

RULES OF THE BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT PREMIER CRICKET LEAGUE

1. TITLE

The League shall be called The Birmingham & District Premier Cricket League. At the discretion of the Management Board, the name of any main sponsor of the League may be added to the title during the period of sponsorship.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 To organise and administer a Regional Premier Cricket League in the conurbation of the West Midlands, including Herefordshire, Shropshire, South Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire which seeks to promote that which is best for the development of cricket with the very best standards of performance, sportsmanship and playing facilities, whilst preparing the best young players for County Cricket.
- 2.2 To provide strong leadership that will benefit cricket across the whole of the West Midlands region.

3. STRUCTURE AND CRITERIA FOR ENTRY

- 3.1 The League shall have two divisions: Premier Division One and Premier Division Two.
- 3.2 The League shall be linked to County Leagues in some or all of Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire.
- 3.3 There will be promotion and relegation throughout the structure as follows: -
 - a. Between Premier Division One and Premier Division Two.
 - b. Between Premier Division Two and the County Leagues via a play-off system to be agreed at the start of each season by the League Management Board in consultation with the relevant County Leagues and their member clubs.
- 3.4 Member clubs must comply with the criteria prescribed in the Club Accreditation Document, a copy of which is circulated prior to the start of the season. Failure to comply with the criteria may result in relegation or other penalty. Copies are available to download from the League website www.birminghamleague.org
- 3.5 County Leagues will inform their member clubs about these criteria, every season, as they will be applied to clubs seeking confirmation of their promotion into the League. Promotion from a County League will, only, be confirmed if all mandatory items listed in the Club Accreditation Document are in place by the end of the current season.

- 3.6 Any member club whose current facilities do not meet the criteria for the division in which they are, currently, placed will be notified immediately after an inspection and made aware of the deficiencies and the improvements necessary to avoid relegation.
- 3.7 If mandatory items pertaining to a member club's present position remain outstanding at the end of the current season, relegation to the next lowest division (including relegation to a County League) will be imposed.
- 3.8 All clubs must achieve and maintain Clubmark accreditation. A club that does not have Clubmark accreditation on 30th April in any year must achieve accreditation by no later than 31st July in the same year. Failure to achieve accreditation by 31st July will result in the club being expelled from the League with membership ceasing at the next AGM.
- 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 eight representatives from member clubs, each of whom shall be entitled to vote and shall be elected at the AGM by member clubs. The General Manager and the Honorary Finance Manager shall, also, be members of the Management Board and shall be entitled to vote. At a meeting of the Management Board, a quorum shall be four, one of whom shall be the Chairman or Vice-Chairman, two of whom should be from the other six representatives from member clubs and one of whom shall be the General Manager or the Finance Manager.

4.2 Elections

- a. Representatives will be elected at the League AGM using the ECB standard single transferable vote system. Nominations should be received by the General Manager by 1st November and will be circulated to member clubs with AGM notices (in accordance with 5.1 below).
- b. Nominations must be proposed and seconded by two different member clubs and each candidate for nomination will be required to provide a personal profile including details of their cricketing background and stating the reasons why they should be considered for the position.

- c. Two of the eight elected representatives shall retire, each year, in rotation, and shall be eligible for re-election if they so wish.
- d. Representatives shall, automatically, retire and will not be eligible for re-election if their club ceases to be a member of the League.

4.3 Powers and Responsibilities

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

- a. To manage the League in accordance with its rules and to determine: -
 - to appoint a paid General Manager
 - to appoint an Honorary Finance Manager
 - annual subscriptions of member clubs
 - fixture lists
 - playing directives and playing conditions
 - standards in respect of grounds & facilities, youth cricket and administration (see Club Accreditation Document issued to all member clubs and County Leagues at the start of each season) and appropriate sanctions if such standards are not achieved.
 - conditions of player registration including overseas players and contracted players
 - umpiring policy including appointments and re-appointments
 - discipline standards and regulations
- b. To comply with ECB directives as to playing conditions in respect of ECB Accredited Premier Leagues.
- c. To adhere to the ECB Child Protection Policy “Safe-Hands – Welfare of Young People in Cricket” or any future versions of that policy, a copy of which can be found at www.ecb.co.uk
- d. To delegate powers to sub-committees whose composition the Management Board shall determine as they see fit.
- e. To co-opt further members on to the Management Board or any of its sub-committees as they see fit.

