

THE SHRUBBERY HOTEL SOMERSET CRICKET LEAGUE RULES FOR SEASON 2017

1. THE LEAGUE

a) The League shall be called "The Shrubbery Hotel Somerset Cricket League" and shall consist of as many divisions as necessary to a maximum of ten teams per division. Except in cases where the Management Committee determines that for a temporary period a division shall consist of more teams in order to accommodate all teams that wish to participate in the League. For the purposes of these rules, The Premier Division and Division 2 shall be deemed Senior Divisions and all other divisions Junior Divisions.

b) All teams (1st; 2nd; 3rd and 4th XIs) shall be placed in one single competition from 2011 onwards.

c) Promotion and relegation shall be on a two up/two down basis, except that promotion within Divisions 7 – (S and NE) shall be two teams per division and relegation from Division 6 to Division 7 shall be four teams, put into the most appropriate regional division, subject to amendments by the Management Committee; any such amendments to be notified to all member clubs as necessary. Positions are to be determined by the aggregate number of points obtained during the season. However, the bottom 6 divisions will be regionalised irrespective of the number of divisions.

d) A club's 2nd XI (or lower level team) must be in a lower division than its 1st XI (or higher level team), and promotion will be denied to the 2nd XI (or lower level team) or relegation enforced on the 2nd XI (or lower level team) to ensure this so that a club shall have no more than one team in any one division.

e) The Somerset Cricket League Championship and the J.C. Bail Trophy shall be awarded to the club finishing in first place in the Premier Division. This club shall be promoted to the WEPL Tier 3 (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.

f) If no club is relegated from WEPL the Management Committee reserves the right to change the promotion and relegation system.

g) 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'.

h) 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.

2. FIXTURES

(a) Clubs shall play every other club in their division twice*, the fixtures to be compiled by the Management Committee for Saturdays. * Except in special cases when the Management Committee may determine that teams play each other more than twice.

(b) A fixture may be played on another day by mutual consent of clubs concerned, but only if such a change is notified to the league by 31st March by both clubs and such alterations are not made for a date later than the last fixture set by the Management Committee except as allowed in Rule 2(c).

(c) Each team may initiate only one re-arrangement per season. However, it can agree to any number of requests from its opponents. Both teams must be in agreement to the change.

(d) In an emergency the Management Committee may allow changes made after the above date should such changes be made in writing at least 28 days before either the original date or the rearranged date, whichever is the sooner.

3. ADMINISTRATION

(a) League Committee

The League shall be governed by a Committee consisting of Chairman, Secretary, Results Secretary and Treasurer and one representative from each of the member clubs. Each officer and each club shall have one vote and the Chairman or the Chairman for the time being, shall have the casting vote. The Chairman shall not represent his own Club, which may be represented by one other club member. The League Committee shall meet for the Annual General Meeting and any Extraordinary General Meeting which might be called as per Rule.

(b) Management Committee. The Management Committee shall consist of elected members, comprising Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Results Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, which officers shall be elected for three years, with a minimum of six other elected members, of whom not less than two shall be from clubs in divisions other than Divisions 1 and 2 at the time of election, plus one representative from the Umpires Panel. These six shall be elected for three years and two shall retire each year. The Management Committee shall elect a Vice-Chairman from these six members each year and may fill any vacancy until the next Annual General Meeting, using its power to co-opt.

(c) General Meetings

i) The Annual General Meeting shall be called by the 15th January when the Management Committee shall be elected. All proposals for submission to the Annual General Meeting shall be notified to the Secretary not less than 42 days before that meeting and notified to all clubs 21 days before that meeting. Any club not represented at the Annual General Meeting will be fined £40. All voting on the proposals, which have previously been discussed at the Rules Meeting', will be on secret ballot sheets delivered to the AGM at the time of the AGM.

ii) An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by the Management Committee or on receipt by the Secretary of a requisition signed by at least one third of the Member Clubs of the League. The business of the meeting shall be called within 21 days of the receipt of the requisition, with a minimum of seven days' notice to all clubs. Any club not represented at the Extraordinary General Meeting will be fined £40.

iii) The Spring Meeting shall be called before 20th April for the purpose of distributing cricket balls, handbooks and any other material. It will also be an information giving meeting. Any club not represented at the Spring Meeting will be fined £40.

iv) The 'Rules Meeting' shall be called by the 8th December. All proposals for submission to the Rules Meeting shall be notified to the Secretary not less than 42 days before the rules meeting and notified to all clubs 21 days before the rules meeting.

