



**THE BEST WESTERN  
SHRUBBERY HOTEL  
SOMERSET CRICKET LEAGUE**

**PRE SEASON CIRCULAR FOR 2008**

- 1. The Handbooks.** The handbooks went to print with all clubs having returned their Club Details sheet - excellent. However, I do know that there are already some changes to this information and there may be some inaccuracies from the Form submitted by the club. Each club has been supplied with handbooks as per the formula in my covering letter. Please ensure, at least, that each of your captains has a copy. Other copies are available from the League Secretary at £1 each.

I have enclosed Amendments Sheet No. 1. that contains those changes that have been notified to me since the Handbook went to print.

**NOTE.** You should check the details of your Club in the new handbook and advise Ray Hancock, The Hon. Secretary, Somerset Cricket League, The Jays, Moss Lane, Ruishton, Taunton (Tel/Fax. 01823 444779 or E-mail raysomcricket@btconnect.com) of any changes immediately. These amendments will then be sent out in due course.

- 2. Registration of Players.** This season, as during previous seasons, there will be no formal registration of players. Players will be automatically deemed as registered for a club as soon as they have played one match for that club. No player shall play for more than one club in the Somerset Cricket League or any other club in the West of England Premier League (WEPL) pyramid during the season without being correctly transferred as shown in Handbook Rule 7(b). In the case of a **contract player** written permission **MUST** be obtained from the Hon. Secretary. The Club should give all relevant details of the contract player on Club Headed Paper and this request should be sent to the Hon. Secretary at least 7 days before they intend to play their first match for the club. This player may not play for the club until written authority has been received from the Hon. Secretary. This will enable the Hon. Secretary to check out the registration with the appropriate members of the Management Committee. **Note:-** *A contract player is a player with a professional contract for any club outside the League. This category of player may only play with the permission of the Management Committee.*

**Overseas Players**

1. ALL overseas players will need to be registered with the Hon. Secretary of the League before they may play in the 2008 Season.#
2. Only one 'Overseas Player' \* shall play for each club per season. This player must be registered with the Hon. Secretary 7 days before his first game and no later than 31<sup>st</sup> May. (Form OP 1 must be used and this is obtainable from the Hon. Secretary).# - **Rule 7 (d) i) applies.**

3. \* An 'Overseas Player' is defined as an overseas national who is not a holder of, or is not entitled to hold, a United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Passport or an Eire Passport. - **Rule 7 (d) iii) applies.**
4. If a player is uncertain of his national status in relation to the League's rules then he must check out his credentials with the Hon. Secretary # before he may play.
5. If there is any doubt about the credibility of any player from overseas or elsewhere who has not completed Forms OP1 or OP2 or OP3, then the player will be required to justify his status. This eligibility may be challenged by another club or a League official and the onus will be upon the player (and his club) to provide clear prove of status to the Hon. Secretary. #
6. An 'Overseas Player' \* who has played for six consecutive seasons for one club as the overseas player shall be deemed a home player for that club. The player and his club must complete Form OP3 and this is obtainable from the Hon. Secretary#, which gives complete details of his past record with the Club. - **Rule 7 (d) ii) applies.**
7. Only one 'Overseas Player' \* can be registered for each club for each season even if he leaves before May 31<sup>st</sup>. After that date no 'Overseas Player' \* may be registered. - **Rule 7 (d) v) applies.**
8. A club with teams in other league cricket outside of the Somerset Cricket League shall have those teams counted in relation to 'one player per club'. **Note.** This generally applies to the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> XIs of clubs with teams in the WEPL.
9. The submission to the Hon. Secretary # of Forms OP1, OP2 and OP3 **MUST** be made at least 7days before the player's first game for the club.
10. In the special case of an overseas player seeking to play for a club that already has a player registered through Form OP1 or OP3 then he (and his club) must complete Form OP2 and also give a separate detailed explanation of the reasons for breaching the Rule 7 (d) i). - **Note the comments from Form OP2.** *Permission for an additional player to that already registered on Form OP1 will only be given if the club can give a satisfactory explanation to its reasons for the need to breach the SCL Rule 7(d) i). Clubs will only be given permission for this additional player if he is resident in the UK on a permanent basis and his reason for being here is **not primarily cricket**. Players who have come to the Club (and this Country) initially to play cricket and have stayed on afterwards will not be considered for approval under Form OP2. However, if they qualify under Rule 7 (d) ii) then they should complete Form OP3 and return it to the Hon. Secretary # for registration purposes.* *An example of approval may be someone who has moved to the club's local community for employment/marital/family reasons. However, even this category will require a detailed explanation of the reasons for approval within the SCL Rules regarding 'Overseas Players'* *The detailed explanation to seek approval for registration purposes under Form OP2 should be made on club headed paper and should include as much information as is available to the club administration to allow the Management Sub-Committee of the Somerset Cricket League to have a full picture of the reasons to grant special approval under Rule 7 (d) iii). **Note.** Any person who falls into this category and wishes to play cricket in the Somerset Cricket League may ask the Management Committee for permission to play at least 7 days before his first game. (Form OP 2 applies – obtainable from the Hon. Secretary).#*
11. **'Home' Status.** Any player who holds, or is entitled to hold, a current United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Passport or an Eire Passport shall be deemed a 'home player'. - **Rule 7 (d) iv) applies.** British nationals who do not have a passport (eg. A person who has never been out of the Country and has therefore no requirement for a passport *may* need to clarify status with a birth certificate if challenged).
12. Failure to provide the correct information or provide misleading information or incomplete information could seriously affect the status of the club and involvement in any matches by 'illegal' players could result in stringent penalties being imposed by the Committee.