4.4 Officers

The Management Board shall elect, out of the eight members elected by the member clubs, the following officers: -

- a. Chairman, who will have a second or casting vote, if required.
- b. Vice-Chairman
- c. Other Officers and Chairmen of sub-committees, as deemed appropriate.

4.5 Disputes

The Management Board shall be empowered to deal with any query or dispute concerning the organisation of the League, registration issues, playing conditions, and all disciplinary matters. In the event of any query or dispute concerning the organisation of the League, registration issues, playing conditions or disciplinary matters or in the event of any breach thereof, the decision of the Management Board will be final. In addition to the penalties laid out in the fines tariff, 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.

5. MEETINGS

5.1 AGM

A General Meeting of all member clubs of the League shall be held no later than 30th November of each year with at least 21 days' notice. The quorum will be 10 clubs represented.

The meeting shall: -

- a. Appoint a President who shall serve for one year. The President may attend all Management Board meetings on a non-voting basis.
- b. Appoint a President-Elect who shall serve for one year.
- c. Appoint additional Vice Presidents, if appropriate.
- d. Elect members of the Management Board in accordance with 4.2 above.
- e. Appoint an Honorary Reporting Accountant.
- f. Approve the annual report and accounts which shall be submitted to the meeting by the Management Board.
- g. Consider any proposed rule changes in accordance with 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 a Special General Meeting. Notice of the proposed alteration should be given in writing to the Management Board at least six weeks prior to the AGM or, in the case of a Special General Meeting, in accordance with rule 5.3. Such notice must be proposed and seconded by the Management Board or by two separate member clubs. The proposed alteration should be circulated with the notice convening the meeting. Voting on any alterations to the rules will be by a show of hands (one vote per club) and will be in accordance with rule 5.4.

5.3 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.

5.4 Amendments and Counter-Proposals

Any amendment or counter-proposal to the original proposal to alter the rules at any General Meeting must be received at least seven days before the date of the meeting. The original proposal will stand as the main proposal and the amendment/counter-proposal will be heard prior to the main motion being proposed. Any amendment or counter-proposal must be proposed and seconded 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.

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.

5.6 Club Meetings

The Management Board shall hold at least one consultation meeting, annually, with representatives of the member clubs of the League.

5.7 Non-attendance at AGM, SGM and Club Meetings

Non-attendance by any member club at an AGM, SGM or Club Meeting will result in a £50.00 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 the County Leagues.

6. FINANCE

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

6.1 League Subscription

Clubs' annual subscriptions to the League are payable prior to the first league match of the season. Clubs who have not paid by that date will not be credited with any points during the period that the fee remains unpaid.

6.2 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, prior to the first league match of the season, will not be credited with any points during the period that the fee remains unpaid.

6.3 End of Year Accounts and Balance Sheet

All clubs must publish an annual statement of accounts. The Management Board may, at any time, request a member club to submit a copy of its most recent end of year accounts and balance sheet for inspection by the General Manager and the Honorary Finance Manager.

6.4 Trophies

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

6.5 ECB Grants

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

6.6 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 annual 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, ground and facility audit and youth development.

7. 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 its accreditation by ECB, the League will meet the following requirements: -

- a. Ensure that all member clubs adhere to the ECB fast bowling directives for young fast bowlers.
- b. 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.
- c. Ensure that all players under the age of 18 (on the day of the match) wear a helmet and an abdominal protector (mandatory) when fielding in accordance with ECB fielding regulations
- d. Ensure that all member clubs adhere to the ECB guidelines for junior players in open age cricket.
- e. Ensure that all member clubs adhere to any other ECB directives that are relevant to the current season.
- f. Ensure that all players by virtue of their registration on play-cricket.com abide by the ECB or League Code of Conduct and accept ECB and League disciplinary decisions.