



# Constitution Of Middlesex Premier Cricket League

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Approved By	MPCL Committee

**Note:** Amendments are highlighted in yellow

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## **1. TITLE**

The competition shall be known as the Middlesex Premier Cricket League, hereafter known as the League.

## **2. PURPOSE**

The purpose of the league shall be to organise cricket on a league basis, with the objective of playing cricket in the true spirit of the game and to maintain it at a standard to which all members are normally accustomed. To organise T20, a knockout cup competition in addition to the league competition. To take any actions which may be considered beneficial to member clubs and to the game of cricket.

## **3. COMPOSITION**

The league shall be organized into six divisions to be known as Division 1, Division 2, Division 3, Division 4, Division 5 and Division 6.

## **4. ELIGIBILITY**

Properly constituted cricket clubs whose ground is within the Cricket County of Middlesex and its borders, shall be eligible for membership. No club may change its ground without approval by the committee.

No club shall be admitted to membership unless ground, dressing accommodation and appoints are of a satisfactory standard and have been approved by the committee prior to confirmation at the Annual General Meeting. Any club in membership of the League whose grounds, dressing accommodation etc. are allowed to deteriorate shall be subject to an inspection by the committee, which may result in expulsion from the League.

### **Note:**

A club properly constituted to qualify membership shall bear a title approved by the committee. The committee shall not approve a title which is the same as, or might be confused with, that borne by a member club, and no member club shall change its title without approval of the committee

## **5. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The League shall be governed by the Management Committee (hereafter called "The Committee") consisting of:

- A. Chairperson**
- B. General Secretary**
- C. General Divisional Secretary**
- D. Treasurer**
- E. Three Divisional Secretaries**

Except in special circumstances no club shall hold more than one person on the committee. Members elected for the MPCL Committee cannot serve on the committee of any other Sunday cricket leagues except on approval at AGM and is subject to immediate termination by the committee upon such involvement during the season. Members of the committee serve the league until the AGM, even if the club they represent leaves the league.

## **6. FUNCTIONS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

- A. The committee shall be responsible for ensuring that the purpose and spirit of the League is upheld, and it shall be empowered to take what action it considers fit to do this. Save for 7L below.

- B. The committee shall be empowered to select new clubs.
- C. The committee shall have the power to discipline and to co-opt new members on the committee for special purpose and for such periods it sees fit.
- D. The committee shall have the power to appoint sub-committees from time to time for specific purposes, which it shall determine. Save for 7L below.
- E. A quorum for all committee meetings shall be minimum 3 of committee members. Absence from two consecutive meetings of any member without reasonable cause being stated may invalidate his seat. The committee shall have full discretion in such matters.
- F. The committee shall be the authority for the correct interpretation and enforcement of the rules and shall have full jurisdiction over all matters not provided for in these rules.
- G. Minutes of all committee meetings shall be kept in a file provided for the purpose and duly approved by the committee.
- H. In the event of an office becoming vacant or a vacancy occurring on the committee, the committee shall have the power to fill such a vacancy.
- I. No member of the committee shall be present at any meeting thereof during the determination of any matter with which his club is directly concerned, except at the invitation of the committee.
- J. Management committee has the discretion and authority to publish information on the website and other publicity/information media of any events organised or participated by league.
- K. The committee shall appoint 1 member as the Welfare Officer for the MPCL in line with ECB recommendation

## 7. GENERAL MEETINGS

The Annual General Meeting of the League shall be held in December or January on a date by the committee.

- A. Each member club shall be entitled to send two delegates, only one of whom shall be entitled to vote upon the resolutions submitted. 2nd XI clubs may send delegates if they wish but shall have no voting rights.
- B. A quorum at all General Meetings shall be 33% of the registered clubs.
- C. The printed annual report and the Balance sheet shall be presented at this meeting, and the officers and members of the committee and the auditors elected.
- D. All clubs must attend EGM otherwise penalties as per general meetings will apply.

### **Note:**

All officers of the committee, trustees and the auditors elected at the Annual General meeting shall hold the office until the next Annual General Meeting. They shall be eligible for re-election.

- E. The support of a simple majority of those voting shall be necessary to carry a resolution at the AGM, and of two thirds majority of those at an extraordinary general meeting. The officers of the League shall not be entitled to vote, unless they are the sole representative of their club.