(d) Membership of ECB

All member clubs must affiliate to the England and Wales Cricket Board through membership of the Somerset Cricket Board in order to participate in the Somerset Cricket League.

(e) Club Public Liability Insurance Policy

All member clubs must have a current Public Liability Insurance Policy in existence in order to participate in the Somerset Cricket League. A copy of this policy must be displayed in the clubhouse.

(f) Club Details Page on the website. Every club is required to provide information regarding the details of the club's officials and ground etc. in the 'Club Details Section' on the League's website. This information must be displayed on the club's page by January 31st preceding the start of the season otherwise the club will be fined £20. Note. The date and time of the input is 'time stamped' and any club failing to meet the January 31st deadline will be fined. Clubs MUST also update the club details following any change in personnel or their details. Failure to do so will also incur a £20 fine.

(g) E-mail Addresses Form. Every club is required to provide at least two e-mail addresses to receive all communications and correspondence from February 1st 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.

(h) All clubs must appoint a Club Welfare Officer to conform to ECB mandatory rules. The officer will need to have a current DBS and hold certificates that show that he/she has attended both a Safe Hands and a Safeguarding & Protecting Children Course during the last 3 years. Evidence of the DBS, SH and S&PC certification must be made available to the League Welfare Officer before the season commences. Clubs that fail to appoint a qualified person and/or fail to provide evidence to the League Welfare Officer shall not be permitted to play a league match until the documentation has been provided. These forfeited games will be treated under Rule 5 (b) Championship Points (iv) & (v).

(i) Any match cancelled after 8.00 pm by the visiting team on the day preceding the match for reasons other than the weather/pitch conditions shall be fined £30 in addition to the fines levied in Rule 5 (b) (iv), (v). This sum will be passed to the home team to help defray expenses.

(j) Scorebook and Scoreboard. All teams MUST provide a scorebook (home and away) and a scoreboard at the home venue.

4. ALTERATIONS TO RULES

Any club or the Management Committee may submit proposals for alterations to the Rules or may submit a new rule. Such proposals shall be considered by the Management Committee and sent to all clubs in the League, then submitted to the Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting and shall become effective provided that they are supported by a simple majority of one vote.

5. MATCHES

(a) Conduct of Matches.

Matches shall be conducted in accordance with the M.C.C. Laws of Cricket except for matters provided for in these Rules.

(b) Championship Points.

i) Wins shall count as fifteen points, a tie as eight points to each side and a loss as no points.

Note:- A tie results when both innings are completed and both sides have the same number of runs, irrespective of the number of wickets lost.

ii) No match may be called off before 4pm on the day of the match without the agreement of both Captains. iii) If the game is cancelled by the weather, each side shall be awarded twelve points.

iv) If a game is cancelled for reasons other than the weather, the non-offending side shall be awarded thirty-five points and the match will count as a win for the non-offending team. The offending side will receive no points.

v) When a game is cancelled for any reason other than the weather, the defaulting team shall have 30 points deducted and shall be fined a minimum of £20 at the discretion of the Management Committee. Any further similar cancellations in the season shall result in a 30 point fine per cancellation, but no further monetary fine.

vi) When a club with more than one team in the League is unable to fulfil all its fixtures on any match day, the most senior fixture(s) must be fulfilled.

Bonus points. In addition to the points as shown above, the following bonus points shall be awarded.

vii) Batting:-

a) For scoring 20 runs one point, and for each additional 20 runs scored, one further point up to a maximum of ten points for 200 runs.

b) A side batting second and winning shall be awarded one point for every wicket they have in hand at the end of the game, subject to the total of (a) and (b) being a maximum of ten points.

viii) Bowling:-

One point shall be awarded for the first wicket taken and an additional point for every wicket taken subsequently up to a maximum of ten points for ten wickets taken or the side bowled out if the team has less than 11 players.

ix). Division 1 & 2 clubs only. Both sides must complete its 45 overs within the time limit of 2 hours and 45 minutes. Failure to do so will incur a fine of 2 points deducted.

