



SOMERSET CRICKET LEAGUE

PRE-SEASON CIRCULAR FOR 2019 Contents

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NEW RULES FOR 2019 as agreed at AGM – December 2018

5. MATCHES

(b) Championship Points

- iv) If a game is cancelled for reasons other than the weather, the non-offending side shall be awarded thirty-five points and the match will count as a win for the non-offending team. The offending side will receive no points.
- v) **When a game is cancelled for any reason other than the weather, the defaulting team shall be awarded 0 points, provided the match is cancelled by 9 pm on the preceding Friday, but will lose 8 points if the cancellation is any later.**

To ensure that this is recorded then the result must be entered on play-cricket before the 9.00 pm deadline and can then be checked by the relevant admin/ committee member.

(c) Rules for Match Play

- i) All Matches start at 1.30 pm. **Except that by agreement between both teams, any match may start at any earlier time in the day.**

(f) Declarations and Early Dismissals

- i) If the side batting first is dismissed, or if the innings is declared closed before the end of its allotted overs, the side batting second shall have 45 overs.
- ii) **In 40 Over Matches. If the side batting first is dismissed, or if the innings is declared closed before the end of its allotted overs, the side batting second shall have 40 overs.**
- i) Any team which declares its innings closed will result in the fielding side receiving maximum bowling points.

(k) Results Sheets

- ii) Each team is responsible for putting the names of all players, with ages if under 19 at the previous August 31st, on the Team Card that was supplied at the start of the season and hand it to the umpire, or in his absence, the opposing captain prior to the match commencing. Those players under 18 must adhere to the SCL Helmet Rule and those players under 19 must adhere to the ECB Fast Bowling Directive.
- ii) **The Reporting of Results Electronically - to be done on SCL Website. Both sides are responsible for entering the result of the match and the full scorecard on the SCL website using the prescribed procedure before midnight on the day following the match (ie Sunday midnight for Saturday games). This result and scorecard must be confirmed by both teams by Midnight Sunday (or Monday for Sunday matches) following the match played on Saturday using the prescribed procedure. Any team that fails to input/verify the result by the due time will be fined the sum of £10.00 on each occasion and three points will be deducted.**
- iii) **Problems with inputting and verifying. If club representatives have a problem either inputting or verifying a result through a computer problem or other similar problem then they MUST contact the monitor immediately, by telephone, who is responsible for their division. Failure to contact the monitor in this way will result in a fine of £10 and 3 points being levied. Each monitor will also be responsible for the processing and issuing of fines related to the failure of a club to input or confirm results on time. Club submissions/appeals should be made to the divisional monitor. If the details displayed by one of the teams are incorrect, then the opposition must enter the system and correct.**

- (l) **Performance Report on Umpire(s) Following a match in Divisions 1 & 2, both captains must submit a performance report on the umpire(s). The reports must be submitted through the SACO website. Teams are responsible for ensuring that the captain/other nominated individual submits the report by the Wednesday following the match. Any team that fails to submit a report by the due time will be fined on each occasion and three points will be deducted.**

- (m) **Team Captain Reports. Both the home and away clubs must record a mark out of 10 when inputting/confirming the result on the League's website. This will also enable the Committee to**

monitor that the criteria for ‘sportsmanship’ is being upheld and this information could also be used in cases of disciplinary complaints. Any team failing to score the mark will be fined 3 points failure.

(o) Premier to Division 5 Matches Only. At the instant of delivery, a minimum of four fielders plus bowler and wicket keeper must be inside an area bounded by two semi circles centred on each middle stump within a radius of thirty yards and joined by parallel lines on each side of the pitch. This fielding circle shall be marked with painted white dots at five-yard intervals – each dot can be covered by a white plastic or rubber disc or in white marking measuring seven inches in diameter. Should this requirement not be met then the square leg umpire shall call and signal no ball and the delivery must be redelivered; this condition must be met regardless of the total number of fielder’s present (e.g. if a side has less than eleven players present).

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- 1. The Handbooks.** These will not be printed again this year. See Management Committee decision made at Committee meeting February 15, 2018. Indeed, there are no plans to print the document in the future. All relevant information is now available online and saves the cost of a handbook publication.
 - 2. Club Contact Details.** The contact details for club officials will appear on the website. These details will be “password protected” so that the SCL operates within the GDPR regulations. The Hon. Secretary has advised clubs of the password and clubs will then be at liberty to distribute this information to appropriate persons within their clubs.
 - 3. PL Insurance Certificates.** A copy must be displayed in the Clubhouse and a further one sent to the Hon. Secretary.
 - 4. Rule Changes for 2019.** These adjustments to the rules are shown on page 2 of this document.
 - 5. Players.**
 - a) **Registration of Players.** ALL players **including junior players** on the appropriate club pages on the website – see “Player Registration (all clubs)” in the Section 5 b that follows in this document. **Note.** Children in Years 7 and below **will again not be** allowed to play in the Somerset Cricket League in the 2010 Season. **The exception to this ruling is :- U12 county players** (minimum age 11) can play open age cricket with parental consent. The latest guidance is to be found in :- <http://static.ecb.co.uk/files/ecb-guidelines-for-junior-players-in-open-age-group-cricket-12678.pdf>. See also note 4c. below.

