

The Constitution of the League: (Rules 1 to 10 Inclusive)**1. TITLE**

The League shall be called 'The Devon Cricket League', hereinafter referred to as 'the DCL'. If, however, the DCL is sponsored, the name of the sponsor may be incorporated into the title for the duration of such sponsorship.

2. STRUCTURE**(a) Leagues & Divisions:**

Within the DCL there will be two component, independent leagues:

i) The First XI League will consist of a Premier Division often teams together with as many other Divisions ('A', 'B', 'C' etc.), each with a maximum often teams and a minimum of 8 teams, as necessary unless 2(a)(v) applies.

ii) The Second XI League (that will include the Third and Fourth teams of Member Clubs) will consist of a Premier Division often teams, three County Divisions (2nd XI 'A', 'B' and 'C'), each often teams, and as many other Divisions as may be required. These additional Divisions will be regionalised on an 'East/West' basis as operationally possible. The maximum number of teams in each Division below 'C' will be at the discretion of the EMC.

iii) No two teams from the same Club will be permitted to play in the same Division.

iv) No Club will be permitted to play in the Premier, 'A', 'B' or 'C' Divisions of the First XI League unless the 2nd XI of that Club plays in the 2nd XI League. (deletion)

v) For operational reasons, the General Management Committee (GMC) as advised by the Executive Management Committee (EMC) will have the power to increase the bottom Division of the 1st XI League to a maximum of 12 teams, also to adjust the 'regionalised' 2nd XI Divisions as required ensuring as near as possible a full competitive season.

(b) Timing of application to join or leave the DCL:

Any side withdrawing from the DCL shall submit confirmation to the Hon. Secretary in writing prior to the 15th October following the season end. New applications are preferred by the same date.

(c) League Administration:

i) The DCL Secretary will issue to each Member Club by the **2nd Monday in January each year**, an Affirmation Form that records the Club's official data. It is a requirement that each Member Club return this form, suitably amended where necessary, no later than 7th March annually. To assist the DCL with future correspondence it is essential that an active email address is provided by each Club.

ii) When a Member Club makes any subsequent change affecting its Officials, Captains or other data relevant to the smooth running of the DCL, it must notify the DCL Secretary within 14 days from the date of any such change.

iii) Member Clubs have 21 days from the date of notification to respond to all DCL correspondence unless otherwise indicated. Failure to do so within this time frame will incur a £30 fine **unless** there are mitigating circumstances acceptable to the EMC.

(d) Affiliations and Codes:

All member Clubs are required to be affiliated to the Devon Cricket Board (DCB) and the Devon Association of Cricket Officials (DACO). Clubs must support the ECB Code of Conduct and Spirit of Cricket, and adopt the Safe Hands Policy.

3. COMMITTEES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

(a) The General Committee:

A General Committee (referred to hereinafter as '**GC**') consisting of one representative from each Member Club will govern the DCL.

(b) The DCL Management Structure:

i) The DCL will be administered by the Executive Management Committee (hereinafter referred to as the '**EMC**'). In turn, the EMC will be responsible to the General Management Committee (hereinafter referred to as '**GMC**'). The EMC has the responsibility to administer the DCL in accord with the Rules agreed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

ii) It is the responsibility of Member Clubs to abide by the same rules.

(c) The Executive and General Management Committees:

i) The EMC will consist of the League Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and the Hon. Fixtures Secretary and they are hereby referred to as the 'Executive Officers' (**EO**). The GMC will consist of one representative from each 1st XI Division, the 'Webmaster', the Grounds and Discipline Adviser, a representative of DACO, & the Results Secretaries. The EMC and GMC will have the power to co-opt from within and from outside the DCL when considered necessary.

ii) The DCL will purchase the executive services of a Secretary. The EMC is authorised to increase the sum payable for such services in line with the increase in the Retail Prices Index in the previous financial year of the DCL (end of September). Any higher award requires the approval of the GC at the next AGM with any increase back-dated to 1st October 2009 where appropriate. The sum payable from 1st October 2009 will be £6,150.00 per annum.

iii) All EMC and GMC members will be elected by the GC at the AGM to serve until the next AGM.

iv) **Committee Meetings:** The EMC will meet on a monthly basis and the GMC bi-monthly and at such other times as the business of the DCL require.

v) **The Emergency Committee:** This will consist of 3 members of the EMC with the Chairman or his Deputy able to co-opt from the GMC or from outside the DCL if necessary or considered appropriate. A full report of any such meeting must be made to the GMC at the next meeting.

(d) Voting Rights in Committees:

i) Each member of the GC, the EMC, the GMC and, where relevant, the Emergency Committee, to include any co-opted members, shall have one vote at their respective meetings. The Chairman at the meeting will have the casting vote. An attendance of 75% of the members of the GC and 50% of the EMC and GMC will constitute a quorum.

ii) Any paid Executive Officer of the DCL is not permitted to vote on matters concerning League finance.

