

WCCL PLAYING RULES 2020

INTRODUCTION

This document contains the playing rules for the WCCL Pod competitions in 2020.. This is extracted from the league's regular playing rules. However, the following should be noted.

- All clubs and teams are required to comply with the ECB Guidance on the return of recreational cricket.
- Matches on September 19th and September 26th will start at 12:30pm.
- All matches will be played with one ball per innings, for increased biosafety.
- There are no points for providing umpires, or for forum-trained umpires in the playing XI.
- Pitch Marks will be collected but there is no required pitch mark.
- The time limit on innings has been removed, due to the additional sanitation requirements.

There are also league rules which vary from division to division. Each Pod will be played to the rules of a specific division. The following table indicates the rules to which each Pod is to be played:

Pods	Division Rules to play to
21,22,26,27	Division 2
41,42,43,46,47	Division 4
61,66	Division 6
81,86	Division 8

This document relates solely to playing rules for the 2020 season, and does not replace the league's regular constitution and playing rules, which are available on request.

ADAPTED CRICKET

Having seen two weeks of matches played under the Adapted Cricket playing rules prior to writing this, the following are a few notes on implementing the on-field requirements.

Running lanes for non-striking batsman:

- The running lanes must be at least 2m from the edge of the wicket. However, your groundsman may position them wider, so that batsmen are running on the join between the two adjacent pitches, rather close to the centreline of a pitch.
- Please mark the popping crease at each end of the running lanes, to assist the umpires with judging close run-out calls for the non-striker.
- It is also helpful to mark the entire lane in some way, to assist batsmen in staying in their running lane. This can be as simple as cutting the grass shorter or leaving it longer.
- The non-striker must use the running lane on the opposite side to the bowler, and the striker must run on the same side of the wicket as the non-striker (the opposite side to the bowler).

Umpires

- With the umpires unable to hold bowlers caps, etc, the WCCL recommends that small items are instead placed on the ground, immediately behind the non-striker's stumps. If the ball hits these items then play continues, and if the impact causes the stumps to be broken then the same rules apply as if the stumps had been directly broken. It is also recommended that hand sanitiser and ball wipes are also stored in this location.

Sanitation breaks

- Sanitation breaks must be every 6 overs or 20 minutes. However, you should also take advantage of natural breaks in play if these occur shortly before a scheduled sanitation break (e.g. at the fall of a wicket). The following sanitation break must then be no more than 6 overs or 20 minutes after the previous one.
- Sanitation breaks must be short. In order to achieve this, do not expect people to run the length of the field to get to the hand sanitiser. Either have hand sanitiser on the pitch, or have several sanitation points around the boundary.
- Hand sanitation must also be done immediately prior to the start of each innings.
- Drinks breaks must coincide with sanitation breaks.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2020 – MIKE SMITH

I have been involved in local cricket in some shape or form for more years than I care to remember but nothing comes close to 2020 in terms of the difficulties and challenges that the game has faced. I can remember the Foot and Mouth outbreak some years ago when several grounds were inaccessible but from my memory the League season was still completed.

David Norman and myself have attended a number of Zoom meetings with WEPL and the other Feeder Leagues in an effort to put on a united front with regard to any re-start for recreational cricket. Pete Sykes from Wiltshire Cricket has been very supportive of our efforts and very informative on any developments from the ECB, together with his colleagues from Somerset and Gloucestershire.

David Norman has worked for many hours on contacting the Clubs and working out exactly what could be achieved with the ever diminishing window that we were faced with. On behalf of the WCCL I would like to thank David for all his efforts in organising this within such a tight timeframe. It is now with the Clubs to take part within the Spirit of the Game and to adhere to the ECB guidance!

I would finally like to give a shout out to all our groundsmen who have for months not known whether to get the roller out or not! Many will have been faced with doing a lot of pre-season work in July when the conditions will not have been ideal.

Let's all hope that the weather plays it's part and we can finally enjoy some cricket. Best of luck to you all.

FIXTURE/RESULT OFFICER'S REPORT 2020 – DAVID NORMAN

I think it's fair to say that this is a season like no other. For a long time, it looked marginal as to whether we would be able to play at all, and many people thought we would not. And now it has happened, it's all happened very quickly. Many clubs have expressed thanks for the league for all the work which has gone into getting the league up and running. In return, I'd like to thank all the club administrators who have acted as the communication link between their club and the league, and have completed surveys, provided information, and answered questions, often on extremely short deadlines.

And so now we get to play cricket. It's still not quite cricket as we know it. Running lanes for batsmen, sanitation breaks every 6 overs, etc. And also playing in localised Pods, which means there is no promotion and relegation to play for (although there will be awards for the Pod winners), and there will a little more variation in ability between competing teams than normal.