No player shall play for more than one club in the Somerset Cricket League or any other club in the West of England Premier League (WEPL) pyramid during the season without being correctly transferred. **When filling out registrations for all players, the passport box must be filled out correctly.**
 - b) **Contract Players.** In the case of a **contract player** written permission **MUST** be obtained from the Hon. Secretary. The Club should give all relevant details of the contract player on Club Headed Paper and this request should be sent to the Hon. Secretary at least 7 days before they intend to play their first match for the club. This player may not play for the club until written authority has been received from the Hon. Secretary. This will enable the Hon. Secretary to check out the registration with the appropriate members of the Management Committee. **Note:- A contract player is a player with a professional contract for any club outside the League. This category of player may only play with the permission of the Management Committee.**

- c. **Young Players. Minimum age of players.** 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. The Somerset Performance Manager will inform the league who can be registered. This will not include fringe players.

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 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 squad 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.

Young Players (Under 18s) in the Somerset Cricket League. The Management Committee of the Somerset Cricket League has ruled that in ALL league matches any person under the age of 18 must wear a helmet with a faceguard or grille when batting or standing up to the wicket as wicket keeper. The Management Committee will not permit under 18s to play in League matches without an appropriate helmet, even with the written consent of parents.

- d. **Transfers of players.** Players may be transferred via the league website for approval by Registration Secretary Amanda Counsell. **The player’s current club will receive notice of transfer request by email from play cricket system and have 5 days to respond/object. After this time has elapsed the player will be automatically transferred.** No transfers will be accepted after the first Saturday in August each year – unless already within the system. **This also applies to any player transferring from the SCL to any club in the WEPL**

e. **Overseas Players.**

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

ii) An ‘Overseas Player’ * is defined as an overseas national who is not a holder of a United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Passport or an Eire Passport. Any person who falls into this category and wishes to play cricket in the Somerset Cricket League may ask the Management Committee for permission to play at least 7 days before his first game and no later than 31st May. (Form OP 2 applies and a copy can be found on the play cricket website under forms and at the end of this document. **Clubs will only be given permission for this kind of player if he is already resident in the UK on a permanent basis and his reason for being here is not primarily cricket. The player must be able to show that he has resided permanently in the UK for the SIX months prior to the season commencing.**

iii) Any player who holds a current United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Passport or an Eire Passport shall be deemed a ‘home player’. A player who holds a current United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (or Eire) Birth Certificate shall be declared a ‘home’ player.

Note. To avoid confusion any overseas national who also holds a current UK passport should forward a copy of the passport page to the Registration Secretary Amanda Counsell for record purposes.

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

In the special case of an overseas player seeking to play for a club he (and his club) **must complete Form OP2 2019** and also give a separate detailed explanation of the reasons for breaching the Rule 7 (d) i). - **Note the comments from Form OP2.** *Permission will only be given if the club can give a satisfactory explanation to its reasons for the need to breach the SCL Rule 7(d) i).*

iv) *Clubs will only be given permission for this additional player if he is resident in the UK on a permanent basis and his reason for being here is **not primarily cricket.** Players who have come to the*

Club (and this Country) initially to play cricket and have stayed on afterwards will not be considered for approval under Form OP2. An example of approval may be someone who has moved to the club's local community for employment/marital/family reasons. However, even this category will require a detailed explanation of the reasons for approval within the SCL Rules regarding 'Overseas Players'
The player must be able to show that he has resided permanently in the UK for the SIX months prior to the season commencing.

*The detailed explanation to seek approval for registration purposes under Form OP2 should be made on club headed paper and should include as much information as is available to the club administration to allow the Management Sub-Committee of the Somerset Cricket League to have a full picture of the reasons to grant special approval under Rule 7 (d) iii). **Note.** Any person who falls into this category and wishes to play cricket in the Somerset Cricket League may ask the Management Committee for permission to play at least 7 days before his first game. (Form OP 2 applies – obtainable on the website and at the end of this circular).*

Failure to provide the correct information or provide misleading information or incomplete information could seriously affect the status of the club and involvement in any matches by 'illegal' players could result in stringent penalties being imposed by the Committee.

6 Results

The Reporting of Results Electronically - to be done on SCL Play-Cricket Website. Both sides are responsible for entering the result of the match and the full scorecard on the SCL website using the prescribed procedure before midnight on the day following the match (ie Sunday midnight for Saturday games). This result and scorecard must be confirmed by both teams by Midnight Sunday (or Monday for Sunday matches) following the match played on Saturday using the prescribed procedure. Any team that fails to input/verify the result by the due time will be fined the sum of £10.00 on each occasion and three points will be deducted.

Problems with inputting and verifying. If club representatives have a problem either inputting or verifying a result through a computer problem or other similar problem then they MUST contact the monitor immediately, by telephone, who is responsible for their division. Failure to contact the monitor in this way will result in a fine of £10 and 3 points being levied. Each monitor will also be responsible for the processing and issuing of fines related to the failure of a club to input or confirm results on time. Club submissions/appeals should be made to the divisional monitor. If the details displayed by one of the teams are incorrect, then the opposition must enter the system and correct.

Performance Report on Umpire(s) Following a match in Divisions 1 & 2, both captains must submit a performance report on the umpire(s). The reports must be submitted through the SACO website. Teams are responsible for ensuring that the captain/other nominated individual submits the report by the Wednesday following the match. Any team that fails to submit a report by the due time will be fined on each occasion and three points will be deducted.

Team Captain Reports. Both the home and away clubs must record a mark out of 10 when inputting/confirming the result on the League's website. This will also enable the Committee to monitor that the criteria for 'sportsmanship' is being upheld and this information could also be used in cases of disciplinary complaints. Any team failing to score the mark will be fined 3 points failure.

7 Monitoring Arrangements for 2019 are as follows:

Amanda Counsell (amandacounsell@yahoo.co.uk) is responsible for all registrations, results and website queries for all divisions.

David Derrick (david230275@googlemail.com) will act as adjudicator for all fines and disputes Amanda will be responsible for the processing and issuing of fines related to the failure of a club to input or verify results on time. Club submissions/appeals should be made to Amanda initially.

