

## **1 Structure**

The Warwickshire County Cricket League (WCCL) shall be structured as follows:

Divisions of 12, 10, 8 and 6 teams playing each other once or twice in league competitions as determined by the committee.

In these Playing Regulations and any other relevant WCCL documentation, in the 2020 season any reference to Premier Division shall mean either Premier Division (East) or Premier Division (West); any reference to any of Divisions 1 to 9 (inclusive) shall be deemed to mean a division which plays win/lose cricket and any reference to any another division shall be deemed to mean a division which plays win/lose/draw cricket.

## **2 Registration of Players**

- 2.1 Only players who have been registered with the WCCL in accordance with these Playing Regulations shall be eligible to play in WCCL Matches.
- 2.2 A player may not be registered for two different clubs within the ECB Pyramid structure, the Birmingham Cricket (Parks) League or any other organised Saturday cricket league simultaneously in a given season. Dispensation is given to players studying or working away from home for extended periods. By exception, players wishing to play in two leagues should obtain the approval of the General Manager by 8pm on the Thursday before his first match for the new Club. Registration of players shall be valid only when a Club has completed a registration on the Play Cricket web site and this has been approved by the WCCL. All WCCL Clubs shall supply such particulars of their playing members as shall be requested by the Committee. Players who normally play for a clubs or teams which are not participating in 2020 league competitions may hold dual registration with 1 other club in the WCCL for the 2020 season. This will be removed on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020.
- 2.3 Each Club's playing membership shall be recorded on their Play Cricket website
  - 2.3.1 All Divisions

Clubs shall be permitted to register new players right up to the start of the first match in which those players shall be playing. If a player is not registered on the Play Cricket web site the captain shall inform the opposing captain and Umpires. The "NEW" players shall be added to Play Cricket web site and submitted to the General Manager for approval within two days from the day of the match or the Club may be deemed to have played an unregistered player. The club registering the new player will check the scorecard for the match concerned and add the missing player if necessary.
- 2.4 Any new player registered after the 22nd August shall be ineligible to play in the Premier Division.
- 2.5 It shall be the responsibility of each Club, should it so wish, to check the opposition Club's registrations to verify that the opposition players have been properly registered.
- 2.6 Should a Club believe that another Club has transgressed the Registration Rules, it shall be the responsibility of any Club prejudiced thereby to inform the WCCL Disciplinary Chairman or General Manager as soon as possible and in any event within 14 days. If the Disciplinary Committee deems that there is any doubt about a registration (or lack of registration), the Disciplinary Committee shall request the

“offending” Club to supply as full details of the player as deemed necessary by the Disciplinary Committee

- 2.7 A player who has been properly suspended by any properly constituted Club or League (whether WCCL or not) shall be ineligible to play in any WCCL organised match for the period of the suspension.
  - 2.7.1 The suspension period imposed by WCCL or by any WCCL club will be designated in games and will be measured and administered against the requisite number of WCCL games. For the avoidance of doubt games played in other leagues or friendlies do not count to the ban, however other leagues affiliated to the ECB and the WCB will be informed and they may uphold the ban in their competition for the period of the WCCL ban.
- 2.8 The onus of proving the allegation to the Committee shall be placed on the “non-offending” Club.
- 2.9 Should the Committee have found that a Club has used an unregistered or improperly registered player in a match, league points may be deducted as prescribed in Section 12 “Penalties for Offences against Rules and Regulations”.
- 2.10 Any Club found to be in flagrant disregard of regulation 2.9 could face expulsion from WCCL at the discretion of the hearing committee. The minimum applicable penalty will be that in the following season the offending team will be relegated at least one division and the club may be asked to provide at the management committee’s discretion photographic membership cards for all club members for a period of time determined by the management committee.

