

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE KENT REGIONAL CRICKET LEAGUE

The object of the League shall be to promote and encourage the game of cricket amongst member clubs.

The Constitution incorporates;

The Playing Conditions
The Voluntary Code of Conduct
The Spirit of Cricket
The Disciplinary Process

1. TITLE

1.1 The Kent Regional Cricket League. This title may be amended from time to time to incorporate the name of a sponsor.

1.2 Honorary Life Vice-Presidents may be elected at the League's Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting. Nomination for Honorary Life Vice-Presidents is to be first approved by the Management Committee and nominated to the League at its Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting.

2. COMPOSITION OF THE LEAGUE

2.1 The League will consist of divisions in the "first eleven" competition and division in the "second eleven" competition. Clubs are required to fulfill all their fixtures as a condition of membership of the League. The Leagues will be structured as determined by the committee.

2.2 Additional Divisions may be implemented at the discretion of the management committee.

3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Applications for membership shall be considered by the Management Committee, whose decision shall be final.

3.2 Clubs in recognised or affiliated Leagues may be granted Associate Membership at the discretion of the Management Committee upon terms to be determined from time to time.

3.3 Any club resigning membership of the League are required to notify the League's Honorary Secretary at the earliest possible time and at least 28 days in advance of the Annual General Meeting of the League.

3.4 Clubs are required to follow the ECB Guidelines on matters including, inter alia, Code of Conduct and Spirit of Cricket, Safe Hands and Child Welfare. Details may be found on their website at www.ecb.co.uk

4. CONDITIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

4.1 Membership of the League, and of each Division, shall be dependent upon grounds and facilities commensurate with the standard of cricket to be played.

4.2 Clubs undertake to use their best endeavors to provide optimum playing facilities, and must comply with mandatory requirements that the Management Committee may from time to time stipulate.

4.3 Clubs are required to comply fully with the Playing Conditions of the divisions in which they participate.

4.4 Clubs and their players are responsible at all times for conducting themselves in such a way as to uphold and enhance the good name and interests of the Kent Cricket Regional League and its sponsors.

4.5 All members of the League shall be fully paid up affiliated members of the Kent Community Cricket.

5. GENERAL COMMITTEE

5.1 One representative from each Club, properly elected by that Club and with a mandate to vote on its behalf, shall form the General Committee.

5.2 The General Committee shall elect the President

5.3 All officers shall retire annually but shall be eligible for re-election.

5.4 The Chairman of the League shall chair meetings of the General Committee. In his absence, he may appoint a deputy who shall have the powers of the Chairman in relation to the conduct of the meeting.

5.5 The General Committee shall meet at such times as the business of the League may require.

5.6 Associate Members shall have none of the privileges of full membership of the League and shall not be entitled to vote, nor to attend meetings except at the invitation of the Management Committee.

6. QUORUM

6.1 An attendance of 40 members of the General Committee shall constitute a quorum.

7. VOTING POWERS

7.1 Each member of the General Committee shall have one vote. The Officers and members of the Management Committee shall not have a vote save that, in the event of an equality of votes; the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

8. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

8.1 The General Committee shall elect a Management Committee to organize, direct and administer the business of the League, which shall include, inter alia, management of the finances of the League.

8.2 The Management Committee shall consist of Chairman, Secretary, Minutes Secretary, Treasurer, Fixture Secretary, West Divisions Director, East Divisions Director, Premier Division Director, Rules & Disciplinary Officer, Results & Registration Secretary East & West, Ground & Facilities and 4 Divisional reps.

8.3 The Management Committee shall be empowered to interpret and enforce the Constitution and the Playing Conditions of the League, and to take such action as it sees fit in its unfettered discretion to uphold the reputation and standards of the League.

8.4 The Management Committee shall meet at the discretion of the Chairman, and shall have the power to co-opt additional members as required.

8.5 The Management Committee shall determine the number of Clubs in each division and the detailed arrangements for promotion and relegation within the context of the Constitution.

8.6 The Management Committee shall assess new clubs joining the League on both playing strength and facilities and place them in the most appropriate division (s).

8.7 The Management Committee shall assess whole leagues joining the League on playing strength, facilities and geography and place them within the most appropriate part of the divisional structure.

8.8 The Management Committee shall appoint other sub committees as required, and shall nominate the representative from the League to sit on the Kent Cricket League management committee.

8.9 The Management Committee may propose resolutions and rule changes to General Meetings of the League, and nominate officers for election.

