

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 4 (Level 3)

Band 3 - Divisions 5 to 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. 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

Only players who have been registered with the WCCL in accordance with these Playing Regulations shall be eligible to play in WCCL Matches.

2.1. Registration of New Players

2.1.1. County Premier Division and Divisions 1 to 4 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.

2.1.2. Divisions 5 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

- 2.2. Clubs should be aware that the other regulations contained in these Playing Regulations may result in a player who is properly registered under this Regulation 2 nevertheless not being authorised to play in a match,
- 2.3. 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.
 - 2.3.1. Dispensation may be given to players studying or working away from home for extended periods. No dual registration will be permitted amongst the feeder leagues of the Birmingham & District Premier Cricket League, or with any league neighbouring the Warwickshire County Cricket League subject to the provisions of regulation 2.8 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.
- 2.4. 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.
- 2.5. All WCCL Clubs shall supply such particulars of their playing members as shall be requested by the Committee.
- 2.6. Each Club's playing membership shall be recorded on their Play Cricket website
- 2.7. Any new player registered after the 30th June shall be ineligible to play in the Premier division or Divisions 1 through 4 save the Management Committee may exercise its discretion if to do so would be equitable in the sole discretion of the Management Committee.
- 2.8. 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.
- 2.9. 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.
- 2.10. 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 of sight of the completed online scorecard. 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
 - 2.10.1. The onus of proving the allegation to the Committee shall be placed on the "non-offending" Club. In adjudicating, a test of "on the balance of probabilities" will be applied.
 - 2.10.2. 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".

3. Registration of Players

3.1. A player who has played in any ECB Pyramid structure Saturday league in the current season will be considered to be a transfer, regardless of whether they have a current club registration. Any player who has an active registration, will also be considered a transfer. This regulation applies regardless of whether the departing club / league uses the Play Cricket Registration System and includes the Birmingham Parks League (Saturday competition), amongst others.

3.1.1.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.

3.2. 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 effect 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.

3.7.1.Premier Division and Divisions 1 to 4 only.

A transferring player is only eligible for selection where the departing club has approved the transfer by 8pm on the Thursday prior to the match in which the player shall be used.

3.7.2.Division 5 and below only

A transferring player is only eligible for selection where the departing club has approved the transfer prior to the start of the match in which the player shall be used. The League Duty Manager will not be able to confirm whether such approval is in place.

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 30th 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

It is not the intention of WCCL to prevent the normal free movement of players between teams. This regulation aims to protect teams against their opponents taking advantage when they have "higher" teams without a fixture or manipulating results to affect end of season league placings.

- 4.1. No Club shall be permitted to play a regular player from a 'parent' team (any team higher in the club's or a previous club's hierarchy) in a lower division team under the following circumstances:
 - When the parent team has no fixture scheduled
 - When a parent team fixture has been abandoned in advance of the scheduled matchday
 - After the last fixture in July.
- 4.2. A regular 'parent' team player is defined as a player who meets either or both of the following tests over the qualification period defined in regulation 4.3 or 4.4 as applicable
 - 4.2.1. He/she has played in 70% or more of that club's relevant fixtures in the qualification period in higher division teams (and "the club's relevant fixtures" shall include fixtures played by the player for another WCCL club from which the player has transferred);; or
 - 4.2.2. 70% or more of that player's individual appearances in the qualification period 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 qualification period.
- 4.3. For fixtures scheduled in April to July (inclusive), the qualification period will be defined as all Saturday League fixtures played in the current and previous season.
- 4.4. For fixtures scheduled in August and September, the qualification period will be defined as all Saturday League fixtures played in the current season.
- 4.5. For the purposes of fixtures scheduled in August and September, 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. For the avoidance of doubt, no such list will be published in respect of fixtures from April to July (inclusive) and the burden of responsibility for compliance will lie with the Club.

4.6. 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.

