



The Somerset Cricket League
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SOMERSET CRICKET LEAGUE

RULES FOR SEASON 2023

1. THE LEAGUE :

The League shall be called "The Monmouth Scientific Somerset Cricket League" and shall consist of as many divisions as necessary to a maximum of ten teams per division. Except in cases where the Management Committee determines that for a temporary period a division shall consist of more teams to accommodate all teams that wish to participate in the League. For the purposes of these rules, The Premier Division and Division 1 shall be deemed Senior Divisions and all other divisions Junior Divisions.

b) Promotion and relegation shall be on a two up/two down basis, except that promotion within Divisions 6 – (S E and NW) 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. **Two** teams will be promoted from each of the Division 7s and **three** teams will be relegated each of Division 6.

c) Positions are to be determined by the aggregate number of points obtained during the season. However, the bottom 6 divisions will be regionalised irrespective of the number of divisions. The Management Committee will decide on the appropriate structure of the league based on the number of entries and the current cricketing landscape.

d) 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 unless deemed necessary for regionalisation purposes in the lowest divisions

e) In special circumstances the Management Committee shall be able allow two teams from the same club to play in the same division. NOTE. This could be to facilitate the reduction of travelling or other special eventualities.

f) The Somerset Cricket League Championship and the J.C. Bail Trophy shall be awarded to the club finishing in first place in the Premier Division. This club shall be promoted to the WEPL Tier 3 (Somerset Division). In the case of more than one club being relegated from the WEPL the Management Committee reserves the right to make further relegations throughout the divisions.

g) If no club is relegated from WEPL the Management Committee reserves the right to change the promotion and relegation system.

h) 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'.

i) New clubs will normally be placed in the lowest division. The Management Committee can place a new club in a division other than the lowest but only if a resolution to take such action is carried by not less than 50% of the Committee present and voting at a duly convened meeting of the League Management Committee. When a new club is included under this rule in a division other than the lowest, then up to three clubs per division may be relegated.

2. FIXTURES

(a) Clubs shall play every other club in their division twice*, the fixtures to be compiled by the Management Committee for Saturdays. * Except in special cases when the Management Committee may determine that teams play each other more than twice.

(b) A fixture may be played on another day by mutual consent of clubs concerned, but only if such a change is notified to the league by 31st March by both clubs, and such alterations are not made for a date later than the last fixture set by the Management Committee except as allowed in Rule 2(c).

(c) Each team may initiate only two pre-arrangement per season. However, it can agree to any number of requests from its opponents. Both teams must agree to the change.

(d) In an emergency the Management Committee may allow changes made after the above date should such changes be made in writing at least 14 days before either the original date or the rearranged date, whichever is the sooner.

3. ADMINISTRATION

(a) General Meetings

i) The Annual General Meeting shall be called by the 15th January when the Management Committee shall be elected. All proposals for submission to the Annual General Meeting shall be notified to the Secretary not less than 42 days before that meeting and notified to all clubs 21 days before that meeting. Any club not represented at the Annual General Meeting will be fined £50. All voting on the proposals, which have previously been discussed at the Rules Meeting', will be on secret ballot sheets delivered to the AGM at the time of the AGM.

ii) An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by the Management Committee, or on receipt by the Secretary of a requisition signed by at least one third of the Member Clubs of the League. The business of the meeting shall be called within 21 days of the receipt of the requisition, with a minimum of seven days notice to all clubs. Any club not represented at the Extraordinary General Meeting will be fined £50.

iii) The Spring Meeting shall be called before 10th April for the purpose of distributing cricket balls and any other material. It will also be an information giving meeting. Any club not represented at the Spring Meeting will be fined £50.

iv) A 'Rules Meeting' shall be called by the 8th December if necessary. All proposals for submission to the Rules Meeting shall be notified to the Secretary not less than 42 days before the rules meeting and notified to all clubs 21 days before the rules meeting.

(d) Membership of ECB

All member clubs must affiliate to the England and Wales Cricket Board through membership of the Somerset Cricket Foundation to participate in the Somerset Cricket League.

