

RULES OF THE BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT PREMIER LEAGUE

1. TITLE

The League shall be called the Birmingham & District Premier Cricket League, hereinafter referred to as “the League.”

2. OBJECTIVE

To organise a Regional Premier Cricket League in the conurbation of the West Midlands, including Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire which seeks to:

- (a) promote that which is best for the development of cricket, with high standards of performance, sportsmanship, playing facilities, whilst preparing the best young players for County Cricket.
- (b) meet the requirements detailed in the ECB Report “Raising the Standard” issued on 5th August 1997, and thereby entitles the League to be an ECB Accredited Regional Premier League.

3. STRUCTURE

- 3.1 The League shall have four divisions: Premier, First, Second and Third. There will be promotion and relegation throughout the structure as set out in Appendix A.
- 3.2 The League shall have Feeder Leagues in some or all of Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire with promotion and relegation into and from the League, on a basis determined by the League Management Board, in consultation with the relevant County Leagues and their member Clubs.
- 3.3 The League will also have three Division 2nd XI Championship with Division Two regionalised into two sections. Promotion and relegation within the League’s Divisions will be independent from 1st XI’s. At the end of each season, the 24 Clubs who will play in Division Two, the following season, will be determined, on a geographical basis, by the Management Board and will not be subject to negotiation. When a Club’s 1st XI is relegated out of the League, into a Feeder League, its 2nd XI will also be relegated.
- 3.4 Member Clubs must, also, run a Saturday 3rd XI in a Competition approved by the League.
- 3.5 Clubs in Feeder Leagues will not be eligible for promotion to the League unless they run a Saturday 3rd XI in a Competition approved by the League during the season in which they achieve promotion.
- 3.6 Promotion within the League, or from a Feeder League, will, only, be confirmed if all mandatory (M) items, for the higher division, listed in the Club Accreditation Document, are in place

by the end of the current season. If these items are not in place, the promoted Club must submit a letter, by 30th September of that year, signed by the Club's Chairman and Treasurer, as well as any relevant documentary and/or financial evidence, confirming that the requirements for the higher division will be in place before the start of the following season.

- 3.7 If mandatory items pertaining to a club's present position remain outstanding at the end of the current season, relegation to the next lower division will be imposed unless the Club submits a letter, by 30th September of that year, signed by the Club's Chairman and Treasurer, as well as any relevant documentary and/or financial evidence, confirming that the requirements for the higher division will be in place before the start of the following season.
- 3.8 Any club, whose current facilities would debar them from promotion to a higher division, or do not meet the criteria for the division in which they are, currently, placed, anywhere in the pyramid structure, will be notified immediately after an inspection and made aware of the deficiencies and the improvements necessary to avoid relegation.
- 3.9 Before the start of each season, the Chairman and Secretary of each member club are required to sign a declaration, agreeing, on behalf of the Club, to all agreed principles and behaviours of the League. Clubs failing to submit the declaration, before the start of the season, will not be credited with any points until a signed copy is received by the General Manager.

4. MANAGEMENT BOARD

4.1 Composition

The League shall be administered by a Management Board of 12 representatives from member clubs and the Hon. Treasurer, each of whom shall be entitled to vote and shall be elected at the AGM by member clubs.

4.2 Elections

- (i) Representatives will be elected at the League AGM, by secret ballot, using the ECB standard single transferable vote system. Nominations should be received by the General Manager by 1st December and will be circulated to member Clubs with AGM notices (in accordance with 5.1. below).
- (ii) One third of the 12 elected representatives shall retire each year, in rotation and shall be eligible for re-election of they so wish.

- (iii) Representatives shall automatically retire, and not be eligible for re-election, if their Club ceases to be a member of the League.

4.3 **County Boards & Feeder Leagues**

The County Boards of Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire shall be entitled to nominate one non-voting member to the Management Board, providing they have established a Feeder League of suitable standard, and made a financial contribution acceptable to the Management Board.

Each Feeder League shall nominate one non-voting member to the Management Board.

4.4 **Powers & Responsibilities**

The League Management Board shall have the following powers and responsibilities:

- (i) To manage the League in accordance with its Rules and in particular to determine
 - conditions of play
 - fixture lists
 - conditions of player registration, including overseas players and County Board players registered for counties other than Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire
 - subscriptions of member Clubs
 - to appoint a paid Administrator
 - standards in respect of ground and facilities, youth cricket and administration (see Club Accreditation Document issued to all Member Clubs and Feeder Leagues at the start of each season) and appropriate sanctions if such standards are not achieved
 - umpiring policy
 - discipline standards and regulations
- (ii) To seek to comply with ECB directives as to playing conditions in respect of ECB Accredited Premier Leagues.
- (iii) To adhere to the ECB Child Protection Policy, 'Safe-Hands', a copy of which can be found at www.ecb.co.uk
- (iv) To delegate powers to sub committees, whose composition the Management Board shall determine, as the Management Board sees fit.