13 \* For the purposes of the Somerset Cricket League Rules, an 'Overseas Player' is defined as – **“An overseas national who is not a holder of, or is not entitled to hold, a United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Passport or an Eire Passport”**. - Rule 7 (d) iii) applies.

14 # In the absence of the Hon. Secretary, the Results Secretary will issue and receive forms OP 1, OP2 and OP 3.

**3 Transfers of players.** A player may transfer from one club to another by writing to the Results Secretary, Ian Latchem, 6 Worcester Close, Peasedown St. John, Bath. BA2 8TU requesting such a move. The letter must be countersigned by an official from each club and must be in the hands of the Results Secretary by 12.00 noon prior to him playing for the new club. Transfers cannot take place after 12.00 noon on the first Saturday in August. (Rule 7 b)

#### **4 Rule Changes for 2008.**

The following Changes to the Rules will be effective this year:-

**Rule 1 THE LEAGUE (c)** The Somerset Cricket League Championship and the J.C.Bail Trophy shall be awarded to the club finishing in first place in the Division 1. **This club shall be promoted to the WEPL (Somerset Division). In the case of more than one club being relegated from the WEPL the Management Committee reserves the right to make further relegations throughout the divisions.**

**Rule 1 THE LEAGUE (d)** If no club is relegated from WEPL the Management Committee reserves the right to change the promotion and relegation system.

**Rule 1 THE LEAGUE (e)** In the case of two or more clubs tying for promotion or relegation the club with the most wins will be declared the 'highest', should they still be equal then the club with the least losses will be declared the 'highest', should they still be equal then the club with the greatest number of runs per wicket lost throughout the season will be declared the 'highest'.

**Rule 1 THE LEAGUE (f)** New clubs will normally be placed in the lowest division. It shall be in order for the Management Committee to place a new club in a division other than the lowest but only if a resolution to take such action is carried by not less than two-thirds of the Committee present and voting at a duly convened meeting of the League Management Committee. When a new club is included under this rule in a division other than the lowest, then up to three clubs per division may be relegated providing that the League Management Committee announce the decision prior to the first league match in the season immediately preceding the season in which such new club will join the league.

**Rule 3. (f)** Every club is required to provide information regarding the details of the club's officials and ground on the 'Club Details Sheet'. This information must be sent to the Hon. Secretary by January 31<sup>st</sup> preceding the start of the season; otherwise the club will be fined £20.

