

SPIRIT OF CRICKET

Cricket is a game that owes much to its unique appeal to the fact that it should be played not only within the 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 of fair play rests with the Captains.

The spirit of the game involves respect for:

- Your opponent
- Your own Captain and team
- The role of the umpire
- The games traditional values

It is against the Spirit of the Game:

- To dispute an umpires 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) appeal knowing the batsman is not out
 - b) advance towards an umpire in an aggressive manor when appealing
 - c) 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

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.

Extract: ECB Cricket Department, February 2000

RULES WHICH VARY FROM DIVISION TO DIVISION

Clubs should read this section whenever they are promoted or relegated.

Length of Match

Division 1 & 2: Each innings is to last no longer than 2 hours 45 minutes.
Division 3+: There is no time restriction on the length of each innings.

Number of Overs

Divisions 1-8: Matches are 45 overs per innings.
Division 9+: Matches are 40 overs per innings.

Batting and Bowling Points

Divisions 1-8: Batting points are scored from 100 runs, then every 25 runs up to 6 points for 225 runs. Bowling points are scored for bowling a team out below 175 runs, and every 25 runs down to 100 runs.
Division 9+: Batting points are scored from 75 runs, then every 25 runs up to 6 points for 200 runs. Bowling points are scored for bowling a team out below 150 runs, and every 25 runs down to 75 runs.

Umpires and Scorers

Division 1 & 2: 3 points are awarded for providing a non-playing ACO-Trained umpire, or 2 points for providing a non-playing umpire with forum training, or 1 point for providing any other non-playing umpire, or having two players with forum training.
Division 3+: 1 point is awarded for providing a non-playing umpire, or for having two players with forum training.

Fielding Restrictions

Division 1-7: The area within 30 yards of the stumps shall be marked by white disks. A maximum of 5 fielders can be outside this area at the point of delivery.
Division 8+: There is no restriction on the number of close fielders.

Pitch Marks

Division 1: Clubs are expected to attain an average pitch mark of 12.
Division 2: Clubs are expected to attain an average pitch mark of 11.
Division 3+: Clubs are expected to attain an average pitch mark of 10

Artificial Pitches

Division 1-2: Clubs who play on an artificial pitch as standard cannot be promoted into Division 1. Matches may only be moved to an artificial pitch at the agreement of the two captains.
Division 3+: Clubs may play on an artificial pitch as standard. Matches may be moved to an artificial pitch by the home side.

Facilities

Division 1-2: Clubs must have covers, sight screens and a clock.
Division 3: Clubs must have sight screens and a clock.
Division 4+: These are not required.

NEW RULES & AMENDMENTS - 2024

This is a summary of the league rules which have significantly changed for 2024 compared to 2023.

Rule 15. The league has returned to a linear division structure.

Rule 16(i). From 2025, fixtures may only be rescheduled due to ground availability.

Rule 21. Matches in Division 9 and below are 40 overs.

Rule 22(c). Players cannot drop to a lower team in the final 2 weeks of the season.

Rule 29(a). In Division 1, any ball down leg side is a wide.

Rule 36. Sole non-playing umpires are responsible for decisions on ground, weather and light.

Rule 40(b). In divisions 1-8, batting points are for 100-225 runs, bowling points are for 175-100,

Rule 47. The disciplinary process has been simplified.

CONSTITUTION AND PLAYING RULES SUMMARY

<u>Summary</u>	<u>Full Rule</u>
Applications to join by 30 th Sept for the bottom division, 31 st Jan a year before otherwise.	2a
All clubs must attend the AGM and Spring meeting .	11
Proposed changes to the league rules must be seconded and sent to the league by 30 Sept.	12
League fees , match balls and fines are paid by invoice by the 1 st match of the season.	3(b)
Clubs must have a qualified Club Safeguarding Officer .	22a
Divisions generally have 10 teams, generally with 2 promoted and 2 relegated each year.	14-15
There is a limit of one team per club in a division .	15(c)(iii),(k)
Clubs must complete an online season entry form by 31 st October.	16(b)
Fixtures start on the first Saturday in May. Matches start at 1pm.	16(e),19
Fixtures can be rearranged by agreement , at least 14 days before the fixture.	16(g),(h)
Pitches must have a continuously marked boundary .	25
Pitches in divisions 1-7 must have a fielding circle . A maximum of 5 fielders can be outside it.	29
There is one match ball per innings.	30
Matches can be played on artificial pitches , but not as standard in division 1 or 2.	15(c)(iv),24
Matches are 45 six ball overs per side (40 in division 9+), with a 25 minute tea interval .	20,21
Players can only play for one club per season unless they are loaned or transferred.	3(e)-(k)
Players can only play for one team each weekend without permission.	22
There is a maximum of 1 overseas player per team. They must be registered.	5
Bowlers can bowl up to 9 overs (8 in Div 9+) . This is reduced if the innings is reduced.	31(a),38(c)
Teams arriving late may forfeit the toss, overs, the match. Teams must have 7+ players.	26,27,34
Juniors have a minimum age, restricted bowling spells and fielding positions.	23,31(b),32,33
The home team decides if the ground is fit to start, the umpires/captains if it can continue.	36,37
Overs are reduced after 30 minutes lost.	38
Teams can declare by agreement, or terminate their innings all-out unilaterally.	42
Points are awarded for the result, runs, wickets and providing umpires.	40,41,43
Results are entered on the website , home team by noon Monday, away team noon Friday.	App A
Pitch Marks are awarded for each match. Teams must achieve a minimum mark.	15(c),(i), App B
Disciplinary incidents are reported to the league. This includes for web content.	46-52,3(o)
Clubs which forfeit 4 matches are expunged from the league.	3(m),15(j)

CONSTITUTION AND PLAYING RULES – 2024 SEASON

1. Title

The title of the competition shall always contain the words “Wiltshire County Cricket League” preceded by the name of the sponsor of the competition of the year, if appropriate.

2. Aims

- (a) To organise and control league cricket for Clubs affiliated to the English & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) through their County Board.
- (b) To protect, promote and improve the members’ standard of Cricket.
- (c) To recognise and uphold the official Laws of Cricket.

2a. Joining the League

- (a) Membership shall be by written application only.
- (b) Applicants for Membership will be vetted by the Management Committee who shall also decide in which Division a new side will be placed (see Rule 7(e)).
- (c) Applications to join in the lowest division must be received by the 30th September and will be considered at the Autumn Management Committee Meeting. If accepted, the team will be allowed to enter the league immediately.
- (d) Applications to join in a division other than the lowest division should be received by 31st January, and will be considered at the Spring Management Committee Meeting. If accepted, the team will be allowed to enter the league at the end of the forthcoming season. Thus they must wait a full season before playing in the League. (see Rule 7(e)).
- (e) Applications to join in a division other than the lowest division received after 31st January, but before 30th September, shall be considered at the Autumn Management Committee Meeting, but shall only be accepted if the team can be placed without denying promotion to any team placed first or second in a division, and without relegating any team placed eighth or higher in a division.