(e) Appeals Sub Committee:

The EMC and GMC are elected at the AGM and thereby empowered to apply the Rules of the DCL fairly and to impose penalties, where appropriate (and stipulated elsewhere within the Rules). In the event of a Member Club, or its member, disagreeing with such decision reached against it there is a 'Right of Appeal'.

This can be either:

i) By post, fax or e-mail to the DCL Secretary within 7 days of receiving the original judgment notification. The request to review the decision must be accompanied by a deposit cheque for £25, payable to 'Devon Cricket League'. A panel of 3 GMC members, one of whom must be an EMC member (excluding the DCL Secretary) and not involved in the original judgment, will arbitrate on the original decision.

Alternatively:

ii) A club can request an '**Appeal Hearing**' within the same time frame as outlined above. This request must be delivered to the DCL Secretary in writing and accompanied by a deposit cheque for £100, payable to 'Devon Cricket League'. The Hearing will be arranged, normally at the Exeter Court Hotel, Kennford. The DCL will seek a date convenient to both parties but usually within 4 weeks from the date of the 'Appeal' letter.

If no date can be agreed then the DCL will set the date.

iii) The '**Appeal Panel**' will comprise 3 members of the GMC (to include any co-opted member), one of which must be an Executive Officer not involved in the original decision but excluding the DCL Secretary (who will be responsible for taking the Minutes). The appellant has the right to be represented. The Appeal Panel may confirm, vary or reverse the previous EMC decision. It will have the power to order the deposit, or part thereof, forfeit if the appeal is lost. When the Appeal is upheld in full or in part the original deposit will be refunded, in whole or in part, dependent upon the decision reached. The Appeal Panel will provide a written explanation of their decision and this will be final and binding on both parties.

iv) In exceptional circumstances, e.g. legal interpretation of DCL Rules, a club can subsequently appeal to the Devon Cricket Board in accord with their Constitution and upon payment of their costs. The decision of any such arbitration service will be binding on both parties. Any deposit previously paid to the DCL will be refunded in accord with the judgment given.

(f) Disciplinary Sub-Committee

i) The Disciplinary Sub-Committee (**DSC**) will hear complaints against players and Member Clubs, in any way connected with the DCL or any competition organized by the DCL. A separate Disciplinary Appeal Sub-Committee (**DASC**) will hear appeals against decisions reached by the DSC. No player (or club) shall be refused the right to appeal against any decision reached by the DSC.

ii) The Chairman and members of both Sub-Committees will be appointed from within the GMC with the power to co-opt when necessary.

iii) Each Sub-Committee shall consist of an odd number of no more than 5 and no fewer than 3 members, including the Chairman. Each member will have 1 vote with the Chairman having the casting vote. In addition, the DCL Secretary (or a suitable deputy), in a non-voting role, will record the Minutes of any disciplinary hearing. A full report of any Hearing will be presented to the full EMC and GMC at their next meeting.

iv) No person may sit on either committee if in the opinion of the DCL Chairman there is likely to be any conflict of interest arising from blood tie or Club membership. v) All disciplinary and appeal hearings will be conducted in accord with the 'DCL Disciplinary Rules and Procedures' published in the Handbook. Decisions are binding on all parties involved.

4. GENERAL AND DIVISIONAL MEETINGS

(a) Annual General Meeting:

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held as near as possible to the last Friday in January of the year following the Season to which it relates.

(b) Extraordinary General Meetings:

On the instructions of the LMC, or at the request of no fewer than fifteen member Clubs, the DCL Secretary shall convene an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) giving at least 14 days notice.

(c) Divisional Meetings:

Individual 1st XI Divisional Sub-Committee Meetings will consist of one representative from each Club that will be playing in the Division during the following season. These meetings will be held between the last day of the current season and the 7th October on dates, times and venues to be arranged by the DCL Secretary, who will be responsible for notifying Clubs at least 21 days before their meeting is to take place. The proposed Agenda will be sent with such notification. The relevant Division Representative will Chair the meeting and appoint one person to take the minutes. These will be published to the Clubs attending for their approval within 14 days of the date of the meeting. The DCL Secretary must receive the final version of the minutes by 30th October or any earlier date as advised.

(d) Attendance Obligatory

It is obligatory for each Member Club to have a voting representative at any General Meeting and at Divisional Sub Committee Meetings. Clubs not attending shall be fined £20.00.

