

## **1. Structure**

- 1.1. The Warwickshire County Cricket League (WCCL) shall be structured as follows:
  - Band 1 - County Premier Division (Level 2)
  - Band 2 - Divisions 1 to 5 (Level 3)
  - Band 3 - Divisions 6 and 7 (Level 4)
  - Band 4 – Divisions 8 to 11 (Level 5).
- 1.2. For the purposes solely of the end of season Birmingham and District Premier Cricket League play-off matches, the County Premier Division will have common playing directives and conditions with the Shropshire, South Staffs and Worcestershire County leagues' premier divisions. Those directives and conditions are set out in the County Premier Division play-off playing conditions and playing directives and where provisions are specified in those documents which conflict with these regulations, they take precedence in respect of play-off matches.
- 1.3. New Clubs joining the WCCL shall be placed by the Committee in the Division which it shall deem best represents their playing ability and Club Standards and which is equitable taking into account the interests of existing member clubs.
- 1.4. Only a Club's 1<sup>st</sup> XI will be allowed promotion into the County Premier division.
- 1.5. A Club's 2nd XI will not be promoted into the same or higher division than the Club's 1st XI, with similar restrictions being placed on a Club's 3rd XI, 4th XI, and so on. The only exception to this regulation is that two teams from the same Club may play in one of the bottom regionalised divisions.

## **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.
- 2.3. Each Club's playing membership shall be recorded on their Play Cricket website
- 2.4. Registration of New Players
  - 2.4.1. County Premier Division and Divisions 1, 2 and 3 only.

Clubs intending to play new players shall register them by completing and submitting a registration request on the Play-Cricket web site, to be received by

the General Manager by 8.00pm on the Thursday prior to the match in which the player shall be used.

2.4.2. Divisions 4 and below

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.

- 2.5. Any new player registered after the 30th June shall be ineligible to play in the Premier division or Divisions 1 through 5 save the Management Committee may exercise its discretion if to do so would be equitable in the sole discretion of the Management Committee.
- 2.6. Clubs may loan players from other clubs in the WCCL or external to the WCCL to complete their lowest ranked team in Division 8 and below. Such a loan player needs to be cleared with the General Manager in advance and registered on play cricket as a loan. The General Manager will generally reject any loan request for players who have played 2 or more matches at a level higher than the requesting team in the past 12 months unless there are exceptional circumstances.
- 2.7. 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.
  - 2.7.1. 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 Discipline 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
- 2.8. 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.
  - 2.8.1. 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 League games. For the avoidance of doubt games played in other leagues or friendlies do not count towards 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.

- 2.9. The onus of proving the allegation to the Committee shall be placed on the “non-offending” Club.
- 2.10. 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”.
- 2.11. Any Club found to be in flagrant disregard of regulation 2.10 will face a 75 point penalty and could face expulsion from the 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 of whether 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
- 3.2. 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 avoidance of doubt, this regulation applies to the WCCL T20 competition as well as WCCL league matches. Only those players eligible to play for a WCCL club in its league matches may play for that club in its T20 matches.
- 3.3. 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 player’s 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.
- 3.4. 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.
- 3.5. Clubs are expected to approve or object to transfers within 5 days if the transfer is within the 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.

- 3.6. 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.
- 3.7. A transfer shall only be deemed sanctioned by the WCCL when the transferred player's new registration has appeared on the Play Cricket website.
- 3.8. Any player transferred to a WCCL club after 30th June 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. In addition the League reserves the right (whether prospectively or retrospectively) to deem a player ineligible if it ascertains that a player was a registered player in another league and there was a transfer in to the League and out again for the purpose of allowing that player to take advantage of differences between the dates on which the two leagues' fixtures fall.
- 3.9. 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.
- 3.10. 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
- 3.11. 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. No Club shall be permitted to play a regular player from a 'parent' team (any team higher in the club's hierarchy) in a lower division team after the last fixture in July. A regular 'parent' team player is defined as a player who meets either or both of the following tests:
  - 1) He/she has played in 70% or more of that club's relevant fixtures in the season concerned in higher division teams; or
  - 2) 50% or more of that player's individual appearances in the season concerned have been in higher division teams save that this second test will not apply if the player has played six matches or fewer in the season concerned.
- 4.2. A list of such players will be published on the WCCL web site at the end of July. Where the parent team is in a higher pyramid league, the burden of responsibility is with the Club to ensure players are not moved having played more than the requisite number of matches in the higher league ahead of application. It is not the intention of WCCL to prevent the free movement of players between teams, but it must guard against the manipulation of results which may affect league placing. Therefore, an

exceptions process will be in place which allows WCCL to consider an exception before 8pm on the Thursday before the game in question. Late requests will not be considered. Failure to comply will result in the standard penalties for fielding ineligible players.