And so I hope that the Spirit of Cricket can truly shine through this year. That players remember that when things go against them, it's not the worst thing that's happened. And so we can have a season where we can all enjoy our cricket without disciplinary incidents occurring. And I hope the sun shines so we can actually play what remains of the season.

Good luck to one and all.

RULES WHICH VARY FROM POD TO POD

Fielding Restrictions

- Division 1-7: The area within 30 yards of the stumps shall be marked by white disks. A maximum of 5 fielders can be outside this area at the point of delivery.
- Division 8: There is no restriction on the number of close fielders.

Artificial Pitches

- Division 1-2: Matches may only be moved to an artificial pitch at the agreement of the two captains.
- Division 3+: Clubs may play on an artificial pitch as standard. Matches may be moved to an artificial pitch by the home side.

Loan Players

- Division 1-5: Loan players may not be used
- Division 6+: Teams may contain up to four loan players.

PLAYING RULES – 2020 POD COMPETITIONS

3. Membership

- (c) All competing Clubs must be affiliated to the ECB at the start of the season.
- (d) All competing Clubs must be affiliated to their Cricket Board at the start of the season.
- (e) All players shall be bona-fide members of their **Club** and shall pay a membership subscription according to each Club's own rules
- (f) No player shall play for more than one WCCL Club during the course of a season unless the conditions stated in Rule 3h) or 3i) are met (a player who is a member of a Club that has sides in both WEPL and WCCL is considered to be a member of a WCCL Club even if he has only played in WEPL fixtures). **It is a Club's responsibility to ensure that any potential new playing member meets this criteria.**
- (g) No player who is currently registered and playing for a WEPL club shall be allowed to represent another club in the WCCL (even if he is a member of both clubs).
- (h) A player shall be free to transfer to another WCCL Club at any time providing that the player has met all the conditions of membership of his former Club (**Both Clubs involved must indicate their approval of a move in writing to the Admin Officer before a move can take place**). Any disputes shall be heard by the League's Disciplinary Sub-Committee.
- (i) Players under the age of 18 on the 1st September of the year preceding the current season may be freely loaned or transferred between clubs without the limitation imposed by Rules 3e), 3f), 3g) or 3h).
- (j) Players of any age may be freely loaned to teams in Division 6 & below without the limitation imposed by Rules 3e), 3f), 3g), or 3h). Any such loan must be agreed by the parent Club with the parent Club retaining responsibility for any disciplinary issues. The loaning Club shall have the right to withdraw an offer to loan a player. A team shall be allowed a maximum of 4 loan players in any given fixture
- (k) Clubs playing an ineligible player to be deducted 5 points for every game in which the player in question participates
- (l) Teams wishing to resign from the League before completing their fixtures shall be allowed to do so on receipt, by the Admin Officer, of written notification. All points in matches concerning the resigning team shall become null and void.
- (n) Any side cancelling four or more fixtures during a season, other than for weather, will be suspended from the League for the duration of that season only. All points in matches concerning the suspended team shall become null and void.
- (p) Any Club, team, or player debarred for whatever reason from another League, will not be permitted to participate in the Wiltshire League until the ban in question has been rescinded by the

banning League, or the suspension served.

5. Restriction on Overseas Players

- (a) In each match, only one Overseas Player is permitted per team.
- (b) All overseas players must be registered with the Admin Officer before they play in a WCCL match.
- (c) A player shall be considered as overseas or not based on their visa type. See Appendix C for details.
- (d) Rule 5 only applies to persons who were 18 or over on 1st September of the previous year.

16. Fixtures

- (f) All League fixtures must be completed by the final Saturday of the Pod of the fixture in question.
- (g) The published date and/or start time of a fixture may be re-arranged by mutual agreement between the teams concerned, provided that both Clubs are agreeable, and an alternative date decided upon at the time. The Fixture Officer should be notified immediately of any such change at least a fortnight before the fixture is currently scheduled to be played, and at least a fortnight before the new date of the fixture. Failure to meet this deadline will result in the request being turned down (exceptional circumstances not withstanding)

RULES FOR MATCH PLAY

18. Laws

All matches shall be conducted in accordance with the MCC Laws of Cricket, except for any specific provisions in these rules.

PLEASE NOTE – captains and umpires please be aware that the League follows the wide as stipulated in the Laws of Cricket (i.e. that used in County Cricket & Test Matches) and not the interpretation used in one-day cricket. There is NO law covering one day wides.

19. Commencement of matches

All WCCL fixtures will commence at 1.00pm throughout the season, except for fixtures on or after 19th September, which shall commence at 12:30pm. Note that this will be monitored, and adjusted if it is felt that the additional sanitation requirements mean an earlier start is required in order to complete matches.

20. Tea interval

There shall be an interval of 25 minutes length between each innings which shall be used as a tea interval, unless, due to the state of the match, Captains agree otherwise.

21. Length of match

Each team shall receive a maximum of 45 six ball overs. This number shall be reduced as specified in the event of weather interference.