5. AMENDMENTS TO DCL RULES

a) Rules may only be amended or deleted, or new Rules adopted, at an AGM or at an EGM called specifically for this purpose, with the exception of the Devon Senior Cup and the Corinthian Cup competitions. The 'Playing Rules' for these will be formulated and controlled by the EMC although all other DCL Rules will be applied where appropriate. No change to the Constitution of the DCL will be made unless supported by two thirds of the votes recorded. No change to the 'Playing Rules' will be made unless supported by a majority of the votes recorded.

b) Proposals for any change to the Rules to be put forward for consideration at an AGM must be received, in writing, by the DCL Secretary not later than ten weeks prior to that AGM. The DCL Secretary will circulate these proposals to all Member Clubs within the following two weeks. Any proposals for amendments to those changes already submitted must be similarly received within the following two weeks. The final list of proposals will be circulated, along with the AGM Agenda, to all Member Clubs at least 14 days before the AGM.

c) Where an EGM is called, whether solely or partly to consider proposed amendments to Rules, the EGM will take place no later than 3 weeks after the last of such proposals is received, in writing, by the DCL Secretary.

6. SUBSCRIPTIONS & FEES

(a) Subscriptions:

i) Each member Club shall pay an annual subscription, payable on 1 April and no later than 1 May each year, according to the following scale:-

Premier Division First XI	£134
Divisions A, B & C First XI	£ 92
Divisions D, E, F, G, etc. First XI	£ 65

Where a Club runs any additional team in the DCL, an additional subscription of £47 shall be payable for each such team.

ii) From 1 April 2009, the subscription payable by each Club will be changed in line with inflation as measured by the change in the retail price index (or any such index that replaces it) based upon 30 September of the previous year. Any such increase will be rounded to the nearest £1.00. However the EMC may propose any alteration that it considers to be in the best interest of its members.

iii) Non-payment of a subscription by 1 May shall incur a fine of £10 per month or part thereof until such time as the subscription is fully paid.

iv) In the event that the annual subscription does not cover the expenses of the DCL, any deficit shall be borne equally by all member Clubs.

(b) Tea Fees:

The rate charged for teas to away teams at all matches shall be agreed at the AGM. For the current Season the rate shall be £33.00 per Team.

7. FINANCE

(a) Financial Year:

The financial year shall run from 1st October to 30th September.

(b) Banking Arrangements:

All monies received shall be paid into a banking account in the name of the Devon Cricket League. Accounts shall be paid by cheque and signed by the Hon. Treasurer or any other nominated member of the LMC.

(c) Auditors:

The annual accounts will be drawn up by the Treasurer and an independent accountant who holds a suitable professional qualification who will confirm whether or not the accounts are in accordance with the books and records of the DCL.

8. DEVON COUNTY CRICKET CLUB

Member Clubs shall not refuse permission to any of their players to assist the Devon County Cricket Club when required. The DCL shall assist as far as possible by arranging competition fixtures to accommodate Devon County Cricket Club fixtures.

9. EXTRA RULINGS

The EMC & GMC will have the full power to deal, at their discretion, with any matter affecting the DCL that is not specifically covered by the Rules.

10. DISSOLUTION OF THE DCL

The DCL will not be dissolved except by a two-thirds majority of the votes recorded at an EGM called specifically for this purpose. In the event that, at dissolution, the DCL funds are

insufficient to cover the legal liabilities, any shortfall will be borne equally by Member Clubs in proportion to the number of teams they play in the DCL.

Similarly, in the event of a surplus of funds at dissolution, such surplus will be equally divided between all Member Clubs in proportion to the number of teams they play in the DCL at that date.

Playing Arrangements and Conditions: (Rules 11 to 22 Inclusive)

Note: Any reference to a 'League Match' applies to all matches taking place under the auspices of the DCL.

11. FIXTURES

(a) The Season & Rearrangement of Fixtures:

The DCL shall arrange home and away fixtures between all member Clubs. Such fixtures shall be circulated to the Clubs by 31st October each season. Matches shall commence on the first Saturday in May and continue to be played on consecutive Saturdays thereafter.

No rearrangement of these fixture dates shall be allowed under any circumstances.

Cancellation of Fixtures: i) No fixture shall, on account of weather or ground conditions, be cancelled before 10 a.m. on the day of the match. Cancellation shall only be by agreement between the Club Team Captains concerned or, in their absence, a named Club Official. In the event of any dispute, the clubs should contact a member of the DCL EMC who in turn may recruit the assistance of DACO.

ii) The away side shall have the option to travel and inspect the Ground. If this option is taken, the home team must attend pending an on-site decision and the away side shall be responsible for independent umpires' costs should the match subsequently be cancelled without a ball being bowled.

iii) In matches where Independent Umpires are appointed, they shall be informed immediately of the decision to cancel and shall be paid if caused to travel.

(c) Known Unavailability of Home Ground:

Where a Club has prior notice of dates when their Home Ground will be unavailable for cricket during the following Season, such dates shall be notified in writing to the Hon. Fixtures Secretary by 30th September of the previous year.