- 4.2.1. A club may apply for an exception from this rule if exceptional circumstances exist, which will need to be approved in advance by the WCCL cricket subcommittee.
- 4.3. It shall be the responsibility of the any Club prejudiced thereby to report the matter to the General Manager or Disciplinary Chairman. Should any Club be found to have transgressed this Regulation, league points shall be deducted as prescribed in Section 12 "Penalties for Offences against Rules and Regulations".

## 5. Player Eligibility

- 5.1. The WCCL is a predominantly amateur league open to all participants who are legally present in the UK.
- 5.2. Payments fall in the categories of direct payment to play and indirect payments i.e. benefit in kind such as airfares, accommodation, or coaching and grounds work payments. Any direct or indirect payments are deemed to make the player paid to play.
- 5.3. Players may be paid providing that their immigration status allows it.
  - 5.3.1. Clubs need to abide by the home office and ECB managed migration regulations which prevent some overseas players participating as they are deemed to be professionals unless they have a specific visa type with club and ECB sponsorship.

The guidance which could change from time to time can currently be found at <https://www.ecb.co.uk/about/policies/regulations/overseas>.

Clubs should also note that the definition of a professional sportsperson is wider than simply payments being made. For example, previously having played for overseas professional or regional team may make a player professional. <https://resources.ecb.co.uk/ecb/document/2022/11/29/46a9c0b7-fece-4282-ba49-6abffe69691a/Overseas-Players-Amateur-v-Professional-February-2022.pdf>

Payments are one of several considerations in determining if an individual has professional status and clubs should if in any doubt refer to the ECB and obtain a written ruling.

- 5.4. The following groups of players are viewed as **ineligible**
  - 1) Players who are under age as defined by the ECB directives for open age group cricket.
  - 2) Any county contracted player defined as Category 2 by the ECB
  - 3) Any player who has represented an ICC affiliated country team at U19 or above in this or the previous season.
- 5.5. Clubs may also only play paid players or players deemed by the home office /ECB to be professional or professional sportspersons in their highest ranked WCCL team

unless a specific exception is granted in advance by the WCCL management committee or their representative.

5.6. The WCCL eligibility criteria may well differ from those used in other leagues and national ECB competitions which implement player categories and limitations on numbers in those categories who may be selected at the same time. Therefore whilst a player may be eligible for the WCCL, clubs cannot assume they will also be eligible to play in other leagues or ECB national competitions, including for instance the BDPCL play offs.

## **6. Section 6 removed**

## **7. Fixtures (including unfulfilled matches)**

7.1. The WCCL shall produce fixture lists for each season detailing dates and start times. Fixtures will be based on WCCL membership as at the 31<sup>st</sup> December and 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”.

7.2.1. The “offending” Club shall also liable to pay the appropriate fees to the appointed Umpires unless they can be re-appointed to another fixture.

7.2.2. The “offending” Club shall place the result on the WCCL website using the WCCL results APP and obtain an email confirmation from the results service.

7.2.3. The offending Club shall also be liable to a fine of £30 for any match cancelled before 12 noon on the preceding Thursday.

7.2.4. Any away club cancelling after 12 noon on the preceding Thursday will be fined £100 and any home team £30.

7.3. Where a Club is unable to fulfil all its league fixtures on a particular date, the Club shall cancel the fixture of the team in the lowest division.

A team failing to complete 3 fixtures shall be placed bottom of the division concerned and after conceding 5 fixtures all the results from that team’s fixtures will be removed from league tables and the Club shall be deemed to have resigned that team’s WCCL membership completely and will have to reapply to readmit that team to WCCL in any following season. Readmission in the same season shall not be permitted.

7.4. All fixtures should be played on the team’s main ground as notified to WCCL before the start of the season.

7.5. 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.