Amanda Counsell 01278 785324

David Derrick 01823 660687 will act as adjudicator for all fines and disputes.

8 Don Crouch Marking System

- a. Consider whether the team captain, was proactive in controlling his team on and off the field, was setting a positive example on how to behave and was respectful of umpiring decisions.
- b. When marking your opponents conduct, consider how teams behave both on and off the field, looking at their language, actions and the respect shown towards your team.
- c. Did all individuals in your opponent's team behave appropriately? Consider their language, actions and the respect shown towards your team.
- d. Were your opponents respectful of umpire's decisions? Did they excessively challenge decisions or put unnecessary pressure on umpires?
- e. **Please use a starting Baseline of 80%, this should be given if the match was played in the manner that you would expect**

Captains Conduct	Teams Off Field Conduct	Teams On Field Conduct	Acceptance of Umpires Decisions	Individuals Conduct
/20	/20	/20	/20	/20

Important: Please note if you score a team less than 55 out of 100 you must email Edward Martin, the Disciplinary Secretary- edward@edwardmartin.co.uk with a brief summary of the reasons for the low score so the league can take appropriate action.

Don Crouch Trophy 2019. As in past seasons, both teams are required to record a score for the Don Crouch mark in 2019. The club captain/club representative must give a score for each of the five criteria out of 20 points. **Note.** As last year, **both teams MUST** record their marks for the opposing team on the website at the inputting/verifying stages. The mark will be completely secret and will not be seen by anyone accessing the results etc. Only the Hon. Secretary and monitors will have access to these facts. Defaulting clubs will be fined £10 per failure. *Rule 5. (k)*. This will also enable the Committee to monitor that the criteria for 'sportsmanship' is being upheld and this information could also be used in cases of disciplinary complaints.

Note: Don Crouch Marks will not be visible anywhere or at any time to another team.

9 Pitch Marking Trials

Via Play-Cricket Pitch Marking Questionnaire which the away team only completes and is in the same place as the Don Crouch Report.

Rationale: To gain a better picture of the standard of cricket pitches in the league and to help identify poor pitches easily (with supporting evidence) so support can be provided to help improve them moving forward. Marks to be monitored monthly by the Somerset Groundsman's Association and if there are a number of low scores at the same ground, a support visit will be arranged to help clubs improve their pitches. This evidence can be used by clubs to help with funding applications for machinery/or Groundwork to highlight a need.

Pitch Mark	Guide
5	Pitch Very high standard for this level of cricket. No variations in bounce, good carry to 'keeper and no exaggerated spin or seam movement.
4	Pitch Very consistent with only one or two variations as above
3	Pitch adequate for this standard of cricket though perhaps a little lacking in bounce or some inconsistency.
2	Pitch not really good enough for this level of cricket. Not properly or clearly marked out. Inconsistent or very low or exaggerated bounce, spin or seam as too dry or too wet or grass too long. (Please explain in comments box.)
1	Pitch unsuitable for this standard of cricket. 'Dead' bounce or 'jumping' unpredictably, excessive spin or seam movement. Surface appears not to have been rolled. Not marked out properly or clearly, too wet or a 'dust bowl' or grass much too long. (Please explain in comments box.)

Outfield Mark	Guide
5	Outfield well mown and short with no obvious indentations or grass cuttings lying. No ground induced difficulties for fielders.
4	Outfield with very few signs of indentations, lying grass or difficult bounces.
3	Outfield perfectly playable though a little longer than desired or some grass cuttings. Evidence of some winter sports damage not fully repaired.
2	Outfield too long or recently cut with excessive cuttings lying affecting ball roll. Winter sports/animal damage not repaired or too wet or slippery / cracking as too dry. (Please explain in comments box.)
1	Outfield almost unplayable. Too long, major problems with recent grass cuttings, dangerous ruts, animal damage not repaired or too wet or slippery / cracking as too dry. (Please explain in comments box.)

10 Ties, Promotion and Relegation

- a. If more than one team ties on points at the end of Season.** Rule 1 THE LEAGUE (g) In the case of two or more clubs tying for promotion or relegation the club with the most wins will be declared the ‘highest’, should they still be equal then the club with the least losses will be declared the ‘highest’, should they still be equal then the club with the greatest number of runs per wicket lost throughout the season will be declared the ‘highest’.
- b. Promotion/Relegation** shall be on a two up/two down basis, except that promotion within Divisions 6 – (S/E and N/E) shall be two teams per division and relegation from Division 5 to Division 6 shall be four teams, put into the most appropriate regional division, subject to amendments by the Management Committee; any such amendments to be notified to all member clubs as necessary. Positions are to be determined by the aggregate number of points obtained during the season. A club’s 2nd XI (or lower level team) must be in a lower division than its 1st XI (or higher level team), and promotion will be denied to the 2nd XI (or lower level team) or relegation enforced on the 2nd XI (or lower level team) to ensure this so that a club shall have no more than one team in any one division. The teams that finish 1st and 2nd in the SCL Premier Division will be promoted to the Somerset Division of WEPL (Tier 3). **Note. Rule 1. (c), (d), (f) applies**
- c. Promotion Relegation in WEPL**
Clubs decided upon their preferred streams prior to the start of the 2015 season. Under the new structure, WEPL will under no circumstances apply lateral movement and instead teams will only ever be promoted or relegated into the stream to which they decided upon in 2015. With this in mind, and in recognition of the fact that we still operate in a multi county structure, it means that the possible permutations and principles around promotion and relegation in WEPL will be as follows:
Premier 1 – Will always be 2 down
Tier 2 divisions – Will always be 1 up, minimum will be 1 down, maximum 3 down
Tier 3 divisions – Will always be 1 up, minimum will be 2 down, maximum 4 down
NB: Feeder Leagues will always supply a minimum of 2 teams but will need to be prepared to accept a maximum of 4.