(d) Unfitness or Unavailability of Ground:

Should a Ground be declared by the LMC to be dangerous or unfit for cricket, or be unavailable for any other reason not covered in **11.(c)** above, it shall be the responsibility of the Home Club to arrange for another suitable Ground to be used and to notify the DCL Secretary, the Umpires' Representative and the Opposing Team accordingly at least three days before the fixture date, any expenses incurred being borne by the Home Club.

N.B: No re-arrangement of the venue will be permitted within three days of the fixture date. If any contravention occurs the home club will be deducted 10 points.

Should it prove impossible to find a suitable alternative venue within this time limit, the match shall be treated as 'Cancelled' and points awarded as specified in Rule 14.(a).

12. CONDUCT OF MATCHES - UMPIRES & SCORERS

(a) MCC Law:

Matches shall be conducted in accordance with the official MCC laws of cricket except for matters specially provided for in these Rules

(b) Wide Ball:

Throughout the DCL, umpires are instructed to apply a very strict and consistent interpretation concerning this law in order to prevent negative bowling wide of the wicket.

In the Premier, 'A' and 'B' and 'C' 1st XI Divisions only, any offside or leg side delivery which, in the opinion of the umpire, does not give the batsman a reasonable opportunity to score shall be called a wide

As a guide, any ball passing, on the off side, sufficiently wide of the batsman to prevent contact with the normal striking portion of the bat shall be called 'wide'. In addition, any ball passing down the leg side, outside the batsman, shall be called 'wide'.

(c) Umpires & Scorers:

i) In respect of all Premier, 'A', 'B' & 'C' Division 1st XI matches, the Devon Association of Cricket Officials (DACO) shall supply Independent Umpires to be paid prior to the commencement of the match. Each team shall supply one non-playing Scorer.

ii) In the remaining 1st XI and ALL 2nd XI matches, each team must supply one non-playing Scorer and one non-playing Umpire.

iii) Premier, 'A', 'B' & 'C' Divisions 1st XI's only: Failure by any side to provide a Scorer for both innings shall, on the first occasion, incur an immediate fine of £1 0.00 to the Club concerned. The fine will be £20.00 for each subsequent offence during that season. The Umpires will be responsible for reporting this offence.

(d) Fitness of Ground, Weather & Light:

Where Independent Umpires are appointed, they shall be the judges of the fitness of the ground, weather and light. In respect of all other matches, the captains shall be the judges with the Umpires to be the final adjudicators if the Captains fail to agree.

(e) Clothing and Attire:

It is recommended, to maintain standards across the League Competition, that Advertising Insignia regulations comply with those required by ECB for the First Class Game. Details are available from the League Secretary or from the ECB Website.

13. HOURS AND CONDITIONS OF PLAY

(a) Normal Hours of Play:

Premier 1st XI & 2nd XI, 'A' 1st & 2nd XI: Start Time: 1 .30 p.m.*

All other Divisions: Start Time: 2.00 p.m.*

* These times [and those in Rules 1 3.(d) and 13.(g)] shall be brought forward by 30 minutes in respect of the last four matches of the season.

A team not ready to start at the scheduled time shall lose one over of its innings for every full three and a half minutes they are late. In addition, at the start of the match, they shall forfeit the toss.

(b) Normal duration of Matches:

Premier 1st XI & 2nd XI, 'A' 1st XI & 2nd.XI: 100 six ball overs (maximum)

All other Divisions: 92 six ball overs (maximum)

(c) Normal duration of Innings (side batting first):

Premier 1st XI & 2nd XI, 'A' 1st XI & 2nd XI: 50 six ball overs (maximum) **

All other Divisions: 46 six ball overs (maximum) **

**Any part overs shall be treated as having been completed.

In all cases the Innings of the **Side Batting Second** must use the balance of overs available after completion of the First Innings.

(d) Intervals:

Tea Interval:

All Divisions: 30 minutes, normally taken between Innings.

If the first innings is concluded before 4.00 p.m., there shall be a ten minute interval between innings and tea shall be taken at 4.35 p.m. or after 35 minutes of the second innings, whichever is the later. In matches affected by the weather or light, tea may be taken by agreement between the Captains and the Umpires.

If, however, (i) the first innings closes or (ii) there is a stoppage for weather or light, between 4.00 p.m. and 4.20 p.m., tea shall be taken immediately. In the event of (i) above, there shall be no separate or additional interval between innings.