(e) Club Public Liability Insurance Policy: All member clubs must have a current Public Liability Insurance Policy in existence to participate in the Somerset Cricket League. A copy of this policy must be displayed in the clubhouse and supplied to the league before the season starts.

(f) Club Details : Every club is required to provide information regarding the details of the club's officials and ground etc. in the 'Club Details Section' on the League's Play-Cricket website. This information must be displayed on the club's page by 28th February preceding the start of the season otherwise the club will be fined £20 and kept up to date to reflect any changes.

Every club is required to provide at least two e-mail addresses to receive all communications and correspondence.

(g) All clubs must appoint a Club Safeguarding Officer to conform to ECB mandatory rules. Clubs that fail to appoint a qualified person and/or fail to provide evidence to the League Safeguarding Officer shall not be permitted to play a league match until the documentation has been provided. These forfeited games will be treated under Rule 5 (b) Championship Points (iv) & (v). All Clubs must ensure their captains and vice captains hold current DBSs.

(h) 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 cover their expenses.

(i) Scorebook and Scoreboard: All teams MUST provide a scorebook (home and away) and a scoreboard at the home venue. Each game must have TWO scorers. If the fielding side cannot provide a scorer, the batting side must provide two. Captains must ensure that the names of all catchers and stumpings are recorded for entry on play cricket scorecard.

(j) Cancelled matches. 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.

4. ALTERATIONS TO RULES

Any club or the Management Committee may submit proposals for alterations to the Rules or may submit a new rule. Such proposals shall be considered by the Management Committee and sent to all clubs in the League, then submitted to the Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting and shall become effective if they are supported by a simple majority of one vote.

5. MATCHES

(a) Conduct of Matches.

Matches shall be conducted in accordance with the M.C.C. Laws of Cricket except for matters provided for in these Rules.

(b) Championship Points.

i) Wins shall count as fifteen points, a tie as eight points to each side and a loss as no points.

Note:- A tie results when both innings are completed and both sides have the same number of runs, irrespective of the number of wickets lost.

ii) No match may be called off before 4pm on the day of the match without the agreement of both Captains. iii) If the game is cancelled by the weather, each side shall be awarded twelve 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 on the first occasion, provided the match is cancelled by 8pm on the preceding Friday, but will lose 8 points if the cancellation is any later. To ensure that this is recorded correctly, this must be emailed to Registration/results secretary before the 8.00 pm deadline. Any further cancellations during the season will result in the defaulting side being awarded MINUS 5 POINTS per cancellation

vi) When a club with more than one team in the League is unable to fulfil all its fixtures on any match day, the most senior fixture(s) must be fulfilled.

Bonus points. In addition to the points as shown above, the following bonus points shall be awarded.

vii) Batting:-

a) For scoring 20 runs one point, and for each additional 20 runs scored, one further point up to a maximum of ten points for 200 runs.

b) A side batting second and winning shall be awarded one point for every wicket they have in hand at the end of the game, subject to the total of (a) and (b) being a maximum of ten points.

viii) Bowling:-

One point shall be awarded for the first wicket taken and an additional point for every wicket taken subsequently up to a maximum of ten points for ten wickets taken or the side bowled out if the team has less than 11 players.

ix). Division Prem & 1 clubs only. Both sides must complete its 45 overs within the time limit of 2 hours and 45 minutes. Failure to do so will incur a fine of 2 points deducted.

(c) Rules for Match Play

i) Matches will start at 1pm for 45 over divisions and 1.30pm for 40 over divisions. Any match can start earlier if both sides agree.

ii) There will be a 30-minute interval between innings and this interval must be no longer than 30 minutes, except as provided for in (iii).

iii) Should play cease due to the weather or bad light at any time after 3.30 pm., then the mid innings break must be taken. The Captains may agree to have the break during a spell of bad weather at any time before 3.30pm.

iv) In the event of the first innings being completed before 3.15pm, the second innings must start and after a minimum of 5 overs or by 3.45pm whichever is the later, a break must be taken.

v) **In the Premier and Division 1 a game will consist of a maximum of 45 overs per side**, except as provided for in (d)(i)(ii), (e) and (f) hereinafter.