11. Cancelled matches when the home ground is unavailable.

Concern has been expressed to the Committee over the availability of grounds for some clubs in September. A number of clubs are unable to play at home in September due to rules laid down by a third party. Conflict with other sports, local council rules and 3rd party intervention were all cited. The Committee decided that all similar situations throughout the season should be treated equally and this ruling would also apply to other occasions during it. If a ‘third party’ rules that the cricket club shall have to find a different venue for a home match due to another function/event then the club in question should make every effort to find an alternative date/venue in the first instance. The opponents should also make every effort to help. If it fails to resolve the problem for any reason, then the result will be the same as a ‘rain affected game’ and 12 points will be allocated to each team. Clubs may apply to the Hon. Secretary for special dispensation in cases where a resolution can be found outside of the season’s parameters.

12. A Guide to the common laws of cricket

The League operates a very successful Umpires Panel for the top two divisions. These Umpires would have taken a course on the Laws of Cricket and they are likely to be members of the Somerset Association of Cricket Officials. It is likely that, in local Cricket, the hardest places to fill in a team are that of Umpire and Scorer. All Clubs should be aware of the courses that are available for both Umpires and Scorers. In order to assist those who might be called upon to stand during the season we have put together some of the most common laws of Cricket to help such a person or persons during the season.

Leg before Wicket (LBW)

In order to give the batsman out LBW there are four main factors that require a "yes" answer.

- a) The ball must not be a "no ball"
- b) Did the ball pitch in line between wicket to wicket when striking the batsman's pads or did it pitch outside the off stump?
- c) Was the interception part of the Striker's dress or equipment and not the bat or the hand holding the bat?
- d) Was the point of impact in line between wicket and wicket?
- e) In the Umpire's opinion would the ball have hit the wickets?

Notes

- i) If the ball pitches outside the line of the leg-stump it cannot be considered for LBW.
- ii) If no stroke is offered then the striker can be out LBW even if the interception is outside the off stump, provided the umpire is sure that the ball would have hit the wicket.

No Ball

- i) At the point of delivery, the back foot must land within and not be touching the return crease.
- ii) Some part of the front foot, whether grounded or raised, must be behind the line of the popping crease.
- iii) A ball that does not pitch and would have passed above the waist of the Striker standing in an upright position at the crease and at any speed.

The umpire shall call/signal no ball and warn the bowler that this is his first and final warning. If the same bowler bowls a further ball above waist height, the umpire will call no ball and when the ball is dead, he shall direct the captain to take the bowler off.

He shall not be allowed to bowl again in the innings.

Change in this Law for 2019

The above Law shall remain the same, but, if in the opinion of the Umpire, the ball is not a dangerous one, he shall call and signal no ball, but not warn the bowler.

iv) If a bouncer goes over the Striker's head the Umpire will call and signal no ball.

v) If the bowler in "his delivery stride" knocks one or both bails from the wickets the Umpire will call and signal no ball.

Wide Ball

Now that the wide lines have been introduced into the League there are few problems with wide balls being bowled.

But the Law is very straight forward; a wide should be called and signalled by the Umpire if the ball is out of reach of a Striker standing in his normal batting position.

It is important that the Umpire remains consistent throughout the game.

Run Out

Provided that the batsmen cross on the pitch it is the batsman who is running towards the broken wicket who will be given out.

If after making his ground in the crease and then having to leave it to avoid injury from a throw in by a fielder the batsman will be given "not out" by the Umpire.

Leg Byes

These can only be scored if a genuine attempt was made to play the ball.

If the Umpire considers that no attempt was made to play the ball he will call "dead ball" after the batsmen have completed any run they might have attempted.

This gives the fielding side a chance to run the batsman out as the ball is still alive.

Substitutes

A substitute fielder may field in any position with the one exception of that of wicket-keeper.

Also a substitute cannot bowl, bat or act as captain during the match.

When a substitute runner is being used for an injured batsman the injured batsman **must remain** in his crease area at all times.

If he is out of his ground for any reason and the wicket-keeper breaks the wicket with the ball in his hands he will be out run out.

A substitute acting as a runner must, if possible, have already batted.

He must be dressed in the similar external equipment.

Umpires

It is important to note that any person selected to stand as an Umpire has the full powers of an appointed official and should use these powers as directed both by the M.C.C.Laws and any League directives.

Umpires are the sole judges of fair and unfair play, fitness of ground and weather/light.

Should the Umpires disagree then the state of the game will remain the same.

In the Divisions other than Premier and Two the Captains may have to agree.

The Umpires together will award a game if any side refuses to play.

Weather, Ground and Light Conditions

- The Umpires shall be the final judges of ground, weather and light conditions.
- When both Umpires consider conditions are suitable for play it will continue.
- When, in the opinion of both Umpires conditions become unsuitable then they must advise the batsmen at the wicket and the fielding Captain of their decision.

The players must leave the field.

As soon as in the opinion of both umpires that the conditions become playable they must inform Captains and play will resume.

There are three levels of light, weather and ground conditions as follows...

Level 1. Conditions are perfect – play will take place.

Level 2. Conditions are not ideal for play, but the Umpires only shall decide if play can continue or restart.

Level 3. The Umpires consider that the conditions are very unreasonable/dangerous for play to continue and are likely to cause serious injury.

Play will be suspended immediately.