(c) Rules for Match Play

i) All Matches start at 1.30 pm. but for the final THREE matches of the Season they must start at 1.00 pm. However, all matches in Divs. 6, 7 & 8 to start at 1.30 pm throughout the season

ii) There will be an interval of not more than 20 minutes between innings which shall be used as a tea interval, except as provided for in (iii).

iii) Should play cease due to the weather or bad light at any time after 4.30 pm., then tea must be taken. The Captains may agree to have tea during a break for bad weather at any time before 4.30pm.

iv) In the event of the first innings being completed before 4.15pm, the second innings must start and after a minimum of 5 overs or by 4.45pm whichever is the later, tea must be taken.

v) A game will consist of a maximum of 45 overs per side, except as provided for in (d) (i) (ii), (e) and (f) hereinafter.

vi) In Divisions 6, 7, 8 a game will consist of a maximum of 40 overs per side for matches except as provided for in (d) (i) (ii), (e) and (f) hereinafter.

vii) No bowler shall bowl more than **20% of the overs** in any one innings. Should a match be restricted in overs prior to the start, the maximum overs to be bowled by any one bowler shall be one **fifth** of the permitted overs rounded up to a complete over.

vii) In the event of a match being affected by weather conditions and overs are lost a side bowling second is restricted in overs. In this situation, the maximum number of overs that can be bowled by any one bowler shall be one **fifth** of the permitted overs, rounded up to a complete over. Once the second innings has started, the maximum number of overs, calculated and agreed, may be bowled by any bowler irrespective of any further loss of overs due to weather conditions.

(d) Weather Conditions

Should the weather interfere with play for a total of 20 minutes or less, this time shall be disregarded. When the total time lost is over 20 minutes, overs shall be deducted at the rate of 15 overs per hour, from the total time lost.

i) In the event of a late start because of weather conditions, overs shall be deducted, and the remaining overs shall be divided equally between the two sides. A full match of 90 overs cannot start after 2.00 pm. and no match can start after 4.00 pm.

ii) If the weather interferes with play during the innings of the side batting first, this side may still use its allotted overs, should it so wish.

iii) All overs lost through weather conditions, once the game has started, shall be deducted from the side batting second.

iv) When the weather interferes with play for 20 minutes or more during the innings of the side batting first overs are lost. If the side batting first is bowled out, or declares, in less than 45 overs, then the overs unused by the team batting first must be added to the available overs of the team batting second. This calculation will be made after the subtraction of the total 'lost' overs has been made from the side batting second as in iii) above. The number of overs available to the side batting second may not exceed 45 overs. Under the circumstances set out in this rule, should the side batting second fail to pass the total of the side batting first and are not bowled out then the result of the game is a rain affected draw and the points set out in Rule 5 d v) below apply.

v) If the weather interferes with play at any time and overs are lost, then a drawn match results, except in Rule 5 (d) i) above, and both sides will be awarded twelve points each plus bonus points accrued. However, a) if the side batting second scores more runs, even with reduced overs, then it wins the match or b) the side batting second is bowled out for a total less than that scored by the side batting first, even with reduced overs, then the side batting first wins the match.

(m) Leg Side Wides Division 1 & 2 Matches Only.

A legside wide shall be called if, irrespective of where the ball pitches, it passes outside the line of the batsman and the leg stump, despite his movement.

(e) Declarations and Early Dismissals

i) If the side batting first is dismissed, or if the innings is declared closed before the end of its allotted overs, the side batting second shall have 45 overs.

ii) In 40 Over Matches. If the side batting first is dismissed, or if the innings is declared closed before the end of its allotted overs, the side batting second shall have 40 overs.

(f) Late Starts.

If 9 players of any club are not ready to start at the appointed time, the umpires shall report the defaulting club to the Secretary. In the event of a late start for any reason other than the weather, the full number of overs shall still be bowled, subject to the delay not having exceeded 15 minutes. Should the delay exceed 15 minutes, the overs available after deducting at the rate of 15 overs per hour, shall be divided equally. In the latter case, the umpires shall inform both captains and scorers of the number of overs to be played.

(g) Choice of Innings.

The Captains shall toss for choice of innings before the start of the match.

(h) The Ball.

For all divisions, home sides must provide two new balls, one to be used for each innings. All balls used must be the standard league ball, as supplied by the Somerset Cricket League, and must be shown to the umpires and opposing captain prior to the toss being made.