vi) **In Divisions 2 to 7 a game will consist of a maximum of 40 overs per side** for matches except as provided for in (d)(i)(ii), (e) and (f) hereinafter.

vii) No bowler shall bowl more than 20% of the overs in any one innings. Should a match be restricted in overs prior to the start, the maximum overs to be bowled by any one bowler shall be one fifth of the permitted overs rounded up to a complete over.

vii) In the event of a match being affected by weather conditions and overs are lost a side bowling second is restricted in overs. In this situation, the maximum number of overs that can be bowled by any one bowler shall be one fifth of the permitted overs, rounded up to a complete over. Once the second innings has started, the maximum number of overs, calculated and agreed, may be bowled by any bowler irrespective of any further loss of overs due to weather conditions.

(d) Weather Conditions

Should the weather interfere with play for a total of 20 minutes or less, this time shall be disregarded. When the total time lost is over 20 minutes, overs shall be deducted at the rate of 15 overs per hour, from the total time lost.

i) In the event of a late start because of weather conditions, overs shall be deducted, and the remaining overs shall be divided equally between the two sides. A full match of 90 overs cannot start after 2.00 pm. or in Division 2-7 a full 80 overs match cannot start after 2.30pm and no match can start after 4.00 pm.

ii) If the weather interferes with play during the innings of the side batting first, this side may still use its allotted overs, should it so wish.

iii) All overs lost through weather conditions, once the game has started, shall be deducted from the side batting second.

iv) When the weather interferes with play for 20 minutes or more during the innings of the side batting first overs are lost. If the side batting first is bowled out, or declares, in less than 45 overs or 40 (Div 2 -7), then the overs unused by the team batting first must be added to the available overs of the team batting second. This calculation will be made after the subtraction of the total 'lost' overs has been made from the side batting second as in iii) above. The number of overs available to the side batting second may not exceed 45 overs or 40 in Div 2-7. Under the circumstances set out in this rule, should the side batting second fail to pass the total of the side batting first and are not bowled out then the result of the game is a rain affected draw and the points set out in Rule 5 d v) below apply.

v) If the weather interferes with play at any time and overs are lost, then a drawn match results, except in Rule 5 (d) i) above, and both sides will be awarded twelve points each plus bonus points accrued. However, a) if the side batting second scores more runs, even with reduced overs, then it wins the match or b) the side batting second is bowled out for a total less than that scored by the side batting first, even with reduced overs, then the side batting first wins the match.

(e) Leg Side Wides Premier and Division 1 Matches Only.

A legside wide shall be called if, irrespective of where the ball pitches, it passes outside the line of the batter and the leg stump, despite his movement.

(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.

iii) Any team which declares its innings closed will result in the fielding side receiving maximum bowling points.

(g) Late Starts.

If 9 players of any club are not ready to start at the appointed time, the umpires shall report the defaulting club to the Secretary. In the event of a late start for any reason other than the weather, the full number of overs shall still be bowled, subject to the delay not having exceeded 15 minutes. Should the delay exceed 15 minutes, the overs available after deducting at the rate of 15 overs per hour, shall be divided equally. In the latter case, the umpires shall inform both captains and scorers of the number of overs to be played.

(h) Choice of Innings.

The Captains shall toss for choice of innings before the start of the match.

(i) The Ball.

For all divisions, home sides must provide two new balls, one to be used for each innings. All balls used must be the standard league ball, as supplied by the Somerset Cricket League, and must be shown to the umpires and opposing captain prior to the toss being made.

(j) Players Leaving the Field of Play.

An incoming batter must pass the outgoing batter on the field of play. Umpires shall report any defaulting player in this respect, or one who wastes time unduly on the field of play.

A player shall not be allowed to leave or return to the field of play without the consent of the umpire and then can only return at the end of an over or the fall of a wicket. The field of play shall mean that part of the field within the boundary.

(k) Results and Team Sheets.

i) 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 entered on the Play Cricket website. Both sides are responsible for entering the result of the match and the full scorecard 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 results secretary immediately, by email. Failure to contact them will result in a fine of £10 and 3 points still being levied. Club submissions/appeals should be made to the Disciplinary Secretary.