In the event of a tied vote, the chairperson (or deputy) who normally does not have a vote shall have a casting vote.

- F. The voting on all resolutions shall be taken by a show of hands, but if the voting is challenged, or is regarded by the Chairperson as unsatisfactory, he shall order a card vote to be taken.
- G. Resolutions submitted to the Annual General meeting must be proposed by member clubs and forwarded to the General Secretary of the League not later than 1st November.
- H. An extraordinary general meeting may be convened at the discretion of the committee or shall be convened at the request of minimum 33%-member clubs who shall send their written applications of the resolutions to be submitted to the meeting. Such extraordinary general meeting shall be held not later than one calendar month after the receipt of the application. Member clubs wishing to call EGM based on decision of Appeals Committee shall do so within 28 days of the written decision of the Appeals Committee.
- I. The League shall hold up to two meetings a year, which must be attended by all clubs. Any club not represented shall be fined £25 (and 2 points deducted) for the first offence and £50 (and 5 points deducted) for the second consecutive offence. If a third offence is committed, the Management Committee to decide on the necessary further action against the offending club. A club shall not be fined if one of its members is in attendance in his capacity as a member of the Management Committee.
- J. Notice of all General meetings and its agenda shall be sent to all member clubs at least fourteen days before the date of the meeting. Late arrivals i.e. half an hour after the scheduled start or early departure will incur a £25 fine (max £25).
- K. The Chairperson of the League shall take the Chair at all meetings; in the event of his absence, he will delegate that duty to another committee member.
- L. Minutes of all general meetings shall be kept in a file provided for the purpose and copies sent to all member clubs.
- M. Any proposed amendments to 16 (Dissolution) can only be passed by a majority of more than two thirds of registered clubs voting for such amendments. Surplus funds after meeting any liabilities will be equally divided amongst the registered clubs.

## **8. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS & NON-PAYMENTS**

- A. Each club (First XI) shall be required to pay an entry fee for the year proceeding the first full year of participation in the League.
- B. Each member club shall pay to the league on the day of AGM in each year a subscription as agreed at the Annual General Meeting.
- C. Any club whose subscriptions remain unpaid by the 1st February in any one year may be struck off the roll of membership, but official warning to this effect shall be given as directed by the committee.
- D. A club removed from the membership under section (c) shall not be readmitted except by payment of all arrears and the current subscription.
- E. Non-payment of fines - Any fine & cost levied by the committee will be notified by e-mail and must be paid in full within 10 days of notification date unless there is an appeal. If no appeal is lodged, any fines still outstanding at the end of that period shall be increased by 100% of the

original fine & costs. If after a further period of 5 days the fine & costs is still outstanding, a deduction of five points shall be made in addition to the increased fine from the offending club. Committee will decide in which season any point deduction should apply.

F. In respect of other payments owed to the league by member clubs, rule (e) as above applies.

## **9. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

An account shall be kept in the name of "Middlesex Premier Cricket League" at a bank approved by the committee, into which all moneys received on behalf of the League shall be paid by the Treasurer or other officers. The committee shall authorise the Treasurer, Chairperson and General Secretary to sign cheques for payment and such cheques will be signed by any two of the authorised signatories.

The accounts of the League shall be kept by the Treasurer, and such accounts shall be audited annually by the Auditor. For the purpose of audit, accounts shall be closed on the 30th November in each year. The account so audited shall be printed and circulated to all member clubs, with notice convening the Pre-Season General Meeting.

## **10. DISPUTES AND DISAGREEMENTS**

All objections/complaints against a Club, Player or Umpire, shall be in writing/e-mail and forwarded to the League Secretary within five working days of the match to which the objection/complaint refers.

In the cases of objections/ complaints by clubs, it is absolutely essential that a duplicate copy of the letter forwarded by e-mail to the League Secretary, is also forwarded by e-mail to the Secretary of the opposing club within five working days of the match to which the objection/ complaint refers. The League Secretary will confirm receipt of the email/letter with the opposition within 72 hours of it been sent. The League secretary will organize a committee meeting within 15 working days of the original complaint date.