(i) Players Leaving the Field of Play.

An incoming batsman must pass the outgoing batsman on the field of play. Umpires shall report any defaulting player in this respect, or one who wastes time unduly on the field of play.

A player shall not be allowed to leave or return to the field of play without the consent of the umpire and then can only return at the end of an over or the fall of a wicket. The field of play shall mean that part of the field within the boundary.

(j) Results Sheets.

i) Each team is responsible for putting the names of all players, with ages if under 19 at the previous August 31st, on the Team Card that was supplied at the start of the season and hand it to the umpire, or in his absence, the opposing captain prior to the match commencing. Those players under 18 must adhere to the SCL Helmet Rule and those players under 19 must adhere to the ECB Fast Bowling Directive.

ii) The Reporting of Results Electronically - to be done on SCL Website. The home team is responsible for entering the result of the match and the full scorecard on the SCL website using the prescribed procedure before midnight on the day following the match (ie Sunday Midnight for Saturday games). This result and scorecard must be verified by the away team before Monday midnight following the match played on Saturday using the prescribed procedure. Any team that fails to input/verify the result by the due time will be fined the sum of £10.00 on each occasion and six points will be deducted.

iii).Problems with inputting and verifying. If club representatives have a problem either inputting or verifying a result through a computer problem or other similar problem then they MUST contact the monitor immediately, by telephone, which is responsible for their division. Failure to contact the monitor in this way will result in a fine of £10 and 6 points being levied. Each monitor will also be responsible for the processing and issuing of fines related to the failure of a club to input or verify results on time. Club submissions/appeals should be made to the divisional monitor. If the details displayed by the home team are incorrect, then the appropriate monitor must be advised that the verifier is unable to verify until such time as the details have been corrected. The verifier MUST also contact the home team inputter to agree the correction.

(k) Performance Report on Umpire(s)

Following a match in Divisions 1 & 2, both captains shall submit a performance report on the umpire(s). The reports must be submitted through the SACO website. Teams are responsible for ensuring that the captain/other nominated individual submit the report by the Wednesday following the match.

(l) Don Crouch Trophy marks. Both the home and away clubs must record a mark out of 10 when inputting/verifying the result on the League's website. The home club must also record its mark 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 score the mark electronically or complete the appropriate section of the form will be fined £10 per failure.

(m) Division 1 & 2 Matches Only.

At the instant of delivery a minimum of four fielders plus bowler and wicket keeper must be inside an area bounded by two semi circles centered on each middle stump within a radius of thirty yards and joined by parallel lines on each side of the pitch.

This fielding circle shall be marked with painted white dots at five yard intervals – each dot can be covered by a white plastic or rubber disc or in white marking measuring seven inches in diameter. Should this requirement not be met then the square leg umpire shall call and signal no ball and the delivery must be redelivered; this condition must be met regardless of the total number of fielders present (e.g. if a side has less than eleven players present).

(n) Leg Side Wides Division 1 & 2 Matches Only.

A legside wide shall be called if, irrespective of where the ball pitches, it passes outside the line of the batsman and the leg stump, despite his movement.

6. UMPIRES.

(a) Any competent person shall be eligible for appointment as an umpire and each club shall be responsible for providing such an umpire, except when an umpire is provided by the League.

(b) Reports by umpires or officials of a club shall be dealt with by the Management Committee in a manner to be laid down by this committee in line with the guidelines laid down by the England and Wales Cricket Board and notified to all clubs and umpires prior to the season.

7. PLAYERS.

(a) Registration of Players

A player shall be deemed to be registered when his/her name appears correctly on a result sheet for a match and this sheet has been received by the Results Secretary. 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) during the season without being correctly transferred as shown in rule 7(b). All result sheets must contain the names of all eleven players and where the team is short; a line must be drawn through the space provided for a name.

(b) Transfers

Players may be transferred on receipt by the League's Results Secretary of a fully completed 'Transfer Form' which must be completed by both clubs. This form must be signed by club secretaries or chairmen or treasurers or league representatives and the player concerned. The transfer must be in the hands of the League's Transfers Representative by 12 noon on any match day to be eligible for that match. No transfers will be accepted after the first Saturday in August each year. Note. Transfer forms are available on the League's website. This also applies to any player transferring from the SCL to any club in the WEPL and vice versa.