3. Membership

- (a) Once admitted to the league, membership will be continuous until written notification of withdrawal is received from the Club concerned.
- (b) The Committee will recommend the League membership fee for the following season to the Annual General Meeting. The League's Treasurer must receive this fee, together with any outstanding fines and the cost of balls, prior to the first official Saturday of the season. In addition the Wilts Cricket Board Treasurer must receive ECB/WCB Affiliation Fees, (see 3d) before the first league match is played. (see Rule 41b). Clubs located outside Wiltshire to pay their ECB affiliation fees to their County Board.
- (c) All competing Clubs must be affiliated to the ECB at the start of the season.
- (d) All competing Clubs must be affiliated to their Cricket Board at the start of the season.
- (e) All players shall be bona-fide members of their **Club** and shall pay a membership subscription according to each Club’s own rules
- (f) No player shall play for more than one WCCL Club during the course of a season unless the conditions stated in Rule 3h) or 3i) are met (a player who is a member of a Club that has sides in both WEPL and WCCL is considered to be a member of a WCCL Club even if he has only played in WEPL fixtures). **It is a Club's responsibility to ensure that any potential new playing member meets this criteria.**
- (g) No player who is currently registered and playing for a WEPL club shall be allowed to represent another club in the WCCL (even if he is a member of both clubs).
- (h) A player shall be free to transfer to another WCCL Club at any time providing that the player in question has not played for their original Club between 1st August and the season's end, and has met all the conditions of membership of his former Club (**Both Clubs involved must indicate their approval of a move in writing to the Admin Officer before a move can take place**). Once a player has played for their original Club between the 1st August and the season's end they shall not be permitted to move to another Club during the remainder of the season in question. Any disputes

shall be heard by the League's Disciplinary Sub-Committee. (If a Club withdraws from the League after 31st July then players from that Club shall be free to join another Club. If a team withdraws from the League then any player movement will be under the terms and conditions above)

(i) Players under the age of 18 on the 1st September of the year preceding the current season may be freely loaned or transferred between clubs without the limitation imposed by Rules 3e), 3f), 3g) or 3h). and without limitation on the number of players who can play under this rule.

(j) Players of any age may be freely loaned to teams in Division 6 & below without the limitation imposed by Rules 3e), 3f), 3g), or 3h). Any such loan must be agreed by the parent Club with the parent Club retaining responsibility for any disciplinary issues. The loaning Club shall have the right to withdraw an offer to loan a player. A team shall be allowed a maximum of 4 adult loan players in any given fixture

(k) Clubs playing an ineligible player to be deducted 5 points for every game in which the player in question participates

(l) Teams wishing to resign from the League before completing their fixtures shall be allowed to do so on receipt, by the Admin Officer, of written notification. All points in matches concerning the resigning team shall become null and void.

(m) Any Club wishing to resign from the League to join another League must notify the Admin Officer by June 30th of the season prior to their resignation. Any Clubs failing to follow this procedure may be prevented from leaving the League for **ONE** season in accordance with League Cricket Conference Rules.

(n) Any side cancelling four or more fixtures during a season, other than for weather, will be suspended from the League for the duration of that season only. Where the fourth cancellation occurs before the final Saturday of the season, all points in matches concerning the suspended team shall become null and void.

(o) Any side wishing to re-enter the League the season following being either expunged as a result of failing to fulfil the requisite number of fixtures (see Rule 3(n)), or voluntarily withdrawing, shall be allowed to do so providing a bond of £200 is lodged with the League's Treasurer. Should the side in question forfeit an away fixture during their re-entry season then £50 of the bond shall be transferred to the home team to help cover the cost of hosting the game. This compensation fee only applies before a team withdraws or is expunged from the League.

(p) Any Club, team, or player debarred for whatever reason from another League, will not be permitted to participate in the Wiltshire League until the ban in question has been rescinded by the banning League, or the suspension served.

4. Honorary Life Members

The League in General Meeting may invite any member, past or present, to become an Honorary Life Member of the League. An invitation shall be extended at the behest of the League Management Committee.

5. Restriction on Overseas Players

(a) In each match, only one Overseas Player is permitted per team.

(b) All overseas players must be registered with the Admin Officer before they play in a WCCL match.

(c) A player shall be considered as overseas or not based on their visa type. See Appendix C for details.

(d) Rule 5 only applies to persons who were 18 or over on 1st September of the previous year.

6. League Management

(a) The League shall be governed by Wiltshire Cricket Limited

(b) The League shall be administered by a League Management Committee comprising the Officers of the League and one representative from each Division of the League and assisted by the Administrative Officer(s).

(c) The Officers of the League shall be, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, and a Safeguarding Officer who shall be elected annually.

- (d) The Divisional Representatives shall also be elected annually.
- (e) The Management Committee shall be empowered to co-opt additional members as necessary.

7. Duties of the League Management Committee

- (a) To provide fixtures between the members of the League on the basis of rules laid out elsewhere in this document.
- (b) To obtain sponsorship that will further the aims of the League and benefit all members.
- (c) To take whatever action deemed suitable in dealing with Clubs who are reported for whatever reason and with any questions arising which are not specifically covered by these rules.
- (d) To act as an inspector of facilities of member Clubs and to ensure that minimum standards are maintained by all members.
- (e) To vet applicants for membership, and to decide into which division a successful new applicant should be placed:
 - (i) If a team applies to join the league in a division other than the lowest division, the Management Committee shall decide upon the division in which they are to be placed.
 - (ii) If a team applies to join the league in the lowest division, they shall be placed in the lowest division.
- (f) To ensure a duty of care to all members of the League by adopting and implementing the ECB “Safe Hands – Welfare of Young People in Cricket” policy and any future version of the policy.

8. Duties of Divisional Representatives

- (a) To represent their respective Division at meetings of the Management Committee
- (b) To mediate in disputes between teams in their respective divisions.
- (c) To present each side of an unresolved dispute to the Management Committee.

9. Finance

- (a) The financial year of the League will end on the 31st October.
- (b) The Treasurer will present to the Annual General Meeting an Income and Expenditure Account for the past year together with a Balance sheet as at 31st October.
- (c) The League’s Accounts shall be approved by a suitable person appointed by the Management Committee.

10. Administrative Officer(s)

The Administration Officer(s) will be appointed annually by the League Management Committee at the first meeting following the AGM. The person(s) performing these duties will receive an annual remuneration decided by the Committee. The Administration Officer(s) will work directly under the Chairman and be available to the full League Committee.

11. League Meetings

- (a) The Annual General Meeting of the League shall be held in the month of November.
- (b) Meetings of the League Management Committee shall be held as required to discuss pertinent matters.
- (c) An Extraordinary General Meeting of Member Clubs may be called on receipt by the Admin Officer of a requisition signed by at least one third of the Member Clubs. The business of such a meeting will be clearly stated on the notice and the meeting shall be called within 21 days from the receipt of the requisition.
- (d) The quorum at all meetings shall consist of one third of the Committee at Management Committee Meetings, or one third of the member Clubs at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting.
- (e) Voting at meetings shall be on the basis of one vote per Member Team, and a vote for each of the Officers. In the event of there being a tie in the voting on any issue the Chairman shall be entitled to a casting vote. Clubs with more than one side in the League must be represented by the requisite number of members for voting purpose. (i.e. only one vote per attending individual).

- (f) Clubs failing to be represented (apologies not acceptable) at the League's Annual General Meeting shall be fined £25 for a first offence. A second consecutive failure will result in a Club being fined £25 plus a 25 point deduction for each of that Club's XIs participating in the League
- (g) Clubs failing to be represented (apologies not acceptable) at the League's Spring General Meeting shall be fined £25

12. Alteration to the Constitution or League Rules

- (a) Any WCCL Club may submit proposals for alteration to the Constitution or League Rules provided that proposals are seconded by any other WCCL Club, and received by the Admin Officer no later than the 30th September.
- (b) The League Management Committee shall also be empowered to submit proposals to a General Meeting for alteration to the Constitution or League Rules provided that proposals are seconded by any WCCL Club.
- (c) If the proposing club fails to be represented at the meeting, the proposal shall be automatically withdrawn.
- (d) All other proposals shall be put before a General Meeting of all WCCL Clubs.
- (e) All other proposals shall be voted on by those present at the meeting. Voting shall be as per rule 11 (e).
- (f) If a majority of those votes are for the proposal then the proposal shall be incorporated into the Constitution or League Rules and shall become effective from that moment except for the following provisos:
Any **MAJOR** alterations to the Constitution or Playing Rules (MAJOR being determined by the League Management Committee) shall require a 2/3rds majority of all votes.
- (g) Any alterations to the Playing Rules which only affect clubs in a subset of the divisions (as determined by the League Management Committee) shall only be voted on by teams who are in those divisions.
- (h) Attendees at a General Meeting may propose amendments to a proposal prior to any vote on the proposal. Where an amendment is proposed, it shall be voted on prior to the vote on the proposal. If passed, the proposal shall be amended prior to being voted on. If multiple amendments are proposed, then they shall be voted on in the order they are proposed. In the event of a significant number of amendments being proposed for one proposal, the chairman shall have the right to decline any further amendments.
- (i) Where a body of data is to be referenced by an attendee at a league meeting, it shall be provided to the League Admin Officer at least two weeks before the meeting. The League Admin Officer shall then circulate it to all clubs prior to the meeting. Failure to provide the data in this way shall make it inadmissible to any discussion at the meeting.