### **3 Transfers**

- 3.1 Players moving from any Club which plays in an organised Saturday league within the ECB Pyramid structure regardless to if it uses the Play-Cricket registration system or not (including but not limited to the Birmingham and District Premier Cricket League, any other ECB Premier League, the Shropshire County League, the South Staffs County League, the Worcestershire County League, the Cotswold Hills League and the Birmingham Parks League (Saturday competition) to a WCCL club are regarded as a transfer unless given exception under regulation 2.2. A player who plays for a Club which is a member of more than one of those leagues however may also register for the same Club in the WCCL. For the avoidance of doubt, a Club as part of the registration process should request any new player to declare whether he is registered for another Club within the ECB Pyramid structure. For the 2020 season note that players who are normally at clubs or teams which decides not to play in 2020 league competitions may dual register for 1 other WCCL club for the 2020 season only.
- 3.2 Any player registered in the WCCL who subsequently then plays for another Club in a recognised Saturday league within the ECB Pyramid structure as defined in 3.1 will be deemed to have left the club and the WCCL will remove the players registration. This removal takes affect from the date the player plays his first match with that other Club. The player will then need to re-register and be subject to the WCCL transfer regulations.
- 3.3 Any transfer request will be entered into the Play Cricket web site and submitted to the General Manager. A Club may only refuse to accept a transfer, where the player to be transferred is in debt to that Club and/or is subject to disciplinary procedures within that Club. In such cases the Club should object on the Play-Cricket system stating their reasons.
- 3.4 Clubs are expected to approve or object to transfers within 5 days if the transfer is within WCCL or 7 days if a club outside WCCL is involved. The WCCL will assume a transfer is approved once that time period expires unless an objection has been received. If a Club needs to expedite this process then that Club must contact the other Clubs involved and ensure they approve on Play-Cricket. At the General Manager's discretion an email which can be validated to be from a Club officer can be accepted in lieu of the Play-Cricket confirmation.
- 3.5 In the case of dispute of the facts the Club withholding the transfer may be asked to provide proof of such debt or disciplinary issue to the Management Committee who will then adjudicate as to if the transfer can take place or not. The Management Committee may also allow (or not) the transfer on a temporary basis whilst such factual dispute is resolved.
- 3.6 A transfer shall only be deemed sanctioned by the WCCL when the transferred player's new registration has appeared on the Play Cricket website.
- 3.7 Any player transferred to a WCCL club after 22nd August shall be ineligible to play in WCCL matches for the remainder of that season save the management committee may exercise its discretion if to so would be equitable. This Regulation shall apply to all

Clubs, irrespective of their Division. Transfers in process where there is a dispute as long as submitted before the 30<sup>th</sup> June will be processed.

- 3.7.1 Any player is only permitted two transfers in to WCCL clubs within any period from 1 October to 30 September unless the Committee accepts that there is good reason.
- 3.7.2 It is the responsibility of the receiving club to consult with the player's parents/guardians and the incumbent's club coach for all players under the age of 16 before requesting a transfer.
- 3.7.3 Any Club which the Committee decides has transgressed this Regulation shall be liable to forfeiture of league points as prescribed in Section 12 "Penalties for Offences against Rules and Regulations".

#### **4 Moving players between teams**

4.1 This regulation is suspended for the 2020 season

#### **5 Player Categories**

The following definitions of player categories apply to all divisions of the WCCL. They may differ from the other West Midlands group of county premier leagues and from those of the BDPCL. Clubs in the WCCL premier division should be aware that eligibility for the play-offs will be based on the BDPCL regulations.

The WCCL has adopted the ECB definition for player categories with some local modifications, and these shall be used when requesting a registration on Play Cricket.

**Category 1** - A player who is qualified to play for England under the current ECB definition, and is not a category 2 player. In addition, any other person, even where that person does not qualify under the ECB definition who holds a valid British or EU passport shall be deemed to be a Category 1 player subject to their being notified to the General Manager of the League in writing seven days before playing their first match and the League granting approval provided that any such player so approved might not be eligible to play in Premier Division play-off matches

**Category 2 - Contracted Player** - to a first class county - Any contract a player has with a first class county, irrespective of its type, will make him a contracted player.