(A) With regard to disciplinary issues i.e. Verbal abuse intimidation or Violence; all objections/complaints, disciplinary complaints shall be referred to the Committee. If aggrieved party appeals, this appeal will be judged by the Appeals Sub-Committee (Trustees and Chairman) for the appropriate action, as quickly as possible, in accordance with League disciplinary rules. All appeals must be made within 5 days of the notification of the said decision of the committee and sent by e-mail otherwise the matter will be deemed final. Their decision will be final. Chairman has the casting vote. A deposit of £50 must accompany the appeal letter otherwise the appeal will be disqualified". Upon giving notice of appeal, the penalty shall not take effect pending the hearing of the appeal. Section 6, 7 & 8 of "Rules of Disciplinary Procedures apply

(B) With regard to any other matter not concerning disciplinary issues i.e. Late start, interpretation of the Laws of Cricket, Facilities etc., the League Committee shall be empowered to fully deal with the matter and shall have the power to deduct 5 points for any incident.

(C) No objection/complaint with regard to the decision of an official (League) umpire, except with regard to wrongful interpretation of the Laws of Cricket shall be considered.

## **11. PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE DECISIONS**

Decisions or reports of the committee may only be published in such manner as the committee shall direct, and every member club shall be deemed to have assented to such publications.

## **12. ENTRY INTO AND WITHDRAWAL FROM THE LEAGUE**

A. Entry into the League shall be by application to the General Secretary of the League. New clubs applying to join league should forward with their application references from at least

two teams they have currently played against. Decisions regarding acceptance into the League shall be dealt with in accordance to Rule 4 "Eligibility".

- B. Any withdrawal from the League must be in writing and reach the General Secretary not later than 30th September of the year preceding the withdrawal is to take effect.
- C. In the event of a team being unable to fulfil at least half of its fixtures during the season, its record shall be erased.
- D. A new club shall pay the annual subscription, joining fee and a bond to the league. Failure to pay these fees may lead to forfeiting league status. The bond will be returned on the third anniversary of the payment.
- E. Any club finishing at the bottom of the lowest division for two consecutive years would to re-apply to remain in the league, however if they retain their membership, they would not be required to pay bond or joining fee.

### **13. EXPULSION FROM MEMBERSHIP**

The committee shall have the power to expel from the membership any club that has contravened these rules or in the opinion of the committee otherwise brought discredit upon the League, except that no club shall be expelled without having the opportunity of sending representatives to state a case before the committee and or trustees.

### **14. KNOWLEDGE OF RULES**

The rules of the League shall be deemed to be known to the officers of all member clubs, and through them to all members, who shall be bound by them.

### **15. ALTERATIONS OF RULES**

No alterations of these rules shall be made except at the Annual general meeting or at an Emergency meeting summoned for the purpose. In the former instance notice in writing of any proposed alterations which must be proposed by the committee shall be given not later than 1st November to the General Secretary of the League who shall circulate details of the proposals on the agenda when convening the meeting.

### **16. DISSOLUTION**

The League may be dissolved by a resolution of a General meeting, the conditions of voting in Rule 7 being applicable. Should there be insufficient funds at the time of dissolution to meet the liabilities, the deficit shall be met by the member clubs in such proportions as the General Meeting dissolving the League shall determine. 2nd XI clubs will have no share in assets and exempt from liabilities.

### **17. TROPHIES**

Trophies shall be held by the winning clubs. The floating Divisional and Cup competition trophies are the property of the League and are to be returned to the League by the end of July each year. Any costs incurred due to damage, repair or loss of trophies shall be paid wholly by the club holding the trophies. Clubs who have won a trophy or shield in a particular season shall return the trophy or shield to the committee by the end of July following season.

Winning and runner-up clubs will be presented with retainable trophies. 15 trophies/medals will be presented to each of the winning clubs. Awards will be made for the best batsman, bowler and all-rounder in each division. For players to be considered, they must have taken part in a minimum of 10 league matches and batted in at least 8 innings (for batting award) or bowled at least 64 overs (for bowling award). The winners shall be decided by the committee. Rain affected games will be

considered as matches played and statistics will count for averages. Named team must be entered onto the results database. Cup competition analyses will be disregarded for this purpose.

Individuals scoring more than 75 runs or take at least 5 wickets will also be presented with an award. An award will also be made to any bowler taking a hat-trick. These individual awards will be given for both League and Cup games; an individual will be limited to one award for batting and bowling respectively. Clubs that withdraw or are unable to fulfil at least half of its fixtures during the season or are expelled will not receive either club or any individual players awards.