13. All decision to be final

All decisions taken by; (i) the Management Committee, (ii) a majority vote at a General Meeting, (iii) a 2/3rds Majority of ALL Member Teams on a **MAJOR** issue shall be final and binding on all Members of the League.

FORMAT

14. Divisions

Member Clubs in the League shall be placed in Divisions consisting of a maximum of ten teams per Division with the exception of the lowest Division.

15. Promotion & Relegation

- (a) Normally two teams shall be promoted from each division except Division 1. Promotion from Division 1 is controlled by WEPL.
- (b) Notwithstanding the remainder of this rule, the teams promoted shall be the top teams in the division.
- (c) Teams shall only be promoted if they meet the following criteria:

(i) A team shall only be promoted to the 1st division if it has attained an average pitch mark of at least 12 in the season in which it earned promotion. A team shall only be promoted to the 2nd division if it has attained an average pitch mark of at least 11 in the season in which it earned promotion. For all other divisions, a team shall only be promoted if it has attained an average pitch mark of at least 10 in the season in which it earned promotion

(ii) The standard and condition of the applicants cricketing facilities, with particular emphasis on the state of the pitch, must be acceptable.

(iii) A team shall not be promoted into a division which contains another team from the same club.

(iv) A team shall not be promoted into Division 1 or 2 if they play on an artificial pitch as standard.

(d) If a team is denied promotion for any reason, the Management Committee shall decide whether to offer promotion to the next highest team in place of the team who are denied promotion. This decision shall be based primarily on the number of points by which the team missed out on earning promotion.

(e) The Committee reserves the right to place a promoted team.

(f) The number of teams to be relegated from each division shall be such that every division except for the lowest 2 divisions contains ten teams.

(g) Notwithstanding the remainder of this rule, the teams relegated shall be the bottom teams in the division.

(h) At least one team shall be relegated from every division except the lowest division.

(i) Teams shall be expected to attain an average Target Mark with respect to the 'How it Plays' section of the Ground Assessment Scheme. This Target Mark shall be 12 in Division 1, 11 in Division 2 and 10 in all other divisions. If any team fails to meet this mark then the following procedure shall apply:

- Year 1 – at the end of the season the Club shall be informed by the Admin Officer of the team's failure to reach the Target Mark.
- Year 2 – at the end of this season should the team in question again fail to reach the Target Mark then the Club shall be given a second and final warning.
- Year 3 – if at the end of this season the team in question has failed for the third successive year to reach the Target mark then that team shall automatically be relegated.
- Year 4 and onwards – if at the end of this season and the previous two seasons, the team has failed to reach the Target Mark for its new division, then that team shall be automatically relegated again.

If at the end of Year 1 or Year 2, the team is relegated for other reasons, then its average mark for each of those years shall be reassessed against the Target Mark for the new division, and the warnings received shall be declared void for years in which the team has met the Target Mark for its new division.

(j) If a club is suspended from the league due to forfeiting four or more matches in a season (see rule 3(m)), and they are not already in the lowest division, they shall be relegated.

(k) If a team is relegated into a division which contains another team from the same club, then the other team from that club shall also be relegated. This rule shall apply even if the lower team had earned promotion.

(l) If a team is relegated due to the procedure in rule (i), (j) or (k), the number of teams to be relegated from that division shall still be as determined in rule (f), with the automatically relegated team taking the place of the highest placed team who would normally have been relegated.

(m) If it is not possible to adhere to rules (f), (h), (i), (j), (k) and (l) due to there being more teams which must be relegated than there are relegation spaces, then the number of teams promoted from the division below as defined in rule (a) shall be increased until it is possible to adhere to rules (f), (h), (i), (j), (k) and (l).

(n) The Committee reserves the right to place a relegated team.

(o) If a team leaves the league (either to WEPL, or completely), then this shall happen after promotion is considered, and before relegation is considered.

- (p) If a team rejoins the league, then they shall be placed into a suitable division as determined by the Management Committee.
- (q) The Management Committee reserves the right to make adjustments to the above procedure on a case-by-case basis should they feel it is necessary.

16. Fixtures

- (a) Teams shall play each other twice in their Division, except in exceptional circumstances (see Rule 14).
- (b) All clubs must complete the online season entry form for the following season by 31st October.
- (c) Fixtures shall be compiled by the Fixture Officer and be circulated as soon as practical.
- (d) League fixtures published by the Management Committee shall be scheduled to be played on Saturdays only.
- (e) The first day of the League season shall normally be the first Saturday in May
- (f) All rearranged League fixtures must be completed by the 14th Saturday of the official WCCL season (28 days before the final Saturday of the official WCCL season).
- (g) The published date and/or start time of a fixture may be re-arranged by mutual agreement between the teams concerned, provided that:
- (i) Teams agree a new date before April 1st.
 - (ii) That the Fixture Officer receives written notification from both teams before April 7th. Should either of these two provisions not be met, then the date or venue published by the League will stand.
- (h) In certain circumstances, a fixture may be re-arranged or the start time changed after April 1st. Both Clubs must be agreeable, and an alternative date and start time decided upon at the time. The Fixture Officer should be notified immediately of any such change at least a fortnight before the fixture is currently scheduled to be played, and at least a fortnight before the new date of the fixture. Failure to meet this deadline shall result in the request being turned down (exceptional circumstances not withstanding)
- Addendum: Fixtures may be provisionally rearranged, conditional on the date of a religious festival. The Fixture Officer must be informed of the intention to rearrange, the new date for the fixture, and the details of the religious festival on which it is conditional, at least a fortnight before the fixture is currently scheduled to be played, and at least a fortnight before the new date of the fixture.*
- (i) From 2025, fixtures may only be rearranged (by the league or by the clubs involved) if the home ground is unavailable.

17. Trophies

- (a) Perpetual trophies will be presented annually to each Divisional winner.
- (b) Trophies shall be presented to the winners and runners-up in each Division to retain.
- (c) 12 individual trophies shall be awarded to the winning team in each Division. Extra trophies may be purchased through the League Chairman at the cost prevailing at the time of order.
- (d) All clubs must provide averages and other statistical data as requested by the league by the 30th September.
- (e) Individual mementos will be awarded to the players who record the highest aggregate runs scored and wickets taken in each Division. In the event of two or more players returning the same total, the award shall be given to the player with the better average.
- (f) All perpetual trophies shall remain the property of the WCCL and must be returned to the Admin Officer by 30th September each year; Clubs failing to do so will be fined £10.00.
- (g) Winners of perpetual trophies shall be responsible for ensuring that adequate insurance is arranged to cover the replacement cost of the trophy whilst it is in their possession.
- (h) The cost of engraving perpetual trophies shall be the responsibility of the League.

RULES FOR MATCH PLAY

18. Laws

All matches shall be conducted in accordance with the MCC Laws of Cricket, except for any specific provisions in these rules.

19. Commencement of matches

All WCCL fixtures will commence at 1.00pm throughout the season

20. Tea interval

There shall be an interval of 25 minutes length between each innings which shall be used as a tea interval, unless, due to the state of the match, Captains agree otherwise.