8.10 Each elected member of the Management Committee shall have one vote at Management Committee meetings. Co-opted members may not vote. In the event of an equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a casting vote. An attendance of Five members of the Management Committee shall constitute a quorum.

8.11 The Management Committee may delegate executive responsibility for certain areas to individual members of the Committee. Individuals so authorised to act on behalf of the Management Committee shall be deemed to be acting with the authority vested in the Management Committee itself by the Constitution and the Playing Conditions.

8.12 All members of the Management Committee and officers of the League shall be indemnified out of the assets of the League, and against any liability incurred by them in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgment is given in their favour or in which they are acquitted or in connection with any application in which relief is granted to them by the Court from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the affairs of the League.

9. GROUND SUB COMMITTEE

9.1 The Ground Sub Committee shall comprise a Chairman and one representative who shall be elected by the General Committee. The Chairman, and Secretary of the League shall be ex officio members of this sub committee.

9.2 The Ground Sub Committee shall determine the standard of grounds and facilities appropriate to each Division from time to time, and shall make recommendations to the Management Committee as to which clubs should be required to make necessary improvements in order to retain their position in the Division or League, or be a candidate for promotion to a higher division, and shall monitor the implementation of any such requirements.

9.3 The Ground Sub Committee shall seek special dispensation from the Management Committee to allow teams to play on artificial wickets throughout the league season. This of course would only apply in the lowest tier of the league structure, subject to other conditions being met as set out by the Ground Sub Committee.

10. GENERAL MEETINGS

10.1 All resolutions to be decided at General Meetings require a proposer and a seconder from member clubs or the Management Committee.

10.2 Amendments to either resolutions or Rule changes may be accepted at the meeting by the Chairman without prior notice at his sole discretion.

10.3 Candidates for election require a proposer and a seconder from member clubs or the Management Committee.

11. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

11.1 The Annual General Meeting shall be held prior to 30th November in each year, and notice thereof shall be given to clubs not less than 14 days beforehand.

11.2 The Officers of the League and members of sub committees shall be elected at the Meeting.

11.3 The financial year of the League ends on 30th September.

12. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

12.1 The Management Committee shall have the power to call a Special General Meeting, for which the minimum notice shall be fourteen days.

12.2 A Special General Meeting may also be called at the request to the Secretary in writing of no fewer than twenty member clubs. Any such meeting shall be held within 28 days of the receipt by the Secretary of proper notification.

13. SUBSCRIPTIONS, LEVIES AND FINES

13.1 There shall be an entrance fee payable on admission, which is non-refundable.

13.2 Subscriptions for each forthcoming year shall be determined by simple majority at the Annual General Meeting. Subscriptions become due and shall be paid on or before 1st May of the current year. A fine of £50 can be levied (at discretion of the management committee) for any annual subscription or new joining fee received after 30th June

13.3 Levies for Handbooks, the Results Service, and the Annual Dinner shall be determined by the Management Committee and advised to member Clubs at the Annual General Meeting.

13.4 Fines and penalties for the late submission of fixtures, score sheets, and handbook entries shall be determined by the Management Committee and advised to member Clubs at the Annual General Meeting.

13.5 Additional levies, fines and penalties may be further determined by the Management Committee and advised to member Clubs at the following Annual General Meeting. All levies and fines shall be payable to the Treasurer.

13.6 The Management Committee shall have the power to deal with late or non payment of subscriptions, levies and fines under Rule 18.

13.7 Any club which fails to provide representation, without reasonable excuse, at a meeting of the General Committee may (at discretion of the management committee) be fined the sum of £50. Any club which fails to provide representation, without reasonable excuse, at the League's AGM may (at discretion of the management committee) be fined the sum of £50.

14. FIXTURES

14.1 Fixtures shall be played on Saturdays or Bank Holiday Mondays to be designated by the Fixture Secretary, with exceptions to be at the sole discretion of the Management Committee.

15. CHAMPIONSHIPS

15.1 The Club gaining the largest number of points in each Division each season shall be the Champion Club.

15.2 In the event of two clubs having the same number of points, precedence will be given to the club with the greatest number of victories achieved in that season.

15.3 Should that number be identical, precedence shall be given to the Club who scored the greater number of points in the League match (or matches) between the two clubs in that season.

15.4 Should that number be identical, or should there be more than two clubs with the identical number of both points and victories, precedence shall be given to the club with the best average of runs per wicket for, to the average of runs per wicket against.

16. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

16.1 The final League positions for each season in each Division shall be determined by the formula in Rule 15.

16.2 The top one or two teams in each division, shall normally, at the end of each season be promoted to the division immediately above (as long as any particular entry requirements are also complied with). The precise number will depend on divisional structure. The divisional structure will be confirmed prior to the season at the AGM.