- 7.5.1. 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 Standards, as if it were the home ground of the Club.
- 7.6. There will be times when an event external to cricket causes disruption to the League's fixture programme. An external event is something outside the control of a club or its members. Player unavailability is generally within a Club's control unless a major external event affects multiple clubs. Religious festivals or major external cultural or sporting events and pandemics, fall into this category, but a club tour, wedding, birthday, players outing or similar event at a single club in generally does not. Ground availability caused by events outside a Club's control, such as ground closure by the landlord, booking out of a ground to another event like a fete or the landlord determines another sport would have priority are all also potential issues. We would not want to exclude a club because any one particular date was unavailable. These issues can occur with notice or become last minute issues. For instance, illegal occupation of a ground by travellers has occurred in the past and this is usually a last-minute incident. A religious event is usually known about in advance although in some cases the actual day of the event may only be known until later. A clash with another booking made by the landlord for a town event or another sport is usually known prior to the season start. The notice available depends on the incident but the principle is communication should be made as soon as reasonably practical.
  - 7.6.1. The League has to balance giving some limited relief to clubs with issues against the impacts on the opposition and the integrity of the competition. Clubs can approach the League with an issue, and the League will assess if that issue falls into the exceptional circumstances as per the guidelines above as amended from time to time.
  - 7.6.2. Alternatively, the League can declare that exceptional circumstances apply across the League as a whole or subset of the League due to a general event. Having determined an exceptional circumstance applies the club(s) suffering the effects would be expected to make reasonable attempts to either obtain an alternate ground on the same day and/or rearrange the fixture within the season.
  - 7.6.3. The club with issue must give the opposition at least 3 possible dates as long as there is enough time remaining in the season to do so. No rearrangements will be allowed after the day which is fourteen days before last league fixture in the division.
  - 7.6.4. The opposition has the right to accept a date or propose alternate date(s). If no date can then be found the opposition team has the option to void the fixture; with the Clubs then receiving their average points for the season (rounded to the nearest point) for that fixture.
  - 7.6.5. Any club will be allowed 2 requests per season with the League exceptionally allowing a third request providing the first 2 had not both resulted in voided matches. There are other provisos to protect the integrity of competition. The League will also expect both clubs involved in a rearranged fixture to take steps to ensure sides chosen for matches on the original dates and any revised dates

reflects normal selection policy, specifically players from higher teams will not be demoted to make up a side.

- 7.6.6. Any player having played 3 or more matches at a higher level in the previous 12 months (for that club or any other) will only be allowed by exception.
- 7.6.7. If the date of a fixture is moved and the League programme on the original date is substantially affected by weather cancellations (more than 50% of the remaining matches or 75% of the matches in that division) the rearranged match will be adjudged as abandoned regardless of any actual result.
- 7.6.8. In order to use these exceptions, the club must apply to the League which will determine whether an exception is reasonable.
- 7.6.9. The club applying for the exception is responsible for communication to the League. All communication must be in advance and in good time and be acknowledged and agreed by the League in a written format.
- 7.6.10. The League has the final say on an exception and can refuse either the exception, the revised date or any revised ground or place reasonable additional provisos on the rearrangement. The League's decision in this respect is final and binding and not subject to appeal.

## **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 completed online form with details of the umpire marks no later than two 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.
- 8.2. 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.
- 8.3. The Away Club shall be responsible for:  
Completing an on-line match report marking the umpires and ground no later than two 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.
- 8.4. Where a Play-Cricket team sheet contains an unregistered or free text player and this is not rectified within 7 days of notification by the League, the general penalties for playing an unregistered or ineligible penalties will apply as per Section 12. Also see regulation 2.3.3.
- 8.5. 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”.

- 8.6. 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”
- 8.7. 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. General Principle**

**The General Principle of promotion and relegation shall be “two up, two down”. However, there are factors which will influence the Committee’s operation of the General Principle including:**

- **The promotion and relegation requirements of its County League status with the Birmingham & District Premier Cricket**
- **Regulation 1.3 and 1.4**
- **Regulation 9.4**
- **Clubs and Teams may join or leave WCCL.**

9.2. For promotions from Division 5 to Division 4 two teams from each of the Division 5 regionalised divisions will be promoted and four teams from division 4 will be relegated noting that there may be some movement of teams to allow suitable regionalisation.