**Rule 3. (g) Every club is required to provide at least two e-mail addresses to receive all communications and correspondence from February 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 onwards. These addresses must remain current and viable unless notice is given to the Hon. Secretary of a change. Any failure to keep these two addresses current and viable shall result in the club being fined £10 per failure.**

**Rule 5. (k) The home club must record a mark out of 10 on the Result Sheet for the Don Crouch Trophy. This will also enable the Committee to monitor that the criteria for 'sportsmanship' is being upheld and this information could also be used in cases of disciplinary complaints. Any team failing to complete this section of the form will be fined £10 per failure.**

5. **Cancelled games:-** a) due to weather - please make every effort to play even if a late start is necessary. Consult opponents before cancelling. If it is possible, switch the venue or play at an alternative venue.  
b) other reasons - Try to avoid cancellations because a loss of points and a heavy fine will follow.

**In all cases of cancelled matches, Ian Latchem must be informed.**

6. **Results.** The result of all games must be phoned or faxed to Ian Latchem (01761 436454) at the times shown below. If the result has been PHONED then the official result sheet must be sent by FIRST CLASS post by the first available collection after the match. However, if the result has been faxed then no further action is necessary. Failure to comply with either of the above will result in a fine.

Phone Ian on 01761 436454 at the following times:-

Saturday games: After the match between 8.30 and 11 pm. **Results must definitely NOT be phoned in after this time.** There is an answer/fax machine prior to 8.30 pm.

Sunday mornings between 8.00 and 10.15 am.

**Results which have not been received by 10.15 am on Sunday morning will not be included in the press and internet coverage. This will mean that the League tables will be inaccurate as a result. Clubs that fail to meet the 10.15am (Sunday) deadline will be fined £10**

Sunday games: After the match between 9.30 and 11 pm.

Please remember that Ian umpires cricket and is not available outside these hours. There is an answering machine available. When using the machine give results clearly with the side batting first followed by the side batting second.

**Please do not telephone/fax Ian after 11.00pm on any night as the telephone/fax also rings in his bedroom.**

All results received correctly will be notified to the Bristol United Press and put onto the League Website during Monday morning. League Website address is [www.somerset-cricket.com](http://www.somerset-cricket.com)

**The fax machine can be used for notifying the details of the match and for sending result sheets in one communication. The number, which is on the result sheet, is also the same as Ian's telephone number.**

- 7. Results Sheets** Please note that **ALL PLAYERS** must be listed on the form - even if some players have not batted. Where a team is short of a full 11 players, a line must be drawn through the space provided for a name. (See Rule 7a. in the Handbook). Both Captains **must sign** the result sheet. Failure to list all players and/or sign the form will result in a fine of £10. (See Rule 5j. in the Handbook). **Note. This year all players who were under 19 on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2007 must have their exact age at 31.8.07 marked on the Result Sheet. This information must be put on the Result Sheet before the match starts. Naturally, any player over 19 on 31.8.07 need not have age disclosed!**
- 8. Don Crouch Trophy 2008 and the Result Sheets.** Last season's initiative to gain a better response from clubs for this prestigious trophy was quite successful. The manner of voting for it in 2008 will be the same as last year. Namely, the club captain/club representative is asked to give a score from 1 – 10 (10 being the best) for their opponents on the day of the match and **record this figure on the RESULT SHEET before sending it to Ian.** **Note.** This score need not be put onto the sheet until just before faxing or posting the result sheet and should not be disclosed to the other team. In fact, it is better if this figure remains secret. An information sheet relating to the Don Crouch Trophy is part of this pre-season package. **Please note. The AGM 2007 agreed the following rule addition. Defaulting clubs will be fined £10. Rule 5. (k) The home club must record a mark out of 10 on the Result Sheet for the Don Crouch Trophy. This will also enable the Committee to monitor that the criteria for 'sportsmanship' is being upheld and this information could also be used in cases of disciplinary complaints. Any team failing to complete this section of the form will be fined £10 per failure.**