It is expected that all hosting teams should mark the creases at the start of play and remark said areas at the tea interval or between innings.

Derek Hicks, SCL Umpiring Adviser.

New law changes to effect League Cricket in the Season 2019.

Changes to the NO BALL law.

The MCC announced in November that it has amended Law 41.7, the Law which concerns the bowling of dangerous and unfair non-pitching deliveries (beamers).

The Law published a little over twelve months ago imposed stricter penalties on a bowler who delivers a full toss over the batsman's waist.

Since its introduction, feedback has been received which suggests strongly that the new sanctions were overly severe (especially to younger bowlers).

In response to this feedback, the Laws sub-committee has reviewed Law 41.7 and – with the support of the Cricket committee, World Cricket committee and MCC Committee – agreed that it should be adjusted, with effect from 1st April 2019, to allow umpires to make a more subjective decision over which deliveries are dangerous.

This and other minor clarifications and corrections from the 1st Edition will also be incorporated into the 2nd Edition.

[The full change to Law Change 41.7 can be viewed here](#)

- a) **The Fast Bowling Directives of the ECB covering players in the Under 19 age group and younger.** The Management Committee of the Somerset Cricket League requires that Club Committees ensure that their captains are made aware of this directive.

The ECB fast bowling directives are set out below: -

Under these directives, which came into effect at the start of the 2011 season, bowlers at under-16 and under-17 level were permitted to bowl an extra over per spell, but those in the under-18.

The fast bowling directives are designed to raise awareness of the need to nurture and protect young fast bowlers through their formative years. Research has shown that fast bowlers are by far the most likely players to be missing playing and training time due to injury. Fast bowling directives (based on 31st Aug last season)

Age	max overs per spell	max overs per day
Up to 13	5	10
U14-U15	6	12
U16, U17,U18,U19.	7	12

Under 18 spin bowlers can bowl their full quota of overs.

For these purposes a fast bowler should be 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 an equivalent number of overs to the length of his spell have been bowled from the same end. Interruption in play shall reduce this requirement by one over at each end for every 7 minutes of interruption.

Captains, Team Managers and Umpires are required to ensure that these directives are followed at all times.

- b. **Bouncers, Beamers and No Balls.** A ball that pitches and then passes the batsman, standing in a normal upright batting stance at the crease, above head height must be called 'No Ball.'

A ball that pitches and then passes the batsman, standing in a normal upright batting stance at the crease, between the shoulder and the top of the head may only be bowled **once** per over and the umpire should indicate that this ball has been bowled for that over. If the bowler bowls another similar delivery in the same over then that ball must be called 'No Ball.'

- c. **Weather, Ground and Light Conditions**

The appointed or official club umpires shall be the final judges of weather, ground and light conditions.

While both umpires consider that conditions are suitable for play it will continue.

When, in the opinion of the umpires, conditions become unsuitable then they must: leave the field of play.

If there are no appointed or club umpires, then the decision to play or not to play must be made by the captains.

When, in the opinion of the **same** umpires/captains, conditions become playable again then play will resume.

When, in the opinion of **both** umpires/captains, the light conditions deteriorate to a level that is unsuitable for play the players must leave the field.

When, in the opinion of the **same** umpires/captains, the light level improves sufficiently for play to take place then play will resume.

- d. **Umpires.** Where a game has only one official umpire provided either by the League or by a club, that umpire **may** stand at the bowlers' end for the whole match, **providing that he is prepared to do so and that both captains are in agreement that he should** - a player standing as umpire should stand at square leg under these circumstances. If captains fail to agree then this umpire should stand at one end only. At the AGM in November 2012 the members unanimously agreed that a club umpire should stand throughout the match. This was basic cricket etiquette and was a long-standing, unwritten aspect of the game. Club captains are reminded that a club umpire must be accorded the courtesy of standing throughout the match without any question or comment.

13. Other.

- i). Cancelled games:-** i) due to weather - please make every effort to play even if a late start is necessary. Consult opponents before cancelling. If it is possible, switch the venue or play at an alternative venue. Remember. If a match is cancelled for any reason and/or at any time during the 48 hours before the agreed start time, then this cancellation **MUST ONLY BE** made through a telephone conversation involving officials of both clubs. Cancellations by emails, texts, twitter and other social media are not permitted. Fines will be applied at the discretion of the Management Committee.
- ii) other reasons - Such as failure to raise a team. Try to avoid cancellations because a loss of points and a heavy fine will follow.
In all cases of cancelled matches, an entry of the cancellation on the website must be made and verified.
- iii) Any match cancelled after 8.00 pm by the visiting team on the day preceding the match for reasons other than the weather/pitch conditions shall be fined £30 in addition to the fines levied in Rule 5 (b) (iv), (v). This sum will be passed to the home team to help defray expenses. Clubs that wish to claim should complete the “Tea Cost Reclamation Form for Season 2019” which can be found at the end of this circular.

14. Strengthening of Second and Other Teams by Regular players from Higher Teams.

It is the responsibility of clubs, selection committees and captains to ensure that the situation of strengthening 'lower level' teams is not abused, particularly when 'higher level' teams have no fixture.

If a batsman/bowler is dropped by the club's selection committee due to loss of form (this must be demonstrated by the production of appropriate statistics) then he may take a normal part in the NEXT LOWER TEAM only. If he is dropped through more than one team level (ie. 1st XI to 3rd XI) he must adhere to the batting/bowling conditions shown below.

