



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

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To the Representatives of All Somerset Cricket League Clubs.

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 thoroughly 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 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 due to the lack of players available for selection should not bowl earlier than 3rd change (5th 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 Results Secretary will be particularly vigilant in respect of the games where a higher team has a vacant date.

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.

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.