22. Limitation of one team per player per weekend.

No player shall represent more than one WCCL team during any given weekend without prior permission from the Results Officer. In addition no player shall represent a WEPL team and a WCCL team during any given weekend without prior permission from the League Results Officer.

Failure to comply with this rule shall result in a 5 point deduction for each ineligible player.

The League Results Officer will only give permission for a player to play in two different teams in a given weekend where it is clear that the player is not playing in any team which is below his normal standard of cricket.

22a. Club Welfare Officer

All clubs are required to have a Club Welfare Officer, who has completed an ECB Safe Hands workshop and a Sportscoach UK Safeguarding and Protecting Children workshop in the last three years, and is DBS (formerly CRB) checked by the ECB.

23. Junior Players in Open Age Cricket

- (a) All teams competing in the Wiltshire League must comprise of at least 4 players over the age of 18. Sides failing to comply with this ruling will forfeit all points gained in the fixture(s) concerned.
- (b) In accordance with ECB regulations the following ruling applies throughout the WCCL:
- (i) Junior players in Year 8 at school (under 13 at midnight on 31st August in the year preceding the current season) are permitted to play in open age cricket providing ‘**Explicit Written Consent**’ to play in open age cricket has been obtained prior to play.
 - (ii) Players who are selected in a County Under-12 squad in spring for summer matches, or are selected for another squad deemed by the ECB Performance Managers to be of a standard above “District Level” for that season are eligible to play in open age cricket providing they are 11 years old and are in Year 7 on the 1st September in the year preceding the season, and have written parental consent.
 - (iii) Unless a player in Year 7 or below (under 12 at midnight on 31st August in the year preceding the current season) complies with Rule 23(b) (ii) they **cannot** play in open age cricket with or without explicit written consent.

Clubs failing to adhere to Rule 23b will forfeit all points gained in the fixture concerned and are liable to be asked to attend a Disciplinary Sub-Committee meeting to explain their actions. The League Management Committee reserves the right to increase the penalties imposed on any Club which is in breach of Rule 23b

24. Artificial pitches

- (c) Visitors to teams with artificial pitches shall comply with the limitations of use given by the home side.
- (d) The home side shall be the sole judge as to whether a match shall be transferred from a grass pitch to an artificial pitch where such an alternative exists. (Except in Division 1 and 2 where mutual agreements between Captains is required.)
- (e) The Umpires shall consider the condition of the outfield before allowing play on an artificial pitch to begin.

25. Boundaries

Boundary lines must be clearly visible from the pitch used, and preferably marked in a solid white line or rope.

26. Toss and choice of innings

The toss shall take place fifteen minutes before the scheduled start of play. If a team cannot provide a representative for the toss, then that team shall be deemed to have lost the toss.

27. Late Starts

- (a) If seven players of any team are not ready to commence play at the appointed start time, the opposition Captain shall report the offending team to the Admin Officer.
- (b) If seven players of any team are not ready to commence play thirty minutes after the appointed start time, and they have not made contact with their opposition to inform them of the situation, they shall forfeit the match.
- (c) If seven players of any team are not ready to commence play thirty minutes after the appointed start time, then for every further three and a half minutes lost, their innings shall be reduced by one over. The match shall be decided as if this over was played and was a maiden.
- (d) If seven players of any team are not ready to commence play ninety minutes after the appointed start time, they shall forfeit the match.

28. Umpires & Scorers

- (a) Umpires

All teams shall arrange their own umpires. If one or more non-playing umpires are available they must be used, and if only one is available he should be invited to stand at the bowlers

end for the duration of the match. Otherwise the batting side shall provide competent persons over the age of 16 years to act as umpires. All those who umpire must have access to and be conversant with the Laws of Cricket and the League rules.

(d) Scorers in all divisions

All teams are responsible for providing (a) competent person(s) to act as scorer(s) for the whole match. All those who score must be conversant with the relevant Laws of Cricket and the League rules which apply to the scoring of the game. Each team is responsible for keeping both scorebooks and the scoreboard up to date for the whole match.

(e) General

(ii) Teams must keep a signed team sheet for each game with the scorebook. This is in case they are required by other cricketing bodies. Failure to comply with the correct use of team sheets could make the club liable to action under Rule 46.

(iii) Any dispute or query regarding general League rules can only be adjudicated on by members of the League Management Committee.

29. Fielding Restrictions

Operational in Divisions 1-7 of the League

(a) At the moment of delivery a maximum of 5 fielders must be outside an area bounded by two semi-circles centred on each middle stump, each with a radius of 30 yards joined by parallel lines on each side of the pitch. Should the fielding side fail to comply with this ruling then the square leg umpire shall call no-ball at the time of delivery.

(b) The fielding circle should be marked with white plastic or rubber discs (but not metal) at 5-yard intervals, with each disc measuring 7 inches in diameter.