(l) Performance Report on Umpire(s) Following a match in Premier and Division 1, both captains must submit a performance report on the umpire(s). The reports must be submitted through the SACO Who's the Umpire website. Teams are responsible for ensuring that the captain/other nominated individual submits the report by Midday 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 enter a Team Report via the play cricket website by Midnight on Sunday (or Monday for a Sunday Match). 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 and a £10 fine for the failure.

(n) Don Crouch Trophy. The average marks of ALL club teams, recorded in the team captains' reports, will determine the winner of the Don Crouch Trophy.

(o) Premier Division 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.

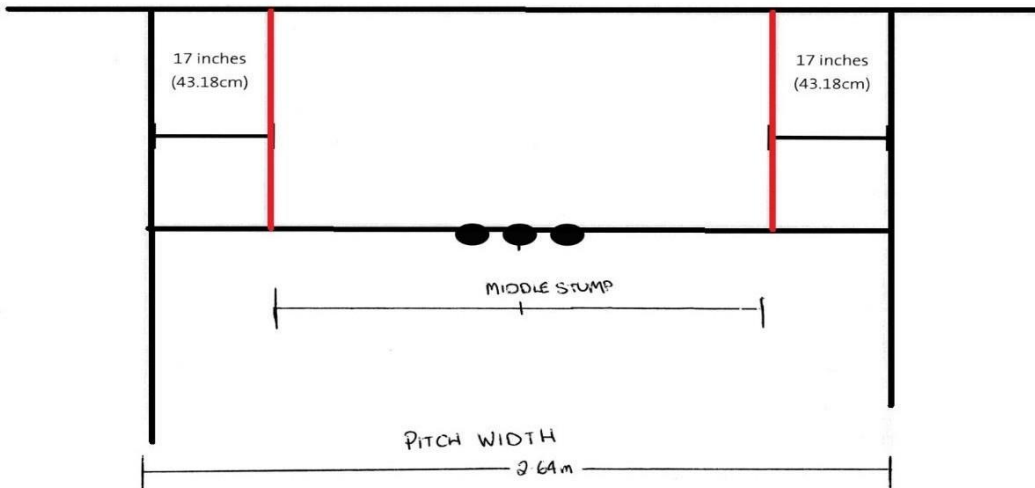
This fielding circle shall be marked with painted white dots at five yard intervals – each dot can be covered by a white plastic or rubber disc or in white marking measuring seven inches in diameter. Should this requirement not be met then the square leg umpire shall call and signal no ball and the delivery must be redelivered; this condition must be met regardless of the total number of fielders present (e.g. if a side has less than eleven players present).

(p) Leg Side Wides Premier and Division 1 Matches Only.

A legside wide shall be called if, irrespective of where the ball pitches, it passes outside the line of the batter and the leg stump, despite his movement.

(q) Wides – Pitch Markings

Wide lines to be painted in blue or red – 17 inches inside the edge of the crease lines. This is a guideline for wides and can be deemed not wide in an instance where the batter moves enough to warrant the ball being called a legal delivery.



(r) Players/Umpires are not permitted to drink alcohol at all during the match – **either on or off the field until match has been completed**. No drinks in glasses/glass bottles to be brought onto the field of play. Players/Umpires must not smoke or vape on the field of play

6. UMPIRES.

(a) Any competent person shall be eligible for appointment as an umpire and each club shall be responsible for providing such an umpire, except when an umpire is provided by the League.

(b) Reports by umpires or officials of a club shall be dealt with by the Management Committee in a manner to be laid down by this committee in line with the guidelines laid down by the England and Wales Cricket Board and that have notified to all clubs and umpires prior to the season.

7. PLAYERS.

(a) Registration of Players

Players shall be deemed registered when they have been registered on the Play-Cricket website and their registration has been approved by the Registration Secretary. 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 System during the season without being correctly transferred as shown in rule 7(b).

