

LORDS FOUR COUNTIES CRICKET LEAGUE
CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF PLAY 2019
CHANGES FROM 2019 ARE IN RED

1. TITLE

The league shall be entitled the 'Four Counties Cricket League' and will incorporate the name of the league sponsors.

2. AIM OF THE LEAGUE

The aim of the League is to provide and encourage quality competitive cricket, embracing the highest standards of both play and sportsmanship. All clubs playing within the League should be encouraged to have an active youth development policy. To execute the objectives of the League fairly and without prejudice to age, gender, disability, race, ethnic origin, creed, colour, social status and sexual orientation. From the end of 2013 and until further notice the club finishing 1st in division one of the FCCL will have the choice as to whether to progress into the Cherwell League. The Cherwell League will determine as to what level they enter. The club must also meet all of the criteria laid down by the Cherwell League entry criteria.

3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEAGUE

Membership of the League is open to all bona fide cricket clubs who, at the time of application to join the league, are able to satisfy the Executive Committee that they meet the current required standards relating to grounds, changing and social facilities.

3a) FCCL member clubs must be fully paid up members of their relevant County Cricket Board by April 1st of the season that it pertains to.

4. OFFICERS

The officers of the league will consist of the Chairperson, General Secretary, Treasurer, Deputy Chairman, Assistant General Secretary, Fixture Secretary and Press & Results Secretary and Registration Secretary who will be elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). No one person shall hold more than one office. The Chairperson, General Secretary, Treasurer, Fixtures Secretary, Registration Secretary and the Press & Result Secretary will receive an honorarium from the league, which will be paid at the end of each financial year. The level of honorarium will be set each year at the AGM.

5. PRESIDENTS AND LIFE VICE PRESIDENTS

The AGM shall be entitled to elect a President and Life Vice Presidents of the league.

6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee will consist of the Officers of the league, a representative of the clubs from each division, an umpire's representative and a scorer's representative. The Officers of the League, divisional representatives, the umpires' and scorer's representative will be elected each year at the AGM, by the clubs forming each division for the forthcoming season. These representatives will organise a deputy, if they are unable to attend an Executive Committee meeting. The Executive Committee will be entitled to take any action necessary it feels appropriate within the terms of this constitution. If a member of the Executive Committee is absent from two consecutive meetings of the committee without apology he shall be deemed to have resigned. The committee may then co-opt a new member for the remainder of the year.

A quorum of the Executive Committee shall be 5, of which 2 shall be officers.

7. FINANCIAL CONTROL

- a) The League's financial year shall run from 1st November to 31st October each year.
- b) A bank account or accounts will be maintained in the name of the Four Counties Cricket League with such bank or banks as are approved by the Executive Committee. The Chairman, General Secretary and Treasurer will be approved signatories. Cheques will normally be signed by the Treasurer and one other approved signatory, but where circumstances do not permit this, any two of the three authorised signatories may sign. All expenditures must be authorised by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer will be responsible for safe keeping of the League's chequebook and other financial documents.
- c) Audited accounts will be provided to all clubs by 31st December following the AGM. Unaudited accounts to be sent to all clubs 7 days prior to the AGM.
- d) The Treasurer will provide a brief financial statement at each Executive Committee meeting, and will also be in a position to produce bank statements if required.

8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

The General Secretary shall call the AGM no later than 30th November each year. Each club shall send a voting representative to the AGM, and only that person shall be allowed to address the Chair. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted.

- a) Minutes of the preceding AGM.
- b) Matters arising from the minutes.
- c) Presentation of annual reports and statement of accounts.
- d) Election of Officers and divisional representatives.
- e) Election of Appeals Committee Chairman, Disciplinary Committee Chairman and 5 disciplinary Committee members.
- e) Proposed alterations to the constitution and playing rules.
- f) New team applications and league format.
- g) Tea Costs.
- h) Honoraria.
- i) Any other business.

Any item of business for consideration at the AGM must be submitted on a motions form to the General Secretary by November 1st, the motion must be signed by either the Chairman, Secretary or Captain of the club proposing, it must also be signed by the Chairman, Secretary or Captain of the club seconding the motion. Copies of the agenda, minutes of the preceding AGM, balance sheet and statement of accounts, all proposed alterations to the constitution and playing rules, new membership applications and details of any other item of business will be sent to each club representative at least fourteen days before the AGM. A quorum shall be half of the member clubs within the league immediately prior to the AGM.

Any clubs not represented at the AGM will be fined £25.00.

Any club failing to pay this fine by the date of the first fixture of the season following the AGM will be suspended from the League until such time as the associated fine is paid. Maximum points will be awarded to the opponents of the games forfeited during suspension. If clubs still continue to default on payment then rule 15(d) will apply.

9. EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

The General Secretary shall convene an EGM at the instruction of the Executive Committee or at a written request of a minimum of 25% of the member clubs; the club Secretary must have signed each club request. Fourteen days' notice of an EGM and its agenda will be given to each member club. Each member club shall send its voting representative to an EGM and only that person shall address the Chair. A quorum shall be half the member clubs within the league immediately prior to the EGM. Any clubs not represented at an

EGM will be fined £25.00. Fines not paid within 21 days of notification will incur a deduction of 5 points, with a further 5 points being deducted for each seven days thereafter until payment is received in full.

10. VOTING

Each member club and the Officers of the League shall have one vote at an AGM or EGM, the Chairman will only vote in order to cast. Voting shall be conducted by club voting cards. Voting shall be carried by a simple majority of the clubs and voting Officers present, unless otherwise stated in this constitution.

11. REGISTRATION OF CLUBS

- a) New club applications or disqualifications for membership for the following season must be received by the General Secretary by 1st October and shall require consent by the majority of the votes cast at the AGM. Late applications may be considered by the Executive Committee.
- b) New clubs accepted to enter the league at the AGM, must pay their affiliation within 28 days of the acceptance date and will be placed into a division by the Executive Committee.
- c) Clubs already in membership of the leagues must confirm membership for the following season in writing to the General Secretary by the date of the AGM, and will only be accepted providing all outstanding fines, not subject to appeal, have been paid in full by the AGM.
- d) League Affiliation will be set annually by the committee and notified to the member clubs upon issue of the unaudited accounts. The affiliation will be paid before the commencement of the AGM in the year prior to the year to which it pertains.

Any existing member club which has not paid its affiliation as stated above, will waive their right to vote at that AGM. In addition, there will be a fine of £25 payable in addition to the affiliation fee as set.

Any existing member club which has not paid its league affiliation and subsequent fines by midnight on 31st December, in the year prior to which it pertains, will be deemed to have resigned from the league. The Executive Committee will have the discretion to allow such club to take up its position in the league upon receipt of reasonable explanation as to why payment has not been made.

Any applicant club accepted at the AGM will have 28 days from the date of that acceptance to pay their league affiliation as detailed above. Failure to do so will be deemed that said club does not wish to take up the position offered and thus any future membership will require a reapplication at a future AGM. The Executive Committee will have similar discretionary powers as described in the preceding paragraph.

- d) i) Cost of league match balls will be paid for by the end of ball evening of the season they pertain to; balls will not be released until payment is received in full. Failure to do so, will result in a 20 points deduction for each team of the club defaulting. Any club failing to pay its cost of league match balls by the date of the first fixture of the season they pertain to, will be suspended from the league until such time as the cost is paid in full. Maximum points will be awarded to opponents of the games forfeited during suspension. If clubs still continue to default on payment then rule 15(d) will apply.
- e) A club who fields a 1st and 2nd eleven in the league will not be permitted to play two teams in the same division, or a 2nd eleven will never play in a higher division than the 1st eleven.
- f) If a 1st eleven be relegated into a division where their 2nd eleven is playing the 2nd eleven will be relegated to the division lower regardless of their finishing position and only the bottom team of that division will be relegated as well.
- g) Should a 1st eleven qualify for relegation into the bottom division where their 2nd eleven is playing the 1st eleven will not be relegated and only one other side in a relegation position will be relegated, and only the champions of the bottom league will be promoted.
- h) If a 2nd eleven qualify for promotion into the division where their 1st eleven is playing they will not be promoted but the other qualifying side and the side finishing third will be promoted.

- i) Rule 11e to h inclusive will also apply to clubs fielding 3 teams in the league and to clubs fielding a 2nd XI and 3rd XI or a 3rd XI and 4th XI and so on.
- j) No club will be allowed to employ the services of any professional player, for league matches, other than for coaching purposes, nor must they pay or in any other way remunerate any person for playing cricket in the League.

12. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

It is the responsibility of each team to ensure that every player used in an FCCL fixture is registered to the league through Play-Cricket Player Registration system by no later than 10.00 am on the Sunday after the game on the previous day for authorisation by the League. Any late player registration will incur a 5 point penalty for every player not registered in the timescale. Any club that fields a player not in accordance with the registration rules will be subject to a penalty decided by the Executive Committee. It is the club's responsibility to ensure that each player is eligible to play. They will remain registered to that club until a transfer is authorised as described in rule 13. Players can move freely between clubs during the close season. If a club plays an ineligible player by age the penalty will be a loss of all match points plus an extra 20 points for each game.