30. Match Ball

(a) All balls shall be standard and shall be issued to Clubs at the Spring General Meeting.

(b) Each team shall provide one of their issued balls.

31. Bowlers overs restrictions

(a) Bowlers shall be restricted to a maximum of 9 overs each. In the event of overs reduction due to weather, this number shall be reduced to one fifth of the number of overs in the innings with fractions rounded up.

(b) All teams must comply with the ECB Fast Bowling Directives which are as follows:

- Under 13. Maximum 5 overs spell and maximum 10 overs per day.
- Under 14/15. Maximum 6 overs spell and maximum 12 overs per day.
- Under 16/17. Maximum 7 overs spell and maximum 18 overs per day.
- Under 18/19. Maximum 7 overs spell and maximum 18 overs per day.

For the purpose of these Directives a fast bowler is defined as follows:

A bowler to whom the wicket keeper in normal circumstances would stand back to take the ball. Having completed a spell the bowler can not bowl again, from either end, until an equivalent number of overs to the length of his spell have been bowled from the same end. Interruptions to play, whether scheduled or unscheduled, shall reduce this requirement by one over at each end for every 7 minutes of interruption.

(i) It is the Captain's responsibility to inform his opposite number of any player in his team to whom the above directive applies. It is then the responsibility of both Captains to ensure that the ECB Fast Bowling Directive is rigorously enforced.

(ii) Any Club failing to adhere to this directive, shall in the first instance, be reported to the appropriate Divisional Representative.

32. Safety guidance on the wearing of cricket helmets by young players

- It is recommended that a helmet is worn by young players when batting and when standing up to the stumps when keeping wicket against a hard cricket ball in matches and in practice.

- A young player should not be allowed to bat or stand up to the stumps when keeping wicket without a helmet against a hard ball except with written parental consent.
- Coaches, teachers, managers, and umpires should always ensure that a young player wears a helmet if this written parental consent has not been received.
- Players should regard a helmet with a face guard as a normal item of protective equipment when batting against a hard ball, together with pads, gloves, and for boys, an abdominal protector (box).
- There is a British Standard (BS 7928:2013) for cricket helmets and it is in the best interest of players to ensure that their helmet conforms to this standard.
- The ECB is recommending that this guidance is followed by all players up to the age of 18. It applies to young players in adult cricket as well as junior cricket played with a hard ball.

33. Fielding regulations for young players

- 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 middle stump, until the batsman has played the ball. Minimum distances apply even if the player is wearing a helmet.
- For players in the under 13 age group and below the distance is 11 yards (10 metres).
- Should a young player in these age groups come within the restricted distances 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 6 yards (5.5 metres) of the bat, 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 age of players at midnight on 31st August in the year preceding the current season.

34. Match cancellation due to inability to raise a team

(a) If a situation arises where a Club with more than one XI is unable to fulfil all its League fixtures on any given date due to circumstances other than weather interference, then that Club is required to cancel its most junior XI's fixtures first: i.e. 3rd, 2nd, 1st XI's must be played in preference to its 4th XI. Match will count as win/loss with penalty points as per Rule 41(a).

(b) A Club who's senior side(s) play in another League (e.g. WEPL), is not permitted to cancel its 1st XI (1st & 2nd XI if applicable) fixture in order to play a WCCL game..

(c) In order for a match to be valid a side must comprise at least 7 players at the time of commencement. Failure to comply may result in Rule 41a) being applied.

34a. Match Day Fees

The Home team is wholly responsible for covering match day costs and does not collect match fees (tea money) from the Away team.

34b. Cancellation at short notice

The Management Committee wish to remind away sides who cancel at short notice, that they are expected to assist the home Club with any expenses resulting from the late cancellation: i.e. teas/ground hire.

35. Home Venue

A WCCL team shall not be permitted to swap home venues with a Club's senior side to ensure that the latter's fixture takes place. Should this occur then the WCCL's match will count as win/loss with penalty points as per Rule 41a.

WEATHER INTERFERENCE

36. Cancellation of matches

(a) The home side will be responsible for deciding whether or not the ground is fit for play. No decision, however, should be made before 9.00 am. on the day of the match. The home Club must ensure that their opposition on the day has confirmed either verbally, or by text, that they have received notification of the cancellation.

(b) After play has commenced, the Umpires shall be the sole judges as to the continuation of the match. The Umpires shall also be the judges with regards to bad light. Should no non-playing umpires be standing then it becomes the responsibility of the two captains on the day to adjudicate on the above.

(c) Any Match cancelled for a reason other than bad weather, unfit ground due to bad weather, or exceptional circumstances: (In the event of the latter at the discretion of the Management Committee), will result in Rule 41a) being applied.

37. Covering of Pitch

Where covers are available they should be used to cover the whole pitch and as much of the bowlers run-ups as possible as soon as a decision to suspend play is made.