(c) Contract Players

A player engaged as a contract player with any club outside the Somerset Cricket League shall not be allowed to play during the period of such engagement with any Somerset Cricket League Club, except by permission of the Management Committee. Any such registration must be made before the first Saturday in August each year.

(d) Overseas Players

i) 'Overseas Players' * shall not be permitted to play in the Somerset Cricket League unless specified in the sections below.

ii) An 'Overseas Player' * is defined as an overseas national who is not a holder of a United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Passport or an Eire Passport. 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 and no later than 31st May. (Form OP 2 applies – obtainable from the Hon. Secretary).# Clubs will only be

given permission for this kind of player if he is already resident in the UK on a permanent basis and his reason for being here is not primarily cricket. The player must be able to show that he has resided permanently in the UK for the SIX months prior to the season commencing.

iii) Any player who holds a current United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Passport or an Eire Passport shall be deemed a 'home player'. A player who holds a current United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (or Eire) Birth Certificate shall be declared a 'home' player. **Note.** To avoid confusion any overseas national that also holds a current UK passport should forward a copy of the passport page to the Hon. Secretary for record purposes.

* For the purposes of the Somerset Cricket League Rules, an 'Overseas Player' is defined in No. ii) above.

In the absence of the Hon. Secretary, the Results Secretary will issue and receive form OP 2.

(e) Minimum age of players

Children who were under the age of 12 at August 31st of the previous year will **not** be permitted to play in the SCL during the current season. ie. Year 7 age group. *Note. This will allow those children who are in Year 8 or upwards in the senior/middle school in the current season to play in the SCL.* However, any player in the Under 13 age group – Year 8 (ie. under the age of 13 at August 31st of the previous year) must have explicit written consent from a parent or guardian before participating in league cricket. Clubs must put consent procedures in place to ensure that a letter is obtained for players in this age group before they play their first game for the club.

(f) Movement of Players

A club may have the registration of a player withdrawn by the Management Committee if written evidence from the player's previous/current club indicates that he has outstanding obligations to that club (ie. financial, disciplinary or otherwise). There shall be no time limit regarding these outstanding obligations and the decision of the Management Committee shall remain in force until the situation has been satisfactorily resolved by the agreement of all parties..

8. GROUND COMMITTEE.

On receipt of a complaint regarding any ground, the Management Committee shall appoint a Ground Committee which shall inspect such ground and report on its fitness or otherwise.

9. TROPHIES.

Perpetual trophies shall be returned to the Honorary Secretary by 31st August each year. Trophies are to be returned in the same condition as received and any loss or damage to such trophies shall be borne by the club holding the trophy.

10. OTHER.

(a) Matters not covered by the Rules. In the event of any question arising which is not specifically covered by these Rules, the Management Committee shall have the power to deal with it and inflict such penalties as may be considered necessary.

(b) Committee Decisions.

All decisions made by the Management Committee in the interpretation of all Rules, or on any matters concerning the business of the Somerset Cricket League, shall be final and binding on all parties.

(c) ECB Code of Conduct. Clubs and members of the Club shall be governed and participate in the game according to the Model Discipline Regulations comprising the ECB Code of Conduct, the Spirit of Cricket, the Regulations for Leagues and clubs. This statement is published at the end of the Rules Section in this handbook.

LEAGUE DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

1. It shall be a disciplinary offence:-

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

2. For the purposes of these Rules the expression 'the player' shall throughout these Rules be deemed to mean and include not only any player, 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.

3. The procedure set out above in 1. (a) and (b) and 2. in the League Disciplinary Procedure shall also apply to written material on Social website and the SCL's own website. A sub-committee will deal with this technical offence without reference to the individual/club. Any penalties will be notified by email. Appeals may be made following the procedure set out in No. 8 below.

4. Before any penalty is imposed there shall be a disciplinary hearing before the Disciplinary Committee of the League. At least 7 days' notice in writing of the hearing and of the offence alleged shall be given to the player, or in the case of a club, its league representative, in writing. The player or club shall be entitled to attend the hearing (in the case of the club by a club official). Should a player or club not reply to the Secretary within 7 days of the sending of the notice of the hearing, suspension from the League will be automatic until such reply is received.