21. Length of match

In divisions 1-8, each team shall receive a maximum of 45 six ball overs. In divisions 9 and below, each team shall receive a maximum of 40 six ball overs. This number shall be reduced as specified in the event of weather interference. In Divisions 1 and 2, each innings should take no longer than 2 hours and 45 minutes. Teams who exceed this time limit without good cause shall be reported to the Admin Officer by the umpires.

22. Limitation of one team per player per weekend.

(a) No player shall represent more than one WCCL team during any given weekend without prior permission from the Results Officer. In addition no player shall represent a WEPL team and a WCCL team during any given weekend without prior permission from the League Results Officer.

(b) No player shall represent a WCCL team in a league match in April and then represent a higher WCCL team, or WEPL team, in a league match on the first weekend of May without prior permission from the League Results Officer.

(c) No player shall represent a WCCL team in a league match in the last two weeks of the season if they have played at least nine matches for a higher team, and have not played at least two matches for this team or a lower team, in the first 16 weeks of the season.

(d) Failure to comply with this rule shall result in a 5 point deduction for each ineligible player.

(e) The League Results Officer will only give permission for a player to play in two different teams where it is clear that the player is not playing in any team which is below his normal standard of cricket.

(f) Where the League Results Officer gives permission for a player to play, the opposition shall be informed in advance of the match.

(g) Where an ineligible player is identified prior to the start of the match, the match shall not start until the ineligible player has been withdrawn. Note, they can still act as a substitute fielder, but they cannot bat, bowl or keep wicket.

22a. Club Safeguarding Officer

All clubs are required to have a Club Safeguarding Officer, who has completed an ECB Safe Hands workshop and an ECB Safeguarding Young Cricketers online course in the last three years, and holds a current DBS (formerly CRB) check from the ECB.

23. Junior Players in Open Age Cricket

(a) All teams competing in the Wiltshire League must comprise of at least 4 players over the age of 18. Sides failing to comply with this rule shall be deducted 10 points.

(b) In accordance with ECB regulations, the following ruling shall apply throughout the WCCL:

(i) The eligibility of Junior players to play in open age cricket shall be determined by their age on 31st August of the year prior to the start of the season.

(ii) All Junior players who are Under 13 (school year 8) or younger must have written parental consent in order to play.

(iii) Players who are Under 13 (school year 8) or older are permitted to play in open age cricket.

(iv) Players who are Under 12 (school year 7) and who are selected in a County Under-12 squad in spring for summer matches, or are selected for another squad deemed by the ECB Performance Managers to be of a standard above “District Level” for that season, are eligible to play in open age cricket.

(v) Players who are Under 11 (school year 6) or younger shall not play in open age cricket.

(c) Clubs failing to adhere to Rule 23b shall be deducted 10 points per underage player and are liable to be asked to attend a Disciplinary Sub-Committee meeting to explain their actions. The League Management Committee reserves the right to increase the penalties imposed on any Club which is in breach of Rule 23b

(d) In every team, either the captain or vice captain must be over the age of 18 years on the date of the match. Where the captain is under the age of 18 years, the vice captain must make himself known to the opposition captain and any non-playing umpires prior to the start of the match.

24. Artificial pitches

(a) Teams using an artificial pitch for some or all League matches, or as an alternative to a grass pitch in inclement weather, shall notify the Admin Officer before March 1st.

(b) Such teams shall also notify the Admin Officer of any limitations on use (i.e. no spikes).

(c) Visitors to teams with artificial pitches shall comply with the limitations given.

(d) The home side shall be the sole judge as to whether a match shall be transferred from a grass pitch to an artificial pitch where such an alternative exists. (Except in Division 1 and 2 where mutual agreements between Captains is required.)

(e) The Umpires shall consider the condition of the outfield before allowing play on an artificial pitch to begin.

(f) A hybrid pitch, where an artificial mesh is woven into the grass pitch, shall not be considered to be an artificial pitch.

25. Boundaries

Boundary lines must be clearly visible from the pitch used, and preferably marked in a solid white line or rope.

26. Toss and choice of innings

The toss shall take place fifteen minutes before the scheduled start of play. If a team cannot provide a representative for the toss, then that team shall be deemed to have lost the toss.

27. Late Starts

(a) If seven players of any team are not ready to commence play at the appointed start time, the opposition Captain shall report the offending team to the Admin Officer.

(b) If seven players of any team are not ready to commence play thirty minutes after the appointed start time, and they have not made contact with their opposition to inform them of the situation, they shall forfeit the match.

(c) If seven players of any team are not ready to commence play thirty minutes after the appointed start time, then for every further three and a half minutes lost, their innings shall be reduced by one over. The match shall be decided as if this over was played and was a maiden.

(d) If seven players of any team are not ready to commence play ninety minutes after the appointed start time, they shall forfeit the match.

28. Umpires & Scorers

(a) Non-playing umpires

(i) Each team shall have the option to provide a non-playing umpire.

(ii) Where a team does not provide a non-playing umpire, their opposition may offer to provide two non-playing umpires. This shall require the agreement of both captains.

(iii) If non-playing umpires are provided, they must be used. If only one is available they should be invited to stand at the bowlers end for the duration of the match.

(iv) Where there are fewer than two non-playing umpires, the batting side shall provide

competent persons over the age of 16 years to act as umpires. All those who umpire are required to have access to and be conversant with the Laws of Cricket and the League rules.

(v) Non-playing umpires shall be present at the ground at least 30 minutes before the scheduled start time. Together they shall supervise the toss, complete the pitch report and report any incidents.

(vi) WACO may be able to provide an umpire but will require any request to be made at least ten days in advance to the Appointments Officer.

(vii) Where WACO are able to provide an umpire, the team shall pay the agreed expenses to the umpire, either before the match, or within 15 minutes of the end of the match.

(b) Points for umpires

Points shall be earned for providing umpires, or for players with forum training. See rule 40 for details.

(c) Scorers in all divisions

All teams are responsible for providing (a) competent person(s) to act as scorer(s) for the whole match. All those who score must be conversant with the relevant Laws of Cricket and the League rules which apply to the scoring of the game. Each team is responsible for keeping both scorebooks and the scoreboard up to date for the whole match.

(d) General

(i) Umpire bonus points are awarded in any match in which at least 10 overs are played.

(ii) Teams must keep a signed team sheet for each game with the scorebook. This is in case they are required by other cricketing bodies. Failure to comply with the correct use of team sheets could make the club liable to action under Rule 46.

(iii) Any dispute or query regarding general League rules can only be adjudicated on by members of the League Management Committee.

29. Fielding Restrictions

Operational in Divisions 1-7 of the League

(a) At the moment of delivery a maximum of 5 fielders must be outside an area bounded by two semi-circles centred on each middle stump, each with a radius of 30 yards joined by parallel lines on each side of the pitch. Should the fielding side fail to comply with this ruling then the square leg umpire shall call no-ball at the time of delivery.

(b) The fielding circle should be marked with white plastic or rubber discs (but not metal) at 5-yard intervals, with each disc measuring 7 inches in diameter.

29a. Wides

(a) In Division 1, a leg-side wide shall be called if, irrespective of where the ball pitches, it passes to the leg side of the batsman and the leg stump, regardless of any movement of the batsman.

(b) In Division 2 and below, wides shall be called as stipulated in the Laws of Cricket.

30. Match Ball

(a) All balls shall be standard and shall be issued to Clubs at the Spring General Meeting.

(b) For each match, each team shall provide one of their issued balls.

31. Bowlers overs restrictions

(a) Bowlers in divisions 1-8 shall be restricted to a maximum of 9 overs each. Bowlers in divisions 9 and below shall be restricted to a maximum of 8 overs each. In the event of overs reduction due to weather, this number shall be reduced to one fifth of the number of overs in the innings with fractions rounded up.

