



## **2024 RULES & REGULATIONS IN FULL**

### **M - MANAGEMENT RULES**

#### **M1 TITLE**

- 1.1 The combination of clubs will be called 'ECB YORKSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE NORTH' which may be preceded by a sponsor's name if appropriate and will be hereinafter referred to as 'The League'.

#### **M2 MANAGEMENT, AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1 To ensure that the ECB Anti-Discrimination and Safeguarding Policies are implemented and adhered to by the league and all clubs to provide an environment where every individual and club is treated equally and with respect.
- 2.2 The League will be administered by a Management Board which will comprise the following Executive Officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, General Manager, Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Assistant Secretary, EDI Manager, Treasurer, Disciplinary Chairman, Results Manager, Fixture Manager, Grounds & Facilities Manager, Registration Manager, League Welfare Officer, Umpire Manager,. Other board members may include Annual Dinner Manager, YCB Rep, Representative Teams Manager, Rules Secretary, and general board members co-opted as necessary. Non-Executive Officers may include, Honorary Solicitor, Honorary Auditor, or others co-opted as necessary.
- 2.3 All Executive Officers will be elected annually at the AGM. The positions of Chairman and Secretary must be approved by the YPLMB. Nominations for the other Executive Officers should be submitted to the Secretary by October 1st each year. Non-Executive Officers will be appointed by the Management Board who will also have the power to co-opt Assistant Secretaries and appoint Sub-Committees as necessary.
- 2.4 In order for a meeting of the Management Board to be quorate a minimum of four members must be present.
- 2.5 To maintain the highest standard of club cricket (and enhance it wherever possible).
- 2.6 Help and support member clubs to play at the highest level they aspire to.
- 2.7 Support the development of the ground and facilities standards at all member clubs.
- 2.8 To support ECB initiatives for the growth, participation, and development of the game.
- 2.9 To ensure all the requirements set down by ECB for Premier League status are met, including mandating relevant clubs to be fully compliant with all current requirements.
- 2.10 To adopt the Sports Governance process (Sport England).

#### **M3 MEMBER CLUBS**

- 3.1 Member clubs (or teams) will be elected by a simple majority. Membership will be in respect of the club's first team. Clubs will only be eligible for membership if their ground fully meets the criteria laid down in respect of Grounds & Facilities. There will be no limit to the number of teams from an

individual club but third and subsequent teams will only be eligible for membership from a club whose second ground fully meets these criteria. Clubs with teams in one or more of the other ECB Premier Leagues will not be eligible for membership.

- 3.2 The Management Board will consider the position of those clubs which fail to meet the minimum required standards in respect of Facilities, Ground Marks, Disciplinary Record and Administrative standards and will notify any club of the requirement to seek re-election no later than 30th September. Such clubs will be required to submit a written application no later than 7th October which will contain a 'Plan of Action' designed at addressing the failure leading to the re-election situation. Failure to apply within the fixed time scale will be interpreted as resignation from the League by default.
- 3.3 Teams moving into the League from official feeder leagues may join following the end of their current season. Clubs wishing to join from 'non-feeder' leagues will follow the procedure laid down by the YPLMB and will be considered at the first available AGM.  
*Note: Clubs and teams in leagues not in the Yorkshire Pyramid may transfer via the YCB process. Clubs and teams who compete in leagues within the 'pyramid' can appeal to the YCPLMB if requests to transfer are not approved providing that they have a valid excuse for wishing to migrate.*
- 3.4 The Management Board will allocate new teams to an appropriate Division one year in advance where possible and promotion and relegation within the lower Divisions will be adjusted accordingly.
- 3.5 The acceptance of a new club will be on a two-year probationary basis and subject to an end-of-season assessment. Failure to meet the League's requirements may result in membership of the League being cancelled.
- 3.6 Clubs wishing to resign from the ECB Premier Divisions & Championship should give notice in writing to the secretary by 30th June and must fulfil all fixtures and financial obligations for that season. Failure to comply with this requirement will render the club to a £1000 penalty. This requirement does not apply to teams being relegated.
- 3.7 All clubs must keep fully up to date on an ongoing basis the contact details of all Officers, Captains, and general club details on their Play-Cricket site. Clubs who are not displaying full details of Chairman, Secretary and Club Welfare Officer at all times will be liable to a £50 penalty per offence per week that the details are missing. At the time that the first match is played each season the up to date captains full details must be displayed on play-cricket and kept up to date throughout the season. Failure to adhere will result in a £50 penalty per offence per week that the details are missing, or not kept fully up to date throughout the entire cricket season.
- 3.8 The League and its member clubs will operate the following: Whilst respecting player qualification regulations, membership will be open to all irrespective of age, gender, disability, race, ethnic origin, colour, social status, and sexual orientation.