(e) Over Rates (Premier, 'A', 'B' & 'C' Divisions First XI only)

i) To prevent over long matches and to encourage an over rate of 17 per hour of actual playing time, time allocations for innings shall be as follows: Premier & 'A' Division:

An innings of 50 overs maximum must be bowled in 176 minutes of playing time.
'B' & 'C' Division:

An innings of 46 overs maximum must be bowled in 162 minutes of playing time.

ii) Where overs have been added to the normal maximum length of an innings, an additional seven minutes shall be allowed for every two overs and three minutes for an odd over. Part overs shall be deemed to have been completed

iii) In circumstances which cause loss of playing time and which are beyond the control of the bowling side, any one event which delays play by more than two minutes shall be noted by the Umpires and the total time lost through that event shall be excluded from the actual playing time.

iv) Any bowling side failing to achieve the required over rate shall lose one point for every one over per hour, or part thereof, by which they fall short of the requirement. Any such penalty shall be applied by the Result Secretary in consultation with the EMC using information recorded on the result sheet and the Umpires reports and, if necessary, after discussion with the umpires

(f) Restriction on Overs per Bowler:

No bowler may bowl more than 30% of the available overs in any innings.

In the event of an interruption during the first innings, the number of overs available per bowler shall be reduced accordingly. If, on resumption of play, a bowler has exceeded the new maximum number of overs, he shall not be allowed to bowl again, other than to complete an unfinished over.

The Umpires will, prior to the start of the innings, or upon resumption of play, advise the Captains and Scorers of the maximum number of overs available per bowler.

(g) Interruption or Delay of Play:

If during the first innings the weather or light delays play to the extent of seven minutes or more, two overs shall be deducted from the match total for every complete seven minutes delay.

In **All Divisions**, irrespective of the number of overs available, the side batting first may use no more than 50%.

No game shall commence after 4.00 pm. or second innings after 6.30 p.m. No match shall be of less than 40 overs duration.

h) Foul and Abusive Language.

In an attempt to improve the experience of playing and watching DCL Cricket the following will be applied by DACO appointed Umpires and Club Umpires.

When the two Umpires both hear a player using foul and abusive language, they will inform the captain that they are issuing a final warning for his team. The next time any player uses foul and abusive language that can be heard by both Umpires the player concerned, and the Captain, will be reported to the DCL. It should be stressed that even if it is stated the language was used in frustration and not directed at any player or official this is no excuse and proceedings will take place under the DCL Disciplinary Rules and Procedures.

14. SCORING OF POINTS

(a) Match Points shall be awarded as follows:

10 points for an outright win

6 points for a draw with the higher score

2 points for a draw with the lower score (but See Notes: (iii) below)

5 points for a tie or draw with the scores level

6 points for a cancellation or abandonment

No points shall be awarded for an outright defeat.

Notes: (i) *The maximum number of points any side can be awarded is twenty.*

(ii) *Bonus points awarded prior to the abandonment of a match shall stand.*

(iii) *In a drawn match, the side batting second that fails to score at least two thirds of the required total to win shall be awarded no points for the draw.*

(b) Bonus Points:

(i) Batting:

One batting point shall be awarded for the first hundred runs and one additional point shall be awarded at each of the following totals: 125, 150, 175 and 200 runs (i.e. a maximum five points).

One batting point shall be awarded to a winning side batting second for every two wickets standing at the end of the match, providing that the total of batting points awarded does not exceed five.

However, should the side batting second successfully chase a target of less than 100 runs, they shall be awarded one batting point, plus additional batting points for wickets in hand as stated in the paragraph immediately above.

(ii) **Bowling:**

One bowling point shall be awarded for every two wickets taken. If a side cannot bat a full eleven, the bowling side shall be awarded the maximum of five points only when all available wickets are taken.

(c) Inability to Fulfill a Fixture:

Should any team be unable to fulfill a fixture where a suitable ground is available, it shall forfeit the match and be awarded no points; twenty points being awarded to the opposing team.

Such Team shall also have 10 points deducted from its total to date. Where a clear 48 hours notice to the opposition has not been given, the offending Club shall, in addition, pay a sum of £33.00 to the opposing Club and, where applicable, shall be responsible for paying independent Umpires as if the fixture had taken place.

In other than exceptional circumstances, no Club may fail to fulfill a higher XI fixture whilst fulfilling a lower XI fixture on the same day. The penalty on a Club for failure to observe this part of the Rule shall be the loss of all points resulting from any fixture fulfilled on that day, in addition to penalties (detailed above) applied to the Team failing to fulfill its fixture.

15. MATCH RESULTS / RESULT SHEETS / UMPIRE ASSESSMENT FORMS

a) The Home Captain will be responsible for ensuring that an official result sheet, completed to include all players names, whether they had batted or not, is signed by or on behalf of both Captains. The Captain or another member of the Home side will be responsible for submitting the fully completed, accurate and legible result sheet (in black ink) to the appropriate Divisional Result Secretary by scanned Email, at the earliest opportunity. The result sheet must be received by the Result Secretary no later than noon on the first Tuesday following the match taking place.