4.6.1. To request an exception, clubs must email the General Manager before 8pm on the Thursday before the game in question. Late requests will not be considered

4.6.2. Failure to comply will result in the standard penalties for fielding ineligible players.

4.7. 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

Preamble: The WCCL is a predominantly amateur league. To be eligible to participate, players must be legally present in the UK and in the case of Overseas Visitors, meet the ECB, Home Office, HMRC and WCCL eligibility criteria to participate in amateur sport.

Guidance for clubs, 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 eligibility of a player could vary from season to season or within a season, particularly but not limited to if they play representative cricket outside the UK. A registration completed under WCCL regulation 2 does not indicate that the player is an eligible player. Clubs and players should note that nothing in these Regulations constitutes a definitive statement of the legal position and clubs and players must consult the relevant legal and regulatory authorities and sources.

When interpreting references to “Professional or Semi Professional” within ECB Guidance clubs and players should consider all forms of representative cricket (i.e. not merely Club vs Club).

Payments fall into the categories of direct payment to play and indirect payments i.e. benefits 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.

A Category 1 player cannot have played as a non-overseas player in any ICC Full Member country in the 12 months to 1st April preceding the start of the season.

Additionally, a Category 1 player must hold British or Irish Citizenship OR be an EU Citizen with pre-settled status OR have been resident in England and Wales for a minimum of 210 days between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025.

If these conditions are not met, then the player is considered Category 3.

Such criteria may change and WCCL shall apply such criteria as it considers meet legal, ECB and WCCL criteria from time to time.

The WCCL eligibility criteria may well differ from those used in other leagues and national ECB competitions. 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

Regulations

- 5.1. In order to participate in the WCCL, participants must be legally present within the UK and eligible to participate in amateur sport.
- 5.2. Players may be paid, providing that their immigration status allows it.
- 5.3. In the WCCL Premier Division only, teams are limited to one Category 3 player per fixture. Category 3 players should be registered as such with the General Manager, through the standard Player Registration Process.
- 5.4. Additionally, at all levels of the WCCL, the following groups of players are ineligible:
 - 5.4.1. Players who are under age as defined by the ECB Recreational Cricket Safety Guidelines
 - 5.4.2. Any county contracted player defined as Category 2 by the ECB.
 - 5.4.3. Any player who has represented an ICC affiliated country team at U19 or above in this or the previous season.
 - 5.4.4. Any person in the UK on a Standard Visitor Visa.
- 5.5. 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.
- 5.6. Clubs may also only play paid players or players deemed by the Home Office/ECB to be professional sportspersons in their highest ranked WCCL team unless a specific exception is granted in advance by the WCCL management committee or their representative.
- 5.7. Any breach of these regulations, if proven, will result in the player being deemed ineligible and the team for whom they participated will be subject to sanctions as defined for ineligible players.
- 5.8. By participating in the WCCL clubs and players accept that the WCCL may pass details about such clubs and players to any relevant government department, including the Home Office and HMRC, and to ECB irrespective of whether there is a legal duty to do so.

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 31st 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 be 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.
 - 7.4. 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.
 - 7.5. All fixtures should be played on the team’s main ground as notified to WCCL before the start of the season.
 - 7.5.1. 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.
 - 7.5.2. 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 divisional table being determined by the average points per game
- 7.6.5. 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.
- 7.6.6. 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.
- 7.6.7. In order to use these exceptions, the club must apply to the League which will determine whether an exception is reasonable.
- 7.6.8. 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.
- 7.6.9. 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 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.

8.3. Where a result or match report is not received in accordance with the WCCL's directions as stipulated above, the offending Club will have league points deducted as prescribed in Section 12 "Penalties for Offences against Rules and Regulations".

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.

8.5. Where a scorecard 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 will have league points deducted as prescribed in Section 12 "Penalties for Offences against Rules and Regulations"

8.6. 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

Divisional Tables

9.1. 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:

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

9.1.2. 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.

9.1.3. 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.

9.1.4. 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.

9.2. Resignations

9.2.1. In the event of a Club resigning from WCCL prior to, or during, the current season or prior to 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.