13. TRANSFER OF PLAYERS

- a) After registration, players can only be transferred during the current season at the discretion of the Executive Committee. In reaching their decision the Executive Committee will ascertain, from the club the player wishes to transfer from, whether the player is in debt to them. All debts must be settled before a transfer can be sanctioned. The player concerned must make applications for transfer in writing to the General Secretary. The Executive Committee shall communicate their decision to the player within fourteen days of receipt of his application. This may be verbally in the first instance, and will be confirmed in writing (email accepted), up until the 1st August of that season.
- b) Any club playing a player registered by another club shall be deducted ten points for each such player and will also be deducted any points gained in that particular game.

Players under 18 at the 31st August of the previous season may be registered for up to 2 clubs participating in the League. Such players may play for either club in any league match. This will maximise the playing opportunities of young players, and help ensure more clubs are able to fulfil fixtures with full sides. The club having first registered the player will have the control of dual registration.

- c) No financial inducements will be made, either to clubs or to players, to encourage players to apply for transfer.

14. GROUND STANDARDS AND FACILITIES

All clubs must have a well-maintained playing area, particularly with regard to the square. Pitches should provide a good, consistent bounce. It is expected that clubs with teams in Divisions 1 and 2 will prepare higher standards of pitches, than those clubs with teams in the lower Divisions, throughout the season. Covers, where available, may be used to cover the wicket and its surrounds during the fixture, unless both captains agree otherwise and notify the umpires before the toss. Captains and umpires will monitor grounds and pitches and report on grounds where minimum standards are not being met.

It is a requirement for all clubs to provide the following:

- a) A grassed and cut outfield, free of ruts and potholes, with the boundary clearly and visibly lined or roped throughout its circumference. Flags or markers shall indicate the boundary.
- b) A pitch prepared and marked out according with the MCC Laws.
- c) A clock in proper working order, clearly visible from the square.

- d) A scoreboard or scorebox.
- e) A well-stocked first aid kit.
- f) A phone (or mobile phone) to contact the Emergency services.
- g) Changing rooms with washing facilities and toilets near to the playing area, together with a suitable room where food can be consumed under hygienic conditions. In Division 1 and 2, sight screens positioned at each end of the ground. In Division 1 and 2, showers (in full working order). All clubs should have the latest, up to date copy of the MCC rules available to settle any disputes.

EXCEPTIONS

The Executive Committee may grant individual clubs dispensation from the minimum standards; especially where there are mitigating local conditions, for example, it may not be practical to have two sight screens on a sloping ground.

INSPECTIONS

The Executive Committee will arrange for the inspection of the grounds and facilities of a club in the following circumstances:

- a) A club with a team that has earned promotion to Division 2 for the following season. The inspection will take place, where practicable, before 1st September (at the end of the season in which the team has earned promotion). The Executive Committee will then advise the club of any actions that need to be taken to enable the team to be promoted. A further inspection and meeting with the club concerned will be take place prior to the AGM. As a result of this final inspection and meeting, the Executive Committee will decide, before the AGM, whether the team is promoted.
- b) A new club applying to join the league. The results of the inspection will determine whether or not the application of the club will go forward to the AGM for approval;
- c) A club receiving consistently adverse comments in the Umpires' reports. The Executive Committee will advise the club in writing of their intention to carry out an inspection. After the inspection, the Executive Committee will advise the club of any remedial actions that needs to be undertaken and the date by which they expect them to be completed. A further inspection will be undertaken, at a date agreed with the club concerned, to confirm that the required actions have been carried out to the Executive Committee's satisfaction. In the event that they have not, the Executive Committee will decide an appropriate course of action, which could ultimately lead to the club's expulsion from the league.

15. FIXTURES

- a) All fixtures shall be played on a Saturday afternoon and will be arranged by the Fixture Secretary. The Executive Committee has the discretion to move fixtures and will have the final decision. After one hour from the start of the game, a team will only be allowed to field a minimum of 7 players.

Clubs must notify the league of any change from the previous season in ground location or ground sharing arrangements by 31st December prior to the next season. Newly elected clubs must inform the league of their ground location and ground sharing arrangements (if any) by the same date.

Clubs must also notify the fixture secretary of any dates when their ground(s) will be unavailable for use during the following season by the preceding 31st December. Requests received from clubs for free dates on Saturdays during the league season will be reviewed by

the league committee prior to the preparation of the fixtures. Requests for free dates must be received by 31st December prior to the season. The committee's decision on whether to allow clubs free dates will be final.