38. Weather Interference during Play

(a) Overall approach

(i) Duckworth Lewis shall be used.

(ii) Should it not be possible to use Duckworth Lewis, Net Run Rate shall be used.

(b) Reduction of Overs

(i) The first 30 minutes lost shall not affect the number of overs to be bowled. The remainder of this rule shall only apply to time lost after this initial 30 minutes.

(ii) If further time is lost before the match is started, then for every seven minutes lost, reduce the match duration by 2 overs. The number of overs remaining is then divided equally between the teams.

(iii) In a match using Duckworth Lewis, if further time is lost during the innings of the team batting first, then for every seven minutes lost, reduce the match duration by 2 overs. The number of overs remaining is then divided equally between the teams.

(iv) In a match using Net Run Rate, once the match has started, if any further time is lost then for every three and a half minutes lost, one over is taken from the maximum allowed for the side batting second. The maximum number of overs allowed to the team batting first is unaltered.

(c) Maximum Overs per Bowler

(i) Bowlers shall be restricted to bowling one fifth of the number of overs in the innings with fractions rounded up.

(ii) The restriction on the number of overs per bowler shall be calculated when the innings starts. If the number of overs in the innings is reduced after the innings has commenced, the restriction on bowlers shall not change.

(d) End of First Innings

The first innings shall end when:

(i) The team batting first have received their allocation of overs, as modified by rule (b)(ii) and (b)(iii) if applicable.

(ii) The team batting first are all out.

(iii) In a match using Duckworth Lewis, an interruption during the innings of the team batting first reduces the number of overs to the number of overs which have already been received by the team batting first. Any further time lost shall be applied using rule (b)(iv) (including further time lost during the same interruption).

(e) Calculation of Par Score

(i) In matches where Duckworth Lewis is used, the par score shall be calculated using the Duckworth Lewis calculator on the WCCL website (www.wccl.org.uk/dl/).

(ii) In matches where Net Run Rate is used, the par score shall be calculated as follows:

- The run rate of the team batting first shall be calculated by dividing the number of runs scored by the total number of overs to which they were entitled.
- The par score shall be the run rate of the team batting first multiplied by the maximum number of overs allowed to the team batting second, ignore decimals.
- (iii) If the number of overs available to the team batting second falls below 25, then the par score after 25 overs shall be calculated.

(f) End of the Match.

The match shall end when:

- (i) The score of the team batting second exceeds the par score. This may happen due to the team batting second scoring runs, or the par score being reduced by weather interference.
- (ii) The team batting second are all out.
- (iii) The team batting second have faced the number of overs they are allocated.
- (iv) The number of overs available to the team batting second falls below 25. This may happen before the innings of the team batting second has begun.

(g) Result of the match

The result shall be as follows:

- (i) If the team batting second does not start their innings then the match is abandoned.
- (ii) If the team batting second have scored more than the par score, then the team batting second win the match.
- (iii) If the team batting second have scored exactly the par score, then the match shall be declared a tie.
- (iv) If the team batting second have scored less than the par score, and are all out, then the team batting first win the match.
- (v) If the team batting second have scored less than the par score, and have faced at least 25 overs, then the team batting first win the match.
- (v) If the team batting second have scored less than the par score, have not faced at least 25 overs, and are not all out, then the match is abandoned.

SCORING

39. Object

The object of the scoring system is to reward competing teams by giving bonus points for the positive elements of the game. It is hoped that this will encourage teams to score runs and take wickets rather than deny runs and win at all costs. Teams finding themselves in the position of being unable to win will still be able to improve their situation by obtaining bonus points.

40. Points awarded

- (a) For a win: 10 points.
- (b) For a tie: 5 points per team. A match is considered a tie only when:
 - (i) Each team has completed their innings and the scores are level, irrespective of the number of wickets lost.
 - (ii) In a match interrupted by weather interference, the side batting second finish with their total being 1 run less than their target to win the match.
- (c) For a cancelled match: 8 points per team.
- (d) For an abandoned match, either 5 points plus the number of batting and bowling points earned before the match was abandoned, or 8 points, whichever is the greater, for each team.
- (e) Batting bonus points:
 - (i) For scoring 75 runs = 1 point. For each additional 25 runs up to a maximum of 200 runs 1 further point may be claimed.
 - (ii) If the side batting second wins by a margin greater than 4 wickets, 1 point may be claimed for each wicket left standing up to a maximum of 6 points for winning by 10 wickets.
- (f) Bowling bonus points:
 - (i) 1 point for every two wickets taken.
 - (ii) For bowling a team out for less than: 150 runs = 1 point, 125 runs = 2 points, 100 runs = 3 points, 75 runs = 4 points.

(iii) A team unable to supply 11 batsmen due to absence or injury shall be considered all out for the purpose of bonus points.

(g) See Umpire Bonus Points (rule 28)

(h) see Penalty Points (rule 41).