Promotion and Relegation

9.3. 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 1.4
- Regulation 9.4
- Clubs and Teams may join or leave WCCL.

9.4. To be eligible for promotion, teams must meet the club standards of the higher division, in line with Regulation 9.6.

9.5. The following outline process will be followed

9.5.1. Any side relegated from the Birmingham & District Premier Cricket League will be placed in the highest division permitted by their club and ground standards.

9.5.2. The General Principle of 2 Up, 2 Down will be applied

9.5.3. If after the application of 9.5.2 there are more teams than required in a given division, then additional teams will be relegated until the division has the correct number of participants.

9.5.4. If after the application of 9.5.2 there remains a vacancy in a given division the league committee will fill the vacancy by one or more of the following actions:

9.5.4.1. Promote the third placed side from the division below. Where there are two or more regions in the lower division, the committee will have discretion on who to promote.

9.5.4.2. Promote a side eligible for a multi-division promotion as defined in Regulation 9.5.8

9.5.4.3. Position a new entrant to the league into the vacancy. Such a team must demonstrate to the committee’s satisfaction that they meet the club standards for the division and are of competitive playing strength.

9.5.5. If after the application of 9.5.4 there remains a vacancy in a given division, the league committee will either:

9.5.5.1. Promote the fourth placed side, from a 12 team division only.

9.5.6. If after the application of 9.5.5 there remains a vacancy in a given division, the league committee will:

9.5.6.1. Not relegate one or more teams from the higher division

9.5.7. If the application of 9.5.6 is unable to fill all vacancies, then the management committee shall have the discretion to fill the vacancy by whatever means necessary.

9.5.8. A team may apply for a multi-division promotion under exceptional circumstances if all of the below apply:

- The team has won a lower division by 60 points or more
- The team suffered no more than one lost fixture
- The club can demonstrate that it will retain the same playing strength in the following season
- The club meets all required club standards for the higher level

9.5.9. Meeting the criteria as laid out in 9.5.8 does not imply that a multi division promotion will be granted. Acceptance will be at the sole discretion of the committee, as per regulation 9.5.4

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

9.6.6.1. The thresholds for ground marks are:

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

9.6.6.2. The thresholds for outfield marks are:

- Band 1 - 8
- Band 2 -7
- Band 3 - 7
- Band 4 - 7
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9.6.6.3. Any incident where any of the three marks of ground or outfield marks 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.

Appeals

9.8. 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 9.7. 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

Definition

10.1. 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 score of greater than 75% at the basic 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

Appointment and Authority

10.2. WCCL will appoint Level 1 Umpires to selected matches

10.3. 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 and will be listed on the league website.

10.4. 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.

10.5. For Clubs with 2nd or lower teams in Divisions 3 to 6 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

10.5.1. The club shall provide a registered Club Level 2 Umpire for that Club's home second or lower team matches.

10.5.2. Each club will only be required to provide a club umpire to their highest non-1st XI team within Division 3 to Division 6

10.5.3. The umpires secretary by exception may allow a Club leeway to provide an umpire for an away fixture rather than a home fixture.

10.5.4. Failure to comply with regulation 10.5 will result in sanctions as defined in Regulation 12.

10.5.4.1. For the 2025 season, no sanctions will be applicable to teams in Division 6, where said club did not require a club umpire under the previous regulation. The General Manager has informed clubs who have a requirement to provide a club umpire.

10.6. Clubs with teams in Divisions below 6 are also encouraged to register their own Club Level 2 Umpires and WCCL will appoint them to their 1st, 2nd (or lower) team fixtures.

10.6.1. Any Club registering and providing a Club Level 2 Umpire for a match below Division 6 will receive 1 bonus point for every 2 occasions it occurs in a single division.

10.7. 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. Non publication of the appointment of the Level 2 umpire does not impact their status, however they are expected to be present for the entire fixture.

10.7.1. 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.