## **18. CLUB SECRETARIES**

Each member club shall notify the General Secretary of the name and address of their respective club secretary within fourteen days of any changes being made.

## **19. TRUSTEES**

- A. Two trustees shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
- B. Trustees shall hold the office for a period of one year and can be re-elected.
- C. Any trustee who leaves the country permanently shall forfeit the right of Trusteeship and such a vacant post shall be filled for the remaining period at AGM/EGM.
- D. The Trustees shall be entitled to receive copies of minutes and notices of all the Executive Committee meetings when requested; they will not necessarily attend all Executive Committee meetings; shall have no right to vote at any Executive Committee Meeting; shall consult and advise Chairman/Secretary on any matters concerning the League and make themselves available for prior consultation whenever requested by the Executive Committee.
- E. Committee decision will stand until/or unless it is otherwise recommended by Appeals Committee. Committee decision cannot be implemented until after the hearing of the appeal if notice of appeal is given by the aggrieved party. Trustees must hear the appeal within 10 days on notification of appeal by League Committee.
- F. General Secretary shall only instigate appeals procedure on receipt by recorded post/e-mail of appeal letter and deposit (£50). No new information shall be introduced which was not available for the first decision made by committee. Deposit will only be returned in cases where appeal is successful but not costs.
- G. Minutes of the appeal shall be kept and filed with the league within 5 days of hearing the appeal.

## **20. PROPERTY**

The title of any property, movable or immovable which may be acquired by or for the purpose of the League shall be vested in the Trustees, who shall be appointed or elected at the AGM and who shall enter into a deed of trust setting for the purpose and conditions under which they hold the said property in trust for the League.

## **21. PRESENTATION NIGHT**

It is mandatory for each member club (not 2<sup>nd</sup> XIs) to purchase minimum of ten Presentation Night tickets regardless of their attendance. Payment of tickets must be made by 31<sup>st</sup> August. Failure to do so will result in deductions of five points from the league total for the following season. If the payment still remains unpaid after a further seven days from the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> August, the committee shall have the power to impose further penalties.



## 22. PLAYING CONDITIONS

The matches will be played under the normal MCC laws of cricket with the following special regulations.

Every player in the League explicitly acknowledges by virtue of his participation, the constitution of the League and its procedures, and undertakes to be bound by them. Umpire will inform the player and both team captains that a written report will be submitted to league Committee.

### A. Players

"Player Registration - Any bona fide member of a member club shall be allowed to play for that club in matches organised by the League provided that the player is registered with the league. No player may receive from his Member Club any direct or indirect payment or expenses for playing cricket. 2<sup>nd</sup> XI clubs participating in cup competition must be registered players only. For the player to be registered, a properly completed registration form must be received by the Registration Secretary 14 days before the player competes in his first match in the league and have in his possession the registration card. No player shall be allowed to participate without a registration card. Captain must show the registration cards of his team to the opposition captain prior to the toss. The registration cards must be checked prior to the start of play and retained by the opposition captain until the end of play. Any players switched after the exchange of cards, shall be deemed unregistered for that match. In the event of a player arriving late, the captain must show the players registration card to the opposition captain. Any team who plays a banned player while he is serving the ban shall forfeit the game and full points awarded to their opponents.

New clubs have 90 days to register twenty players from the date of acceptance letter from the league for which there will be no registration fee. A club may register 5 players in a season. Any additional registrations will be charged an administration fee of £5.00. Players must sign their own registration forms." New players can be registered with the league up to 1st July after which no further registration can take place for that season.

A player may transfer to another club in the league prior to the start of the first day of league fixture in a new season. If a player has played a game during the season, then he cannot play for his new club until 4 weeks after his last played game. Player must return his registration cards along with completed transfer application (normal 14 days turn around for application from date of receipt apply). If the registration cards are not returned than an administrative charge of £5 per card must accompany the application. No transfer will be granted to take place after 1<sup>st</sup> July in any one season.

The following guidelines will be followed by the committee when a club tries to obtain a registration card in an improper manner:

- A. The offending club can be expelled from the league.
- B. Deduction of 20 points with a discretionary one point per offence in any one incident.
- C. Fine of not more than £100.