(b) Transfers

Transfers of players. Players may be transferred via the league website for approval by Registration Secretary. The player's current club will receive notice of transfer request by email from play cricket system and from have 5 days to respond/object. After this time has elapsed the player will be automatically transferred. No transfers will be accepted after 31st July each year – unless already within the system. This also applies to any player transferring from the SCL to any club in the WEPL Pyramid and vice versa.

Clubs cannot stop a transfer unless the player owes them money or is under a disciplinary.

(c) Contract Players

A player engaged as a contract player with any club outside the Somerset Cricket League shall not be allowed to play during the period of such engagement with any Somerset Cricket League Club, except by permission of the Management Committee. Any such registration must be made before 31st July each year.

(d) 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 July. (Form OP 2 applies – obtainable from league website). 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. 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 for record purposes.

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

(e) Loan players - Players may be loaned to another club if that club does not have enough of their own players to field a side. The loan player can only play in the lowest team of the club it is being loaned to and must follow team strengthening rules. Clubs must send by email loan form to registration secretary before match. Loan players must come from within the Somerset Cricket League.

(f) Minimum age of players

The League follows the ECB regulations on Open Age Cricket. The club must have explicit written consent from a parent or guardian before participating in league cricket and player must be registered. Clubs must put consent procedures in place to ensure that a letter is obtained for players in this age group before they play their first game for the club.

(g) Movement of Players

A club may have the registration of a player withdrawn by the Management Committee if written evidence from the player's previous/current club indicates that he has outstanding obligations to that club (ie. financial, disciplinary, or otherwise). There shall be no time limit regarding these outstanding obligations and the decision of the Management Committee shall remain in force until the situation has been satisfactorily resolved by the agreement of all parties.

(h) 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. The Spirit of Cricket should be always considered.

If a batter/bowler are dropped by the club's selection committee due to loss of form, a loss of form will be defined as a poor run of 3 consecutive matches, then they may take a normal part in the next lower team only, without restriction. If the player is dropped through more than one team level, he must adhere to the batting/bowling conditions shown below.

A higher-level player will be defined as a player that has played more than 3 games in row for the higher team from the start of the season.

A higher-level batter playing in a lower-level team for any other reason other than poor form should not bat higher than No. 7

A higher-level bowler playing in a lower-level team for any other reason other than poor form should not bowl before the expiry of the 25th Over.

On the occasions when higher level players are helping due to the lack of the normal players then the maximum number of such players shall be 3 players. Batting and bowling rules shall apply as above.

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 opposition to an alleged offending team may bring this to the attention of the disciplinary officers of the League within 4 days of the match.

All matches will be monitored by the League.

If a situation arises that is not covered above it is the club's responsibility to inform the League of the situation before the game is played **Clubs should check with the League if they are unclear or in doubt of the rule or to check eligibility before playing the player.**

8. GROUND COMMITTEE.

On receipt of a complaint regarding any ground, the Management Committee will work with the Somerset Cricket Foundation Grounds Committee which shall inspect such ground and report on its fitness or otherwise.

9. TROPHIES.

Perpetual trophies shall be returned to the Honorary Secretary by 31st August each year. Trophies are to be returned in the same condition as received and any loss or damage to such trophies shall be borne by the club holding the trophy.

10. OTHER.

(a) Matters not covered by the Rules. In the event of any question or event arising which is not specifically covered by these Rules, the Management Committee shall have the power to deal with it and inflict such penalties as may be considered necessary.

(b) Committee Decisions.

All decisions made by the Management Committee in the interpretation of all rules, or on any matters concerning the business of the Somerset Cricket League, shall be final and binding on all parties.

(c) ECB Code of Conduct. Clubs and members of the Club shall be governed and participate in the game according to the Model Discipline Regulations comprising the ECB Code of Conduct, the Spirit of Cricket, the Regulations for Leagues and clubs. This statement is published on league website.

(d) The Somerset Cricket League has adopted and implements the ECB Safe Hands – Cricket's Policy for Safeguarding Children and any future versions of the policy, the ECB Cricket Diversity & Inclusion Policy and any future versions of this policy and the ECB Anti-Discrimination Code and any future versions.

(e) The Somerset Cricket League has adopted the ECB Disciplinary Code – which can be found on our website.