16.3 The bottom one or two teams in each division, shall normally, at the end of each season be relegated to the division immediately below. The precise number will depend on divisional structure. The divisional structure will be confirmed prior to the season at the AGM.

16.4 Second elevens will operate independently from first elevens in respect of promotion and relegation.

16.5 In the event of a team gaining promotion to a Division where their Club already has a team, that team will not be promoted (although will be awarded League Championship if in first place) and the team finishing in 9th position in the Division above will not be relegated.

16.6 In the event of a team being relegated into a lower division in which their Club already have a team, that team will also be relegated into the division below. In such circumstance the team finishing 9th will not therefore be relegated.

16.7 The Management Committee shall notify Clubs of the detailed arrangements for promotion and relegation between Kent League Division Five and approved regional Feeder Leagues.

16.8 In the event of a team being eligible for promotion to the Premier League where the Club does not field a regular 2nd XI playing Kent Structured League cricket the Management Committee shall have the right to deny promotion

16.9 Notwithstanding 16.2, 16.3, 16.4, 16.5, 16.6 and 16.7, promotion of qualifying Clubs will be dependent upon facilities of a commensurate standard, and the Management Committee shall have the express power to deny promotion, on the recommendation of the Ground Sub Committee, and to vary the arrangements for promotion and relegation accordingly.

16.10 Notwithstanding 16.2, 16.3, 16.4, 16.5, 16.6 and 16.7, promotion of qualifying Clubs will be dependent on all payment of all outstanding due to their previous League and the Committee shall have the express power to deny promotion, if any dues remain outstanding.

16.11 In the event that a side being denied promotion for any reason, the side finishing in 9th place in the division above will not be relegated.

16.12 It is a fundamental condition of Full Membership and Associate Membership of the League that Clubs endorse the unfettered jurisdiction of the Management Committee in this regard, and accept without reservation that their decisions are binding and not subject to appeal.

17. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

17.1 No player shall represent more than one club in any one season in either the Kent Cricket Regional League or the Kent Cricket League, except with the prior agreement (at least 3 working days before the match concerned) of the Registration Secretary / Management Committee

17.2 No player shall play for more than one team on the same day.

17.3 Each club shall ensure that only fully paid-up subscribing members are selected to play for its team(s).

17.4 No club shall engage a match professional or make payment of any kind to a player for playing. Such players or other contract players shall not be allowed to play in matches arranged by the League.

17.5 No Club shall permit more than one overseas player per team in any League match.

17.6 A player will be not be classified as an overseas player if the following conditions are met:

a) If he was born within Great Britain; or

b) If his mother and/or father was born within Great Britain, or he himself or his mother or father was born within Scotland or any part of Ireland and in either case the cricketer is residing and has been resident for the preceding four consecutive years within Great Britain; or

c) If he is residing and has been resident for the preceding seven years within Great Britain; or

d) If he is residing and has been resident both for the preceding four consecutive years and since the day of his fourteenth birthday within Great Britain.

In addition.....

e) He must be either a British Citizen or an Irish Citizen; and

g) In the case of a cricketer seeking to become qualified under b), c) or d) above, he will only be treated as having been resident within Great Britain for the relevant consecutive period if he has spent a minimum of 210 days in each year within Great Britain (for which purpose 'year' shall mean a year ending 1st April).

17.7 An overseas player, as defined herewith, who is ordinarily resident in Great Britain, may at the discretion of the Registration Secretary / Management Committee be granted exempt status provided all the following conditions are met:

- a) He has been resident in this country for a period of 24 consecutive months prior to the date of his application for exempt status.
- b) He has not been out of this country for longer than 28 days consecutively, or 56 days in total, during the previous 24 months.
- c) Any remuneration he receives from playing cricket is not the main source of his income.
- d) Satisfactory proof of 17.13 a), b), and c) is submitted with the application for exempt status.
- e) The application is submitted a minimum of three weeks prior to the date of the first match in which the player seeks to play with exempt status.

17.8 The Management Committee shall in addition have the power to grant exempt status to players who have been reclassified as overseas players, and in cases where in their unfettered discretion they believe a relaxation of the rule to be appropriate.

17.9 a) Premier Division Only

A player* who has played in a recognized Test match, One Day International or T20 International for a country which is a full member of the International Cricket Council, other than England, will be ineligible to play in the League during that calendar year and for the next three full seasons.