If registration card/s are obtained in an improper manner and the player/s participates in a league organised match than they will be regarded as ineligible player. In such cases, the above will apply in addition to the penalties for playing an ineligible player.

It is the responsibility of the club applying for registration to ensure that the player is not registered with another club. Registration cards are the property of the league and must be returned by clubs upon request by League

The minimum number of players in a team to honour a fixture shall be nine at the start of the game. In the event that the umpires are waiting for the ninth player to arrive, then that player has to report to the umpire and/or opposition captain before the game may start.

Division 1, 2, 3 & 4 will be allowed to play one First Class and one overseas player or two overseas. A player will be deemed First Class if he has played at that level in the last 5 years. If a player becomes First Class after his initial registration, then it is his club's responsibility to re-register him (1<sup>st</sup> July deadline does not apply).

Division 5 & 6 will be allowed to play one overseas player who is not First Class. An overseas player is a player who comes to the UK for the purpose of playing cricket and then leaves at or towards the end of season. Players who have migrated or been transferred for work reasons or students from abroad are not classed as overseas.

In the event that a club finds that one of their nominated players might not make it before the cut of time (30 minutes after scheduled time), they can replace him with the nominated 12<sup>th</sup> man. Once this has happened, the player who was replaced can no longer take part except as substitute. A substitute can only be used in case of an injury and not to make up numbers.

### **ECB Helmet & Fast Ball directives for Young Players**

#### **ECB Helmet Directive**

The ECB Helmet Safety directives for young players up to the age of 18 years will apply to all matches within the league. Captains are required to ensure that young players wear a helmet when batting and when standing up to the stumps when keeping wicket.

#### **ECB Fast Ball Directive**

The ECB Fast balling directives for young fast bowlers up to and including the under 19 age group will apply to all matches within the league. In those matches to which panel umpires have been appointed, it is the responsibility of each captain to inform the umpires, prior to the start of the match, the names and relevant age group of any fast bowlers under the age of 19; Age groups are based on the age of the player at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August in the year proceeding the current season Captains are required to ensure that any fast bowler under the age of 19 does not exceed the ECB directives for maximum overs and the minimum rest periods (See below). Panel umpires will monitor these requirements:

<b>Age</b>	<b>Max Overs Per Spell</b>	<b>Max Over Per Day</b>
Up to 13	5	10
U14 & U15	6	12
U16,U17,U18 & U19	7	18

#### **Fielding Directive**

- A. No young player in the U15 age group or younger shall be allowed to field closer than 8 yards (7.3m) from the middle stump, except behind the wicket on the off-side, until the batsman has played at the ball.
- B. For players in the U13 age group and below the distance is 11 yards (10 metres).
- C. These minimum distances apply even if the player is wearing a helmet.

- D. Should a young player in these age groups come within the restricted distances the umpire must stop the game immediately and instruct the fielders to move back.
- E. In addition, any young player in the U16 to U18 age group, who has not reached the age of 18 must wear a helmet and, for boys, an abdominal protector (box) when fielding within 6 yards (5.5 metres) of the bat, except behind the wicket on the offside. Players should wear appropriate protective equipment whenever they are fielding in a position where they feel at risk.
- F. These fielding regulations are applicable to all cricket in England and Wales. Age groups are based on the age of the player at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August in the year proceeding the current season.

**B. Match**

1. Change of dates or venues should be notified to the Divisional Secretary in writing at least five days before the original date or the new date, whichever first. Any change of ground in the five-day period leading up to a match must be approved by the committee. The home side must provide proper changing facilities, boundary markers, scoreboard and tea. The maximum charge for the tea shall be agreed at the AGM. Clubs which fail to honour or inconsiderately cancel fixtures render themselves liable to removal from the league.
2. Notification of results - Clubs will inform the committee of the details of any match by inputting the details onto the online scorecard by midnight the following day (Monday). All clubs must fill in complete details for their own club (Scorecard must include full Batting and Bowling details with full names as well as captain's report on match and independent umpires); otherwise it will be treated as incomplete. Failure to submit will result in three points being deducted from the offending team. Incomplete scorecards will result in a deduction of 2 points.
3. Two members of the committee will be responsible for maintaining league website. Provisional results are put up by end of Monday preceding the Sunday matches. Match results and divisional tables to be updated by end of Thursday.
4. In a weather affected match, any reduction in the length of the innings, shall result in the quota reduction of overs per bowler. Maximum limit per bowler shall be calculated by dividing the length of innings by five. In a delayed start, one over shall be deducted from each innings for every eight minutes lost or part thereof in calculating the length of the innings.
5. The venue of the match shall not be changed due to the adverse weather conditions, unless permission in writing has been obtained from the committee.
6. A home team abandoning a day's play without consent of the opposing captain shall be deemed to have forfeited the match to the away team. In extreme weather conditions a match may be cancelled, providing both captains are in agreement. If in doubt both teams shall attend the match as normal. Captains are not permitted to predict weather.
7. Teatime of 30 minutes shall be taken after the completion of the first innings, or in rain affected matches by agreement.
8. When a game is cancelled for any reason other than the weather during the ten days leading up to the match, the defaulting team shall pay up to £150 for ground and up to £60 for tea. Umpires fees will also be payable if an umpire is in attendance prior to being informed of the cancellation. The defaulting team must pay this sum within 5 days of the date of the match