## **M4 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

- 4.1 The Annual General Meeting will be held no later than December each year. The League Secretary will notify all clubs of the AGM, giving 28 days' notice.
- 4.2 Attendance at the Annual General Meeting is voluntary, voting is mandatory.
- 4.3 The business of the Annual General Meeting will be determined by the Management Board who may propose changes to either League Rules or playing conditions. Any club may propose changes to League Rules or playing conditions, but proposals for changes to playing conditions for the ECB Premier Division can only come from current ECB Premier Division clubs. Any club wishing to submit proposals for the Annual General Meeting should submit them to the secretary by 30th September each year. The Management Board will be empowered to make changes to rules covering the administration of the League.
- 4.4 Voting Procedure:
  - 4.4.1 All clubs must vote in advance by e-mail submission in a process as directed by the secretary or appointed deputy.

Note: Clubs will be sent a ballot paper in advance.

- 4.4.2 All clubs are entitled to one vote per club on every resolution or matter coming before the meeting except for;
- those relating to the ECB Premier League playing conditions which will be voted on only by clubs who will have a team in the ECB Premier League in the following season or where the board have decided that voting is only applicable to a certain level or division.
  - those relating to playing conditions at other Levels of the League where the proposing club has proposed that they are voted on only by clubs who will have teams playing at those Levels in the following season.
- 4.4.3 Executive Officers as listed in Rule 2.2 will have full voting rights except for proposed changes to the ECB Premier League playing conditions. Any person holding more than one position will only have one vote.
- 4.4.4 All matters voted upon will be decided by a simple majority with the Chairman having a casting vote in the event there not being a majority.
- 4.5 Any decision made at the Annual General Meeting will be binding.
- 4.6 Once a resolution has been passed at an AGM or EGM, no proposals for changing that resolution will be accepted by the Management Board for a period of 3 years without the Board's agreement.

## **M5 OTHER MEETINGS**

- 5.1 The secretary or appointed deputy will convene meetings at such times as is deemed necessary or within seven days of the receipt of a request from any 50% of member clubs. Three clear days' notice of all meetings will be given to clubs by the League secretary or appointed deputy.
- 5.2 Attendance at any meeting that is designated as an 'Extraordinary General Meeting' is voluntary, voting is mandatory.
- 5.3 The voting procedure at an Extraordinary General Meeting will be as for an Annual General Meeting.
- 5.4 A Pre-Season Meeting (or a series of regional meetings) will be held each year when attendance is mandatory.

## **M6 FINANCE**

- 6.1 Each team will pay an annual subscription of an amount as agreed at the Annual General Meeting plus relevant affiliation fees. This amount must be paid to the Treasurer within 14 days of the date of issue of the invoice or of the AGM. Any club failing to make payment by the stipulated date will suffer a penalty.
- Note: The League will issue invoices to clubs, but ultimately it is the individual club's responsibility to ensure that fees are paid by 15 December or the date on the invoice, whichever is the earlier. Clubs should not use the lack of an invoice as a reason to avoid payment.*
- 6.2 Clubs with teams in the divisions covered by the Umpires' Panel (not including ECB Premier Division) are required to pay a further amount in respect of their expenses. This amount must be forwarded to the Treasurer within 14 days of the date of issue of the invoice. Any club failing to make payment by the stipulated date will suffer a penalty.
- 6.3 The payment of League fees by a club indicates the acceptance by the club of the authority of the Management Board and represents the club's commitment to abide by the League Rules and the League Disciplinary Rules and Procedures.
- 6.4 The financial year will run from 1st October to 30th September each year
- 6.5 The treasurer will distribute an agreed portion of ECB funding to clubs which have teams in the ECB Premier Division each season as agreed by the Management Board. Such funds will not be distributed where a club has failed to take the actions required of them, for example, failure to submit reports, or to use the correct player registration process.