(b) All teams must comply with the ECB Fast Bowling Directives which are as follows:

- Under 13. Maximum 5 overs spell and maximum 10 overs per day.
- Under 14/15. Maximum 6 overs spell and maximum 12 overs per day.
- Under 16/17. Maximum 7 overs spell and maximum 18 overs per day.
- Under 18/19. Maximum 7 overs spell and maximum 18 overs per day.

For the purpose of these Directives a fast bowler is defined as follows:

A bowler to whom the wicket keeper in normal circumstances would stand back to take the ball. Having completed a spell the bowler can not bowl again, from either end, until an equivalent number of overs to the length of his spell have been bowled from the same end. Interruptions to play, whether scheduled or unscheduled, shall reduce this requirement by one over at each end for every 7 minutes of interruption.

(i) It is the Captain's responsibility to inform his opposite number of any player in his team to whom the above directive applies. It is then the responsibility of both Captains to ensure that the ECB Fast Bowling Directive is rigorously enforced.

(ii) Any Club failing to adhere to this directive, shall in the first instance, be reported to the appropriate Divisional Representative.

32. Safety guidance on the wearing of cricket helmets by young players

- It is recommended that a helmet is worn by young players when batting and when standing up to the stumps when keeping wicket against a hard cricket ball in matches and in practice.
- A young player should not be allowed to bat or stand up to the stumps when keeping wicket without a helmet against a hard ball except with written parental consent.
- Coaches, teachers, managers, and umpires should always ensure that a young player wears a helmet if this written parental consent has not been received.
- Players should regard a helmet with a face guard as a normal item of protective equipment when batting against a hard ball, together with pads, gloves, and for boys, an abdominal protector (box).
- There is a British Standard (BS 7928:2013) for cricket helmets and it is in the best interest of players to ensure that their helmet conforms to this standard.
- The ECB is recommending that this guidance is followed by all players up to the age of 18. It applies to young players in adult cricket as well as junior cricket played with a hard ball.

33. Fielding regulations for young players

- No young player in the under 15 age group or younger shall be allowed to field closer than 8 yards (7.3 metres) from the middle stump, until the batsman has played the ball. Minimum distances apply even if the player is wearing a helmet.
- For players in the under 13 age group and below the distance is 11 yards (10 metres).
- Should a young player in these age groups come within the restricted distances the umpire must stop the game immediately and instruct the fielder to move back.
- In addition any young player in the under 16 to under 18 age groups, who has not reached the age of 18, must wear a helmet, and for boys an abdominal protector (box) when fielding within 6 yards (5.5 metres) of the bat, except behind the wicket on the off side. Players should wear appropriate protective equipment whenever they are fielding in a position where they feel at risk.
- These fielding regulations are applicable to all cricket in England and Wales. Age groups are based on age of players at midnight on 31st August in the year preceding the current season.

34. Match cancellation due to inability to raise a team

- (a) If a situation arises where a Club with more than one XI is unable to fulfil all its League fixtures on any given date due to circumstances other than weather interference, then that Club is required to cancel its most junior XI's fixtures first: i.e. 3rd, 2nd, 1st XI's must be played in preference to its 4th XI. Match will count as win/loss with penalty points as per Rule 41(a).
- (b) A Club who's senior side(s) play in another League (e.g. WEPL), is not permitted to cancel its 1st XI (1st & 2nd XI if applicable) fixture in order to play a W6XWCCL game..
- (c) In order for a match to be valid a side must comprise at least 7 players at the time of commencement. Failure to comply may result in Rule 41a) being applied.

34a. Match Day Fees

The home team can choose whether or not to provide teas. If the home team chooses to provide teas, then they must offer to provide teas for both teams. In this case, they must contact the opposition and specify how much the away team must pay in order to cover their share of the costs of teas. The away team can then agree to teas being provided for both teams, or decline the home team's offer. If the away team declines the offer of teas, then the home team may choose to provide teas for the home team only.

34b. Cancellation at short notice

The Management Committee wish to remind away sides who cancel on the day of the match, that they are expected to assist the home Club with any expenses resulting from the late cancellation: i.e. teas/ground hire.

35. Home Venue

A WCCL team shall not be permitted to swap home venues with a Club's senior side to ensure that the latter's fixture takes place. Should this occur then the WCCL's match will count as win/loss with penalty points as per Rule 41a.

WEATHER INTERFERENCE

36. Cancellation of matches

- (a) The home side will be responsible for deciding whether or not the ground is fit for play. No decision, however, should be made before 9.00 am. on the day of the match. The home Club must ensure that their opposition on the day has confirmed either verbally, or by text, that they have received notification of the cancellation.
- (b) After play has commenced, the Umpires shall be the sole judges as to the continuation of the match. The Umpires shall also be the judges with regards to bad light. Should no non-playing umpires be standing then it becomes the responsibility of the two captains on the day to adjudicate on the above.
- Should there be one non-playing umpire, they shall be the sole judge as to the continuation of the match. The non-playing umpire shall also be the sole judge with regards to bad light.
- (c) Any Match cancelled for a reason other than bad weather, unfit ground due to bad weather, or exceptional circumstances (In the event of the latter at the discretion of the Management Committee), will result in Rule 41(a) being applied.

37. Covering of Pitch

Where covers are available they should be used to cover the whole pitch and as much of the bowlers run-ups as possible as soon as a decision to suspend play is made.

38. Weather Interference during Play

(a) Overall approach

- (i) Duckworth Lewis shall be used.
- (ii) Should it not be possible to use Duckworth Lewis, Net Run Rate shall be used (see Appendix E).

(b) Reduction of Overs

- (i) The first 30 minutes lost shall not affect the number of overs to be bowled. The remainder of this rule shall only apply to time lost after this initial 30 minutes.
- (ii) If further time is lost before the match is started, then for every seven minutes lost, reduce the number of overs available to each team by 1.
- (iii) If further time is lost during the innings of the team batting first, then for every seven minutes lost, reduce the number of overs available to each team by 1.
- (iv) If further time is lost once the first innings has been completed, then for every three and a half minutes lost, one over is taken from the maximum allowed for the side batting second.

(c) Maximum Overs per Bowler

- (i) Bowlers shall be restricted to bowling one fifth of the number of overs in the innings with fractions rounded up.
- (ii) The restriction on the number of overs per bowler shall be calculated when the innings commences. If the number of overs in the innings is reduced after the innings has commenced, the restriction on bowlers shall not change.

(d) End of First Innings

The first innings shall end when:

- (i) The team batting first have received their allocation of overs, as modified by rule (b)(ii) and (b)(iii) if applicable.
- (ii) The team batting first are all out.
- (iii) An interruption during the innings of the team batting first reduces the number of overs to the number of overs which have already been received by the team batting first. Any further time lost shall be applied using rule (b)(iv) (including further time lost during the same interruption).

(e) Calculation of Par Score

- (i) The par score shall be calculated using the Duckworth Lewis calculator on the WCCL website (www.wccl.org.uk/dl/).
- (ii) If the number of overs available to the team batting second falls below 20, then the par score after 20 overs shall be calculated.

(f) End of the Match

The match shall end when:

- (i) The score of the team batting second exceeds the par score. This may happen due to the team batting second scoring runs, or the par score being reduced by weather interference.
- (ii) The team batting second are all out.
- (iii) The team batting second have faced the number of overs they are allocated.
- (iv) The number of overs available to the team batting second falls below 20. This may happen before the innings of the team batting second has begun.

(g) Result of the match

The result shall be as follows:

- (i) If the team batting second does not start their innings then the match is abandoned.
- (ii) If the team batting second have scored more than the par score, then the team batting second win the match.
- (iii) If the team batting second have scored exactly the par score, then the match shall be declared a tie.
- (iv) If the team batting second have scored less than the par score, and are all out, then the team batting first win the match.
- (v) If the team batting second have scored less than the par score, and have faced at least 20 overs, then the team batting first win the match.

(vi) If the team batting second have scored less than the par score, have not faced at least 20 overs, and are not all out, then the match is abandoned.

