



Somerset Cricket League - Constitution 2020

Name

The name of the league is The Somerset Cricket League incorporating the name of the main sponsor. (hereafter called SCL).

League Purpose

The purposes of the SCL are to foster and promote participation in the sport of cricket within the community by providing competition opportunities.

Affiliation

The SCL is affiliated to the England and Wales Cricket Board through the Somerset Cricket Board.

The SCL and its members shall ensure that members, playing and non-playing, abide by the ECB Code of Conduct which incorporates the Spirit of Cricket and the Laws of Cricket.

The SCL shall adopt and implement the ECB Safe Hands – Cricket’s Policy for Safeguarding Children and any future versions of the policy

The SCL shall adopt and implement the ECB Cricket Diversity & Inclusion Policy and any future versions of this policy.

Membership

Membership shall be open to all Clubs which have or propose to have teams on payment of an annual fee as determined at the Annual General meeting (AGM). Admittance to membership shall be determined by the Management Committee on a non-discriminatory basis. The League Committee may refuse membership, or remove it, at its discretion but only for good cause such as conduct or character likely to bring the Club or cricket into disrepute or on a geographic basis.

All member Clubs must have a qualified Club Welfare Officer.

Management

The transaction of the business of the SCL shall be vested in the Management Committee elected at the AGM which, in addition to powers of authority of this Constitution, may exercise all powers and authority and undertake all acts in the furtherance of aims in which the SCL is established and not hereby expressly directed.

The Committee has powers to:

- take out any insurance for league committee, employees, contractors, players, guests and third parties.
- raise funds by appeals, subscriptions, loans and charges;
- issue fines and disciplinary measures as appropriate;
- borrow money and give security for the same, and open bank accounts;
- make grants and loans and give guarantees and provide other benefits;
- set aside or apply funds for special purposes or as reserves;
- deposit or invest funds in any lawful manner;
- employ and engage staff and others and provide services;
- co-operate with any organisation, club, sporting body, government or government-related agencies; and
- do all other things reasonably necessary to advance the purposes.

NONE of the above powers may be used other than to advance the purposes consistently with the Rules below and the general laws.

All members will be subject to these Rules and by joining the League will be deemed to accept these Rules, any League Regulations and any Codes of Conduct that the League has adopted.

The Committee

Role

Subject to these Rules the Committee shall have responsibility for the management of the League, its funds, property and affairs.

The Committee will have due regard to the law on disability discrimination and the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

Composition, etc.

A President shall be proposed, seconded and elected and hold office for 3 years but shall be eligible for re-election. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The Principal Executive Officers of the League shall be the Chair, Vice-Chair, The Hon. Secretary, The Hon. Treasurer, and the Child Welfare Officer.

The Principal Executive Officers shall be proposed, seconded and elected by the committee. They hold office until the first committee meeting after the AGM (or EGM), when they will retire, but shall be eligible for re-election.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

All Management Committee Members and Principal Executive Officers shall be proposed, seconded and elected at the AGM or an EGM, They hold office for three years, when they will retire, but shall be eligible for re-election.

Committee Meetings

The Committee may decide its own way of operating. Unless it otherwise resolves the following rules apply:

At least 5 Committee members must be present for the meeting to be a quorum

Committee meetings may be held either in person or by telephone, televisual or other electronic or virtual means agreed by the Committee in which all participants may communicate simultaneously with all other participants;¹

The Chair/Vice Chair or whoever else those present choose shall chair meetings.

Decisions shall be by simple majority of those voting; In the event of a tied vote the chairman shall have an extra casting vote.

The Committee shall appoint a League Welfare Officer to ensure compliance with safeguarding legislation and the ECB Safe Hands policy. The League Welfare Officer shall report to relevant Committee meetings and the reports, together with any action taken, must be recorded in the minutes.

Where a committee member may have a conflict of interest in any decision to be taken, that committee member with a personal interest shall withdraw from that item of the meeting and take no part in the decision making.