**Category 3 - Overseas Player** - a player who is not qualified to play for England and is also not an EU citizen.

**Category 3E - Overseas Player (Exempt)** - a player who is not qualified to play for England and is not an EU citizen but has been a permanent resident in England, Wales, Scotland, The Channel Islands, or the Isle of Man for a period of 18 months immediately before his registration

**and** who during the 18 month period has not been out of the Countries named for longer than 35 days consecutively or 70 days in total

**and** for whom any remuneration from cricket is not the main source of his income.

In addition, any other person who has a valid UK visa or UK residence rights permitting such person to live in the UK who is an amateur (as defined by the ECB from time to time) shall be deemed to be a Category 3E player subject to their being notified to the General Manager of the League in writing seven days before playing their first match and the League granting approval

**6 Restrictions of Paid, Category 2 and Category 3 players**

**6.1 Paid and Contracted Players**

6.1.1 Category 2 players are not allowed in the WCCL.

6.1.2 A Club shall submit to the Committee on request written details of any payment in money or kind made to a player.

**6.2 Overseas Players**

6.2.1 Category 3 - Overseas players:

shall be restricted to 1 per club in the Premier Division but shall not be eligible to play in Divisions 1 through 3 of the WCCL.

Exceptions may be granted by the committee in cases where the player is in the UK as a student, or to work on a work permit, where that person obtains no payment of any kind related to participation in cricket; such players will be categorized as Category 3E. Note Category 3E – Overseas players (Exempt) are allowed without restriction in all divisions of the WCCL.

6.2.2 Should any Club be found to transgressed this Regulation, league points shall be deducted as prescribed in Section 12 “Penalties for Offences against Rules and Regulations”.

**7 Fixtures (including unfulfilled matches)**

- 7.1 The WCCL shall produce fixture lists for the 2020 season based on confirmed entries by clubs received 10 days before the season start date. The management committee reserve the right not to amend fixture lists should Clubs withdraw after this date.
- 7.2 In the event of a fixture being unfulfilled for other than climatic reasons, or unforeseeable circumstances beyond the control of a Club (for example riot, civil commotion, infestation of wasps or bees or illegal occupation of land), with the approval of the Committee the match shall be awarded to the “non-offending” team and league points shall be deducted as prescribed in Section 12 “Penalties for Offences against Rules and Regulations”.
- 7.3 All fixtures should be played on the team’s main ground as notified to WCCL before the start of the season.
  - 7.3.1 If a Club is unable to use its main ground on one or more of the dates designated by the Committee, the Club can apply, before the fixtures are finalised, for dispensation to move a fixture to another ground. The Committee will endeavour to arrange the fixtures such that the higher ranked team sharing a ground has an away fixture on that day.
  - 7.3.2 If after the fixtures are finalised a team finds its ground is unavailable it may apply to the Committee to move a specific fixture to an alternate ground. The committee may also give Clubs by mutual consent leeway to move fixtures to alternate grounds and/or dates as long as the 2 Clubs concerned and the General Manager agree, with the General Manager receiving at least 7 days’ notice of such request. The fixture must take place on any Sunday, any bank holiday, or any free Saturday during the season.
  - 7.3.3 Any alternate ground must meet the Ground & Facilities criteria laid down and must have been identified, sufficiently early, to allow for the ground, if new, to be audited. The ground must be located within the geographical area covered by WCCL, and should, ideally, be in reasonable proximity to the Club's home ground.
  - 7.3.4 If dispensation is granted, the second ground will be treated, for the purposes of any sanctions that may be imposed, for failure to meet the Club Standard as if it were the home ground of the Club.