The Management Committee reminds clubs that it is contrary to the regulations set out in the pre-season circular and the spirit of the Somerset Cricket League for clubs to strengthen their 2nd. XIs; 3rd. XIs; and even 4th. XIs when they have a free 1st XI (or other 'higher level' team) date as a result of fixture changes or a vacant date. **All** results sheets will be scrutinised by the monitors to check against this practice, but the non-offending clubs are encouraged to bring this practice to the notice of the Committee if they believe that it has taken place.

A 'higher level' batsman playing in a 'lower level' team for the reason of choice to play at home or for his own convenience or a cancellation of the higher level game or due to the lack of players available for selection should not bat higher than No. 7. However, if the individual in question has sustained a bad run of form (note – this can be verified by the Results Secretary and the monitors for Management Committee purposes) in the 'higher level' team then he should be allowed to bat wherever in the batting order, without any restriction.

A 'higher level' bowler playing in a 'lower level' team for the reason of choice to play at home or for his own convenience or a cancellation of the higher level game or due to the lack of players available for selection should not bowl earlier than 3rd change (5th bowler) or after 25 overs have been bowled, whichever is the latter. However, if the individual in question has sustained a bad run of form (note – this can be verified by the Results Secretary and monitors for Management Committee purposes) in the 'higher level' team then he should be allowed to bowl wherever it is deemed appropriate in the sequence of bowlers, without any restriction.

On the occasions when 'higher level' players are *helping out due to the lack of the normal players* then the maximum number of such players shall be 3 players. (Note – this will be verified by the Results Secretary for Management Committee purposes)

The practice of **unfair strengthening of lower level teams** on days when higher level teams are without a fixture, or when situations that are contrary to the guidelines set out above are contravened, will be dealt with as a disciplinary action. The Management Committee will take a very firm stance by the imposition of monetary and points fines if a team is found to have breached these regulations.

The Results Secretary and monitors will be particularly vigilant in respect of the games where a higher team has a vacant date. Should a team believe that opponents are unfairly strengthening teams then they should raise the complaint with the Hon. Secretary or the Results Secretary.

- c. **Fines.** These will be incurred for late results posted on the website (initial input, verification, score-sheet input and score-sheet verification).
- e. **League Website.** All the weekly information concerning the Monmouth Scientific, Somerset Cricket League will be found on the Website at www.play-cricket.com and clubs can also contact me by E-mail at raysomcricket@btconnect.com

15. Club/Ground, Pavilions and Support Facilities

The Grounds Sub Committee - Working to Improve Standards – A Shared Responsibility

The SCL's Grounds Sub-Committee - comprising Toby Strang, Martin King and Derek Hicks has drawn up a set of standards for grounds and facilities. The Committee has based its work on the ECB Strategy that outlines the need to bring such facilities up to at least a basic standard and encourage investment where it will act as a catalyst for junior development. The SCL Grounds Sub-Committee will continue to review the facilities used at home grounds. The Committee has drawn up a document that sets out **Ground/Facilities Standards for clubs in the SCL**, together with a **timescale that required implementation** as soon as is feasibly possible after that date for clubs to reach the required standard. The Committee will make visits to grounds and these visits will not necessarily be pre-warned. A list of the minimum standards that has been adopted by the SCL has now been drawn up and this will form the **future benchmark** and is shown below.

The SCL's Management Committee has asked its Ground Standards Sub Committee to focus on four key areas, namely

Fit for Purpose 2. Health, Hygiene and Safety 3. Hospitality 4. Duty of Care (with special reference to young players)

The following provisions are considered to constitute a revised **Minimum Standard** as detailed below for season 2019

1. **Players Changing Rooms**

To offer adequate and clean changing facilities within immediate or very close proximity to the playing area.

The SCL makes the minimum requirement in this respect to be an area covered by a portable facility such as a gazebo...

2. **Toilet Facilities**

To be in proper working order and to be either unisex or differentiated where possible, within easy access from the playing area.

To be clean and supplied with a sufficient quantity of paper and with a hand wash facility supplied with soap, clean towels or other acceptable hand-drying facility.

3. **Shower Facilities**

To be in good working order and to have a dual supply of hot and cold water; ideally bespoke such facilities will be provided for both teams and all appointed match officials where such are present on a match day.

4. **Seating / Cover**

Adequate seating for the batting side and scorer(s) table must be provided.

Temporary, but preferably permanent, shelter for players and scorer(s) to provide protection in cases of extreme weather is requested.

5. **Tea Interval**

To make available at the natural break in any game adequate and sufficient seating for all involved to be able to take tea in a comfortable manner.

6. **Access**

Clubs to arrange adequate parking which also allows for quick and easy access by emergency vehicles.

7. **First Aid Kits**

All Clubs must have a First Aid Kit in place at all the venues at which they operate.

Kit to meet the minimum requirements of BS 8599.

8. **Consideration for Youth Members**

Evidence of a Club's attention to its 'Duty of Care' should be available.

The name and contact details of the Club's Welfare Officer (this post is a statutory League requirement) should be clearly displayed and evidence should be available that 'Safe Hands' accreditation has been issued and is currently valid.

9. **Pitch Quality**

SCL matches should be played on natural grass surfaces that are free from ruts, holes, and divots.

Match play on artificial surfaces is acceptable, but the same quality criteria apply.

If any Club has reason to report deficiencies in respect of any of the above points, then they should use the attached pro-forma below to communicate with the SCL.

SCL Grounds Sub-Committee members would welcome any comment, queries or concern that member clubs have about their own or their opponents' facilities. Committee members can be contacted as shown below.