(j) Serious injury. Where a serious injury or illness to a player or official leaves participants in a state where they can no longer be expected to play a meaningful game of cricket, the match shall be abandoned. The teams shall each be awarded 14 points for the abandoned match. No bonus points earned prior to the abandonment shall be awarded.

41. Penalty points

(a) Any Club which fails to fulfil a fixture shall be fined 10 points. Their opponents on the day shall be awarded 10 points for a win and a further 12 additional points. The defaulting side shall be reported to the Management Committee and they may be asked to attend a special meeting to explain their action. Such matches shall be classified as, 'a Win/Loss' for the sides involved.

(b) Any team failing to comply with Rule 3(b) will forfeit all points gained from League fixtures played up to the date on which settlement of any outstanding debts is received.

42. Declaration of innings

(a) A team may not declare their innings closed without the agreement of the opposing captain. The opposing captain must indicate his agreement by signing the declaration in the score books.

(b) A team which declares with the agreement of the opposing captain is considered to have completed their innings on the current number of runs scored and wickets lost.

(c) Any team wishing to terminate their innings before their overs are completed and without the agreement of the opposing captain are considered to be all out and shall forfeit any further bowling points to their opponents.

43. League placing

(a) League placing shall be decided on the total number of points gained by a team in a Division over the season.

(b) For the purpose of deciding a promotion or relegation place, if 2 or more teams finish the League season on level points, the final placing shall be decided by, in descending order:

- the higher number of wins achieved.
- the fewer number of defeats.
- the higher number of ties.
- the team gaining the higher number of points in the matches between the 2 teams during the season.
- the team gaining the higher number of batting points in the matches between the 2 teams during the season.
- the team gaining the higher total number of batting points.
- the team with the higher pitch marks.
- the winner of a drawing of lots.

(c) If a team resigns from the league before completing their fixtures (see rule 3(j)) or is suspended from the league (see rule 3(l)), then the removal of their fixtures may leave the remaining teams in the division with an unequal number fixtures. Where this is the case, each team which has less than the maximum number of fixtures shall be compensated with 14 points per fixture they are short of the maximum number by.

DISPUTES

44. Matters not covered by the rules

(a) In the event of any questions arising which are not covered by League rules, Captains are asked to apply common sense and the spirit of the game to mutually agree upon a ruling for the circumstances in question and to continue.

(b) Whatever course of action is decided upon, the details shall be recorded on the League's web site, and a written account of the circumstances and decision shall be sent to the Admin Officer for verification of the result by the Management Committee.

45. Disputes procedure

In the event of a dispute between two teams over a matter not covered by League Rules or the Laws of Cricket that cannot be resolved amicably between the Umpires and Captains at the time, the following procedure shall be used:

- (i) The Captain of the disputing team shall register a failure to agree by formally informing his opposite number.
- (ii) The home Captain shall inform the Results Officer in the normal manner of the match details, and that the dispute procedure has been set in motion.
- (iii) Both Captains shall give a written account of the facts as each sees them, and his reason for failing to agree. Each account should be co-signed by two other Club Officers.
- (iv) The written accounts should be sent to the appropriate Divisional representative, or to the Admin Officer if the Divisional Representative's Club is involved, to be received no later than the first post on the Friday following the incident.
- (v) The Divisional Representative will endeavour to mediate and arrive at a decision which is acceptable to each team within fourteen days of the failure to agree.
- (vi) Should either team disagree with the decision handed down by the Divisional Representative, or should fourteen days elapse since the failure to agree, the representative shall notify the League Disciplinary Sub-Committee.
- (vii) The League Disciplinary Sub-Committee shall study the written accounts by both Captains and consider any relevant information passed on by the Divisional Representative before making a decision.
- (viii) The decision of the Management Committee shall be final and binding.

DISCIPLINE

46. Disciplinary Offences

Reports by independent Umpires in relation to any match, incident or interpretation of the rules shall be dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

- (a) It shall be a disciplinary offence
 - (i) for a 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 League's good name or interest.
 - (ii) for any Club to fail properly to control or discipline its players or to act in a manner calculated to prejudice the good name or interests of the League, the player and Club committing an offence shall be liable to penalties in the manner and as described hereafter.
- (b) For the purposes of these Rules the expression 'the player' shall throughout these Rules be deemed to mean and include not only any player, whether a 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.

47. Reporting an Incident

(a) Matches with non-playing umpires

- (i) In the case of an umpire wishing to draw attention to an incident during the course of a match, he should inform the Admin Officer in writing by the Friday following the incident. The reporting umpire is required to inform both his fellow umpire and the two captains of his intention to submit a report either during, or immediately after the conclusion, of the match in question.
- (ii) The umpire's report should indicate what level of offence has been committed (see Rule 50)
- (iii) This report should also be either countersigned, or supported in an e-mail (letter), by his colleague on the day.