## **8 Match Results & Reports**

- 8.1 The Home Club shall be responsible for reporting the result of each WCCL match to the General Manager by:
- Completing the WCCL Results form from a mobile phone or online on either the WCCL Web site or Play-Cricket before 10pm on the evening of the match,  
and forwarding the completing the online form with details of the umpire marks no later than five calendar days from the day after the match  
and completing the scorecard on the Play Cricket web site no later than five calendar days from the day after the match.
- The home and away clubs are responsible to ensure the play cricket scorecard is complete and no players marked as “unsure” appear in the batting or bowling on such scorecards.
- 8.2 The Away Club shall be responsible for:
- Completing an on-line match report marking the umpires and ground no later than 5 five calendar days from the day after the match.  
Checking the result for accuracy of scores and points allocation.  
Checking and updating their details on the play cricket scorecard where ‘unsure’ appears or where there are material errors.
- 8.3 Where a result has not been notified by the Home Club in accordance with the WCCL’s directions as stipulated above, the offending Club may have league points deducted as prescribed in Section 12 “Penalties for Offences against Rules and Regulations”.
- 8.4 Where a result has not been correctly entered on play cricket and a club does not rectify this within 7 days of notification by WCCL, the offending Club may have league points deducted as prescribed in Section 12 “Penalties for Offences against Rules and Regulations”
- 8.5 Where a match report has not received and a club does not rectify this within 7 days of notification by WCCL, the offending Club may have league points deducted as prescribed in Section 12 “Penalties for Offences against Rules and Regulations”.  
Where a result and points allocation have been placed onto the WCCL web site any club has 7 days from submission to question and ask for a correction if there is a factual inaccuracy in the result reported or points calculation. After 7 days a non-disputed result and points allocations becomes final and cannot be changed even if subsequently found to be in error.

**9 Promotion and Relegation**

- 9.1 There will be no promotion and relegation and clubs will revert to their original 2020 placement for the start of the 2021 season.
- 9.2 League position will be decided on points gained.
- 9.3 If in the 2020 season restrictions on clubs due to Covid 19 and related factors cause matches to be postponed leading to an uneven number of matches per team in a division the committee will meet and determine the fairest way to determine the winner.
- 9.4 In the event of two or more sides finishing equal on points then in order to ascertain their respective finishing positions in their respective Divisions, both generally and for the purpose of promotion and relegation, the positions shall be determined in the following manner:
  - i) The side with the most number of wins shall be placed higher.
  - ii) If there are still two or more sides with an even number of points in equal position then the side with the most number of ties shall be placed higher.
  - iii) If there are still two or more sides with an even number of points in equal position then their position shall be decided by the result of the matches played between each other in that season, i.e. the side obtaining the highest number of points in the matches shall be placed the higher.
  - iv) If there are still two or more sides with an even number of points in equal position, their position shall be decided by the drawing of lots in accordance with a procedure determined by WCCL.

## **10 Umpires**

### **10.1 Definition**

Umpires shall be classified as follows:

Level

1. PANEL Qualified (as evidenced by ECB ACO examination pass or length of service)
2. REGISTERED CLUB, who shall be on a WCCL Approved List and who shall act as an Umpire for one Club only
3. OTHERS, who shall be permitted to Umpire a match providing both captains agree
4. PLAYERS, who normally shall be members of the two teams playing the match

### **10.2 Appointment and Authority**

10.2.1 Umpires at Levels 1 be approved by the WCCL. WCCL will appoint Level 1 Umpires to selected matches

10.2.2 Umpires at Level 2 will umpire their own Club's matches but be deemed appointed by the WCCL.

Such Umpires will be registered in advance with WCCL and meet all of the following criteria:

- Have at least a club umpire's certificate issued by WCCL, or be ACO qualified to Level 1, or have an acceptable qualification gained through previous experience
- Have a valid cricket safeguarding clearance based on a cricket DBS check
- Hold either through ACO membership or through club membership suitable insurance.

Clubs are also encouraged to register their own Club Level 2 Umpires and the WCCL will appoint them to their 2<sup>nd</sup> (or lower) team fixtures as advised.

10.2.3 Umpires at Levels 3 and 4 shall be treated as equal in terms of their powers and authority.

10.2.4 Where WCCL is unable to provide a Level 1 Umpire, Clubs are encouraged to provide their own Level 2 or 3 Umpire i.e. an Umpire associated with the Club, but NOT one of the players on that day.

