

An introduction to a possible “Flexi”/Friendly League in 2017

The management Committee of the Somerset Cricket League together with representatives of the Somerset Cricket Board have been investigating the establishment of a “Flexi” or Friendly League for those clubs that have difficulty in maintaining a full complement of players throughout the season. This could include 2nd, 3rd & 4th XIs together with single club teams that have struggled in the past. Teams that have left the SCL would also be welcome to join.

There would be less games with the ‘more difficult’ Saturdays taken out of the “Flexi” programme. A lesser number of overs, later start time, different formats and a number of other features could encourage teams to try other forms of the game, yet still remain part of the SCL. There would be the opportunity to return to the full programme if and when the club and the league felt it appropriate.

At this stage, the Management Committee is seeking an observation from as many clubs as may be interested in such a project. It is essential that interested clubs consider this concept and advise me by mid-September at the latest. Towards the end of September, I have to start work on the fixtures for 2017. Teams in this “Flexi” system will have to be matched with other teams from their club that play in the WEPL or SCL.

If the “Flexi” league concept fails to attract sufficient numbers, then those teams that had indicated a support for it would remain in their current place in the divisional structure of the Somerset Cricket League. This would be after promotions and relegations had taken place.

Ray Hancock
Hon. Secretary SCL

“The Flexi” League 2017 onwards

- 1) 12 Saturday fixtures per season which will be released at the same time as all other SCL fixtures.
- 2) There will be no fixtures on the opening Saturday (May 6); the second Saturday (May 13); the final Saturday (September 2); the Glastonbury Festival Weekend (June 24); two Bank Holiday weekends (May 27 and August 26).
- 3) There will be no promotion or relegation. Clubs that complete all fixture will be able to re-apply for full divisional structure at the end of the season if they so wish.
- 4) The composition of the league(s) will be based on the geographical position of the team. Depending on demand, teams will be able to play other teams once, twice or even have multiple games against the same opposition.
- 5) Basic points system could be 5 for a win, 3 for a tie and 2 for a loss, 0 for not playing!
- 6) Teams will be free to play the format of their choice which should be agreed on a fixture by fixture basis. The standard number of overs should be 25, but by agreement more or less could be bowled.
- 7) Possible formats of matches:-
 - a) 25/30/35 overs starting at 2pm or earlier if arranged.
 - b) Batters retire at 50 but can return at the end of the innings
 - c) Maximum of 25% of the overs may be bowled by one bowler
 - d) Fixtures with less players should still be played - e.g. play with 7/8 players and work with the opposition to get a fair game of cricket.
 - e) Teas are optional, but drinks must be provided. Advise beforehand.
 - f) No fines or penalties if teams cannot fulfil a fixture.
 - g) The SCL will provide a result recording service, but again no fines or penalties for incorrect scorecards, late entries etc. will be levied

The Shrubbery Somerset Cricket League

“The Flexi” League 2017

Name of Club

Which team may be interested in joining?

Name of person completing this form

Position in Club

This club would be interested in joining the “Flexi” league.

YES or NO

Delete as appropriate.

Any observations based on the details supplied

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The details above have been discussed at a club meeting.

Signed Date

Please return to Ray Hancock, Hon. Secretary, SCL by September 20 at the latest – earlier if possible.

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