- b) When a club forfeit a fixture, the side to whom they forfeit will receive the maximum points available. The side that forfeits the fixture will be deducted 10 points, recompense in full their opposition for pitch costs, and if the fixture is forfeited on the day of the match by the away side, they will also pay £30.00, for the cost of teas, to the home side to whom they forfeited. The club concerned will within 14 days submit a report to the General Secretary detailing the reason for forfeiture. This will be considered at the next Executive Committee meeting. If the committee considers that forfeiture was for unacceptable reasons, thereby compromising the fairness of the League, then rule 21 will apply.
- c) Any club which intends to forfeit a fixture shall cancel its 2nd XI game in preference to that of its 1st XI and the same principal to clubs fielding more than one team in the League.
- d) A team failing to fulfil more than 3 fixtures in a season, for reasons other than adverse weather conditions, will:
Have all its fixtures annulled for the purposes of contributing to league points. Points gained by all teams involved in it's fixtures to that point would be deducted from the point's total of these teams. Its subsequent fixtures will be played as 'friendlies' with no points being awarded to the teams involved.
 - i) Be required to reapply for membership of the League for the following season.
 - ii) If successful in its reapplication for membership be automatically relegated, to a division lower than the one they were due to be in the following season.

16. MATCH RETURNS

- a) It is the responsibility of the home captain to ensure that the result or notification of an abandoned match or cancelled match be notified on Play-Cricket by 10.00 hrs Sunday morning immediately following the game.
Total score, wickets and total overs bowled for each innings.
Minimum requirements for a completed scorecard is as follows:
Name of each participating player for each team.
Total score by each batsman and method of dismissal, including bowler's name who takes each wicket.
Full bowling statistics of every bowler used (overs, maidens, runs and wickets).
Name of each non playing umpire (division 1, 2 and 3 only).
- b) The home team captain should then ensure that the full scorecard is then input onto Play-Cricket by no later than the Tuesday after the game. Both teams will then check the scorecards on Play Cricket and use the approval button on the results page to deem that the scorecard is correct by the Wednesday after the game. Any inconsistencies must be reported to the Press and Results Secretary immediately. Both captains will sign both score books as a true record. Teams shall, on request, produce to the committee a copy of their scorebook signed by both teams within 7 days of the request. A scorebook not correctly authorised will incur a fine of 5 points for the away team. Failure to comply with a request from the committee within 7 days will also incur a fine of 5 points. **If the home club are unable to complete a full scorecard, for any reason, the Press & Results Secretary must be notified immediately.**

Clubs are also allowed to submit their scorecard electronically onto Play-Cricket. Instead of both captains signing both scorebooks as a true record they must enter in the Play-Cricket text box that they have 'verified the scoresheet is correct' and enter their names.

- c) If rules 16a or 16b are not adhered to then a club will be fined 5 points on the first occasion and 10 points on any subsequent occasion.
- d) For every week a full scorecard is outstanding, a fine of 10 points will be incurred, for each scorecard until such time that all full scorecards have been completed in accordance with 16(a). In addition to this,

starting on the Saturday following the fixture in question, the team responsible will forfeit all match points gained until all scorecards have been successfully completed in accordance with 16(a), at which point the match points deducted will be returned to the relevant team. If any aforementioned incomplete scorecards that are still outstanding on the date of the final fixture of the season, then the aforementioned match points will not be recovered. Team sheets shall be signed by the opposition and retained by the home clubs. The league committee may at their discretion request that the team sheets are forwarded for inspection and failure to provide fully completed and signed team sheets within 7 days shall result in a fine of 10 points for each club and each offence. Breaches of league rules or the laws of cricket resulting from incorrect team sheets may result in the loss of points gained.

- e) Team sheets shall be signed by the opposition and retained by the home clubs. The league committee may at their discretion request that the team sheets are forwarded for inspection and failure to provide fully completed and signed team sheets within 7 days shall result in a fine of 10 points for each club and each offence. Breaches of league rules or the laws of cricket resulting from incorrect team sheets may result in the loss of points gained.
- f) Each week a list of scorecard related point deductions shall be published by the Press and Results Secretary and the clubs concerned notified.

17. DISCIPLINE

The rules on the Discipline procedures are with all clubs. The FCCL will respect and enforce any disciplinary action taken by any other league or organisation against a player under the league's jurisdiction.

18. PAYMENT OF DISCIPLINARY FINES

There will be a charge for costs of £75.00 to the allegedly offending club/player for any disciplinary or appeal hearing staged, over and above any financial penalty imposed by the disciplinary committee. For clarity it should be noted if a decision of the disciplinary committee is appealed a second fee for costs of £75.00 will be incurred.

All disciplinary fines and costs will be paid within twenty-one days of the disciplinary hearing irrespective of appeal.

The £75.00 costs for an appeal must be paid before the appeal hearing is convened.

In the event that either at the initial disciplinary stage or at appeal there is a finding of not guilty then all costs and fines already paid will be refunded.