The Clubs will accept each other's nominated Umpires

Any Level 1 or 2 Umpire, if standing alone, can if he wishes stand at the bowler's end for the entire match, with a Level 3 or 4 Umpire standing at square leg.

Any Level 3 Umpire standing alone will be entitled to stand at one end throughout one innings and with the consent of the batting captain may also stand at the bowler's end in that innings.

### **10.3 Fees**

10.3.1 Umpires shall receive an attendance fee, the amount of which shall be settled by the Management Committee before the start of the season.

10.3.2 Where an Umpire at Level 3 or 4 officiates with an Umpire at Levels 1 or 2, and the Level 3 or 4 Umpire stands at square leg at all times, the Level 1 or Level 2 Umpire

shall receive an increased fee as shown in the table below. The attendance fees for 2020 and subsequent seasons shall be as follows:

Level	Normal	Standing Alone
1	£40	£60
2	£30	£50
3	At the discretion of captains	
4	Nil	Nil

10.3.3 Where a Club provides a Level 2 Club Umpire under clause 10.2.2. who then stands with a Panel Umpire, the Club which provides the Level 2 Umpire will pay the Level 2 Umpire's fee and the other club will pay the Panel Umpire at the rates above

In all other cases fees will be shared equally between the Clubs. Where a game is cancelled due to weather conditions with no ball having been bowled and the Umpires have travelled, they will be entitled to claim up to a maximum of 50% of the fees shown in 10.3.2.

10.3.4 Non-payment of Umpires' fees, without the agreement of the Umpire(s), shall be deemed a disciplinary offence and the offending Club(s) shall be liable to the forfeiture of league points as prescribed in Section 12 "Penalties for Offences against Rules and Regulations".

#### 10.4 General

10.4.1 All Clubs are encouraged to assist with the recruitment of new Umpires, and the Management Committee are prepared to consider suitable financial assistance and reward.

10.4.2 All Clubs are required to record the names of all Umpires officiating in all matches in their scorebooks, on match report and if applicable to that division on the Play Cricket web site.

10.5 In the event of any likelihood of cancellation of the match for climatic reasons, the Official Umpire(s) shall be responsible for contacting the Home Club to establish whether or not the match will be played.

In the event of a ground inspection being deemed necessary or other factors affecting the match, the Home Captain shall be responsible for making reasonable efforts to inform the appointed Umpires and/or the WCCL Umpires Chairman.

10.6 Commencement of a match shall not be delayed should either or both of the appointed Umpires be absent. If alternative arrangements acceptable to both sides cannot be made, then players from the batting side shall stand. In this event the captains shall be totally responsible for their players' actions in fulfilling their duties as replacement Umpire(s). Any late arriving umpire will be allowed to take his place on the field on arrival.

10.7 If an Umpire feels it necessary to report a player or Club to the WCCL because of misconduct and/or any other offence, then the Umpire will make reasonable efforts to advise both captains and the Officials of the offending Club prior to leaving the ground of that intention and the reasons why. Failure to notify will not in itself be accepted as a defence in any disciplinary hearing.

## **11 Official Scorers**

Each club should endeavour to provide a scorer independent of the players. The home scorer will be the primary scorer in any match.

## **12 Penalties for Offences against Rules and Regulations**

There are a number of penalties described in the Rules, Playing Regulations and Playing Conditions which will be applied automatically following the following procedure.

