

## **THE DEVON CRICKET LEAGUE RULES**

### **The Constitution of The League: (Rules 1 to 10 Inclusive)**

#### **1. TITLE**

The League shall be called 'The Devon Cricket League', hereinafter referred to as 'the League'. If, however, the League is sponsored, the name of the sponsor may be incorporated into the title of the League for the duration of such sponsorship.

#### **2. STRUCTURE**

##### **(a) Leagues & Divisions:**

Within the League there shall be two component, independent leagues:

The First XI League shall consist of a County Premier Division of 10 Clubs and three further County Divisions ("A", "B" & "C"). Below these there shall be as many other Divisions as may be required, regionalized on an 'East' / 'West' basis.

'East' and 'West' areas shall, as far as possible, be determined by a straight line running through a point midway between Clovelly and Bideford in the North and through Stoke-in-Teignhead in the South.

No Division shall contain more than ten and, wherever possible, no fewer than eight Teams. The League Management Committee shall have the power to achieve a reasonable balance across Regional Divisions where this does not occur naturally through promotion and relegation.

The Second XI League shall be similarly constituted and may include third or fourth XIs of Member Clubs provided that no two teams from the same Club shall play in the same Division.

No Club shall play in the Premier, 'A' or 'B' Division of the First XI League unless the 2nd XI of that Club shall play in the 2nd XI League.

##### **(b) Timing of Application to Join or Leave the League:**

Applications for or resignations from membership of the League shall be submitted in writing to reach the Hon. Secretary not later than the end of the Season prior to the year to which they are intended to relate. A Club withdrawing from the League after this date shall be fined £50.00.

##### **(c) Club Contact Names & Details / League Correspondence:**

Member Clubs are required to return to the Hon. League Secretary full details of the Club, as requested, no later than 7th March each year and to give written notification of any change in these details within fourteen days of such change.

Failure by a Club to do so or to respond, where necessary, to League correspondence shall, at the discretion of the LMC, incur a fine to that Club of £30.

#### **3. COMMITTEES**

##### **(a) The General Committee:**

The League shall be governed by a General Committee consisting of one representative from each Member Club.

##### **(b) The League Management Committee:**

The League shall be controlled by a League Management Committee, hereinafter referred to as 'the LMC', consisting of the Officers of the League (Chairman, Vice Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer) and the following Members: Assistant Hon. Secretary, Hon. Fixtures Secretary, a representative appointed by the Devon Cricket Umpires and Scorers, two representatives each from the Premier and 'A' Divisions and one each from the remaining Divisions.

All Officers of the League and Committee Members shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting to serve until the next AGM.

The LMC shall have the power to co-opt from within or, where necessary, from outside the League. Co-opted members shall include the Results Secretary for each Division.

The League shall purchase annually the executive services of a League Secretary in the sum of £5,000.00 per annum.

The LMC shall meet on a regular basis and at such other times as the business of the League may require.

**(c) The Emergency Committee:**

The Emergency Committee shall consist of an Officer of the League and any two other members of the LMC which shall meet when required to deal with any matters which cannot await the next scheduled meeting of the LMC.

A full report of any such meeting shall be made to the LMC at its next meeting.

**(d) Voting Rights in Committees:**

Each member of the General Committee, the LMC and the Emergency Committee, with the exception of co-opted members, shall have one vote at their respective meetings and the Chairman of that meeting shall have a casting vote.

An attendance of three-quarters of the members of the General Committee and an attendance of five members of the LMC shall respectively constitute a quorum.

**(e) Disciplinary and Appeals Sub-Committees:**

The Disciplinary Sub-Committee (DSC) shall hear complaints, against players or member Clubs, in any way connected with the League or any competition organized by the League. The Appeals Sub-Committee (ASC) shall hear Appeals against decisions reached by the DSC.

Chairmen and members of both Sub-Committees shall be appointed from within the LMC which shall, however, have the power to co-opt when necessary.

Each Sub-Committee shall consist of an odd number of no more than five and no fewer than three members, including the Chairman, each member having one vote. In addition, minutes of any Hearing shall be recorded by the Hon. Secretary, or a person appointed by him, who shall be present in a nonvoting capacity solely for that purpose and who shall make a full report of any hearing to the LMC at its next meeting.