SCORING

39. Object

The object of the scoring system is to reward competing teams by giving bonus points for the positive elements of the game. It is hoped that this will encourage teams to score runs and take wickets rather than deny runs and win at all costs. Teams finding themselves in the position of being unable to win will still be able to improve their situation by obtaining bonus points.

40. Points awarded

(a) Points shall be awarded on the following basis:

- (i) For a completed match, each team shall receive match points and umpire points.
- (ii) For a cancelled match, each team shall receive cancellation points.
- (iii) For an abandoned match due to weather interference, each team shall receive either match points or cancellation points, whichever is the greater. If at least 10 overs of the match were played then they shall also receive umpire points.
- (iv) For a forfeited match, each team shall receive forfeit points.
- (v) For a match abandoned due to serious injury, each team shall receive serious injury points.

(b) Match Points

Match points shall be awarded as follows:

- (i) For a win: 10 points.
- (ii) For a tie: 5 points per team. A match is considered a tie only when one of the following applies:
 - Each team has completed their innings and the scores are level, irrespective of the number of wickets lost.
 - In a match interrupted by weather interference, the team batting second have scored exactly the par score
- (iii) Batting bonus points:
 - In divisions 1 to 8, for scoring 100 runs = 1 point. For each additional 25 runs up to a maximum of 225 runs 1 further point may be claimed.
 - In divisions 9 and below, for scoring 75 runs = 1 point. For each additional 25 runs up to a maximum of 200 runs 1 further point may be claimed.
 - If the side batting second wins by a margin greater than 4 wickets, 1 point may be claimed for each wicket left standing up to a maximum of 6 points for winning by 10 wickets.
- (iv) Bowling bonus points:
 - 1 point for every two wickets taken.
 - In divisions 1 to 8, for bowling a team out for less than: 175 runs = 1 point, 150 runs = 2 points, 125 runs = 3 points, 100 runs = 4 points.
 - In divisions 9 and below, for bowling a team out for less than: 150 runs = 1 point, 125 runs = 2 points, 100 runs = 3 points, 75 runs = 4 points.
 - A team unable to supply 11 batsmen due to absence or injury shall be considered all out for the purpose of bonus points.

(c) Cancellation points.

Each team shall receive 8 points.

(d) Umpire Points

(i) In divisions 1 and 2, each team will receive points for one of the following for each match:

- Provision of non-playing ACO-trained umpire 3 Points
- Provision of non-playing umpire with Forum Training 2 Points
- Provision of non-playing umpire 1 Point
- At least 2 players in team with at least Forum training 1 Point

An umpire shall be considered to be ACO-trained if they have completed the Level 1 Umpires course prior to 2018, or the Umpire Stages 1 and 2 courses from 2018 onwards.

An umpire shall be considered to be forum-trained if they have attended a WCCL umpires forum in 2017-19, or have completed one of the Umpire Stages 1 and 2 courses from 2018 to 2023, including completing the Online Umpire Stage1 course from 2020 to 2023.

(ii) In division 3 and below, each team will receive points for one of the following for each match:

- Provision of non-playing umpire 1 Point
- At least 2 players in team with at least Forum training 1 Point

Umpire points shall normally only be awarded when the umpire stands for the whole match. However, exemptions may be made at the discretion of the Management Committee where an umpire intended to umpire for the whole match, but failed to do so (e.g. due to injury).

(e) Forfeit points.

Any Club which fails to fulfil a fixture shall be fined 10 points. Their opponents on the day shall be awarded 10 points for a win and a further 12 additional points.

(f) Serious injury points

Where a serious injury or illness to a player or official leaves participants in a state where they can no longer be expected to play a meaningful game of cricket, the match shall be abandoned. The teams shall each be awarded 14 points for the abandoned match. No bonus points earned prior to the abandonment shall be awarded.

41. Penalty points

(a) Any team failing to comply with Rule 3(b) will forfeit all points gained from League fixtures played up to the date on which settlement of any outstanding debts is received.

(b) Any Club which fails to attend consecutive AGMs will be fined £25 plus a 25 point deduction for each of that Club's XIs participating in the League.

42. Declaration of innings

(a) A team may not declare their innings closed without the agreement of the opposing captain. The opposing captain must indicate his agreement by signing the declaration in the score books.

(b) A team which declares with the agreement of the opposing captain is considered to have completed their innings on the current number of runs scored and wickets lost.

(c) Any team wishing to terminate their innings before their overs are completed and without the agreement of the opposing captain are considered to be all out and shall forfeit any further bowling points to their opponents.

43. League placing

(a) League placing shall be decided on the total number of points gained by a team in a Division over the season.

(b) For the purpose of deciding a promotion or relegation place, if 2 or more teams finish the League season on level points, the final placing shall be decided by, in descending order:

- the higher number of wins achieved.
- the fewer number of defeats.
- the higher number of ties.
- the team gaining the higher number of points in the matches between the 2 teams during the season.

- the team gaining the higher number of batting points in the matches between the 2 teams during the season.
- the team gaining the higher total number of batting points.
- the team with the higher pitch marks.
- the winner of a drawing of lots.

(c) If a team resigns from the league before completing their fixtures (see rule 3(j)) or is suspended from the league (see rule 3(l)), and their division did not originally contain 10 teams, then the removal of their fixtures may leave the remaining teams in the division with an unequal number fixtures. Where this is the case, each team which has less than the maximum number of fixtures shall be compensated with 14 points per fixture they are short of the maximum number by.

DISPUTES

44. Matters not covered by the rules

(a) In the event of any questions arising which are not covered by League rules, Captains are asked to apply common sense and the spirit of the game to mutually agree upon a ruling for the circumstances in question and to continue.

(b) Whatever course of action is decided upon, the details shall be recorded on the League's web site, and a written account of the circumstances and decision shall be sent to the Admin Officer for verification of the result by the Management Committee.

45. Disputes procedure

(a) Disputes during or immediately after the match:

In the event of a dispute between two teams over a matter not covered by League Rules or the Laws of Cricket that cannot be resolved amicably between the Umpires and Captains at the time, the following procedure shall be used:

- The Captain of the disputing team shall register a failure to agree by formally informing their opposite number.
- The Captain of the disputing team shall inform the Results Officer in the normal manner of the match details, and that the dispute procedure has been set in motion.
- Both Captains shall give a written account of the facts as each sees them, and their reason for failing to agree.
- The written accounts shall be sent to the Results Officer, to be received no later than the Friday following the incident.

(b) Disputes relating to the entry/confirmation of the result on the website

If on confirming the result of a match on the website, the away team disagrees with the result as entered, they may correct it. If the change has a material significance (e.g. it changes the number of league points earned) then the Results Officer shall confirm the change with the home team. If they disagree with the change then the following procedure shall be used:

- The Results Officer shall instruct both captains to provide a written account of the facts as each sees them.
- The written accounts must be received by the Results Officer within seven days of the request.

(c) Disputes – resolution.

(i) The Results Officer shall pass the written accounts to the Divisional Representative, who shall endeavour to mediate and arrive at a decision which is acceptable to each team within fourteen days of the failure to agree.

(ii) Should either team disagree with the decision handed down by the Divisional Representative, or should fourteen days elapse since the failure to agree, the representative shall notify the League Disciplinary Sub-Committee.

(iii) The League Disciplinary Sub-Committee shall study the written accounts by both Captains and consider any relevant information passed on by the Divisional Representative before making a decision.

(iv) The decision of the League Disciplinary Sub-Committee shall be final and binding.

DISCIPLINE

46. Disciplinary Offences

Reports by independent Umpires in relation to any match, incident or interpretation of the rules shall be dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(a) It shall be a disciplinary offence

(i) for a player in the course of, or in connection with, a match to misconduct himself or to act at any time in a manner calculated to prejudice the League's good name or interest.