10.8. 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. When no Level 1 or 2 umpires are present, a level 3 umpire may, at their discretion, stand at the bowlers

end for the entirety of the batting innings of their club. They may also stand in the bowling innings of their club with the consent of the opposition captain

Fees

- 10.9. Umpires shall receive an attendance fee, the amount of which shall be settled by the Management Committee before the start of the season.
- 10.10. 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.
- 10.11. Where a Club provides a Level 2 Club Umpire under clause 10.3 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.
- 10.12. 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.
- 10.13. 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 sanctions as prescribed in Section 12 “Penalties for Offences against Rules and Regulations”.
- 10.14. 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 (2025 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

- 10.15. Where an umpire has travelled to a game, they will be entitled to 100% of the applicable fee if the game is still active (not abandoned or completed) 3 hours after the scheduled start time. The full umpire fee is also due for any fixture which starts, regardless

of how much play is possible. In other circumstances, umpires are entitled to 50% of the applicable fee, should they travel to a game.

- 10.16. 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.
- 10.17. In the event of any likelihood of cancellation of the match for climatic reasons, the Home Club shall be responsible for contacting the Match Officials, see Playing Condition 2.1
- 10.18. 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.
- 10.19. 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.

11. Official Scorers

- 11.1. Teams in the Premier Division are required to provide a competent non-playing scorer to all of their fixtures.
- 11.2. Teams in Band 2 (Division 1 to Division 4) are required to provide a competent non-playing score to all of their home fixtures only
 - 11.2.1. This regulation 11.2 is suspended for the 2025 season.

- 11.3. 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.
- 11.4. A competent non-playing scorer is considered to be a person who:
- has basic knowledge of the Laws of Cricket;
 - has good 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.
- 11.5. Failure to comply with this regulation will be subject to the Penalties laid out in Regulation 12
- 11.6. Where a single club provides a non-playing scorer for the entire fixture, the scorer may claim a £10 expenses allowance from the non-providing team. This shall apply even if the other club provides a scorer for part of the fixture.
- 11.7. 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.
- 12.3.1. Having received such a notification the General Manager will investigate and has the ability to call a hearing if required to establish the facts. Such a hearing will follow the process laid out in Regulation 12.5.5
- 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. The General Manager will inform the club of the imposition of a penalty. A Club has the right of appeal for 7 days after the notification is received, 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. The general manager will record the penalty on the WCCL web site.

12.7. 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

OFFENCES AGAINST	WHO	PENALTY
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 Condition 2.1 – Cancellation Processes	Home Club	5 points per reported breach. The committee may also award the match to the Away side, where a game is cancelled without compliance with the process outline in the Playing Condition.
Playing Condition 3.1 – Matchday Requirements	Home Club	5 points per reported breach. The committee may also award

OFFENCES AGAINST	WHO	PENALTY
		the match to the Away side, where insufficient play is possible to achieve a result, through non-compliance with the Playing Condition.
Playing Conditions 3.3.1 Match balls	Home team	5 points
Win Lose Draw, Playing Conditions 6.2 Slow over rates	Offending team	1 st offence – 1 pt. 2 nd offence – 2 pts 3rd offence – 4 pts and doubles for each subsequent offence
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 to limitless penalties, including relegation or expulsion from the league. Where an ineligible player participates, the match will be awarded to the non-offending club. The committee at its sole discretion may waive this penalty. .
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	20/24 points dependent on match type 4 Points
Playing Regulations 7 (Fixtures, including Unfulfilled Fixtures)	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)	Home team deducted for 2nd & subsequent offences	1st offence warning 2nd offence 2 points 3rd and subsequent offences 4 points

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OFFENCES AGAINST	WHO	PENALTY
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 10.52.2 (Registration Club Umpires)	Offending team (2 nd XI or lower)	24 points per season
Playing Regulations 10.5.1 (Registration Club Umpires)	Offending team (2 nd XI or lower)	8 points per fixture less than 10 officiated.
The maximum penalty applicable under 10.5 and 10.5.1 combined will be 24 points		
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