9. **Fines.** These may be incurred for late results on Sat/Sun. to Ian, or incomplete Results Sheets, or Results Sheets not faxed or posted in first class. See separate Fines Sheet for details.
10. **League tables.** These will be e-mailed to all local papers every Monday. However, the League website ([www.somerset-cricket.com](http://www.somerset-cricket.com)) will always give the most up to date information.
11. **League Website.** All the weekly information concerning the Shrubbery Hotel, Somerset Cricket League will be found on the Website at [www.somerset-cricket.com](http://www.somerset-cricket.com) and clubs can also contact me by E-mail at [raysomcricket@btconnect.com](mailto:raysomcricket@btconnect.com)
12. **If more than one team ties on points at the end of Season.** Rule 1 THE LEAGUE (e) In the case of two or more clubs tying for promotion or relegation the club with the most wins will be declared the 'highest', should they still be equal then the club with the least losses will be declared the 'highest', should they still be equal then the club with the greatest number of runs per wicket lost throughout the season will be declared the 'highest'.
13. **Promotion and Relegation** will take place on a two up and two down basis at the end of the season. The Committee will determine additional/less promotion spaces or additional/less relegation spaces at the end of the season based on the relevant statistics. In the case of the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Competition four teams will be relegated from Division 2 to Divisions 3 (SW & NE) and two will be promoted from each third division. There will be 'two up and two down' between Divisions 3 and 4 (SW & NE). The Management Committee will make any adjustment to the regionalisation at the end of the Season. The team that wins the 1<sup>st</sup> Division will be promoted to the Somerset Division of WEPL and at this point in time there will **still be only one promoted team** at the end of the Season. **Note. Rule 1. (c), (d), (f) applies**
14. **No Balls and Wides.** a) No Ball - Any run(s) scored from a 'no ball' will be added to the single run awarded for the 'no ball'. eg. A boundary scored from a 'no ball' will score a total of 5 runs. b) Wide – Any run(s) made from a 'wide' will be added to the single run awarded for the 'wide'. eg. Two runs made when the wicket keeper misses the 'wide' will score a total of 3 runs.
15. **A Guide to the Common Laws of Cricket.** You will find this a set of advice on pages 40/41 of the 2008 Handbook. **We recommend that all captains and club umpires read these pages.**
16. **Umpires.** The Management Committee recommend that where a game has only one official umpire provided either by the League or by a club, that umpire should stand at the bowlers' end for the whole match in order that some consistency can be maintained. A player standing as umpire should stand at square leg under these circumstances. **The Committee is keen to enlist more neutral umpires onto the League list and would ask all clubs, but particularly those from Division 1, to try and find more people to join the panel.**
17. **Young Players (Under 18s) in The Somerset Cricket League.** The Management Committee of the Somerset Cricket League ruled that in ALL league matches any person under the age of 18 must wear a helmet with a faceguard or grille when batting or standing

up to the wicket as wicket keeper. Contrary to the recommendations of the ECB, the Management Committee will not permit under 18s to play in League matches without an appropriate helmet, even with the written consent of parents.

**18. Minimum age of players**

Children who were under the age of 11 at August 31<sup>st</sup> of the previous year will not be permitted to play in the SCL during the current season. *Note. This will allow those children who are in Year 7 or upwards in the senior/middle school in the current season to play in the SCL.*

**19. The Fast Bowling Directives of the ECB covering players in the Under 19 age group and younger.** The Management Committee of the Somerset Cricket League requires that Club Committees ensure that their captains are made aware of this directive.

**Fast Bowling Directive (ECB)**

Age Group	Maximum Overs Per Spell	Maximum Spells Per Match	Maximum Overs Per Day
Under 13	4 overs	2 spells	8 overs
Under14/15	5 overs	2 spells	10 overs
Under 16/17	6 overs	3 spells	18 overs
Under 18/19	7 overs	3 spells	21 overs

For the purpose of these directives a fast bowler is defined as **a bowler to whom the wicket keeper (in their own age group matches)** would stand back to take the ball.