*Note: Failure to meet Premier League standards also includes not having 3 junior sides playing hardball cricket. This list is not exhaustive.*

- 6.6 A club ceasing to be a member of the League for any reason will at once forfeit automatic rights to any distributions from the League's assets. Relegated teams will receive ECB funding only for the most recent season, if applicable.
- 6.7 All invoices must be paid within 14 days of the issue date. These will be sent via email to the Club Treasurer and the Club Secretary.

## **M7 MERIT TABLE**

- 7.1 Clubs will be assessed and marked with regard to facilities, ground marks, submission of results, scorecards, captain's reports, discipline, and sportsmanship marks where applicable.  
*Note: All financial penalties carry a merit table deduction of 1 point per £1 levied*
- 7.2 Any team which suffers a total of 500 or more merit table points deduction (de merit) will be required to seek re-election.
- 7.3 The League will be empowered to require any club/team to seek re-election if such club/team is considered to be unable to function at the appropriate level, and to make an appropriate recommendation to the AGM. In arriving at its recommendation, the Management Board will consider every aspect of the club/team's performance in relation to grounds and facilities, administration, discipline, playing strength, sustainability, and any other relevant aspect.  
The League will assess clubs during the season and will then work in partnership with those clubs who are considered to be below standard with the aim of raising their profile to an acceptable level. In the event of any club remaining below standard, the League will identify such clubs at the Annual General Meeting and seek the backing of the member clubs for their recommendations which may include:
- i. One year's probation subject to improvements being made in specified areas.
  - ii. One year's notice of termination of membership of the League.
  - iii. Immediate termination of membership
- 7.4 Clubs are required to ensure that the marking of grounds and umpires (where appropriate) is undertaken by a responsible person using the appropriate guidelines.

## **M8 ALLOCATION OF TEAMS**

- 8.1 The League will operate a number of Levels, each with its own playing regulations and criteria.
- 8.1.1 The league will operate a second division to the ECB Premier Division positioned between the ECB Premier Division and The Two Championship Divisions. This new division will operate to the exact same rules and criteria as the ECB Premier Division with the exception of umpire payments.
- 8.2 At the end of each season the Management Board will assess the credentials of all teams who have qualified to play at each level in the following season. If, in their opinion, they consider that a team be inadequately equipped to compete at a that level, any such team will be relegated or, if due for promotion, not promoted.
- 8.3 Each Division will comprise 12 teams where practical.  
*Note: At times divisions may play with less or more teams dependent on teams' late withdrawal from the league or the number of teams within the league.*
- 8.4 Where there are 12 teams in a division, each team will play each other team twice on a home and away basis. In Divisions where there are not 12 teams, clubs will play each other team at least once but may meet opponents on two or three occasions in order to ensure a full and meaningful fixture programme.
- 8.5 The League Management can move teams to different divisions at the same level in order to balance divisions.
- 8.6 Where there is more than one Division at any Level, the Divisions will reflect, where possible, clubs' geographical locations in order to reduce travel.

## **M9 FIXTURES**

- 9.1 All matches will be arranged by the officers of the League, and the fixture list will be maintained.
- 9.2 In exceptional circumstances, matches may be played on a ground other than that specified in the fixture list. The alternative ground and facilities must fulfil the criteria set down by the Management Board and the club wishing to re-locate a fixture must obtain permission, at least seven days in advance, from the secretary or deputy. No venue switch may be implemented without prior approval. The re-location of a match solely due to unfitness of grounds will not normally be permissible.
- 9.3 Re-scheduling Fixtures.
- 9.3.1 In the Premier, Championship, and First Divisions, matches may only be re-scheduled in exceptional circumstances such as involvement in a national competition or ground unavailability due to a commitment to a county match and with the agreement of the League Secretary and the opposing club.  
The League Secretary **must** be contacted for prior agreement.  
*Note: If the opposition decline to re-schedule the fixture the club requesting must find an alternative ground that meets the ground & facility requirement for that particular division.  
If re-scheduling or an alternative ground cannot be found the result will be recorded as a home team conceded fixture.*
- 9.3.2 In the Second Division and below matches may be re-scheduled only after agreement has been reached with the League Secretary.  
The re-scheduled match will be subject to the normal rules relating to cancelled matches and may not be re-arranged due to a weather cancellation.  
All re-scheduled matches must be completed prior to the last day of the normal League fixture calendar.
- 9.4 Clubs must check all fixtures for anomalies when they are issued. Any issues detected must be reported to the League Secretary within 14 days of the date of issue, at the latest. Issues found after this date will have to be resolved by the club(s) concerned.
- 9.5 Teams who concede more than two league matches during any one season will be required to seek re-election at the next Annual General Meeting.