- 12.1 For offences committed before the start of the season (i.e. missed meetings, failure to pay fees) the general manager will post the penalty on the WCCL web site and apply the penalty as soon as possible after the start of the season and in any event before the end of May.
- 12.2 For offences committed during the season (i.e. those in the table in section 12.5) the General Manager will record the penalty, which could either be a warning or a points deduction on the WCCL web site within 7 days of the day of the match.
  - 12.2.1 Any person believing an offence has been missed has 10 days from the date of the offence to notify the general manager of such fact. The general manager will then investigate, notify the clubs concerns and record the penalty, which could either be a warning or a points deduction on the WCCL web site.
  - 12.2.2 If two or more outstanding offences are discovered in which the time frames above have been exceeded where the first offence would be a warning and the second or subsequent offences a points deduction, no points deduction will be made, and the warning will be recorded on the WCCL web site. (i.e. the principle is a warning when specified will precede the penalty)
- 12.3 A Club has the right of appeal for 7 days after the penalty is displayed on the web site, otherwise the penalty becomes final. These penalties by their nature are automatic, however an appeal may be allowed should be a material dispute on the facts or should there appear to be exceptional circumstances relating to the offence.
  - 12.3.1 Only the offending Club shall have the right of appeal.
  - 12.3.2 Notice of Appeal setting out the grounds for appeal must be given in writing to the General Manager.
  - 12.3.3 Should the Committee determine there were material factual inaccuracies or it is reasonable to accept the circumstances where exceptional they may waive the Penalty. Alternatively the committee may determine an Appeals Hearing is necessary, or dismiss the appeal.
  - 12.3.4 If an Appeal Hearing is allowed then the offending Club will be provide a deposit of £50.
  - 12.3.5 The Appeal shall consist of a Hearing before an Appeals Panel, The composition of the Appeal Panel shall be at the discretion of the Chairman of WCCL or the Disciplinary Chairman and shall consist of three persons, none of whom shall be connected with the Club or their opponents at the time of the alleged breach. Members of the Appeal Panel (one of whom shall be nominated as Chairman) shall normally be drawn from WCCL's Executive Committee members; where this is not possible, suitable persons

shall be co-opted. The Club shall have rights of attendance, representation and calling of witnesses.

12.3.6 The Appeal Panel may reverse the Penalty if they believe there are factual inaccuracies or exceptional circumstances. The Appeal Panel shall have the power award the costs of the Appeal Hearing against the offending Club. Decisions of the Appeal Panel shall be by majority vote; where necessary, the Chairman shall have a casting vote. The decision of the Appeal Panel shall be final and binding.

12.3.7 If the Appeal is not upheld at an Appeals Hearing, the deposit of £50.00 will be retained as costs by WCCL.

12.4 Any alleged Rules or Regulation breaches not dealt with in this regulation 12 will be referred to a Disciplinary Sub Committee hearing and the Disciplinary process followed

12.5 Summary of offences with automatic penalties

WCCL Playing Regulations 2020

<b>OFFENCES AGAINST</b>	<b>WHO</b>	<b>PENALTY</b>
Playing Conditions 3.3.1 Match balls	Home team	5 points
Playing Regulations 2 and 3 (Registrations, Transfers)	Offending team deducted	75 points for each offending player with a further 25 points for each subsequent game played in by the offending player. The committee may also reverse the result of the match and award or deduct points accordingly
Playing Regulations 6 (Paid/Contracted Players, Overseas Players)	Offending team deducted	15 points for each offending player and for each game played in by the offending player
Playing Regulations 7 (Fixtures, including Unfulfilled Fixtures)	Non-offending team awarded unless 50% or less of matches within the WCCL complete to Win, Lose or Draw on the original fixture date	24 points in Win Lose Draw Cricket, 20 points in Win Lose
	Offending team deducted	0 points
Playing Regulations 8 (Match Results) Failure to send in the match result in time	Offending team deducted for 2nd & subsequent offences	1st offence warning 2nd offence 2 points
Playing Regulations 8 (Match Report Forms) Failure to forward the Match report Forms in time	Offending team deducted for 2nd & subsequent offences	1st offence warning 2nd offence 2 points
Playing Regulations 8 (No scorecard on Play Cricket)	Offending team deducted for 2nd & subsequent offences	1st offence warning 2nd offence 2 points
Playing Regulations 8 (Scorecard incorrect and not rectified within 7 days)	Offending team deducted for 2nd & subsequent offences	1st offence warning 2nd offence 2 points
Playing Regulations 10 (Umpires Fees)	Offending Team deducted	1 League point per umpire