Guidance Note: Clubs may wish to ensure that the Result Secretary has received the result sheet. Subject to notification of an appropriate Email address an acknowledgement will be issued.

b) Failure by the Home team to submit a completed result sheet, as required in 15(a) by noon on the first Tuesday following the match will incur a £10.00 fine

c) In the event of an abandoned game (that is a match where play has commenced) the result sheet must be fully completed and returned as required in 15 (a).

d) In the event of cancellation (that is where no play has taken place) the result sheet must be completed by the Home Captain (or a representative of his Club) stating 'Match Cancelled' and the time it was confirmed with the opposing Captain. After signing the result sheet the submission procedure outlined in 15 (a) will apply.

e) In those Divisions where Umpires are appointed by DACO, both Captains must fully complete the Umpires Assessment Form. The completed form is to be posted to the nominated DACO Representative, in the DCL envelope supplied, so that it is received no later than noon on the first Wednesday following the match taking place. If the Home Captain fails to comply or the form is received late a fine of £10.00 will be incurred for each occurrence.

16. CHAMPIONSHIPS

(a) **The Champion Team:**

The Team gaining the greatest number of points at the end of the Season shall be the Champion Team of each Division.

(b) **Equality:**

Should two or more Teams have equal points, the winner shall be the Team with the highest number of outright wins. Should equality still prevail the Team with the highest number of winning draws shall be the winner. Should equality still prevail, the Teams concerned shall be joint winners. The same principles shall apply in the determination of each Team's position within each Division save that, where equality still prevails, the Team with the most batting points shall be placed the higher.

(c) **Promotion and Relegation:**

In both First and Second Eleven Leagues the two Teams finishing top in all Divisions will be promoted with the exception of the Premier Division and regionalised 'D' Divisions. In the regionalised Divisions 'D' West and 'D' East the top team only will be promoted from each. NB: See Rule 22(c) re Ground Grading Criteria. The two teams finishing bottom in all Divisions, except the lowest Divisions, will be relegated.

Note.1: Should a Team fail to qualify for promotion under Rule 2 (a) (No 2nd XI) or Rule 22 (c) or 22 (d) (Ground Grading / No artificial requirements), the Team finishing in the next best position will be promoted instead.

Should the latter Team also fail to qualify for promotion, the Team due to be relegated in its place will remain in the higher Division, in its final position.

Note.2: Should a Team be relegated to a Division in which a lower Club XI is already playing in the lowest Division, the EMC will seek an equitable solution to ensure that no Team is unfairly denied promotion.

17. TROPHIES

Winners of Championship Trophies, the Player of the season and the Bob-Bridges Trophy, will be responsible for their safe custody and their return to the DCL Secretary at least one month before the Awards Evening.

Failure by a Club to return the trophy in good condition by the due date will result in a fine of £30.00 or the cost of replacement, whichever is the greater.

18. MATCH BALLS

(a) In all matches each side shall provide one new match ball, both balls to be lodged with the Umpires before the commencement of the match. The ball used first in the match shall be deemed to be that supplied by the Home side. The side fielding second MUST use the second ball from the commencement and for the duration of the innings, where possible.

(b) 'In all Premier Division and 'A' Division 1st& 2nd XI matches the ball used must be **'Dukes County International'**. In all other League matches, the ball used must be **'Dukes Special Crown Match'**. Any new ball must bear the DCL symbol. (NB: For the 2009 season only **'Dukes Special Match'** balls will be allowed.)

The DCL Secretary must receive all orders for new balls by 31st January each year (unless advised accordingly). Payment must be received no later than four weeks after receipt of the appropriate invoice from the DCL. NB: VAT Invoices cannot be provided.

An adequate number of spare balls (bearing the DCL symbol) must be made available by all home sides for use as and when necessary. For Premier Division 1st XI matches only, a minimum of four used balls of the requisite type and condition shall be made available by the home side.

The said balls will be subject to the approval of the Umpires as satisfactory before the start of play. The selection of a spare ball from this stock, when the ball previously in use is lost, shall be as directed by the Umpires.

19. PLAYERS: ELIGIBILITY & REGISTRATION

a) Procedure: Registration of all payers will take place in accordance with guidelines issued from time to time by the EMC.

The rules will apply to both male and female gender and must comply with EMC guidelines, which may be subject to change from time to time.