## **M10 PROMOTION & RELEGATION**

- 10.1 Promotion and relegation will operate throughout the League as follows.
- 10.1.1 The bottom two teams in the Top ECB Premier Division will be relegated into ECB Premier Two. The top team out of each Championship Division will be promoted.  
*Note: This may mean some migration between both divisions to solve geographical issue where practical.*
- 10.1.2 Promoted York Vale teams will enter the League at Level 6, allocated geographically.
- 10.1.3 Promoted Nidderdale League teams will enter into either Galtres or Ebor Second Division.  
*Note: This will require an additional team to be relegated from either division.*
- 10.2 Where teams are equal on points at the end of the season, league table precedence shall be determined by virtue of:
- i. the team gaining the highest percentage wins (excluding concessions)
  - ii. the team gaining the higher number of points, including bonus points, in the two league matches between the two teams.
  - iii. the team gaining the highest total bonus points in the season.
  - iv. net run rate across the whole season.
- 10.3 A team will have the right not to be promoted into the ECB Premier Division if they so wish. Any club declining promotion, unable to be promoted due to a more senior team already being in the ECB

Premier League, or leaving the League other than due to normal relegation will be replaced by promoting the next highest qualifying club.

- 10.4 Where a team is due for promotion to the same Level as a higher team from the same club, promotion will not take place unless the teams can be allocated to different Divisions within that Level. In such circumstances the higher placed team due to be relegated in the normal manner will retain its current Divisional status.
- 10.5 Where a team is due for relegation to the same Level as a lower team from the same club, both teams will, where possible, be allocated to different Divisions within that Level. If that is not possible, the lower team will be relegated to the next Level too and the higher placed team due to be relegated from the Division where the lower team has been relegated from will retain its place in that Division.
- 10.6 Where the relegation of a team or the prevented promotion of a team results in a club having two teams operating within the bottom Level, the Management Board will agree the best course of action with the club concerned. The object will be to avoid a situation where a club has two teams in the same Division whilst, at the same time, ensuring that each team operates in a viable league environment in order to ensure the team's survival.
- 10.7 Where a new club has been allocated to a Division other than the bottom Division, the Management Board will decide how promotion and relegation will be affected. Clubs will be informed of the effect not later than the Pre-Season General Meeting.
- 10.8 Where a team is not promoted due to ground and/or facility issues, the next placed team (down to and including the 4th placed team) meeting the required criteria will be promoted. Should none of the top four teams be in a position to be promoted the Management Board will decide the best way forward.

## **M11 SAFEGUARDING**

- 11.1 All Clubs must comply with the ECB Child Protection Policy requirements relating to junior players.
- 11.2 Each club is required to appoint an approved Club Safeguarding Officer (CSO) who is fully compliant with current ECB requirements, including current ECB DBS clearance, and will ensure that the ECB's requirements are met within the club. Details of CSOs must be kept up to date on the club's Play-Cricket site.
- 11.3 All Captains, umpires, and scorers participating on a regular basis must be ECB DBS checked prior to the start of the season, or when appointed.  
It is a club's responsibility to ensure that all relevant personnel are fully compliant.
- 11.4 The League will appoint a Safeguarding Officer (LSO) who will be a member of the Management Board. The LSO will be responsible for:  
- Maintaining a Register of Club Safeguarding Officers.  
- All administrative duties relating to Safeguarding.  
- Fulfilling the role of Club Safeguarding Officer for League Representative matches and other League activities involving juniors.
- 11.4 All clubs are required to complete and return a Safeguarding declaration (or accreditation agreement depending on division) within the timescales set by the league.
- 11.5 All member clubs must be fully compliant on the ECB Safe Hands Management System, prior to 24th March each year.
- 11.6 Clubs who host League Representative Matches or Cup Finals must ensure that a CSO is in attendance for the duration of the match.