where a ground, tea or both has gone to waste. In only cases when the league recovers this sum from the defaulting club, it shall pay the aggrieved club.

9. In the event of a match being cancelled and the umpire turning up at the ground, the full fee shall be paid. In the event of a game being cancelled or abandoned after the arrival of the opposition at the home venue, both teams will share the cost of the umpire/s fee and tea if prepared.
10. Opposition shall pay for tea (charge agreed each year) if match is abandoned.
11. Artificial pitches are not to be used in League and Cup matches, except with the written permission of the League committee.
12. Teams that fail to provide a scoreboard, 30-yard circle and boundary markers will be deducted 2 points for each offence in the match concerned.
13. On grounds where there are several pitches, the home team must have written evidence on which pitch their match must be played during the season. Teams with two different home grounds must notify by 1<sup>st</sup> March to the Divisional Secretary, opponents and the umpire as to which ground, they are going to play.
14. Clubs which fail to provide hot tea or facilities to have tea will be deducted 2 points per match.
15. The toss must take place at least 15 minutes before the scheduled start (9 players present) – a team not ready to make the toss within the appropriate limit automatically loses the toss.

#### C. **Officials**

The committee shall be responsible for providing the umpire/s. It shall be the responsibility of the home club to ensure that the umpire's fees are paid before the toss, the cost being shared by both clubs. If the captains are not satisfied with the way the umpire/s have conducted the game, then a written report must be sent to the Divisional Secretary within three days of the match being played. Where no official umpire is present, each team shall be responsible for/to umpire their own innings with the exception of penalty runs.

The home team must provide a white coat for leg umpires.

#### G. **Playing hours**

The starting time of each match shall be 1.00pm unless otherwise agreed by the participating clubs (changes should be confirmed to the league in writing and be approved by the committee). The latest starting time in a weather affected match shall be 3.00pm (Matches played in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of September shall start at 12.30pm and the latest start time in a weather affected match shall be 2.30pm). In the event of a team arriving late, the number of overs deducted from the offender shall be one for every four minutes or part thereof lost due to late start. However, the non-offending team shall be allowed to bowl each bowler for a maximum of 8 overs. There shall be no penalty of over reduction for the non-offending team.

The independent umpire must deduct overs from the offending teams if they are not ready to start at the scheduled time (calculated as 1 overs for part of every four minutes). The umpire/s shall award the game to its opponents if the match fails to commence thirty minutes after the agreed time.

#### H. **Balls**

League cricket balls can be purchased at the Pre-season. Clubs requiring balls otherwise during the season will be surcharged £1.00 extra per ball. Two new balls which have been purchased from the league must be provided by the visiting team, for the match, and a reserve polished ball shall be handed to the umpire for the second-choice use. The home team will be responsible to provide replacement balls.

I. **No-ball/wide rule**

**Wide Ball**

Umpires are instructed to apply a very strict and consistent interpretation in regard to judging a wide in order to prevent negative bowling wide of the wicket. If a ball passes either side of the wicket sufficiently wide to make it virtually impossible for the striker to play a "normal cricket stroke" both from where he is standing and from where he should normally be standing at the crease, the Umpire shall call and signal "Wide Ball". Any ball that passes to the leg side of the wicket without being hit by the striker or hitting any part of the striker's person or equipment shall normally be called wide.