9.3. 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:

9.3.1. The side with the greatest number of wins shall be placed higher.

9.3.2. If there are still two or more sides with an equal number of points in equal position then the side with the greatest number of ties shall be placed higher.

9.3.3. If there are still two or more sides with an equal 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.

- 9.3.4. If there are still two or more sides with an equal number of points in equal position, their position shall be decided by the drawing of lots in accordance with a procedure determined by WCCL.

#### 9.4. Factors influencing Promotion and Relegation

##### 9.4.1. Relegation from the Birmingham & District Premier Cricket League

It is possible that more than zero, one or two teams eligible for WCCL may be relegated from the Birmingham & District Premier Cricket League, in which case the League shall be compelled to accept those teams. It is possible that the WCCL champions do not get promoted within the play-off system to the Birmingham & District Premier Cricket League. It is equally possible a WCCL club is promoted to the Birmingham & District Premier Cricket League and no club is relegated. Such scenarios would mean that there could potentially be more or less than 12 teams in the County Premier Division. In such a case, the team finishing third or fourth from bottom of the County Premier division, could be relegated or the team third in Division 1 could be promoted, in order that the number of teams in the County Premier Division remains at 12.

- 9.4.2. Such an action would then mean that the promotion and relegation outcomes for Clubs in Divisions below the County Premier Division are affected.

#### 9.5. Resignations

- 9.5.1. In the event of a Club resigning from WCCL prior to, or during, the current season and of the league structure having been fixed for the following season, that Club shall be designated as bottom of its division and shall be deemed to be a "relegated" Club.

- 9.5.2. Where resignations have affected the number of Clubs in any Division, in order to achieve the appropriate number of Clubs for that Division, the Committee shall have the right to include a Club from outside WCCL or not to relegate a Club or to promote an extra Club (or extra Clubs) from Divisions below.

- 9.5.3. If the League chose to promote a club under regulation 9.4.2.2 the normal process would be to promote the highest ranked Club from the division directly below, but the committee can consider under exceptional circumstances promoting a club from any lower division, if such club can show all of the following: all of its on the field performances are extraordinary in the previous season having won a lower division by more than 60 points and having suffered no more than 1 loss; it will retain the same playing strength for the following season; it meets all club standards for the higher level; and it has off field facilities comparable to other teams in the division it would be promoted to.

- 9.5.4. In exceptional circumstances clubs may apply to the League to be relegated 1 or more divisions due to changes in club circumstances. The League may accept or decline such application in its sole discretion.

#### 9.6. Club Standards

- 9.6.1. Promotion for all Bands shall be subject to satisfying the Club Standards for the Division, into which the Club is seeking promotion.

- 9.6.2. No Club shall be promoted to the County Premier Division unless all the

elements appropriate to that Division shall have been met by the 30th September following the season in which promotion was won.

9.6.3. Subject to Regulation 9.6.2 which shall prevail over this Regulation 9.6.3 in respect of promotion to the County Premier Division, clubs gaining promotion to a higher Band will commit to have all elements needed for the higher Band in place by the end of the following season.

9.6.4. If a Club's Club Standards during the season shall have fallen below the appropriate Club Standards for its Division, the Club shall be notified by the Committee and shall have until 30th November of that year to rectify the situation. Failure to implement the required improvements may result in relegation to a Division appropriate to the Club's current Club Standards.

9.6.5. The Committee shall have the right to relocate any Club which has not achieved the Club Standards for its Division into the Division appropriate to its level of Club Standards. Any Club relegated on one or more of the Club Standards criteria, including Clubmark is required to demonstrate **compliance within the season** ahead of re-promotion to the higher Band.

9.6.6. Where a Club, which would normally be promoted through its playing performance, has failed to achieve the Club Standards appropriate to the higher Division or elects not to be promoted at its own request or is ineligible pursuant to regulation 1.4, it shall not be promoted and the next highest placed Club shall, if it has achieved the appropriate Club Standards and wishes to be promoted and is eligible notwithstanding regulation 1.4, be promoted save that no club which finishes fifth or lower will be promoted under this regulation and in such case the Club which would normally have been relegated shall remain in that higher Division.