* Please note that this only refers to male players. At the discretion of the Management Committee, dispensation will be given to female players.

17.9 b) All Other Divisions

A player who has played in a recognised test match or one day international for a country which is a full member of the ICC, other than England, will be ineligible to play in the League during the calendar year and for the next three seasons. In addition, no club shall be represented by any player who has played first class or County second eleven cricket (or an equivalent standard) during the same season or during either of the preceding two seasons.

17.10 In the event of any doubt or dispute as to the status of a player, there shall, wherever possible, be prior consultation with the Management Committee. In any event, that committee shall be notified of all relevant facts and its decision shall be final.

17.11 Member clubs must register all players. Every player registered to play in the League explicitly acknowledges, by virtue of their registration, the Constitution and Rules and, in particular, the powers of the League in relation to conduct and disciplinary procedures and undertakes to be bound by them.

17.12 Member clubs must supply the following information on all players to the League prior to 1 April each year: Surname; Initials; First name; Current address and post code; Date of birth; Country of birth.

17.13 Any subsequent registration must usually be received at least 48 hours before the relevant League match. In the case of an emergency, a member club may, with appropriate explanation, gain permission from the Management Committee to register a player either on the day of a match or, in exceptional circumstances, by 12 noon on the Sunday following the match. The opposition captain on the day of the match must be informed of any late or intended registration together with the player's name (see also para. 18.1 later). Only two emergency registrations for each member club will be allowed in a playing season.

17.14 Registration of a player shall, at any time, be dependent upon all financial and other obligations to his former club having been discharged. This needs to be confirmed by the former club.

17.15 No player may be registered after 31 July each year without the express permission of the Management Committee.

17.16 Member clubs who play unregistered players or who fail to honor intended registration promises shall be subject to additional sanctions at the discretion of the Management Committee which may include, but not be limited to, the imposition of fines, the suspension of players, the deduction of points and the awarding of matches to the opposition.

17.17 Member clubs must field the strongest sides available on the day for each eleven in order of descent. Any club with two (or more) teams in the League/Structure shall give priority to fielding its first XI on any exceptional occasion that such club is unable to field both of its teams on the same day. Failure to do so shall render the club liable to action taken by the Management Committee.

17.18 Any attempt to 'load/stack/select' the strength of second, third or lower elevens artificially for either: tactical reason or where a higher team within the club has a "bye/ free/ rained out" weekend will be treated as a serious matter and against the spirit of cricket played in the League. Clubs should contact the relevant Divisional Director where doubt exists. Otherwise clubs may be required to justify their selection policy to the Management Committee and may face sanction.

17.19 As a condition of membership of the League, member clubs explicitly acknowledge the jurisdiction of the Management Committee over all registration decisions and accept that all such decisions shall be final, binding and not subject to appeal.

17.20 A team discovered playing any player under an assumed name will be automatically relegated at the end of the season.

18. CONDUCT AND BREACHES OF THE CONSTITUTION

18.1 The Management Committee shall have the power to take appropriate action against individuals or member clubs in the event of misconduct or breaches of either the Constitution or the Playing Conditions of the League.

18.2 These powers shall include, but shall not be limited to, the imposition of fines, the suspension of players, the deduction of points, the awarding of matches to the opposition, the relegation of a Club to a lower Division, and the expulsion of a Club from the League.

18.3 The Management Committee may appoint a Disciplinary Committee to consider cases of misconduct.

18.4 The Disciplinary Procedures shall be subject to approval at Annual or Special General Meetings, and shall require majority of those present and voting in favour.

18.5 The Procedures must include a provision for the right of appeal against the length of suspension imposed, save that such right shall be subject to the parameters specified within the Disciplinary Procedures.

18.6 Any appeals shall be heard by an Appeal Committee, which shall consist of three persons selected by the Chairman of the League to form a committee. Such persons shall be members of Clubs of the Kent Cricket Regional League but free of association with the appeal in question.

18.7 No member of the Management Committee or the Disciplinary Sub-Committee may serve on the Appeal Committee.

18.8 The Appeal Committee will have a chairman, and its decision will be reached by majority

19. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES AND VOLUNTARY CODE

19.1 In the event of any player being reported to the league under the VCC, the report must be sent to the Disciplinary Chairman within 48 hours after the day of the match. The Disciplinary Chairman, having consulted with the Disciplinary Committee will formally notify the club of the offending player that such a report has been received and that under the VCC the club should suspend the player for the relevant period of time.