**No Ball**

The bowler shall be limited to one short-pitched ball per over. A short-pitched ball is defined as one that passed or would have passed above shoulder height of the striker standing upright at the crease. The umpire at the bowler's end shall indicate clearly when such a short-pitched ball is bowled. Should the one short-pitched ball be exceeded in any over, the umpire at the bowler's end shall call and signal no ball and implement the procedures of Law 42.7.

**Free Hit Conditions:**

- A. Law 21 will apply so that the penalty for a no ball will be 1 run.
- B. In addition to paragraph (a) above, the delivery following a no ball called for any reason other than a short-pitched ball passing the batsman above head height shall be a free hit for whichever batsman is facing it. If the delivery for the free hit is not a legitimate delivery (i.e. any kind of no ball or a wide ball) then the next delivery will become a free hit for whichever batsman is facing it.
- C. For any free hit, the striker can be dismissed only under the circumstances that apply for a no ball, even if the delivery for a free hit is called wide ball.
- D. Field changes are NOT permitted for free hit deliveries unless there is a change of striker or unless the no ball was called for an infringement of the fielding regulations, in which case the field may move to the minimum, necessary to make the new field legal. However, in all circumstances, any fielder within 15 yards of the striker may retreat to a position on the same line no more than 15 yards from the striker.
- E. The umpire will signal a free hit by (after the normal No Ball signal) extending one arm straight upwards and moving it in a circular motion.
- F. Any fielding restrictions in place at the time will still apply for the free hit delivery.
- G. The free hit delivery counts as a ball in the over unless it in turn is a wide or any form of No Ball.

**G. Competitions**

See separate notes for other specific conditions for each competition.

### **Fielding restrictions for all competitions**

No more than five fielders permitted (even if playing with less than 11 players) at any time outside 30-yard circle (30 yards radius from middle stump, semi circles either end with two straight lines joining them). In the event that the boundary line falls within the 30-yard circle, the boundary line doubles up as the circle line should be within the 30-yard circle at the start of bowler's run up and till the bowler has released the ball.

### **H. Slow Play**

Assuming that neither innings of each match is not interrupted by bad weather, serious injury, frequent lost balls or any Acts of God, the following procedures will be implemented. In the case of a 40 overs match, after two hours and forty-five minutes (165 minutes). The umpires will indicate to the captains how many overs have been completed. For a forty-five over match it shall be 185 minutes. Play will then continue in the first innings of the match until the maximum allowance has been bowled or the team dismissed.

In the case of the side fielding second, an additional 15 minutes of time should be added, i.e. 180 minutes. In the case of the side fielding second in cup and plate competition 200 minutes. The umpires will indicate to the captains how many overs have been completed within the time period. The number of overs bowled in the appropriate time and total time taken for both innings shall be recorded by the umpire and given to the teams. The umpires on the day will have sole discretion on the interpretation and implementation of this rule. Points deduction for slow play will be based on whole overs not completed within the appropriate time period. The basis of penalties will be one league point for each whole uncompleted over.

### **I. Local Agreements**

Teams shall not undertake local agreements, without obtaining approval from the league committee. If any local agreements come to light than these will be acted upon by the committee.

### **J. Special Regulation for clubs with two XIs in League**

(a) In league competition, swapping of players will be permitted for the teams who field two teams of the same club (1<sup>st</sup> XI and 2<sup>nd</sup> XI). In the event of two teams (1<sup>st</sup> XI and 2<sup>nd</sup> XI) of the same club falling into the same division, they will have to give written undertaking by way of submitting a detailed list of players stating what team they would represent. This may result in providing special registration numbers or special ID.

Clubs with two teams in the MPCL may not strengthen their 2<sup>nd</sup> team to gain advantage over their opponents towards the closing stages of the League Competition (last three games). When 1st XI game gets aborted, abandoned or a lack of fixture, the 2nd XI cannot be strengthened. If this occurs, the committee will take appropriate action.

(b) A club who is unable to give undertaking as above will result in one team relegated to a lower division.

In the event that the 1<sup>st</sup> team gets knocked out of the cup and the 2nds are still taking part, no 1<sup>st</sup> team player can take part in the 2nds Cup, Mini or Plate games: however, 2<sup>nd</sup> team player can take part in the 1<sup>st</sup> team cup or plate games should they get knocked out.

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