9.6.7. Where a Club achieves an average ground mark less than the thresholds set for pitch performance on 8 or more marks from WCCL panel Umpires that Club will be relegated 1 division for the following season irrespective of league position.

9.6.7.1. The thresholds for pitch preparation, pitch performance and outfield performance are

- Band 1 - 14
- Band 2 -12
- Band 3 - 12
- Band 4 - 10

9.6.7.2. Any incident where any of the three marks of pitch preparation, outfield or pitch performance drop to 1 less than these thresholds on three consecutive reports will be investigated by the grounds committee and an action plan will be prepared by the club for approval by WCCL.

9.7. In December each year, the General Manager shall communicate to each Club its position in WCCL for the following season. After that point, those league positions

may still be subject to adjustment should a Club have resigned from WCCL in the intervening period up to and including 31 January of the following year.

#### 9.7.1. Appeals

Any Club which feels its promotion or relegation issues have not been properly assessed shall have the right to appeal within 14 days of the receipt of the communication referred to in regulation 9.5. Such appeals will be heard by the Cricket Sub-Committee by no later than the 31 January. Any decisions by the Sub-Committee are binding upon the Club and no further appeal shall be accepted. Any appeals after the 31 January shall not be accepted.

## 10. Umpires

### 11. Definition

Umpires shall be classified as follows:

LEVEL 1: PANEL Qualified who shall be on the approved list of panel umpires. Panel umpires will have taken an appropriate ECB ACO course with certification.

LEVEL 2: REGISTERED CLUB, who shall be on the League's Approved List of Club Umpires and who shall act as an Umpire for one Club only. Club registered umpires will have taken either an appropriate ECB ACO course with certification or taken the online MCC Laws course with an associated certificate showing end of course assessment at the basic or intermediate level.

LEVEL 3: OTHERS, who shall be permitted to Umpire a match providing both captains agree

LEVEL 4: PLAYERS, who normally shall be members of the two teams playing the match

### 10.2 Appointment and Authority

10.2.1 WCCL will appoint Level 1 Umpires to selected matches

10.2.2 Umpires at Level 2 will umpire their own Club's matches but will be deemed appointed by the WCCL. Such Umpires must be registered in advance with WCCL

10.2.3 All umpires at Levels 1 and 2 shall have valid cricket safeguarding clearance based on a cricket DBS check and hold either through ACO membership or through club membership suitable insurance that covers personal accident and public liability.

10.2.4 For Clubs with 2nd teams in Divisions 2 to 5 East and West of the WCCL, registration of at least one Club Level 2 Umpire is mandated by the 1st of April preceding the start of that season and that Club shall provide a Club Level 2 Umpire for that Club's home second team matches. The umpires secretary by exception may allow a Club leeway to provide an umpire for an away fixture rather than a home fixture. Failure to register or provide an Umpire as stipulated above will result in a penalty as described in Section 12 "Penalties for Offences against Rules and Regulations".

10.2.5 Clubs with teams in Divisions below 5 East and West are also encouraged to register their own Club Level 2 Umpires and WCCL will appoint them to their 1st, 2nd (or lower) team fixtures. Any Club registering and providing a Club Level 2 Umpire for

a match below Division 5 East and West will receive 1 bonus point for every 2 occasions it occurs in a single division.

10.2.6 Where the 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. Club umpires at Level 2 will be shown against the fixture on the league's website provided a club or the umpire has notified the League in advance that he /she will stand in the game.

10.2.7 Any Level 1 or 2 Umpire, if standing alone, can if he/she 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.

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.

10.3.4 Where a Level 2 Club umpire stands at the bowler's end for both innings with a Level 3 or Level 4 umpire at square leg then BOTH clubs will pay an equal share of the fee due in the table below.†

10.3.5 Where a game is cancelled due to weather conditions with no ball having been bowled and a Level 1 Umpire has travelled they will be entitled to claim up to a maximum of 50% of the fees shown in the table below.

10.3.6 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 provisions of the WCCL Playing Regulations 2023 of league points as prescribed in Section 12 “Penalties for Offences against Rules and Regulations”.

10.3.7 Fees should be paid before the commencement of the game. They may be paid using an online method if the Umpire agrees. If the Umpire does not agree, then the fees must be paid in cash.