(ii) for any Club to fail properly to control or discipline its players or to act in a manner calculated to prejudice the good name or interests of the League, the player and Club committing an offence shall be liable to penalties in the manner and as described hereafter.

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

47. Reporting an Incident

(a) If an incident occurs during the course of a match, the disciplinary process must be initiated as follows:

- In the case of a club who have provided a non-playing umpire, it must be initiated by the non-playing umpire.
- In the case of a club who have not provided a non-playing umpire, it must be initiated by either an umpire who is standing at the time or the captain.
- The disciplinary process may also be initiated by a league committee member who was present at the match, provided their home club was not playing, and they were not playing in the match.

(b) The person who initiates the disciplinary process must inform both umpires and both captains at the earliest opportunity.

(c) Either:

- During or immediately after the conclusion of the match, both captains and both umpires who were standing at the time must be informed that a disciplinary report is to be sent to the league, or
- The chairman or secretary of the offending club must be informed in writing by midnight on the day of the match, that a disciplinary report is to be sent to the league.

(d) The report must be sent to the Admin Officer in writing by the Friday following the incident.

- If the process was initiated by a non-playing umpire then the report must be sent by that umpire.
- If the process was not initiated by a non-playing umpire but there was a non-playing umpire standing in the match, then it is strongly recommended, but not required, that the report is sent by that umpire.
- Otherwise the report must be sent by an umpire who was standing at the time, the captain or the club secretary.

(e) The report must indicate the level of offence which has been committed (see Rule 50)

(f) Where a minor is involved, either as the victim or the offender, the Wiltshire Safeguarding Officer shall be informed, and no further steps taken until their agreement to continue is received.

(g) Whichever club reports the incident, if the other club provided a non-playing umpire, a statement of support must be provided by that umpire.

(h) On receipt of a report the Admin Officer shall inform the League's Disciplinary Officer who shall then inform the Clubs involved.

(i) If a statement of support is required but not received then the Disciplinary Officer shall contact the umpire in question seeking a statement of support. Should the umpire refuse to provide a statement of support then the Disciplinary Officer shall inform both the reporting club and the Disciplinary Panel of this fact.

(j) It shall be the responsibility of the Disciplinary Officer to attempt to reach a consensus.

- (k) If no consensus can be reached then a League Disciplinary Panel shall be formed, and it shall be responsible for considering all the evidence available and acting accordingly.
- (l) Once the above procedures have been met the offending club(s) shall be forwarded all documentation relevant to the case.
- (m) The club(s) shall be informed by the League's Disciplinary Officer as to which level of offence the incident falls into. See Rule 50.
- (n) The club shall be informed of the typical penalty for this offence by the League's Disciplinary Officer.

47a. Reporting an off-field Incident

- (a) If an incident occurs outside of the field of play, the disciplinary process may be instigated by anybody who witnessed the incident.
- (b) The report must be sent to the Admin Officer in writing by the Friday following the incident. The report may be written and submitted by the original witness or the club secretary.
- (c) On receipt of a report the Admin Officer shall inform the League's Disciplinary Officer who shall then inform the Clubs involved.
- (d) Once the above procedures have been met the offending club(s) shall be forwarded all documentation relevant to the case.
- (e) The club(s) shall be informed by the League's Disciplinary Officer as to which level of offence the incident falls into. See Rule 50.
- (f) The club shall be informed of the typical penalty for this offence by the League's Disciplinary Officer.

47b. Club Internal Disciplinary Process

- (i) The offending Club shall conduct its own internal disciplinary hearing and shall:
- inform the Disciplinary sub-Committee of the outcome of their hearing with any suspension being in-line with Rule 51a.
 - forward all supporting documentation.

This process shall be completed within 14 days of the official notification (N.B. any documentation received after the 14 day period has elapsed shall be deemed inadmissible).

- (ii) For Level 1 and 2 Offences, where the penalty enforced by the club is in-line with, or greater than, the penalty advised by the League's Disciplinary Officer (see 47(n) and 47a(f)), the penalty shall be accepted by the league and the disciplinary process concluded without any further action.

48. Disciplinary Sub-Committee

(a) Formation of Panel

Where the disciplinary process is not concluded by 47b(ii), the League's Disciplinary Officer shall convene a Disciplinary Sub-Committee to deal with the matter.

(b) Make-up of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee

There shall be a standing Disciplinary Sub-Committee consisting of at least one of the Officers of the League plus two independent members of the Management Committee to deal with all disciplinary matters.

(c) Actions of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee

- (i) The Sub-Committee shall then discuss the Club's findings and can either: a) confirm the Clubs decision or b) increase the suspension awarded should they consider that the Club's internal findings did not fully reflect the seriousness of the incident.
- (ii) The Admin Officer shall inform the Club(s) of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee's decision.

(d) Actions of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee – Appeals

- (i) Appeals may be made against all level 3 and 4 rulings.
- (ii) If the Club(s) are not satisfied with the original decision of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee then the appeals process shall come into operation.
- (iii) Where there is no appeal the decision of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee shall be final and binding.

49. Appeals.

(a) Make-up of the Appeals Sub-Committee

Appeals against decisions reached by the Disciplinary Sub-Committee will be heard by an Appeals Sub-Committee consisting of 3 members of the full League Management Committee. Of the 3 only 1 of the Appeals Sub-Committee will have served on the original Disciplinary Sub-Committee.

(b) Making an Appeal

(i) Notice of an Appeal setting out the grounds must be given in writing to the Admin Officer within 7 days of the decision of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee, together with a deposit of 50.00.

(ii) Upon giving Notice of Appeal the penalty shall not take effect pending the hearing of the Appeal.

(iii) The Appeal shall be by way of a rehearing. The player or Club shall have the rights of attendance and representation, and be permitted to call witnesses.

(iv) The standard of proof shall be on the balance of probabilities rather than the criminal standard of beyond reasonable doubt.

(v) The Appeals Sub-Committee may confirm, vary, or reverse the decision of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee, save that it shall not have power to increase the penalty. The Appeals Sub-Committee shall also have the power where they consider the appeal to be without merit, to order that the deposit be forfeited.

(vi) The decision of the Appeals Sub-Committee shall be final and binding.

50. Level of Offences

The seriousness of an offence committed by a player is indicated in the following lists of offences.

(a) Level 1 Offences.

- Abuse of equipment or clothing or any part of the ground
- Using language or a gesture that is obscene, offensive or insulting.
- Excessive appealing.
- Aggressive pointing towards the pavilion by a member of the fielding side upon dismissal of a batsman.
- A captain failing his responsibilities under 'The Spirit of Cricket'.

(b) Level 2 Offences.

- Repeat of any level 1 offences within 12 months.
- Showing dissent at an umpires decision by word or action.
- Public criticism of a match related incident, match official or other official.
- Inappropriate and deliberate physical contact between players during play.
- Aggressively charging towards an umpire while appealing.
- Deliberate distraction or obstruction on the field.
- Throwing the ball at a player, umpire or official in a dangerous manner.
- Using language or a gesture that is obscene, offensive or of a seriously insulting nature to another player, umpire, referee, team official, other official or spectator.
- Changing the condition of the ball in breach of Law 42.3.
- Any attempt to manipulate a match in regard to the result, net run rate, bonus points or otherwise.

(c) Level 3 Offences.

- Repeat of any level 2 offences within 12 months.
- Intimidation of umpire or other official.
- Threat of assault on a player, team official or spectator.
- Using language or gestures that offends race, religion, colour, descent of national or ethnic origin.

(d) Level 4 Offences.

- Repeat of any level 3 offences within 12 months.
- Threat of assault on an umpire or other official.
- Physical assault of another player, umpire, referee, official or spectator.
- Any act of violence during play.
- Using gestures or language that seriously offends race, religion, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin.

The list of offences above is only a guide and cases which do not fall into the categories stated will be considered on a case by case basis by the League Management Committee.

51. Penalties.

(a) Player Penalties

Level 1 Offences.