No person may sit as a voting member on both Sub-Committees hearing the same case and none shall be related to, or a member of the same Club as, any persons involved in the complaint.

All Hearings shall be conducted in accordance with "League Disciplinary Rules and Procedures" (see page 60 of this Handbook) which shall be deemed to form part of these Rules.

#### **4. GENERAL AND DIVISIONAL MEETINGS**

**(a) Annual General Meeting:**

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held as near as possible to the last Friday in January of the year following the Season to which it relates.

Individual Divisional Sub Committee Meetings, consisting of one representative from each Club in each Division, shall be held each year on a date between the last day of the Season and 30th October, at the premises of one of the Clubs from the Division concerned.

Each Meeting shall be chaired by the relevant Division Representative who shall be responsible for arranging the date, time and venue of the Meeting and notifying the Clubs in writing at least fourteen days before the date of that Meeting. One Club Representative shall be appointed to take minutes and to submit a copy of them to the Hon. League Secretary within fourteen days of the Meeting.

**(b) Extraordinary General Meetings:**

On the instructions of the LMC, or at the request of no fewer than fifteen member Clubs, the Hon. Secretary shall convene an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) giving at least 14 days notice.

**(c) Attendance Obligatory**

It is obligatory for each Member Club to have a voting representative at any General Meeting and at Divisional Sub Committee Meetings. Clubs not attending shall be fined £20.00.

**5. AMENDMENTS TO RULES**

Proposals in respect of new rules or of amendments to existing rules proposed by the LMC, Divisional Sub Committees or Member Clubs must be forwarded to the Hon. Secretary not later than 10 weeks prior to the AGM and circulated to Clubs within the following two weeks.

Clubs desiring to propose amendments to those already submitted must do so within the following two weeks after which time no further proposals shall be accepted.

The list of resolutions and amendments, correlated and arranged, shall be circulated along with the agenda to all Clubs at least fourteen days before the AGM.

Rules may only be amended or deleted, or new rules adopted, at the Annual General Meeting or at an EGM called for the purpose.

No change to the Constitution of the League shall be made unless supported by two thirds of the votes recorded.

No change to Playing Arrangements and Conditions shall be made unless supported by a majority of the votes recorded.

**6. SUBSCRIPTIONS & FEES**

**(a) Subscriptions:**

Each member Club shall pay an annual subscription, payable on 1st April and no later than 1st May each year, according to the following scale:

Premier Division 1st XI	£100.00
County Division (A, B & C) 1st XI	£ 75.00
Regional Division (D, E etc.) 1st XI	£ 60.00

Where a Club runs any additional Team in the League, an additional subscription of £30.00 shall be payable for each such Team.

Nonpayment of a subscription by 1st May shall incur a fine of £10 per month or part thereof until such time as the subscription is fully paid.

In the event that the annual subscription does not cover the expenses of the League any deficit shall be borne equally by all member clubs.

**(b) Tea Fees:**

The rate charged for teas to away sides at all matches shall be agreed at the AGM. For the 2002 Season the rate shall be £33.00 per Team.

**7. FINANCE**

**(a) Financial Year:**

The financial year shall run from 1st October to 30th September.

**(b) Banking Arrangements:**

All monies received shall be paid into a banking account in the name of the League. Accounts shall be paid by cheque and signed by the Hon. Treasurer or any other nominated member of the LMC.

**(c) Auditors:**

The Annual Accounts of the League shall be audited independently, the Auditors being appointed annually at the AGM.

## **8. DEVON COUNTY CRICKET CLUB**

Member Clubs shall not refuse permission to any of their players to assist the Devon County Cricket Club when required.

## **9. DISSOLUTION OF THE LEAGUE**

The League shall not be dissolved except by a two thirds majority of the votes recorded at an EGM called specifically for the purpose. In the event that, at Dissolution, League funds shall not be sufficient to cover liabilities, any shortfall shall be borne equally by all member Clubs. Similarly, in the event of a surplus of funds at Dissolution, such surplus shall be divided equally between all member Clubs.