Registration of players applies to 1st XI teams and any player in **category 2 or 3**. All players playing in any of the Cup Competitions organised by the DCL must also be registered (Except the Corinthian Cup Competition, refer to the competition rules)

Category 1

This category comprises players who either

- a) Are qualified for England under current ECB rules (these rules are available at anytime from the ECB Website) **OR**
- b) Hold a British passport as a result of citizenship. **OR**
- c) Hold a passport issued by a member state of the European Union **OR**
- d) Are a foreign citizen who have been resident in the UK for the preceding four consecutive years as of the date of registration and has spent a minimum of 210 days in each of these preceding 4 consecutive years within the UK (for which purpose shall mean a year ending 31st March) **OR**
- e) Are a citizen of a UK Overseas Protectorate (note e.g. Anguilla, St Helena, Falkland Islands) **OR**
- f) Who otherwise falls under **category 3** but who, on the 1st September in the preceding year is under 17 years of age.

CATEGORY 1 PLAYERS CAN PLAY WITHOUT RESTRICTION IN ALL DCL LEAGUE AND CUP GAMES.

EACH TEAM MUST INCLUDE A MINIMUM OF NINE CATEGORY 1 PLAYERS

Category 2

This relates to players who, at the date of registration, are contracted to a First Class County or MCC Young Cricketers. Players must comply with the qualification requirements and restrictions of **categories 1 and 3**. This means, for example, that a player regarded as non-overseas for the purpose of County Cricket may nevertheless still fall within the DCL **category 3** definition and be restricted accordingly. For the purpose of clarification, a contracted player with a county club is one who either has a full playing contract, a summer contract or development contract but not an Academy contract (aged 16-19).

Only one category 2 player may play in any DCL League or Cup game

However, “home grown” players as defined below will be regarded as **category 1** players. A “home grown” player is one who was a bona fide member of that club for at least the last two UK seasons prior to his 21st birthday, and played at least 12 matches in total in DCL League or cup games in the preceding two UK seasons, and was a member of the club immediately prior to the award of a contract.

Category 3

All players not covered by **category 1, 2** or the “home grown” rule”

Only **one category 3** player may play in any DCL League or Cup game.

b) Registration of players

- 1) Where a **category 1a or 1b** player has been registered with a club in the previous season that registration will be carried forward to the new season. This will be subject to the holding club re-affirming the registration. Players in **categories 1c, 1d, 1e, 2 and 3** must complete the current year DCL registration form. The completed registration form together with any other requirements stated below must be received by the Registration Secretary (currently the DCL secretary) prior to 10.00 p.m. on the 23rd April each season in order to be eligible on the first match of the current season.
- 2) After this first match, a player can be registered up to 10.00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the match in that he/she wishes to play in.
- 3) No new player registrations will be accepted by the Registration Secretary (or the EMC in the absence of the registration secretary) after 10pm on the 31st July of the current season.
- 4) Once registered with a club, a player remains registered (subject to the guidance note below) until officially transferred or the holding club notifies the Registration Secretary that the player’s registration is to be cancelled.
- 5) Any substitute (as defined by the Laws of Cricket) used in a League or Cup match need not be a registered player.
- 6) At the time of registration **category 1c, 1d & 1e** players must provide a copy of their passport.
- 7) At the time of registration **category 1d** players must provide a written statement confirming their compliance with the eligibility rules.

- 8) At the time of registration **category 1f** players must provide proof of age.
- 9) At the time of registration, **category 2** "home grown" players must provide the relevant proof as described in **category 2** in order to play as if they were **category 1** players.
- 10) At the time of registration, **category 3** players must provide the following:
- a) A copy of their passport to include entry stamp into the UK together with:
 - b) A copy of their visa, where a visa is required.
 - c) If the Visa or entry stamp prohibits any paid work, or has restrictions on a particular type of work, the club must confirm in a separate letter that they will not be paying that player in any capacity at that club (or confirm that the payment meets the terms of the restriction in the passport on paid work). For the avoidance of doubt, payment includes but is not restricted to air fares, lodging allowances, coaching fees, Grounds-man's fees, provision of a vehicle, mileage allowances or appearance money.
 - d) The club, at the date of registration, is also required to inform the DCL whether or not the player will be involved in coaching at any level. If so then a Level 2 coaching certificate (or equivalent in the players own country) must be produced.
 - e) The club at the date of registration is also requested to inform the DCL if the player will be coaching under 18's and if so a CRB certificate (or equivalent in the players own country) must also be produced.
 - f) Registration will be granted providing that **10a, 10b, 10c** and if appropriate, **10d**, are complied with at the date of registration **BUT subject to 10g below.**
 - g) If the documents to support **10d** and **10e** are not available at the time of registration but requirements of **10a, 10b, 10c** and **10d** have been met, , **PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION** will be granted but **REGISTRATION WILL ONLY BE GRANTED FOR A 4 WEEK PERIOD PENDING RECEIPT BY THE REGISTRATION SECRETARY OF THE DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR 10d AND 10e.**
PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION WILL BE WITHDRAWN AT THE END OF THE 4 WEEK PERIOD UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE RELEVANT DOCUMENTS ARE PRODUCED

It is the responsibility of the club to comply with all relevant UK Tax law (such as PAYE and NI) in respect of **category 3** players

Guidance Note:

The Registration Secretary will accept by post, fax, e-mail or by hand subject only the official DCL Registration Forms where fully completed, together with any supporting documents that are required to fulfil the requirements of R.19 and within the time limits prescribed elsewhere within the rules.