A club / player failing to pay fines or costs for a disciplinary hearing as stipulated above will have 10 points deducted for each full week the fine is outstanding. After the deduction of 40 points i.e. 4 weeks and if the fine/costs are still outstanding the executive committee will consider suspension from the league.

19. LEAGUE PROPERTY

The Officers of the League will, during their term of office, be considered joint owners of all property belonging to the League.

20. LEAGUE TROPHIES

The winning clubs and individuals will hold the League trophies until 31st August in the following year. The trophies must be insured against theft, loss or damage during that time by the clubs holding them. The League will be responsible for engraving and general maintenance of the trophies. All trophies will be returned to the General Secretary, in an acceptable state of cleanliness, by 31st August of the following year.

21. CONTINGENCY

The Executive Committee will deal with any contingency not provided for in the constitution or by the playing rules.

RULES OF PLAY

22. All matches to be played under M.C.C. laws unless stated otherwise in the League rules. The League rules will also incorporate the ECB's Fast Bowling Directive, Guidelines for Junior Players in Open Age Cricket, Guidance on the wearing of helmets by Young Players and any other directives or guidelines issued by the ECB.

23. All start time of matches to be on a week by week option for all clubs – if agreed by both captains, the umpires and the groundsman in advance of a game (earliest standard start time available being 12.30pm, the latest being 1.30pm). For the last Saturday in August and any matches in September the earliest standard start time available will be 12 noon and the latest 1pm) Formal agreement to earlier start times is to be made by the preceding Thursday. The FCCL will be informed of any earlier start times agreed in advance. If there is no agreement then matches will commence at 1.30pm (1pm for last Saturday in August and in September) There should be 20 minutes allowed for tea, normally between innings, and it is the responsibility of the home club to ensure that delays are kept to a minimum. Umpires are to advise the league if excessive delays occur. The tea interval may be taken during a first innings interruption if agreed by the umpires, or in their absence, both captains.

Will captains please make sure that ground staff, umpires (if applicable) and the tea providers know of the change in start times.

24. Each match shall consist of 40 overs per side. The side scoring the most runs will be the winner. No innings can be concluded by a declaration. A declaration will be deemed to be a forfeiture of the match.

25. In the event of interference by weather, or unforeseen circumstances, resulting in a delayed start or loss of play, play can continue to 8.00pm or 20 overs from 7.00pm whichever is the later (7.30 pm in September and last week in August or 20 overs from 6.30pm). All games not concluded within these times shall be deemed to be abandoned and points awarded in accordance with playing rule 42.

26. In the event of rain or other unavoidable delay in the first innings, the game will be reduced as follows -
a) The 1st interruption in play or the start time of the match has elapsed (if the game is yet to start) - A delay in play of 30 minutes is allowed for no loss of overs in the game, thereafter 1 over will be deducted from each innings for every 8 minutes of play lost. If play is resumed before 30 minutes then there shall be no loss of overs.

b) Any interruptions in play thereafter - the overs deduction will be enforced from the time the players leave the field.

Overs will be deducted to a minimum of a 40 over match (20 overs each).

There will be no reduction in overs once the 2nd innings of the match has commenced.

27. In the absence of an independent / non-playing umpire, the captains shall fulfil the umpires' duty in deciding the commencement or continuation of play in inclement conditions.

28. All Division one and two sides shall employ the services of a competent umpire for each match, who shall stand for the duration of the match. **After the conclusion of the match, the both captains shall be required to complete an online umpire assessment form whereby they will constructively assess both umpire's performances. The ground condition will also be assessed at the same time. This should be submitted no later than the Tuesday after the game. Failure to do so will result in a fine of 5 points.**

28(a). Division 3 sides shall employ the services of a competent non-playing umpire for each match, who shall stand for the duration of the match,

29. Clubs may pay their umpire a fee up to £40.00 maximum per match.

30. Division one, two and three sides that fail to provide an umpire in League matches will incur a penalty of the deduction of 5 points.

31. Rule removed.

32. Each bowler may bowl a maximum of 9 overs in a match. If the match is delayed **prior to the start** of either innings, the maximum overs per individual bowler in both innings shall be reduced at the rate of one over for every four overs by which the innings has been reduced (see table below). In the case of a reduced overs match being played, the overs to be bowled by each bowler will be reduced on a pro rata basis – see table below.

| Overs per Innings | Maximum overs per bowler |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 20 | 4 |
| 21-24 | 5 |
| 25-28 | 6 |
| 29-32 | 7 |
| 33-36 | 8 |
| 37-40 | 9 |