## **10. EXTRA RULINGS**

**The LMC shall have the full power to deal at their discretion with any matter affecting the League which is not specifically covered by these Rules.**

### **Playing Arrangements and Conditions: (Rules 11 to 22 Inclusive)**

**Note:** Reference to 'League Match' applies to all matches taking place under the auspices of the League.

## **11. FIXTURES**

### **(a) The Season & Rearrangement of Fixtures:**

The League shall arrange home and away fixtures between all member Clubs. For the year 2003, matches shall be played on consecutive Saturdays between 3rd May and 30th August inclusive (The Season).

**No rearrangement of these fixture dates shall be allowed under any circumstances.**

**Note:** For the 2003 Season only, in order to accommodate twelve Teams in Divisions D West 2nd XI and E West 1st XI, their Season shall be extended by 2 weeks to include Sunday 14th September.

### **(b) Cancellation of Fixtures:**

No fixture shall, on account of weather or ground conditions, be cancelled before 9 am. on the day of the match. Cancellation shall be by agreement between the Clubs concerned.

The away side shall have the option to travel and inspect the Ground. If this option is taken, the home team must attend pending an on-site decision and the away side shall be responsible for independent umpires' costs should the match subsequently be cancelled without a ball being bowled.

In matches where Independent Umpires are appointed, they shall be informed immediately of the decision to cancel and shall be paid if caused to travel.

### **(c) Known Unavailability of Home Ground:**

Where a Club has prior notice of dates when their Home Ground will be unavailable for cricket during the following Season, such dates shall be notified in writing to the Hon. Fixtures Secretary by 30th September of the previous year.

### **(d) Unfitness or Unavailability of Ground:**

Should a Ground be declared by the LMC to be dangerous or unfit for cricket, or be unavailable for any other reason not covered in 11.(c) above, it shall be the responsibility of the Home Club to arrange for another suitable Ground to be used and to notify the Hon. League Secretary, the Umpires' Representative and the Opposing Team accordingly at least three days before the fixture date, any expenses incurred being borne by the Home Club.

Should it prove impossible to find a suitable alternative venue within this time limit, the match shall be treated as 'Cancelled' and points awarded as specified in Rule 14.(c).

## 12. CONDUCT OF MATCHES - UMPIRES & SCORERS

### (a) MCC Laws:

Matches shall be conducted in accordance with the official MCC laws of cricket except for matters specially provided for in these Rules.

### (b) Wide Ball:

Umpires are instructed to apply a strict and consistent interpretation in regard to Law 25 (Wide Ball) in order to prevent negative bowling.

### (c) Umpires & Scorers:

In respect of all Premier, 'A' & 'B' Division 1st XI matches, the Devon Cricket Umpires and Scorers Society (DCUS) shall supply Independent Umpires who are to be paid prior to the commencement of the match. Each team shall supply one non-playing Scorer

In the remaining 1st XI Divisions and all 2nd XI matches, each team shall supply one non-playing Scorer and one non-playing Umpire.

**Premier, 'A' and 'B' Divisions 1st XIs only:** Failure by any side to provide a Scorer for both innings shall, on the first occasion, incur an immediate fine of £10.00 to the Club concerned. The fine shall be £20.00 for each subsequent offence during that Season.

### (d) Fitness of Ground, Weather & Light:

Where Independent Umpires are appointed, they shall be the judges of the fitness of the ground, weather and light. In respect of all other matches, the captains shall be the judges with the Umpires to be the final adjudicators if the Captains fail to agree.

## 13. HOURS AND CONDITIONS OF PLAY

### (a) Normal Hours of Play:

<b>Premier Division 1st XI:</b>	Start Time: 1.00 p.m. *
<b>Premier 2nd XI &amp; 'A' 1st &amp; 2nd XI:</b>	Start Time: 1.30 p.m. *
<b>All Other Divisions:</b>	Start Time: 2.00 p.m. *

\* These Times [and those in Rules 13.(d) and 13.(g)] shall be brought forward by 30 minutes in respect of the last three matches of the season.

A side not ready to start at the scheduled time shall lose one over of its innings for every full three and a half minutes they are late. In addition, at the start of the match, they shall forfeit the toss.