- (v) To co-opt further members on to the Management Board, or any of its sub-committees as the Management Board sees fit.

4.5 **Officers**

The Management Board shall elect, out of the 12 members elected by the member Clubs and the Hon. Treasurer, the following officers:-

- (i) Chairman, who will have a second or casting vote, if required.
- (ii) Other officers and Chairmen of sub-committees, as deemed appropriate.

5. **MEETINGS**

5.1 **AGM**

A General Meeting of all members of the League shall be held in January of each year with at least 21 days notice to member Clubs. The meeting shall:

- (a) Elect a President who shall serve for one year. The President may attend all Management Board meetings on a non-voting basis.
- (b) Elect a President-Elect who shall serve for one year.
- (c) Elect additional Vice Presidents, if appropriate.
- (d) Elect an Honorary Treasurer, who shall serve for three years. The Honorary Treasurer may attend all Management Board meetings and shall be entitled to vote.
- (e) Elect members of the Management Board in accordance with 4.2 above.
- (f) Appoint an Honorary Auditor.
- (g) Approve the Annual Report and Accounts, which shall be submitted to the meeting by the Management Board.
- (h) Consider any proposed rule changes in accordance with Rule 5.2 below.

5.2 **Alterations to the Rules**

No alterations shall be made to the Rules of the League except at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting. Notice of the proposed alteration shall be given in writing to the Board at least 6 weeks prior to the AGM, or in the case of a Special General Meeting, in accordance with Rule 5.4. Such notice must be proposed and seconded by two separate member Clubs. The proposed alteration shall be circulated with the notice convening the meeting. Voting on any alterations to the Rules will be by secret ballot and will be in accordance with Rule 5.5.

5.3 **Divisional Meetings**

The Management Board shall hold at least one consultation meeting annually with representatives of the member Clubs of each division of the League.

5.4 **Special General Meetings**

A Special General Meeting may be called at any time by the Management Board, or by written application to the Board, such application to be signed by the secretaries of not less than eight member Clubs, stating clearly the motion(s) proposed. Notice of a Special General Meeting must be issued within 14 days of receipt of such application, giving at least 21 days notice to all member Clubs.

5.5 **Voting**

Voting at all General meetings shall be on the basis of one vote for each of the member clubs, with a simple majority of those present being decisive. In the event of a tied vote the motion/ proposal is defeated.

6 **FINANCE**

The Management Board shall be responsible for the sound management of the League's finance, including the setting of subscriptions together with the raising and distribution of grants and sponsorship funds.

6.1 **ECB Grants**

The distribution of any money received by the League from the ECB, as an accredited Premier League, shall be in accordance with ECB direction.

6.2 **County Board Grants**

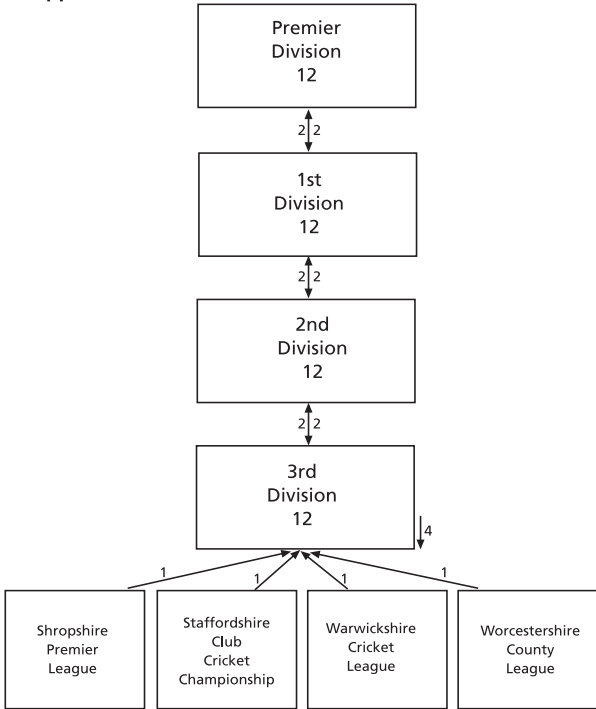
Grants received from County Boards will be distributed to member Clubs in accordance with the Grant Allocation Procedure.

6.3 **Compliance**

The Management Board shall have the power to withhold grants and sponsorship funds, levy fines and ultimately suspend any member Club for non-payment of subscriptions or any other amount owed to the League; or for failure to comply with any Procedure or Directive issued by the Management Board, including Grant Allocation, Facility Audit and Youth Development.

Appendix A

From Season 2004



The system of promotion and relegation will be as follows:-

- 2 down from Premier Division / Champions and Runners-Up promoted from 1st Division
- 2 down from 1st Division / Champions and Runners-Up promoted from 2nd Division
- 2 down from 2nd Division / Champions and Runners-Up promoted from 3rd Division
- 4 down from 3rd Division / Champions promoted from Shropshire, Staffordshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire Feeder Leagues

NOTES TO CLUBS

1. LEAGUE SUBSCRIPTION

Clubs annual subscriptions to the League are payable by 30th April, in the current year. Clubs who have not paid by that date will not be credited with any points during the period that the fee remains unpaid.