5. If at the hearing the Disciplinary Committee find the offence alleged to be proved it shall have the power to impose one of the following penalties:

(a) in the case of a player:-

- i) expulsion from the League
- ii) suspension for one or more matches
- iii) a reprimand

(b) in the case of a club:-

- i) expulsion from the League
- ii) deduction of points in the League
- iii) a fine

Save that a club for the same offence may be subject to both deduction of points and a fine.

6. A player or club found by the Disciplinary Committee to have committed an offence and having a penalty imposed, shall have the right of Appeal to the Appeals Sub-Committee. Notice of Appeal setting out the grounds of the appeal must be given in writing to the League Secretary within 7 days of the decision of the Disciplinary Committee with a deposit of £50 and an undertaking to pay the Committee expenses as shown in Rule 6. Upon giving Notice of Appeal the penalty shall not take effect pending the hearing of the Appeal.

7. The Appeal shall be by way of a rehearing, with the player or club having the same rights as in the original hearing. The Appeals Sub-Committee may confirm, vary or reverse the decision of the Disciplinary Committee, and shall have the power to increase the penalty. The deposit will be forfeited, together with an additional payment for the Committee's expenses, should the sub-committee consider the appeal to be without merit.

8. An appeal against penalties for technical offences can be made only in writing and will be determined by a sub-committee based upon the written evidence. These appeals would relate to factual issues including:- written material on social websites and the SCL's own website; inputting/verifying issues, strengthening of teams and other points' deductions. The Appeals Sub-

Committee may confirm, vary or reverse the original decision and shall have the power to increase the penalty.

9. The decision of the sub-committee, or if no appeal, the Disciplinary Committee shall be final and binding.

10. Reports by umpires, clubs or individuals to be submitted to the Secretary within 7 days of the incident.

MODEL DISCIPLINE REGULATIONS

1. ECB CODE OF CONDUCT AND SPIRIT OF CRICKET

1.1 Code of Conduct

The ECB is committed to maintaining the highest standards of behaviour and conduct. This Code of Conduct incorporates the Spirit of Cricket, as set out below. It applies to all matches played under the auspices of the ECB and may be applied to cricket in general.

The captains are responsible at all times for ensuring that play is conducted within the Spirit of Cricket as well as within the Laws.

Players and team officials must at all times accept the umpire's decision. Players must not show dissent at the umpire's decision or react in a provocative or disapproving manner towards another player or a spectator.

Players and team officials shall not intimidate, assault or attempt to intimidate or assault an umpire, another player or a spectator.

Players and team officials shall not use crude and/or abusive language (known as "sledging") nor make offensive gestures or hand signals nor deliberately distract an opponent.

Players and team officials shall not make racially abusive comments nor indulge in racially abusive actions against fellow players, officials, members and supporters. Clubs must operate an active open door membership policy whilst respecting player qualification regulations and welcome players/members irrespective of ethnic origin.

Players and team officials shall not use or in any way be concerned in the use or distribution of illegal drugs. Clubs must take adequate steps to ensure the good behaviour of their members and supporters towards players and umpires.

1.2 Spirit of Cricket

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

1.2.1 There are two Laws which place the responsibility for the team's conduct firmly on the captain.

Responsibility of Captains

The captains are responsible at all times for ensuring that play is conducted within the Spirit of the Game as well as within the Laws.

Player's Conduct

In the event of any player failing to comply with the instructions of an umpire, criticising his decision by word or action, showing dissent, or generally behaving in a manner which might bring the game into disrepute, the umpire concerned shall in the first place report the matter to the other umpire and to the player's captain, requesting the latter to take action.

- 1.2.2 **Fair and Unfair Play**
According to the Laws the umpires are the sole judges of fair and unfair play. The umpires may intervene at any time, and it is the responsibility of the captain to take action where required.
- 1.2.3 **The umpires are authorised to intervene in cases of:**
Time wasting
Damaging the pitch
Dangerous or unfair bowling
Tampering with the ball
Any other action that they consider to be unfair.
- 1.2.4. **The Spirit of the Game involves RESPECT for:**
Your opponents
Your own captain and team
The role of the umpires
The game's traditional values
- 1.2.5. **It is against the Spirit of the Game:**
To dispute an umpire's 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
appeal knowing the batsman is not out
advance towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing
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.
- 1.2.6 **Violence**
There is no place for any act of violence on the field of play.
- 1.2.7 **Players**
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.