Having completed a spell the bowler cannot bowl again, from either end, until an equivalent number of overs to the length of his spell have been bowled from the same end. Interruption in play shall reduce this requirement by one over at each end for every 7 minutes of interruption.

**Captains, Team Managers and Umpires are required to ensure that these directives are followed at all times.**

**20. Bouncers, Beamers and No Balls.** It was agreed by the EGM in April '06 that guidance to the use of high pitched balls should be adopted by the Somerset Cricket League. This code was successfully used for the 2006/7 seasons and it will continue to operate for this season.

The code reads as follows:-

- A ball that passes the batsman, standing in a normal upright batting stance at the crease, above waist height without pitching must be called 'No Ball' at the first instance. See further details in the Handbook, page 40 under the section 'No Ball'.
- A ball that pitches and then passes the batsman, standing in a normal upright batting stance at the crease, above head height must be called 'No Ball.'
- A ball that pitches and then passes the batsman, standing in a normal upright batting stance at the crease, between the shoulder and the top of the head may only be bowled **once** per

over and the umpire should indicate that this ball has been bowled for that over. If the bowler bowls another similar delivery in the same over then that ball must be called 'No Ball.'

- These bowling regulations should be read in conjunction with 'A Guide to the Common Laws of Cricket' published in the Somerset Cricket League Handbook on pages 40/41.
- The 'bowlers end' umpire may ask for help from the square leg umpire if he feels that it will help reach the correct decision.

## **21 Strengthening of Second and Other Teams by Regular players from Higher Teams.**

It is the responsibility of clubs, selection committees and captains to ensure that the situation of strengthening 'lower level' teams is not abused, particularly when 'higher level' teams have no fixture.

The Management Committee reminds clubs that it is contrary to the regulations set out in the pre-season circular and the spirit of the Somerset Cricket League for clubs to strengthen their 2nd. XIs; 3rd. XIs; and even 4th. XIs when they have a free 1st XI (or other 'higher level' team) date as a result of fixture changes or a vacant date. **All** results sheets will be scrutinised to check against this practice, but the non-offending clubs are encouraged to bring this practice to the notice of the Committee if they believe that it has taken place.

A 'higher level' batsman playing in a 'lower level' team for the reason of choice to play at home or for his own convenience or a cancellation of the higher level game or due to the lack of players available for selection should not bat higher than No. 7. However, if the individual in question has sustained a bad run of form (note – this can be verified by the Results Secretary for Management Committee purposes) in the 'higher level' team then he should be allowed to bat wherever in the batting order, without any restriction.

A 'higher level' bowler playing in a 'lower level' team for the reason of choice to play at home or for his own convenience or a cancellation of the higher level game or due to the lack of players available for selection should not bowl earlier than 3<sup>rd</sup> change (5<sup>th</sup> bowler) or after 25 overs have been bowled, whichever is the latter. However, if the individual in question has sustained a bad run of form (note – this will be verified by the Results Secretary for Management Committee purposes) in the 'higher level' team then he should be allowed to bowl wherever it is deemed appropriate in the sequence of bowlers, without any restriction.

On the occasions when 'higher level' players are *helping out due to the lack of the normal players* then the maximum number of such players shall be 3 players. (Note – this will be verified by the Results Secretary for Management Committee purposes)

The practice of **unfair strengthening of lower level teams** on days when higher level teams are without a fixture, or when situations that are contrary to the guidelines set out above are contravened, will be dealt with as a disciplinary action. The Management Committee will take a very firm stance by the imposition of monetary and points fines if a team is found to have breached these regulations.

The Results Secretary will be particularly vigilant in respect of the games where a higher team has a vacant date. Should a team believe that opponents are unfairly strengthening teams then they should raise the complaint with the Hon. Secretary or the Results Secretary.

**Ray Hancock. Hon. Secretary. April 2008.**