33. If a bowler is incapacitated during the course of an over, a player other than he/she who bowled the previous over shall complete the over.
34. A reducing number on the scoreboard shall indicate the passage of overs.
35. One new ball as specified by the League is to be provided for each innings of each match, each team to provide one ball. Each ball to be used from the start of each innings. All balls are to be purchased from the League, **failure to comply will result in forfeiture of the match**. In the event of a lost ball, the replacement ball shall be of the same manufacturer and similar wear and tear than the one lost. All balls to be given to the umpires prior to the game. The home team will have available a box of 6 spare balls of varying degrees of wear. New teams in the league will have 6 weeks grace from the beginning of the season their entry pertains to.
36. The decision to abandon a match because of the weather conditions prior to the match starting is the responsibility of the home captain.
37. All matches are to be played on Grass pitches

POINTS AWARDED

38. 25 points for a win.
39. For a loss, those bonus points obtained according to Rule 43.
40. Points awarded/deducted for a forfeit fixture are as set out in rule 15(b)
41. In a tied game (scores level) each side awarded 10 points plus bonus points.
42. 10 points awarded to each side if the game has not started. In games that have started but not completed then 10 points awarded to each side plus the bonus points that have accrued to that point. For a game to have started, 20 overs must have been completed. **Unless a result has been achieved in under 20 overs. A scorecard is not required if the match has been abandoned or cancelled.**
43. Bonus Points.
- (a) Teams will be awarded one bowling bonus point for every two wickets taken. If a team with less than eleven players is all out, five bowling points will be awarded.
- (b) Each team will be awarded one batting bonus point for scoring 100 runs, and a further batting bonus point for each additional 25 runs up to a maximum of five batting bonus points.

BATTING

A maximum of 5 points.

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 100 runs scored – 1 point | 2 wickets taken – 1 point |
| 125 runs scored – 2 points | 4 wickets taken – 2 points |
| 150 runs scored – 3 points | 6 wickets taken – 3 points |
| 175 runs scored – 4 points | 8 wickets taken – 4 points |
| 200 runs scored – 5 points | 10 wickets taken – 5 points |

BOWLING

A maximum of 5 points.

Subject to the proviso that if a side is unable to complete its innings because of a shortage of players or through a batsman having retired or being unable to continue. 5 bowling points shall be available to the fielding side.

- a) Teams tied by points in the League. Placing's will be determined by firstly most wins, secondly by points obtained between the teams concerned, and thirdly by the toss of a coin.

44. The toss can be claimed if no person from the opposition is available to conduct the toss 15 minutes prior to the official start time of the game.

45. There will be no charge by the home club for teas.

46. Team sheets will be completed and handed to the umpires (division 1, 2 and 3) or opposing captains (divisions 4 to 7) prior to the toss.

47. In the event that a person (not being a player in that game) arrives on the ground after the commencement of play, it shall be at the discretion of both captains as to whether that person be allowed to umpire during the game in progress.

48. All matches in Division 1 are to have an Independent Umpire, depending on availability. In the event that there are spare neutral Umpires available then they will cover Division 2 matches. If you are allotted an Independent or 'League Scheme' umpire you will be pay a fee, which will be set by the League's Executive Committee.

49. If a club which has more than one XI in the league withdraws its top XI from the league, then all its remaining sides will be subject to re-election at the next AGM. If re-elected, the committee will place these sides in the appropriate division taking into account their results achieved in the previous season.

50. Each Independent / Scheme umpire will be paid £40.00 per match to cover expenses. This will be paid by the club who they are umpiring for on that particular day. Any Independent / Scheme umpire's fees shall be paid at the toss of the coin prior to the commencement of the match.

51. Any attempt to load the strength of any eleven for tactical reasons will be treated as a serious breach of the Constitution and will be dealt with under rule 21. Clubs may be required to justify their selection policy to the FCCL Executive Committee.

52. Games in Division 1 and 2. Overs should be bowled within a maximum time of 2 hr 45 mins including one drink's break. If this is not completed the batting side shall be awarded 6 penalty runs for each over not completed. The Independent umpire shall be the sole judges of whether the overs have been completed on time & if any delay (such as lost balls, injuries) are justified. Completed innings in less than 40 overs shall be subject to the same overall time constraints.

53. A Fielding Circle will be used in all games in Divisions 1 and 2.

The Fielding Circle will be defined by two semi-circles centred on each middle stump each with a radius of 30 yards and joined by a parallel line at each end of the pitch. The fielding circle shall be marked at 5-yard intervals by plastic or rubber discs.

At the moment of delivery, a maximum of 5 fielders may be outside the Fielding circle. In the event of infringement, the Umpire shall call and signal a no ball.