The Committee will meet a minimum of four times a year.

Annual General Meetings

The SCL will hold an AGM following the season and no later than 31st December at the latest. At least 21 days' notice shall be given to all member clubs of date of meeting. Each club shall be entitled to one voting representative.

Any club not represented at an AGM or EGM will be fined.

Any proposed changes to the rules must be notified to the secretary. The proposing club must have a seconder prior to the AGM. Such proposed changes to the rules shall be circulated to all clubs three weeks prior to AGM.

The Treasurer will produce accounts of the Club for the latest financial year audited as the Committee shall decide.

The Secretary will present a report on the League's activities since the previous AGM.

The Clubs will appoint a suitable person to audit the accounts.

The Clubs will vote on any resolution (whether about policy or to change the Rules) and deal with any other business put to the meeting.

Extraordinary General Meetings (EGM)

An EGM shall be called at the request of the Committee or one quarter of the membership. Such meeting shall have the power of an AGM and must be called within one month of the request giving at least two weeks notification to all member clubs.

Bank Account

Any bank accounts in which any part of the League's funds is deposited shall be operated by the Committee and shall be held in the name of the League. Unless regulations state otherwise, all cheques and orders for payment of money from such accounts must be signed by at least two people authorised by the Committee, including at least one Committee member. The Treasurer has the power to make electronic payments up to a limit determined by the Committee.

Delegation, etc.

The Committee may delegate any of its functions to sub-committees but must specify the scope of its activity and powers; the extent to which it can commit the funds of the League; its membership; its duty to report back to the Committee. The Committee may wind up any sub-committee at any time or change its mandate and operating terms.

Disclosure

Annual League reports and statements of account must be made available for inspection by any club and all League records may be inspected by any Committee member.

Removal of Membership, Discipline and Appeals

Any complaints regarding the behaviour of clubs, individuals or volunteers should be lodged in writing with the Disciplinary Secretary.

Any person(s)/Club that is the subject of a written complaint or appeal shall be notified of the procedures to be followed by the relevant committee in reasonable time to prepare for any hearing.

The Committee shall appoint a disciplinary sub-committee (Disciplinary Sub-Committee) who will meet to hear complaints within 7 days of a complaint being lodged. Any person requested to attend a Disciplinary Sub-Committee shall be entitled to be accompanied by a friend or other representative and to call witnesses. The Disciplinary Sub-Committee has the power to take appropriate disciplinary action on behalf of the Committee, including the termination of membership. The outcome of the disciplinary hearing shall be put in writing to the person who lodged the complaint and the person against whom the complaint was made within 7 days following the hearing.

There shall be a right of appeal within 7 days of receipt of the disciplinary decision or decision to refuse membership:

against the Disciplinary Sub-Committee's findings or the sanction imposed or both; and

against the Committee's refusal to admit a new Club

in either case, the Committee shall appoint an appeals committee ("Appeals Committee"). The Appeals Committee shall have a maximum of three members which shall not include members involved with the initial disciplinary hearing but may include non-members of the League. The Appeals Committee shall consider the appeal within 7 days of the Disciplinary Secretary receiving the appeal. The individual who submitted the appeal shall be entitled to be accompanied by a friend or other representative and to call witnesses. The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding on all parties.

League Regulations

The Committee may make League Regulations consistent with these Rules and will publicise these to the members.

Winding Up the League

The Clubs may vote to wind up the League if 75% of the membership support that proposal at a properly convened general meeting.

The Committee will then be responsible for the orderly winding up of the League's affairs.

After settling all liabilities of the League, the Committee shall dispose of the net assets remaining to one or more of the following:

To a cricket charity and/or to the League's national governing body for use by them for related community sports.

Adopted at a meeting held

at [Place]

on [Date]

Signed

Name

Signature

[Name and signature of chair of meeting]

Witnessed

Name

Address.....

Occupation

Signature

[Name, address, occupation and signature of witness]