### (b) Normal Duration of Matches:

<b>Premier Division 1st XI:</b>	110 six ball overs (Maximum)
<b>Premier 2nd XI &amp; 'A' 1st &amp; 2nd XI:</b>	100 six ball overs (Maximum)
<b>All Other Divisions:</b>	92 six ball overs (Maximum)

### (c) Normal Duration of Innings (Side Batting First)

<b>Premier Division 1st XI:</b>	55 overs maximum. **
<b>Premier 2nd XI &amp; 'A' 1st &amp; 2nd XI:</b>	50 overs maximum. **
<b>All Other Divisions:</b>	46 overs maximum. **

\*\* Any part overs shall be treated as having been completed.

In all cases the Innings of the **Side Batting Second** may use the balance of overs available after completion of the First Innings.

### (d) Intervals:

#### Tea Interval:

**Premier Division 1st XI:** 30 minutes. **All other Divisions:** 20 minutes  
Normally taken between Innings.

If the first innings is concluded before 4.00 p.m., there shall be a ten minute interval between innings and tea shall be taken at 4.35 p.m. or after 35 minutes of the second innings, whichever is the later. In matches affected by the weather or light, tea may be taken by agreement between the Captains and the Umpires.

If, however, (i) the first innings closes or (ii) there is a stoppage for weather or light, between 4.00 p.m. and 4.20 p.m., tea shall be taken immediately. In the event of (i) above, there shall be no separate or additional interval between innings.

**(e) Over Rates (Premier, 'A' & 'B' Divisions 1st XI ONLY)**

An Average Over Rate of 17 overs per hour of **actual playing time** must be achieved where the duration of the innings exceeds the following number of overs:

Premier and 'A' Divisions: 40                      'B' Division: 35

Part overs shall be deemed to have been completed.

In circumstances which cause loss of playing time and which are beyond the control of the bowling side, any one event which delays play by more than three minutes shall be noted by the Umpires and the total time lost through that event shall be excluded from the actual playing time.

Any bowling side failing to achieve the required over rate shall lose one point for every one over per hour, or part thereof, by which they fall short of the requirement.

Any such penalty shall be applied by the Results Secretary in consultation with the Umpires' Reports Coordinator using information recorded on the Result Sheet and Umpires' Reports and, if necessary, after discussion with the Umpires.

**(f) Restriction on Overs per Bowler:**

No bowler may bowl more than 30% of the available overs in any innings. The Umpires will, prior to the start of the innings, advise the Captains and Scorers of the maximum number of overs available per bowler.

**(g) Interruption or Delay of Play:**

If during the first innings the weather or light delays play to the extent of seven minutes or more, two overs shall be deducted from the match total for every complete seven minutes delay.

In **All Divisions**, irrespective of the number of overs available, the side batting first may use no more than 50%.

No game shall commence after 4.00 pm. nor second innings after 6.00 p.m. No match shall be of less than 40 overs duration.

**14. SCORING OF POINTS**

**(a) Match Points** shall be awarded as follows:

- 10 points for an outright win
- 6 points for a draw with the higher score
- 2 points for a draw with the lower score (but See Notes: (iii) below)
- 5 points for a tie or draw with the scores level
- 6 points for a cancellation or abandonment
- No points shall be awarded for an outright defeat.

Notes: (i) The maximum number of points any side can be awarded is twenty.

(ii) Bonus points awarded prior to the abandonment of a match shall stand.

(iii) In a drawn match, the side batting second that fails to score at least two thirds of the required total to win shall be awarded no points for the draw.

**(b) Bonus Points:**

**(i) Batting:**

One batting point shall be awarded for the first hundred runs and one additional point shall be awarded at each of the following totals: 125, 150, 175 and 200 runs (i.e. a maximum

five points).

One batting point shall be awarded to a winning side batting second for every two wickets standing at the end of the match, providing that the total of batting points awarded does not exceed five.

**(ii) Bowling:**

One bowling point shall be awarded for every two wickets taken. If a side cannot bat a full eleven, the bowling side shall be awarded the maximum of five points only when all available wickets are taken.