DIRECTIONS FOR UMPIRES

JUDGING A WIDE, DELIVERY NOT A WIDE

1. (a) If the bowler bowls a ball, not being a No Ball, the umpire shall adjudge it a Wide if, according to the definition in (b) below, in his opinion the ball passes wide of the striker where he is standing and would also have passed wide of him standing in a normal guard position.

(b) The ball will be considered as passing wide of the striker unless it is sufficiently within his reach for him to be able to hit it with his bat by means of a normal cricket stroke.

2. The umpire shall not adjudge a delivery as being a Wide

(a) if the striker, by moving, either (i) causes the ball to pass wide of him, as defined in 1(b) above to be able to hit it with his bat by means of a normal cricket stroke.

(b) if the ball touches the striker's bat or person.

Division 1 & 2 only – Any ball that passes the batsman on the leg side and leg side of leg stump will be classed as a wide.

ECB Fast Bowling Match Directives

| AGE | Max. Overs per spell | Max. Overs per day |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Up to 13 | 5 | 10 |
| U14, U15 | 6 | 12 |
| U16, U17, U18 U19 | 7 | 18 |

For the purpose of these Directives a fast bowler is defined as a bowler to whom a wicket keeper in the same age group would in normal circumstances stand back to take the ball. Having completed a spell, the bowler cannot bowl again, from either end, until the equivalent number of overs to the length of his* spell have been bowled from the same end. A bowler can change ends without ending his current spell provided that he bowls the next over that he legally can from the other end. If this does not happen his spell is deemed to be concluded. If play is interrupted, for any reason, for less than 40 minutes any spell in progress at the time of the interruption can be continued after the interruption up to the maximum number of overs per spell for the appropriate age group. If the spell is not continued after the interruption the bowler cannot bowl again, from either end, until the equivalent number of overs to the length of his spell before the interruption have been bowled from the same end. If the interruption is of 40 minutes or more, whether scheduled or not, the bowler can commence a new spell immediately. In matches of 20 overs or less per team where the competition regulations only allow bowlers to bowl less than or equal to the number of overs specified as the maximum in a spell in the Directives, the provisions requiring an equivalent number of overs from the same Fast Bowling Match Directives end to have elapsed before a subsequent spell can commence shall not apply (e.g. in any age group competition where a maximum of 4 overs per bowler is allowed these may be bowled at any time in the innings irrespective of the number of spells bowled). Once a bowler covered by these Directives has bowled in a match he cannot exceed the maximum number overs per day for his age group even if he subsequently bowls spin. He can exceed the maximum overs per spell if bowling spin, but cannot then revert to bowling fast until an equivalent number of overs to the length of his spell have been bowled from the same end. If he bowls spin without exceeding the maximum number of overs in a spell the maximum will apply as soon as he reverts to bowling fast. Captains, Team Managers and Umpires are asked to ensure that these Directives are followed at all times. For guidance it is recommended that in any 7-day period a fast bowler should not bowl more than 4 days in that period and for a maximum of 2 days in a row. Age groups are based on the age of the player at midnight on 31st August in the year preceding the current season. *Any reference to he/his should be interpreted to include she/her.

ECB Safety Guidance on the Wearing of Cricket Helmets by Young Players

In February 2015 the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) issued updated safety guidance on the wearing of helmets by young players up to the age of 18. In brief, the guidance recommends that:

- helmets with a faceguard or grille must be worn when batting against a hard cricket ball in matches and in practice sessions
- young players should regard a helmet with a faceguard as a normal item of protective equipment when batting, together with pads, gloves and, for boys, an abdominal protector (box)
- young wicket keepers must wear a helmet with a faceguard, or a wicketkeeper face protector when standing up to the stumps. With the assistance of schools, cricket clubs and leagues, the wearing of helmets by young players is now standard practice in cricket throughout England and Wales. Helmets are widely available and are covered by an updated British Standard (BS7928:2013). A face protector represents an alternative head protection system for young wicket keepers. Wicketkeeper Face Protectors are covered by a new British Standard (BS 7928 – 2 :2009). The ECB strongly recommends that wherever possible junior players use head protectors that have been tested against junior sized cricket balls. Parental or guardian written consent allowing a young player not to wear a helmet should not be accepted in any form of cricket. This guidance applies to all players up to the age of 18, both in adult cricket and in all junior cricket played with a hard cricket ball.

Safety Guidance. The guidance also applies during all practice sessions. Any individual taking responsibility for players should take all reasonable steps to ensure that this guidance is followed at all times. The ECB asks that the guidance is communicated to the parents or guardians of all young players through clubs and schools, and that young players are not allowed to bat or stand up to the stumps when keeping wicket against a hard ball without wearing appropriate protection.

Fielding Regulations

The ECB has regulations covering the minimum fielding distances for young players in all matches where a hard ball is used.