Toby Strang. Tel.01458 272191 toby@strang35.freeseerve.co.uk

Derek Hicks. Tel. 01823 289531 hicksy59@hotmail.co.uk

Martin King. Tel. 01823 432392 martinking2@btinternet.com

Appendix – to the Pre-season Circular



SOMERSET CRICKET LEAGUE

Play-Cricket User Guide 2019

As of the league AGM, the Monmouth Scientific, Somerset Cricket League will be using Play-Cricket (<https://somcl.play-cricket.com/>) for the majority its functions moving from <http://www.somerset-cricket.org.uk/index.html> .

With the exception of Player Registration (where more info is required) the reality is that the same information is being inputted on a different system. The notes below will detail the key elements which a club needs to complete before the season and during it.

Accessing your Play-Cricket Site and adding more administrators.

All the admin which is required by the league is done through each member club's own Play-Cricket site. The majority of clubs now have access to their own site and each club site can be found by visiting https://somcl.play-cricket.com/website/web_pages/228993 where each club listed.

If your club hasn't got access to your site this is likely to be because the person who has admin rights for the site has left the club. If this is the case with your club please [click here](#) to find out the steps you need to take to get the old administrator removed and a new administrator added.

It is recommended that each club has more than one administrator so that if the above occurs you will have someone with the access to the site. **Under no circumstances should administrators share their login details with other people/clubs.** If so, you would potentially be giving access to all of the sensitive personal data on your club's site to any number of people without knowing anything about them. At best you might get away with it; at worst you could end up in very serious trouble to do with safeguarding and data protection legislation

With this in mind any additional administrators need to create their own username and password by signing up as a user (<https://www.play-cricket.com/users/registrations/new>) and then the current administrators can grant admin rights by following the steps in this link: <https://play-cricket.ecb.co.uk/hc/en-us/articles/115003434685-How-do-I-create-another-administrator->

Updating Club Details.

This is replacing the current feature on the previous website. Moving forward, the league will be sending all communication through the site as it will save a significant amount of time for the committee. Currently all club details have to be inputted manually into a mailing list (which takes weeks) whereas using the Play-Cricket system the committee can either email contacts direct from the website or can download contacts to be uploaded into a mailing list.

Club Details are inputted in the “About Us” section of your Play-Cricket site which is found in the Site Management Tab on the top menu bar of the Site Administration home page. Clubs need to ensure they have completed the first three About Us tabs- Club Details, Playing Facilities & Club Officials.

The league requires the Name, Email & Contact Telephone Number for the following roles:

- Chairman
- Hon Secretary
- Hon Treasurer
- Fixture Secretary
- Club Welfare Officer
- Divisional Rep (League Rep)

To input Captains & Team Managers details visit Admin section> SETUP (on top menu) >Teams (on left hand menu). This brings up a list of all the team at the club and you can edit/add the contact details by clicking the “Edit” button for the relevant team and it will bring up a screen to input the details.

- Team Captains
- Team Manager (Cancellations)

When inputting this information, you can opt to display this contact information on your Play-Cricket site or not and we recommend you check if the person wants the information they have provided going public. If you chose not to display them publicly, then this information will still be stored in line with the new GDPR regulations and only available to the league, Somerset Cricket Board, the competitions which you play in and the ECB who run Play-Cricket.Com. If you have completed the Somerset Cricket Board’s Affiliation Questionnaire, the Club Officials will already be populated.

There is a [Tutorial Video](#) on how to complete the above which you may find useful.

Player Registration.

Any club which plays or has played in the West of England Premier League should be used to the player registration process as it has been a requirement in this league for a number of years.

In order to be able to play in the Shrubbery Cricket League in 2018 and beyond, players must have registration approved by the league. In the last two season there has been an increase in underage players playing in the league, which is far easier to prevent from a League point of view with Player Registration.

This is probably the most time-consuming piece of admin to complete, but once a player is registered they are registered with the league and this will not have to be done again in the future unless they are an OP2 Player who will need reregistering on an annual basis. The only way registration will be removed is if a player is banned, your club leaves the league or player moves away and transfers to another club in another league.

There are two stages to Player Registration, player becomes a member of your club & registering with the league.

There are three ways for a player to become a member of your club. The quickest way is for the players to register themselves as players at your club by visiting <https://www.play-cricket.com/users/registrations/new> and following the requested steps. There is a guide on the process for adults [here](#) and for Under 16s [here](#).

When a club administrator logs into your Play-Cricket site, membership requests will appear as an outstanding action which they click on and approve the membership. This method is recommended as a club can ensure the players information is 100% accurate. Many other Sports (Football, Rugby, Hockey) all require players to register themselves to play in leagues, so this is no different.

The 2nd way is the most time consuming. The club administrator adds players manually. For this you will require (as it will save time when completing Stage Two):

- First Name
- Surname
- Email
- Date of Birth (Needs to be correct date)
- Address & Post Code (To save time, Amanda Counsell who is processing registrations will accept the club address & post code to reduce admin)
- Passport Type
- If U16 a parent name and email is required

To add players then manually go to Site Administration>Day to Day>Members>Member Database. Select Member of the Website in the Role box. (You cannot add a member to the database with Role set to 'All'.)

The screenshot shows the site's navigation menu with 'Day to Day' highlighted in a red oval. Below the menu is a sidebar with 'Members' and 'Member Database' also highlighted in red ovals. The main content area is titled 'Member Database' and features a search bar with a dropdown menu set to 'Surname', a 'Search' button, and a 'Download Members' button. Below the search area is a table with columns: Name, ID, Email, Telephone, View, Player Stats, and Email.

Search to see all Members of the Website or Click “Add New Member With This Role”

This close-up screenshot shows the 'Member Database' page with the 'Add New Member With This Role' button highlighted in a red oval. The search bar is visible above, and the 'Download Members' button is to the right of the search bar.

On this screen you can select a record already in the Play-Cricket system, but if the player is new to Play-Cricket click “Add Member”.

