midnight 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 (**£20 for the 2008 season**), which will become due on arrival whether the match is played or not. Attendance fees will be paid directly to the Umpires by the clubs concerned, such sum to be fixed at the GCCL AGM. 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 (**£30 for the 2008 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.

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

Annual awards

The winners and runners-up of each Division receive a cup or shield and 12 individual shields for players. (If you want more, please ask—you will be charged at cost for extras).

In each division, there is an award for the batsman scoring the most runs, the bowler taking the most wickets, and the fielder (not necessarily wicket-keeper) responsible for the most victims, caught + stumped + run-outs.

In each division there will be a ‘fair play’ award. At the end of the season, each team will have 3 votes to nominate other teams in their division for fair play and the adherence to the spirit of cricket. They can nominate the same team 3 times, or put 2 votes to one team and the third to another, or spread the votes round 3 other sides. The side having the most nominations wins the award.

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.