The offending player will receive a warning to his future conduct and/or a suspension of 1 to 4 matches

Level 2 Offences.

The offending player will be liable to a suspension of 2 to 6 matches

Level 3 Offences

The offending player will be liable to a suspension of 4 to 12 matches

Level 4 Offences.

The offending player will be liable to a suspension of a minimum of 10 matches. In addition players may also receive a fine of not more than £20.

(b) Club Penalties

The following penalties are available in the case of a club being penalised.

- expulsion from the League;
- suspension for one or more matches;
- a fine of not more than £100;
- deduction of points in the League;
- a combination of a fine of not more than £100 and a deduction of points

(c) All player disciplinary offences will result in a club points deduction. 2 points for level 1, 4 points for level 2, 10 points for level 3, 25 points for level 4. Second and subsequent offences in the same team will result in increased points deductions.

(d) Any player who is banned from playing shall also be banned from umpiring in a WCCL match.

(e) In the event that a club disciplines their player without the league disciplinary process being instigated, there shall not be a points deduction.

52. Websites

WCCL Clubs are at all times responsible in ensuring that Players and Club Officials do not make any public or media comments which are detrimental to the League, Member Clubs, Umpires, individuals or the game in general. In this instance media shall include, press, radio, television, external websites, club web-sites, and social networking sites. Material which is deemed offensive, either to an individual or another Wiltshire League Club, may result in the offending player and/or Club being charged under the Rules of the Wiltshire County Cricket League's Constitution and Playing Rules. Where applicable the tariff for players and/or Clubs found guilty of a Rule 52 offence will be the same as if the offence had taken place on the field of play (see Rule 51a and b)

APPENDIX A – RESULTS NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

1. Home Results

All **HOME** teams are required to enter their weekend result and scorecard on the Leagues web-site www.wccl.org.uk by 12 noon on the Monday following the fixture. Clubs are reminded to enter details of cancelled fixtures. Failure to comply with the above will result in the offending club being fined £20.00 for each missed result.

2. Away Results

Each **AWAY** team must confirm their weekend result and scorecard, and enter the “How it Plays” marks on the Leagues web-site www.wccl.org.uk by 12 noon on the Friday following the fixture. Clubs are reminded to confirm cancelled fixtures. Failure to comply with the above will result in the offending club being fined £20.00 for each missed result.

3. Repeated Missed Results

All fines shall be reported to the fined club via the league website. Each fine must be acknowledged by the club within 7 days of being issued. If a Team fails to enter/confirm their results on time on more than one occasion during a season, then this shall be stated as part of the description of the fine, and any subsequent failure to enter/confirm their results shall result in the fine being increased by £20.00 for each further offence.

APPENDIX B – PITCH MARKING CRITERIA & REPORTING PROCEDURE

Description of Marks				
Bounce Consistency	Bounce Quality	How it Plays	Outfield	Grade
Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	5
Good	Good	Good	Good	4
Average	Average	Average	Average	3
Below Average	Below Average	Below Average	Below Average	2
Poor	Too High/Too Low	Poor	Poor	1
Very Poor	Very Poor	Very Poor	Very Poor	0

For matches where the away team has provided a non-playing umpire, the pitch marks are decided by the away non-playing umpire, and then written into the notes section of the away team score-book. The away team captain enters the marks onto the WCCL website. For matches without a non-playing umpire provided by the away team, the pitch marks are decided by the away team captain, who enters them onto the WCCL website.

APPENDIX C – CLASSIFICATION OF OVERSEAS PLAYERS

The determination as to whether a player is an overseas player shall be based on their legal basis for being in the UK. A player shall be considered to be an overseas player if they have entered the UK using one of the following types of visa:

- A Sportsperson Visa
- A Temporary Worker - Creative and Sporting Visa
- A Youth Mobility Scheme Visa
- A Standard Visitor Visa

APPENDIX D – FACILITIES CRITERIA

All clubs must meet the following criteria for their facilities. Where a club is unable to, they must apply to the League Management Committee for exemption.

1. Playing Area

Clubs must provide the following:

- A prepared pitch to play on.
- A maintained outfield.
- A continuously marked boundary. The boundary can be a rope, line, wall, fence, etc.

- A scoreboard. This must display runs scored, wickets fallen, overs completed and target score.
- A supply of sawdust. This must be sawdust, not wood shavings.
- In divisions 1-2, covers for the wicket. Can be wheeled or sheets.
- In divisions 1-3, sight screens, or other suitable light background. Options for other light backgrounds include a painted building, a sheet on poles, or the sky. It must either be wide enough or moveable for bowlers bowling both sides of the wicket..
- In divisions 1-3, a clock. Must be visible from the wicket.

2. Buildings and Amenities

Clubs must provide the following:

- A running water supply.
- Seating for players and spectators. Must be close to the field of play.
- A hot water supply. This does not have to be running hot water, a kettle is sufficient.
- Toilets
 - These must be close enough to the playing area to be used during a drinks break.
 - Toilets must be available for spectators. These can be the same as for the players, provided they are accessible during play.
 - Toilets must be available for female players and spectators. These can be unisex toilets, if suitable.
 - As a minimum, a camping toilet and toilet tent is acceptable.
- Changing Rooms
 - There must be a separate changing room for each team.
 - Changing rooms must provide privacy during changing.
 - Changing rooms must protect kit bags against the weather before, during and after the match.
 - As a minimum, a non-windowed gazebo per team is acceptable.
- Showers must be provided.
- A tea room. This must allow players to take tea during a rain break.

3. Other Facilities

Clubs must have the following:

- Towels to dry a wet ball.
- A garden fork, or alternative, to aid the removal of water from the ground.
- A first aid kit.
- Parking for all players.
- Access to a telephone within the ground. This can be a land-line or a mobile with signal. For use if the emergency services have to be called.

APPENDIX E – NET RUN RATE

In matches where Net Run Rate is used the procedure in Rule 38 shall be modified as follows:

Rule 38(b)(iii) Once the match has started, if any further time is lost then for every three and a half minutes lost, one over is taken from the maximum allowed for the side batting second. The maximum number of overs allowed to the team batting first is unaltered.

Rule 38(e)(i) The par score shall be calculated as follows:

- The run rate of the team batting first shall be calculated by dividing the number of runs scored by the total number of overs to which they were entitled.
- The par score shall be the run rate of the team batting first multiplied by the maximum number of overs allowed to the team batting second, ignore decimals.

APPENDIX F – CHANGES TO THE LAWS OF CRICKET – OCTOBER 2022

A number of changes have been made to the laws of cricket, effective 1st October 2022. These changes shall therefore apply in the WCCL in 2023. They are:

- Saliva must not be applied to the ball. Failure to adhere to this shall result in five penalty runs being awarded to the opposition.
- When a batsman is given out caught, the new batsman shall always come in at the end at which the out batsman faced the previous ball, regardless of whether the batsmen crossed prior to the catch.
- If a batsman is moving in his crease, or is not standing in the normal batting position, a wide shall only be called if the ball would have been considered wide for the batsman's normal batting position, and would have been considered wide for every position in which the batsman has stood since the bowler commenced his run-up.
- If the ball should land away from the pitch, the striker shall be allowed to play the ball so long as some part of their bat or person remains within or above the pitch. Should they venture beyond that, the umpire shall call and signal Dead ball.
- If the ball should land so far away from the pitch that the striker cannot reach it without completely leaving the pitch, a No Ball shall be called.
- In the event of unfair movement by the wicket keeper or a fielder, the batting side shall be awarded 5 penalty runs.
- A dead ball shall be called if there is any interference to play by a person, animal or other object on the field of play.
- When a replacement player is used, they shall inherit be treated as if they are the player who they have replaced. This shall include inheriting any sanctions or dismissals which applied to the replaced player.
- If the bowler attempts to throw at the strikers end stumps before his delivery stride, a dead ball shall be called.