A full guide on this method can be [found here](#)

Stage Two is registering these players with the league which is done as detailed below:

In the administration section of your Play-Cricket site, go to Site Management>Members, then select Members Database.

Find the member on your list (or by using the search at the top)

If you find the same player listed more than once in your database, match the player records before making the nomination. See '[Duplicate Player Records](#)'.

You need to edit the player's roles to register the player for the league. You must click on the "Hat" symbol - Edit Roles.

Select the League Registered Players Tab – if you can't see this tab, it means that your league's division does not require player registration.

A form to register your player will appear. Check that the form is complete, filling in all missing information:

First Name, Last Name, Email Address (in case of queries), Date of Birth, Address, Postcode (Should be filled if membership added correctly), Player Category and Passport Type.

Once you have done this, click the Save button. (otherwise your changes will be lost)

If you have not completed all the relevant sections, you will get a 'Please populate mandatory fields' error.

To register the player with a league:

On the right-hand side, under Current Registrations, you will see the leagues available for registration.

Click on Apply for the relevant league.

PLEASE NOTE : Players under 16 years of age, the system will automatically send an email to the parent(s) asking for approval which must be completed before they play.

Even more detail on this [process please click here](#)

Adding Results, Scorecards and Verifying

The process for this remains much the same as on the previous system with a few different capabilities and slightly more information to add on the scorecard.

The Play-Cricket System will automatically calculate match points which wasn't done previously, both sides have the ability to input the results/scorecards and edit any errors which may have been inputted. The league will require clubs to input a full scorecard for 2018 and beyond which includes "How Out", "Catchers", "Who the Bowler was".

To add a result in site administration, click on the "Results" tab on left hand side. This will bring up matches due to be played in the last week. Select edit result for the game you wish to input, and you will be taken to the match summary where you input who won the toss, who batted 1st, the team scores (totals, wickets, overs) and the match result then click save.

The next screen you are taken to is where you input the home teams players (including Captain & Keeper) from the registered players list on right hand side of the screen then save. Then repeat for the away team. If any players don't appear in the registered player list, please select unsure player and the league will follow this up with the respective club.

The next screens will allow you to input the scorecards for the game (Individual Scores, Bowling Figures, "How Out", "Catchers", "Who the Bowler was). Once saved you'll be taken to the view result screen so you can check your input. Press the back button and you'll be taken to the results home screen where you can either edit the result if there are any errors by completing the above process again or verify the result by clicking on the button in the confirmed box next to result for the fixture. [Tutorial Video and Guide available here](#)

BOTH teams have responsibility for entering the match result, scorecard and verify it by midnight on the day after the match (normally Sunday).

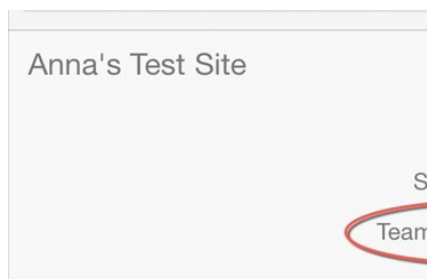
Failure to do this will result in a 3pt deduction and a £10 fine.

Don Crouch Fair Play reports & Pitch Marking Trial

The final element which will need completing is the Don Crouch Fair Play report and Pitch Marking Trial Questionnaire (AWAY SIDE ONLY).

This needs to be completed by Midnight the day after the game by both sides. Failure to do so will result in a 3pts and £10 fine.

Anyone who has a member of the website role with the club and is registered with Play-Cricket may login to the club's site and select Team Captains Reports from the account dropdown list on a mobile device or PC. The following screen stots have been taken from an iPhone:



All matches requiring a team captain's report are listed and the responder needs to make the correct selection.

Select the Fair Play report for the game.



The answer given to the first question was below a threshold set by the league administrator so the button now appears in orange. This report will appear on a competition site as one requiring review.



Completed reports that do not need to be reviewed have a green button.

Repeat the above process for the Pitch Marking Trial selecting the “Ground Report instead.

Useful Contacts

Play-Cricket Helpdesk (24 hours a day): play.cricket@ecb.co.uk

Player Registrations: Amanda Counsell- amandacounsell@yahoo.co.uk

Result Verification Issues: Amanda Counsell- amandacounsell@yahoo.co.uk

Disciplinary Issues (Don Crouch): Edward Martin- edward@edwardmartin.co.uk

Result, Scorecard, Verification & Report Fines Appeals: David Derrick- david230275@googlemail.com



SOMERSET CRICKET LEAGUE

Dual Player Registration Form for Season 2019

Name of Player

.....

Parent Club

.....

I wish to be loaned to play in a fixture for another SCL Club, which is (enter name of Club)

.....

By submitting this form, I confirm that this loan agreement complies with all the relevant criteria as laid down by the Somerset Cricket League.

Signed (Loan Player)

.....

Date

.....

This form is to be submitted by email to David Derrick (david230275@googlemail.com) within two days of the match in question being completed. Players need to be registered via play-cricket as normal but with loan after their surname, e.g. 'Joe Bloggs Loan'
Original hard copies of the form need not be submitted.



SOMERSET CRICKET LEAGUE

Tea Cost Reclamation Form for Season 2019

Club Submitting Claim

Fixture Claim Relates to

Date of Fixture.....

Division.....

Details of Claim.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Name.....**Signed**.....

Position held within Club.....

Original hard copies of this form must be submitted to Tom Packman, Hon. Treasurer, Somerset Cricket League, 17 Lock House, Keeper Close, Taunton. TA1 1AX within seven days of the match in question.

Any payment due will be made after the end of the season.