Table of umpire fees (2024 and subsequent seasons until further alteration)

Level of Umpire	Standing with panel or club	Standing alone and umpiring at bowler’s end for whole game
1 (Panel)	£50	£70
2 ( Club)	£40	£60
3 (Other)	Club discretion	Club discretion
4 ( Player)	None	None

#### 10.4 General

10.4.1 All Clubs are encouraged to assist with the recruitment of new Umpires, and the League will periodically advertise relevant courses in association with the ECB and the Warwickshire Association of Cricket Officials.

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

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.

10.5 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.

10.5.1 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.

10.5.2 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

This section 11 shall be mandatory only in respect of the Premier Division but shall also be a guide to good practice in lower divisions.

11.1 The scorers should be totally under cover and the box (or room provided) should be of an acceptable standard, maintained inside and outside in good condition. The board should be clearly visible from the pavilion and throughout the field of play.

11.2 A competent non-playing scorer shall be provided by each team.

- A competent scorer is considered to be a person who:
- has basic knowledge of the Laws of Cricket;
- has basic knowledge of scoring procedures;
- has a knowledge of umpires' signals and is able to communicate appropriately with umpires;
- is able to identify all individual players of the team for which they are scoring.
- It would normally be expected that a competent scorer would be scoring on a regular basis and is likely to be aged 13 or over.

11.3 Scorers are urged to acknowledge umpires' signals by displaying a white or coloured disc or a light which can be clearly seen from the middle.

## 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 on the WCCL web site ideally within 7 days of the day on which the offence was notified to him.

12.3 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 concerned and record the penalty on the WCCL web site.

12.4 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)

12.5 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.

12.5.1 Only the offending Club shall have the right of appeal.

12.5.2 Notice of Appeal setting out the grounds for appeal must be given in writing to the General Manager.

12.5.3 Should the Committee determine there were material factual inaccuracies or it is reasonable to accept the circumstances were exceptional they may waive the penalty. Alternatively the committee may determine an Appeals Hearing is necessary, or dismiss the appeal.

12.5.4 If an Appeal Hearing is allowed then the offending Club will be provide a deposit of £50.

12.5.5 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 Discipline 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.

12.5.6 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.

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

12.6 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.

Summary of offences with automatic penalties

<b>OFFENCES AGAINST</b>	<b>WHO</b>	<b>PENALTY</b>
Rules 7.8.4 Not attending meetings	Offending Club's first team (see note above)	5 points
Rules 9 Non-payment of subscriptions	Offending Club	No points awarded to any team until payment is made
Playing Conditions 3.3.1 Match balls	Home team	5 points
Win Lose Draw, Playing Conditions 6.2 Slow over rates	Offending team	1 <sup>st</sup> offence – 1 pt. 2 <sup>nd</sup> offence – 2 pts 3th offence – 4 pts and doubles for each subsequent offence

WCCL Playing Regulations 2024

<b>OFFENCES AGAINST</b>	<b>WHO</b>	<b>PENALTY</b>
Playing Regulations 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8.3 (Registrations, Transfers, Moving players between higher and lower teams, Eligibility, Unregistered players on team sheet)	Offending team deducted	10 points for each offending player. For flagrant offences the committee may take a Club to hearing and if found liable the penalty will be 75 points. The committee at its discretion may also reverse the result.
Playing Regulations 7 (Fixtures, including Unfulfilled Fixtures)	Non-offending team awarded	20/24 points dependent on match type  4 Points
	Offending team deducted	5 points if before Thursday 12 noon 10 points if after Thursday 12 noon
Playing Regulations 8 (Match Results) Failure to send in the match result in time, excluding 8.3 (see above)	Offending team deducted for 2nd & subsequent offences	1st offence warning 2nd offence 2 points 3rd and subsequent offences 4 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 3rd and subsequent offences 4 points
Playing Regulations 8 (No scorecard on Play Cricket)	Offending team deducted for 2nd & subsequent offences	1st offence warning 2nd offence 2 points 3rd and subsequent offences 4 points
Playing Regulations 10.2.2 (Club Umpires)	Offending team (2 <sup>nd</sup> XI)	24 points per season
Playing Regulations 10 (Umpires Fees)	Offending Team deducted	1 League point per umpire
Playing Regulations 11 (Official Scorers) – County Premier Division only	Offending Team deducted	First Offence Warning Second & subsequent offences - 2 points per offence