

At a meeting of the League Management Committee on Thursday 15th July, urgent consideration was given to the impact of Covid-19 on the 2021 League Fixture schedule. Already this season matches have been cancelled due to Covid-19 and the increase in self isolation, this problem is only likely to become worse as Government restrictions are lifted and infections increase.

The MSL committee held a valuable and lengthy discussion looking at all options and clearly there is not a single, simple, solution. As a committee we have used the following rationale.:

- 1.To encourage cricket matches to be played.
- 2.To be mindful of the impact a substantial number of rearranged matches will have on other commitments that clubs have on their grounds.
- 3.Extending the season is not an option as many clubs lose players and their grounds to other sports into September.
4. To ensure that people are correctly following any self-isolation requirements

Therefore, the MSL management committee have made the following decision.

1.Average points will be introduced to determine League positions across all divisions.

This method will only include completed, abandoned/drawn and conceded matches, along with any penalty points incurred or carried forward.

For clarity, **cancelled (rain) and Covid affected matches will not be included**; with Covid cases and self-isolations rising, we are basing the league on cricket that has been or will be played rather than penalising any club that **has large numbers** of player isolations or have been impacted by their opposition's isolations.

2. Over the weekend, the league's play cricket site will be adjusted to reflect this.

In reaching this decision, we have attempted to be as supportive of our clubs as it can as we try to manage all implications of the ongoing Covid pandemic. Clubs need to be aware that if the higher ranked team has to cancel their fixture, they must not artificially strengthen their lower division sides and team strengthening rules must still be adhered to. The MSL will impose their normal penalties should a club fail to do this, and we will continue to monitor the reasons surrounding the cancellation of games.

We, as a committee understand that not all clubs will be affected by Covid, whilst others will be, and we sincerely hope that clubs will display complete honesty in their decision-making processes around whether a match should be cancelled due to Covid-19.

We understand that some clubs will not agree with this decision but please be reassured that the MSL Committee has endeavoured to make decisions in the best of interests of the entire league.

Edward Martin – Chair

On behalf of the Monmouth Scientific Cricket League

15th July 2021