- No young player in the Under 15 age group or younger shall be allowed to field closer than 8 yards (7.3 metres) from the batsman's position on the popping crease on a middle stump line, except behind the wicket on the off side, until the batsman has played at the ball.
- For players in the Under 13 age group and below the distance is 11 yards (10 metres).
- These minimum distances apply even if the player is wearing a helmet.
- Should a young player in these age groups come within the restricted distance the umpire must stop the game immediately and instruct the fielder to move back.
- In addition, any young player in the Under 16 to Under 18 age groups, who has not reached the age of 18, must wear a helmet and, for boys, an abdominal protector (box) when fielding within 8 yards (7.3 metres) from the batsman's position on the popping crease on a middle stump line, except behind the wicket on the off side. Players should wear appropriate protective equipment whenever they are fielding in a position where they feel at risk.
- These fielding regulations are applicable to all cricket in England and Wales. Age groups are based on the age of the player at midnight on 31st August in the year preceding the current season.

ECB Guidelines for Junior Players in Open Age Cricket

The ECB has issued guidance covering the selection and participation of young players in open age group cricket. This is to help clubs decide when to select young players in open age group cricket and how best to help their cricketing development when they play within open age groups. The guidance applies to boys and girls. The ECB keeps these guidelines under review and, following feedback from clubs and leagues, has revised these guidelines from the 2014 season. The ECB will continue to monitor the impact of these guidelines and you are invited to feedback your thoughts and comments in writing to the ECB Non-First-Class Cricket Department. The guidance is as follows: General

- Making the step up from junior to open age group cricket is a significant event in any player's cricket experience. Ensure the player's safety, personal development needs and overall cricket experience are considered.
- Clubs, squad coaches and managers must take into account the requirements on age detailed in this guidance.
- Each case is to be determined on an individual basis, depending on the player's ability and stage of cognitive and emotional maturity to take part at this level. However, the minimum age guidance provided below must be adhered to.

- Juniors should be involved in all aspects of the game wherever possible i.e. socialising, team talks, practice, decision making and so on, so they feel part of the team.
 - Children will often feel more comfortable and able to perform if they have a family member or friend also playing in the side. Junior Players in Open Age Cricket District and club players who are not in a county or area squads must wait until they reach the U13 age group, be in Year 8 and be 12 years old on 1st September of the preceding year before being able to play in any open age group cricket. As before written parental consent is required for these players. The duty of care should be interpreted in two ways:
 - Not to place a young player in a position that involves an unreasonable risk to that young player, taking account of the circumstances of the match and the relative skills of the player
 - Not to create a situation that places members of the opposing side in a position whereby they cannot play cricket as they would normally do against adult players. In addition, the guidelines note the need for clubs and leagues to recognise the positive experience young players should have in open age cricket. Clubs should provide an opportunity for players to show their talents in an appropriate way. Children who are just used as fielders will not fully experience the game.
 - Remember, children's early experiences will remain with them always and will often determine whether they want to remain playing the game or give up and do something else.
 - Provide an opportunity for players to show their talents in an appropriate way. Children who are just used as fielders will not fully experience the game.
 - Be supportive, at all times, for all forms of effort even when children are not successful. Try and put them in situations where they will experience some success (however small) and ensure plenty of praise and encouragement.
 - The captain should inform the Umpires of under 18s in the side. Restrictions ECB Helmets, Fast Bowling Directives and Fielding Regulations should always be adhered to for junior players in Open age group cricket. Minimum Age Players who are selected in a County U12 squad in spring for a summer squad or in another squad deemed by ECB Performance Managers to be of a standard above 'district level' for that season are eligible to play open age cricket. This is providing they are at least 11 years old, are in School Year 7 on 1st September in the year preceding the season, and have written parental consent to play. In allowing these players to play in open age cricket it is essential clubs and coaches recognise the 'duty of care' obligations they have towards these young players. This means boys and girls who are county squad and area squad players, are able to play open age group cricket if they are in an U12 age group and are a minimum of 11 years old on 1st September of the year preceding the season.
- District and club players who are not in a county or area squads must wait until they reach the U13 age group, be in Year 8 and be 12 years old on 1st September of the preceding year before being able to play in any open age group cricket. As before written parental consent is required for these players. The duty of care should be interpreted in two ways:
- Not to place a young player in a position that involves an unreasonable risk to that young player, taking account of the circumstances of the match and the relative skills of the player
 - Not to create a situation that places members of the opposing side in a position whereby they cannot play cricket as they would normally do against adult players. In addition, the guidelines note the need for clubs and leagues to recognise the positive experience young players should have in open age cricket. Clubs should provide an opportunity for players to show their talents in an appropriate way. Children who are just used as fielders will not fully experience the game.