Once registered with a Club, a Player remains registered with them until officially transferred, or the holding Club notifies the Registration Secretary that the Player's registration is to be cancelled.

The Registration Secretary (or the EMC) shall have the power to refuse registration at any time in the best interests of the DCL.

Club Responsibility when registering Players:

A club, when relying upon a Player's registration continuing from the previous season is responsible for:

- (i) Checking that the Player's name is shown on the list of Registered Players as supplied by the Registration Secretary.
- (ii) Ensuring that a Player is not registered with any other club e.g. that the Player was officially transferred to his/her club in the previous season.
- (iii) An authorised official of that club returning a signed copy of the Registration List (from the previous season) to the Registration Secretary no later than the 23rd April.
- (iv) Failure to respond in time will result in unregistered Players and their ineligibility to play in the first match of the season.
- (v) Eligibility after 31st July:
In Premier, 'A', 'B' and 'C' Divisions only a Player who has not played during the current season at any level in the DCL up to and including the last Saturday in July shall not be eligible to play in any remaining 1st XI fixtures of that season.
- (vi) **Playing an Unregistered or Ineligible Player:**
 - a) Should a team play an unregistered Player under circumstances where prior registration is required, or play an ineligible Player, such team shall have **5 points** deducted for each such Player and deducted from its total to date. The Club concerned shall also be fined **£25.00** for each such Player.
 - b) Should a team be found **guilty of deliberately** playing an unregistered or In-eligible Player, **in addition to the penalties detailed above**, such team shall forfeit all points gained in the match in question, have **20 points** deducted and be fined **£50.00**.

20. PLAYERS: TRANSFER

(a) Application for transfer:

No previously registered player can re-register with another DCL member Club without:

- (i) Completion of the official DCL Transfer Form. This form must be signed by an authorised official from each club involved **and**

(b) Completion of a new Registration Form.

- (i) No previously unregistered player irrespective of whether he/she has played in the previous or current season can switch between DCL member clubs without completing of the official DCL Transfer Form and a Registration Form.
- (ii) No **Category 3** player will be allowed to transfer between DCL Clubs in the current season.

The Registration Secretary will accept, by concession, any form of instruction from the Player's previous club offering the Player for transfer. Any such document must be signed by an authorised official of the ceding club. This is designed to expedite the transfer process.

The Player's new club must still need to submit the official DCL Transfer Form and Registration Form where appropriate, signed by the Player and an authorised official of the new club.

Guidance Note

A Transfer Form must be completed for **all** players who change clubs irrespective of whether they have been previously registered but have not played for the registered club.

The transfer system applies to all Players moving between DCL Member Clubs.

(c) Transfer Time Scale

- (i) A completed Transfer Form and Registration Form, where appropriate, must be received by 10.00 p.m. on the Thursday preceding the first match the transferring Player is required to play in for his/her new club.

The power to confirm or reject a transfer vests in the Registration Secretary or in the event of a dispute with the appointed Emergency Committee.

- (ii) No transfer will be permitted after 1st July each season.

(d) Financial Commitment to a Previous Club:

No player maybe transferred to, or registered with **any** DCL club until such time as **all** financial commitments have been settled with that Player's previous Club.

21. PLAYERS: YOUNG

Limitations applying to Young Fast Bowlers, Young Players in the Field and the Wearing of Helmets by Young Players shall be imposed in all Divisions in accordance with the current ECB Directives and Safety Guidance.

All Captains shall be familiar with these Directives and shall be responsible for their implementation.

Umpires shall be required to monitor compliance.

22. LEAGUE GROUNDS League grounds and facilities will be inspected by or on behalf of the LMC as required, in order to maintain compliance with DCL Ground Grading Criteria. Technical assistance and advice will be offered to Clubs to improve the standard of cricket facilities in the County.

(a) Availability and use of Covers:

- I. In the Premier and 'A' Division 1st XI matches effective covers must be available for immediate use in rain effected matches (See ground criteria)

(b) No Club shall be promoted to a higher Division unless it's ground and facilities comply with the ground Grading Criteria (q.v.) for that Division. The decision of the EMC as to compliance of grounds and facilities will be final and binding.

(b) Artificial Pitches:

The use of artificial wickets is not permitted except under the following circumstances.

A Club 3rd XI or lower, playing in the lowest two divisions East & West will be granted exemption (upon application to the DCL) if their home ground has no grass pitch available throughout the whole season.

END