2. CRICKET BOARD AFFILIATION

All clubs should affiliate to the Cricket Board responsible for the County in which their ground is situated. Clubs who have not paid their affiliation fee to the appropriate Board, by 30th April, in the current year, will not be credited with any points during the period that the fee remains unpaid.

3. ATTENDANCE AT AGM & DIVISIONAL MEETINGS

Non-attendance by any member club at an AGM or Divisional Meeting will result in a £50 penalty. Clubs relegated at the end of a season remain members of the League until the following AGM, when they are replaced by clubs promoted from Feeder Leagues.

4. CLUB ACCREDITATION DOCUMENT

Member clubs must comply with the criteria prescribed in the Club Accreditation Document, a copy of which is circulated to all clubs prior to the start of the season. Further copies are available from the General Manager. Failure to comply with the criteria will lead to a disciplinary sub-committee hearing and may result in relegation or other penalty.

N.B. Feeder Leagues will inform their members about these standards as they will apply to clubs seeking confirmation of their promotion to BDPCL.

5. DAMAGE TO FACILITIES

If damage is caused to any Member Club's facilities by visiting player(s) or spectators, the visiting club shall be held responsible for the repair of any such damage.

6. CLUB WELFARE OFFICER

Every club must have a Club Welfare Officer.

7. TROPHIES

All trophies are and shall remain the property of the League. They should be returned to the General Manager, on or before 30th June, each year, in the case of (Twenty20) Challenge Cup and Graham Williamson Trophy competitions, and on or before 31st August, each year, in the

case of League Championship competitions. They are to be properly engraved by the winning club and returned in a clean and presentable condition. Failure to comply will result in an automatic fine of £25.00, with an increase of £25.00 for every subsequent seven days delay in the return of any trophy. The winners of any trophy shall be responsible for its safe keeping and must report any loss or damage to the General Manager, immediately, by telephone, and follow up in writing within 48 hours. Should any club take any action, including failure to report, as above, which invalidates the League's insurance on the trophies, it will be liable for any loss or damage. If any action, taken by a club, causes a claim to be made on the League's insurance on the trophies, the club concerned shall be liable for any insurance excess.

8. ECB CLUBMARK ACCREDITATION

Clubmark is an important and visible confirmation that clubs with a Junior Section provide a safe and child-friendly environment and all Premier League clubs should obtain and retain Clubmark accreditation.

9. ECB CONDITIONS

Member clubs shall play Cricket in accordance with the ECB Code of Conduct, and within the Spirit and Laws of Cricket. In accordance with the accreditation by the ECB, the League will meet the following requirements:

- i. Ensure that all Member Clubs adhere to the ECB Fast Bowling Directives for young fast bowlers.
- ii. Ensure that all players under the age of 18 (on the day of the match) shall wear helmets (mandatory) for batting and keeping wicket standing up to the wicket.
- iii. Ensure that all players under the age of 18 (on the day of the match) wear a helmet and abdominal protector (mandatory) when fielding within 6 yards (5.5 metres) of the batsman.
- iv. Ensure that all Member Clubs adhere to any other ECB directives that are relevant to the current season.
- v. Encourage players to make themselves available for the Unicorns XI and or Minor County Club sides. The following regulations will apply.

"Any player selected for a Unicorns XI match or Minor County representative match who does not make himself available will not be eligible to play in a Premier Division match scheduled for the same day unless approval is received from the ECB Director of Cricket Operations or Cricket Operations Manager (Recreational Cricket), or from the Manager of the County team in the case of County matches. This rule also covers the period when players would be expected to travel/report for Unicorns or Minor County matches."

- vi. Arrange for the results of matches in the Premier Division to be sent to the ECB each week during the season. The arrangements will be as from time to time issued by the General Manager.
- vii. Ensure that all players sign either the relevant ECB Registration Form or a League Form which explicitly requires that they abide by the ECB or League Code of Conduct and accept ECB and League disciplinary decisions. The registration forms will be issued by the General Manager. All players must be registered by their club prior to the commencement of the League season.

10. PRECEDENCE AND DISPUTES

- a. Where the rules of the Premier Division and the rules of the other Divisions of the League appear to conflict, then the Premier Division rules take precedence for matters concerning the Premier Division.
- b. The Management Board shall be empowered to deal with any query or dispute concerning the organisation and playing conditions and all disciplinary matters. In the event of any query or dispute concerning the organisation and playing conditions or disciplinary matters or in the event of any breach thereof the decision of the Management Board shall be final. In addition to the penalties laid down in these playing conditions, the Management Board shall be empowered to take whatever other action and impose whatever other penalties it deems appropriate against the Club or any individual member or members of a Club found to be in breach.