REGULATIONS FOR CRICKET LEAGUES

2. Aims and Jurisdiction

These regulations shall apply to any player who plays for any club at any level under the auspices of the ECB and are intended to provide assistance and uniformity to all Clubs and Leagues in dealing with any alleged breach of the ECB Code of Conduct and Spirit of Cricket (Paragraph 1).

It is intended that any breach of Paragraph 1 should in the first instance be dealt with by the player's club who shall notify the Secretary of the League of the result of any action taken against its player.

3. Procedure

3.1 Any alleged breach of Paragraph 1 above shall be notified in writing (to be known as 'a Complaint') to the Secretary of the League.

3.2 Any complaint so initiated must be referred to the Chairman of the League or the Chairman of the League Disciplinary Committee.

3.3 Upon receipt of such complaint, and as soon as reasonably practicable, the Chairman of the League or of the League Disciplinary Committee shall consider the complaint and resolve either:

3.3.1 To take no action except to record the complaint and notify the club; or

3.3.2 To endorse the disciplinary action taken by the club; or

3.3.3 To refer the matter for a Disciplinary Hearing which shall be convened by the Chairman of the League or of the League Disciplinary Committee as soon as practicable.

4 Disciplinary Hearing

4.1 In any case which is referred for a Disciplinary Hearing, at least seven days' notice in writing of the hearing and of the offence(s) alleged shall be given to the player, or in the case of a club, its Secretary.

4.2 The Chairman of the League or of the League Disciplinary Committee shall convene a hearing as soon as is practicable and in any event within 28 days of the decision to refer. Any adjournments may be granted at the discretion of the Chairman of the Disciplinary Hearing.

4.3 The player and club shall be entitled to attend the hearing, state their case (in the case of a club by its Secretary or other official), to be supported by a colleague and to call witnesses.

4.4 The Hearing shall be conducted by the Disciplinary Committee of the League which shall consist of not less than three persons, none of whom shall be connected with the player, the club or their opponents at the time of the alleged breach.

5. Appeals Procedure

5.1 A player or club shall have the right of appeal to the Appeals Committee. Notice of Appeal setting out the grounds must be given in writing to the Secretary of the League within seven days of the decision of the Disciplinary Committee, together with a deposit of £30.

5.2 If Notice of Appeal is given the penalty shall not take effect pending the hearing of the Appeal, which shall take place as soon as is practicable.

5.3 The Appeal shall be by way of re-hearing before a different Committee. The composition of the Committee shall be at the discretion of the Chairman of the League or of the League Disciplinary Committee and shall consist of not less than three persons, none of whom shall be connected with the player, the Club or their opponents at the time of the alleged breach. The player or club shall have the same rights of attendance and representation, and to call witnesses as they had before the Disciplinary Committee.

5.4 The Appeals Committee may confirm, vary or reverse the decision of the Disciplinary Committee and it shall have the power to increase the penalty and award costs of the Appeal hearing. Decisions of the Appeal Panel shall be by majority vote; where necessary, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

- 5.5 The decision of the Appeals Committee or, if no appeal, of the Disciplinary Committee, shall be final and binding.

REGULATIONS FOR CLUBS

6. Internal Club Enquiry

- 6.1 The club of its own volition and without any need for the receipt of a written complaint or other prompting shall, where any alleged case of conduct which is not fair and proper occurs as stated in Paragraph 1 above, or otherwise as the club may think fit, forthwith convene an Internal Club Enquiry.
- 6.2 The purpose of the Internal Club Enquiry shall be to establish the facts and, where appropriate, to take the necessary disciplinary action so as to ensure that the club does not fail properly to control or discipline its player or players and to ensure that the club acts in a manner designed to protect the good name of the club and of cricket generally.
- 6.3 Any player requested to attend such an Internal Club Enquiry, or any Appeal there from, shall be entitled to be accompanied at the Enquiry by a friend or other representative.

7. Appeals Procedure

- 7.1 The player shall have the right to appeal to the President of the club or to the President's nominee for a review of the findings of the Internal Club Enquiry and of the penalty or penalties imposed.
- 7.2 The decision of the President or his nominee in all cases shall be final and binding.