**(c) Inability to Fulfil a Fixture:**

Should any team be unable to fulfil a fixture where a suitable ground is available, it shall forfeit the match and be awarded no points, twenty points being awarded to the opposing team.

Such team shall also have 10 points deducted from their total to date. In addition, the offending Club shall pay a sum of £33.00 to the opposing Club where a clear forty eight hours notice of failure to fulfil the fixture has not been given to that Club and, where required, to Independent Umpires.

**15. MATCH RESULTS / RESULT SHEETS / UMPIRE ASSESSMENT FORMS**

The Home Captain shall be responsible for ensuring that an official result sheet, completed to include all players' names, whether they batted or not, and signed by or on behalf of both captains, is forwarded to the results secretary immediately after the match, so as to arrive no later than first post on the following Wednesday.

In the event of an **Abandonment** (after play has commenced), the result sheet, completed to show details of all play and players and appropriately signed, shall be returned as above.

In the event of a **Cancellation** (before any play has taken place), the result sheet shall be returned, signed by or on behalf of the Home Captain and showing the fact and time of cancellation.

Failure to submit a correctly completed result sheet on time will incur a fine on the Home Team of £10.00. After 3 offences during a season, 5 points shall be deducted, in addition to the fine, for each subsequent failure to comply. Clubs shall be advised in writing accordingly.

Where Independent Umpires are appointed, Captains shall complete an Umpire Assessment Form which shall be returned to the appointed DCU & S. Representative in the envelope provided. Failure to comply with this Rule shall incur an immediate fine of £10.00 to the Club concerned for each occurrence.

**16. CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**(a) The Champion Club:**

The Club gaining the greatest number of points at the end of the Season shall be the Champion Club of each Division.

**(b) Equality:**

Should two or more Clubs have equal points, the winner shall be the Club with the highest number of outright wins. Should equality still prevail the Club with the highest number of winning draws shall be the winner. Should equality still prevail, the Clubs concerned shall be joint winners. The same principles shall apply in the determination of each Club's position within each Division save that, where equality still prevails, the Club with the most batting points shall be placed the higher.

**(c) Promotion and Relegation:**

In both First and Second Eleven Leagues, the two Teams finishing top in all Divisions, except the Premier Division and regionalized 'D' Divisions, shall be promoted.

In the regionalized Divisions 'D' West and 'D' East, the top Team only shall be promoted from each. NB: See Rule 22.(c) re Ground Grading Criteria (See separate publication).

The two Teams finishing bottom in all Divisions, except the lowest Divisions, shall be relegated.

**(d) Re-election:**

The Team finishing bottom of the lowest Divisions in either League shall be required to re-apply for membership of the League. Such application shall be considered by the LMC in conjunction with any other applications by clubs to join the League.

**Note:** Special provisions and restructuring of the League may be in place and affect the lowest Divisions in 2003 and beyond. See League correspondence.

**17. TROPHIES**

Winners of Championship Trophies shall be responsible for their safe custody and their return to the League Trophies Manager at least one month before the following Awards Evening. The cost of making good any loss or damage shall be borne by the Club holding the trophy at the time.

**18. MATCH BALLS**

**(a)** In **All 1st XI** matches and in **Premier and 'A' Division 2nd XI** matches, each side shall provide one new ball, both balls to be lodged with the umpires before the commencement of the match. The ball used first in the match shall be deemed to be that supplied by the Home Side.

The side fielding second shall have the option to use the second new ball. If this option is not exercised, the original ball, or that substituted for it during play, must be used throughout.

**(b)** In **All other 2nd XI** matches, the home side shall provide one match ball which need not be new, but must be approved by both Captains and Umpires prior to the commencement of the match.

**(c)** In **All Premier Division 1st and 2nd XI** matches, any ball used shall be a Dukes' County International ball or other ball to be nominated by the LMC.

In all **Other League Matches**, any ball used shall be a Dukes' Special Match ball or other ball to be nominated by the LMC.

Any new ball used in any League Match shall have been purchased through the LMC and bear the League Lion Symbol. All orders for balls must be received by the Hon. League Secretary no later than 31st January, and payment received by the end of February, each Season.