19.2 The Disciplinary Chairman will also notify the Chairman of the Management Committee who will review the report. Should the conduct concern a captain, or the behaviour concerned is of a sufficiently serious nature, then a further suspension may be added. This is likely to be an additional two weeks but could be more if the offense is considered serious enough. There is no appeal against such a suspension unless the total suspension exceeds six weeks. Any such suspension carries over from season to season.

19.3 It should also be noted that a suspended player is also ineligible to play in any competition run under the management of Kent Cricket.

20. CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHIES AND AWARDS

20.1 Trophies shall be awarded to the winning first and second elevens in each Division.

20.2 All trophies are to be returned to the League by 1st August the following year. A fine to be determined by the Management Committee will be levied on any club failing to return their trophy or if the trophy is damaged.

20.3 Batting and bowling awards will be presented for each division. The batting award will go to the batsman scoring most runs in games played in that division.. In the event of a tie, the award will go to the player with the best average. The bowling award will go to the leading wicket taker in matches played in that division. In the event of a tie, the award will go to the player with the best average. Overseas registered players are ineligible for all awards..

20.4 The Paul Whelan award donated by High Halstow will be awarded to the leading all rounder in the premier division. In the event that the committee is unable to identify a suitable candidate then the championship divisions will be looked at. The management committee will be responsible for the final decision.

21. CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

21.1 The Constitution of the League may be changed only at the Annual General Meeting or a properly constituted Special General Meeting.

21.2 Any formal resolution to change the Constitution of the League at the Annual General Meeting must be circulated to member Clubs at least 14 days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting.

21.3 Constitution of the League may also be changed at a Special General Meeting. Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 12, a formal resolution to change the Constitution must be circulated to member clubs not less than 14 days prior to the date of the meeting in this event.

21.4 No change in the Constitution shall be admitted, except where there is a majority of those present and voting in favour of the resolution.

21.5 The Chairman may, at his discretion, decide to accept postal or proxy votes.

21.6 Notwithstanding Rule 20.4, a rule change designed to extend the structure of club cricket in Kent to link with a 'Feeder' League or Leagues shall require only a simple majority of those present and voting at a General Meeting of the League.

22. PLAYING CONDITIONS

22.1 The Playing Conditions for each Division shall be deemed to have the same status as the Constitution of the League, save that where there is an apparent conflict the Constitution shall prevail.

22.2 The Playing Conditions are maintained as a separate document.

22.3 Players in all League matches will wear clothing and equipment that follow the League Management guidelines that is predominantly white.

23. CHANGES TO PLAYING CONDITIONS

23.1 Notice of any proposal to change the Playing Conditions of the League shall be circulated in writing to all the current Clubs not less than 14 days before the meeting at which the matter is to be decided.

23.2 Any proposed change to the Playing Conditions must conform to guidelines laid down by the Management Committee from time to time.

23.3 A majority of those present and voting in favour of the resolution shall be required.

23.4 Notice of any proposal to change the Playing Conditions of the Divisions shall be circulated in writing to all the current Clubs within those Divisions not less than 14 days before the meeting at which the matter is to be decided.

23.5 Any such meetings of the Divisions will take place in accordance with the rules and principles governing the conduct of League meetings.

24 WINDING UP OF THE LEAGUE

24.1 The member Clubs may vote to wind up the League if not less than two thirds of those present at a properly convened General Meeting vote in favour of any such proposal. The General Meeting will be governed by the Constitution in force at the time of the said General Meeting.

24.2 If a resolution is passed in accordance with 23.1 above the Management Committee in existence immediately prior to the passing of the resolution to wind up the League shall conclude the outstanding affairs of the League.

24.3 After full and final settlement of all the liabilities of the League the Management Committee shall dispose of all the net assets of the League in accordance with 23.5 below.

24.4 In relation to 23.2 and 23.3 herein the Management Committee may incur reasonable professional costs to affect the winding up of the League provided that such costs are met by the League funds available immediately prior to the passing of the resolution to wind up the League. No such liability will lie with any Member Club as at the date of the said General Meeting.

24.5 The Net assets of the League as defined in 23.3 above shall be divided in a ratio as published at the creation of the Kent Cricket Regional League, based on the contributions of the Kent West Feeder and Kent East Feeder to the new entity. Should these bodies no longer have any relevance the assets of the League shall be divided equally amongst those clubs which were members of the League at the commencement of that Annual General Meeting.

24.6 If for whatever reason there are no League Clubs as defined in 23.5 herein the net assets of the League will be donated to Kent Cricket.

24.7 For the avoidance of doubt a Club is a single entity notwithstanding the number of sides that Club has in the League.