- (iv) On receipt of a report the Admin Officer will inform the clubs involved, members of the League's Disciplinary Sub-Committee and the appropriate Divisional rep.
- (v) If a report is received without a supportive statement or signature then the Admin Officer will contact the second umpire (copied as above) seeking confirmation of the accuracy of the initial report.
- (vi) Should the second umpire on the day refuse to confirm the events reported then the Admin Officer should inform both the reporting umpire and the appropriate Divisional rep of this fact.
- (vii) It will then be the responsibility of the Divisional rep to attempt to reach a consensus between the umpires concerned.
- (viii) If no consensus can be reached then it will be the responsibility of the League's Disciplinary Sub-Committee to consider all the evidence available and act accordingly.
- (ix) Once the above procedures have been met the offending Club will be forwarded all documentation relevant to the case. The Club will be informed by the Disciplinary Sub-Committee which level of offence the incident falls into. See Rule 50.

(b) Matches without non-playing umpires

- (i) All incidents shall be reported in writing to the Admin Officer by either a team captain, a person who was standing as umpire at the time of the incident or the Club Secretary by the Friday following the incident.
- (ii) On receipt of the Report, the Admin Officer will write to the offending Club(s) seeking their response, in writing, to the report within 10 days of the date of his letter. The Club(s) will be informed which level of offence the incident falls into. See Rule 50.
- (iii) A copy of the Club(s) response shall be sent to the nominated Members of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee.

48. Disciplinary Sub-Committee

(a) Make-up of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee

There shall be a standing Disciplinary Sub-Committee consisting of at least one of the Officers of the League plus two independent members of the Management Committee to deal with all disciplinary matters.

(b) Actions of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee

- (i) The offending Club will be asked to conduct its own internal disciplinary hearing and will be expected to:
 - inform the Disciplinary sub-Committee of the outcome of their hearing with any suspension being in-line with Rule 51a.
 - forward all supporting documentation

This process to be completed within 14 days of the official notification (N.B. any documentation received after the 14 day period has elapsed will be deemed inadmissible).

- (ii) The Sub-Committee shall then discuss the Club's findings and can either: a) confirm the Clubs decision or b) increase the suspension awarded should they consider that the Club's internal findings did not fully reflect the seriousness of the incident.
- (iii) The Admin Officer will inform the Club(s) of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee's decision.

(c) Actions of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee – Appeals

- (i) Appeals may be made against all level 3 and 4 rulings.
- (ii) If the Club(s) are not satisfied with the original decision of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee then the appeals process will come into operation.
- (iii) Where there is no appeal the decision of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee shall be final and binding.

49. Appeals.

(a) Make-up of the Appeals Sub-Committee

Appeals against decisions reached by the Disciplinary Sub-Committee will be heard by an Appeals Sub-Committee consisting of 3 members of the full League Management Committee. Of the 3 only 1 of the Appeals Sub-Committee will have served on the original Disciplinary Sub-Committee.

(b) Making an Appeal

(i) Notice of an Appeal setting out the grounds must be given in writing to the Admin Officer within 7 days of the decision of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee, together with a deposit of 50.00.

(ii) Upon giving Notice of Appeal the penalty shall not take effect pending the hearing of the Appeal.

(iii) The Appeal shall be by way of a rehearing. The player or Club shall have the rights of attendance and representation, and be permitted to call witnesses.

(iv) The standard of proof shall be on the balance of probabilities rather than the criminal standard of beyond reasonable doubt.

(v) The Appeals Sub-Committee may confirm, vary, or reverse the decision of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee, save that it shall not have power to increase the penalty. The Appeals Sub-Committee shall also have the power where they consider the appeal to be without merit, to order that the deposit be forfeited.

(vi) The decision of the Appeals Sub-Committee shall be final and binding.

50. Level of Offences

The seriousness of an offence committed by a player is indicated in the following lists of offences.

(a) Level 1 Offences.

- Abuse of equipment or clothing or any part of the ground
- Using language or a gesture that is obscene, offensive or insulting.
- Excessive appealing.
- Aggressive pointing towards the pavilion by a member of the fielding side upon dismissal of a batsman.
- A captain failing his responsibilities under 'The Spirit of Cricket'.

(b) Level 2 Offences.

- Repeat of any level 1 offences within 12 months.
- Showing dissent at an umpires decision by word or action.
- Public criticism of a match related incident, match official or other official.
- Inappropriate and deliberate physical contact between players during play.
- Aggressively charging towards an umpire while appealing.
- Deliberate distraction or obstruction on the field.
- Throwing the ball at a player, umpire or official in a dangerous manner.
- Using language or a gesture that is obscene, offensive or of a seriously insulting nature to another player, umpire, referee, team official, other official or spectator.
- Changing the condition of the ball in breach of Law 42.3.
- Any attempt to manipulate a match in regard to the result, net run rate, bonus points or otherwise.