An adequate number of spare balls must be made available by all home sides for use as and when necessary.

**Notes:** **a)** For the 2003 Season only, unused Reader's balls left over from stock previously purchased through the LMC may be used for League 2nd XI and Devon Senior Cup matches as permitted in the 2002 regulations, subject to the agreement of both captains.

**b)** For the 2003 Season only, spare balls may be of Reader's manufacture and must be of the equivalent grade to that of the Dukes' ball in use at the time of loss or damage. However, where a suitable Dukes' ball is available, it must be used in preference to a Reader's ball.

**19. PLAYERS: ELIGIBILITY & REGISTRATION**

**(a) Qualification to Play:**

No Club may play more than one player in a team for a League match, or other Competition organized by the League, who is not qualified to play for England as specified in current ECB Regulations as amended and printed in this Handbook.

**(b) Registration:**

All players not qualified to play for England under **19.(a)** above and all other players taking part in any League Match in **Premier, 'A', and 'B' Division 1st XIs only** shall register each Season with the League, using the Official Registration Form (available from the Hon. League Secretary).

**Timing of Registration:**

**Pre-Season**, applications for registration shall be due on 1st April and, in any case, must be received by the Hon. League Secretary not later than **fourteen days\*** prior to the start of the Season.

\* Failure to comply will render the Club concerned liable to a fine of £50.00.

**Subsequent to the start of the Season**, applications for registration of new players must be received by the League Secretary no later than midnight of the Tuesday preceding the match in which the player being registered may be required to play.

The LMC shall have the power to refuse registration **at any time** in the best interests of the League.

Any substitute used in a League Match need not be a registered player.

**(c) Eligibility:**

**In Premier, 'A', 'B' and 'C' Divisions only** a player, whether previously registered with the League or not (See **19.(b)** above), who has not played during the current Season in a League Match prior to 1st August, shall not be eligible to play in any remaining 1st XI fixtures that Season.

**(d) Playing of Unregistered or Ineligible Player:**

Should a Team play an unregistered player under circumstances where prior registration is required, or play an ineligible player, such Team shall have 5 points for each such player deducted from its total to date and the Club concerned shall be fined £20.00 for each such player.

**20. PLAYERS: TRANSFER**

**(a) Application for Transfer:**

No player shall play for more than one Club in the League in the same season without first obtaining a transfer authorised by the LMC. Applications for transfer, using the Official League Transfer Form and signed by officers of both Clubs involved, must be received by the League Secretary no later than midnight of the Tuesday preceding the first match in which the transferring player may be required to play for his new Club.

The Emergency Committee shall be authorised to confirm or reject a transfer.

**(b) Transfer Deadline:**

No transfer shall be allowed after 1st July each season.

**(c) Commitments to Previous Club:**

No player may be transferred to, or registered with, any Club until such time as all financial commitments have been settled with the player's previous Club.

**21. PLAYERS: YOUNG**

Limitations applying to Young Fast Bowlers, Young Players in the Field and the Wearing of Helmets by Young Players shall be imposed in all Divisions in accordance with the current ECB Directives and Safety Guidance as printed in this Handbook.

All Captains shall be familiar with these Directives and shall be responsible for their implementation.

Umpires shall be required to monitor compliance.

## **22. LEAGUE GROUNDS**

**(a)** League grounds and facilities will be inspected by or on behalf of the LMC as required, in order to maintain compliance with Ground Grading Criteria (See Page 64 of this Handbook). Technical assistance and advice will be offered to Clubs to improve the standard of cricket facilities in the County.

**(b) Availability and use of Covers:**

Pitches and bowlers' run-ups may be fully covered before all matches at the discretion of the home team. They should also be fully covered if possible where conditions interfere with play during the course of the match.

In the Premier Division 1st XI, effective covers must be available for immediate use in rain affected matches (See Ground Grading Criteria, published separately).

**(c)** No Club shall be promoted to a higher Division unless its ground and facilities shall comply with the Ground Grading Criteria for that Division. (See separate publication)

The decision of the LMC as to compliance of grounds and facilities shall be final and binding.

**(d) Artificial Pitches:**

The use of artificial pitches is not permitted.