(c) Level 3 Offences.

- Repeat of any level 2 offences within 12 months.
- Intimidation of umpire or other official.
- Threat of assault on a player, team official or spectator.
- Using language or gestures that offends race, religion, colour, descent of national or ethnic origin.

(d) Level 4 Offences.

- Repeat of any level 3 offences within 12 months.
- Threat of assault on an umpire or other official.
- Physical assault of another player, umpire, referee, official or spectator.
- Any act of violence during play.
- Using gestures or language that seriously offends race, religion, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin.

The list of offences above is only a guide and cases which do not fall into the categories stated will be considered on a case by case basis by the League Management Committee.

51. Penalties.

(a) Player Penalties

Level 1 Offences.

The offending player will receive a warning to his future conduct and/or a suspension of 1 to 4 matches

Level 2 Offences.

The offending player will be liable to a suspension of 2 to 6 matches

Level 3 Offences

The offending player will be liable to a suspension of 4 to 12 matches

Level 4 Offences.

The offending player will be liable to a suspension of a minimum of 10 matches. In addition players may also receive a fine of not more than £20.

(b) Club Penalties

The following penalties are available in the case of a club being penalised.

- expulsion from the League;
- suspension for one or more matches;
- a fine of not more than £100;
- deduction of points in the League;
- a combination of a fine of not more than £100 and a deduction of points

Adendum. The 2017 AGM was informed that henceforth, all player disciplinary offences will result in a club points deduction. 2 points for level 1, 4 points for level 2, 6 points for level 3, 8 points for level 4. Second and subsequent offences in the same team will result in increased points deductions.

52. Websites

WCCL Clubs are at all times responsible in ensuring that Players and Club Officials do not make any public or media comments which are detrimental to the League, Member Clubs, Umpires, individuals or the game in general. In this instance media shall include, press, radio, television, external websites, club web-sites, and social networking sites. Material which is deemed offensive, either to an individual or another Wiltshire League Club, may result in the offending player and/or Club being charged under the Rules of the Wiltshire County Cricket League's Constitution and Playing Rules. Where applicable the tariff for players and/or Clubs found guilty of a Rule 52 offence will be the same as if the offence had taken place on the field of play (see Rule 51a and b)

APPENDIX A – RESULTS NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

1. Home Results

All **HOME** teams are required to enter their weekend result and scorecard on the Leagues web-site www.wccl.org.uk by 12 noon on the Monday following the fixture. Clubs are reminded to enter details of cancelled fixtures. Failure to comply with the above will result in the offending club being fined £20.00 for each missed result.

2. Away Results

Each **AWAY** team must confirm their weekend result and scorecard, and enter the “How it Plays” marks on the Leagues web-site www.wccl.org.uk by 12 noon on the Friday following the fixture. Clubs are reminded to confirm cancelled fixtures. Failure to comply with the above will result in the offending club being fined £20.00 for each missed result.

3. Repeated Missed Results

All fines shall be reported to the fined club via the league website. Each fine must be acknowledged by the club within 7 days of being issued. If a Team fails to enter/confirm their results on time on more than one occasion during a season, then this shall be stated as part of the description of the fine, and any subsequent failure to enter/confirm their results shall result in the fine being increased by £20.00 for each further offence.

APPENDIX B – PITCH MARKING CRITERIA & REPORTING PROCEDURE

Description of Marks				
Bounce Consistency	Bounce Quality	How it Plays	Outfield	Grade
Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	5
Good	Good	Good	Good	4
Average	Average	Average	Average	3
Below Average	Below Average	Below Average	Below Average	2
Poor	Too High/Too Low	Poor	Poor	1
Very Poor	Very Poor	Very Poor	Very Poor	0

For matches where the away team has provided a non-playing umpire, the pitch marks are decided by the away non-playing umpire, and then written into the notes section of the away team score-book. The away team captain enters the marks onto the WCCL website. For matches without a non-playing umpire provided by the away team, the pitch marks are decided by the away team captain, who enters them onto the WCCL website.

APPENDIX C – CLASSIFICATION OF OVERSEAS PLAYERS

The determination as to whether a player is an overseas player shall be based on their legal basis for being in the UK. A player shall be considered to be an overseas player if they have entered the UK using one of the following types of visa:

- A Sportsperson Visa
- A Temporary Worker - Creative and Sporting Visa
- A Youth Mobility Scheme Visa
- A Standard Visitor Visa

SPIRIT OF CRICKET

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

The spirit of the game involves respect for:

- Your opponent
- Your own Captain and team
- The role of the umpire
- The games traditional values

It is against the Spirit of the Game:

- To dispute an umpires 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:
 - a) appeal knowing the batsman is not out
 - b) advance towards an umpire in an aggressive manor when appealing
 - c) 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

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.

Extract: ECB Cricket Department, February 2000