## **M12 PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES**

- 12.1 League officials will attempt to present trophies to winners of the top divisions where possible.
- 12.2 Any club or individual winning a generic League trophy is responsible for its safekeeping and will be required to compensate for any loss or damage. Winners must arrange adequate insurance cover and

must have the trophy appropriately engraved. Where a trophy is returned without being properly engraved, the Management Board will make a charge of £25 to cover cost of engraving and associated costs

- 12.3 All trophies, having been suitably engraved, must be returned to the League by 1st August, or when requested by the secretary in order to be available for presentation to the new winners. Failure to return engraved trophies by the required date will result in a penalty and recovery costs. The Management Board reserves the right to charge clubs for damage sustained to trophies and lack of engraving.

*Note: It is totally a club's responsibility to return any relevant trophy, and not for league officials to have collect the same.*

## **M13 DISCIPLINE**

- 13.1 The General Conduct Regulations of the League will operate in all matches under the jurisdiction of the League and clubs are required to ensure that all players, officials and members act within these rules at all times. This requirement also applies to compliance with the England & Wales Cricket Board's 'Code of Conduct', Spirit of Cricket and Anti-Racism & Race Equality Statements.

*Note: The General Conduct Regulations of the League are a separate document and club officials should ensure that they are fully aware of them and their contents.*

- 13.2 All clubs must possess an approved set of "Club General Conduct Regulations", which must be sent immediately by email to the Disciplinary Officer in the event of a disciplinary hearing.
- 13.3 All disciplinary incidents should be reported **only** to the League Disciplinary Officer and not to other League Officials.
- 13.4 Disciplinary, EDI or Safeguarding decisions involving player bans or suspensions issued from within other International Cricket Council member countries will be recognised, and applied

## **M14 ADMINISTRATION**

- 14.1 Club Officials must keep their play-cricket website up to date at all times. Specifically, this involves keeping club officials details up to date at all times.
- 14.2 There are penalties for failing to fulfil administrative tasks and a document outlining these can be found in the 'Disciplinary Documents' section of the League Website under General Information. These penalties will be applied by the appropriate League Official where appropriate and clubs will be notified.
- 14.3 Clubs receiving an administrative penalty have the right to appeal. Such an appeal must be submitted to the League Secretary within 7 days of the date of the notice of the penalty along with a non-refundable administration charge of £100. If the appeal involves safeguarding or ineligible players, the administration charge will be higher.

## **M15 PROTESTS & COMPLAINTS**

- 15.1 Any club lodging a protest (other than a disciplinary issue) against another club or other issue should send such protest to the League Disciplinary Officer by email within 48 hours of the end of the match where applicable, together with a £50 administration fee. The amount required will be an administration charge which will be refunded if the protest or complaint is upheld by a panel. Where a protest fails there may also be a further charge to cover expenses.
- 15.2 All protests and complaints will be considered by a panel put together by the Management Board. Clubs have a right to appeal to a further separate panel appointed by the Management Board. There will be a minimum administration charge of £150 plus expenses for any appeal hearing.
- 15.3 Any club or individual making a complaint about another club, their officials, players, or spectators must provide forensic evidence in writing before any investigation will commence.
- 15.4 In the case of a dispute, representatives of the club, or clubs, concerned will be eligible to attend the hearing but will not be allowed to vote.

- 15.5 The Management Board may call on any club to produce their DBS Register, Minute Book, Cash Book or Score Book, Photocard Government ID, or other items to prove the bona-fides of any player against whom a protest has been made.

## **M16 GROUND INSPECTIONS**

- 16.1 A Ground Inspection Team will visit all grounds whom the Grounds & Facilities Committee feel have dropped below the required criteria and will be empowered to suspend grounds which are considered to be unfit.
- 16.2 During the course of the season further inspections will be made if clubs have received adverse ground marks or unfavourable reports. Clubs will be charged travel expenses for such extra visits.
- 16.3 The Grounds & Facilities Chairman will inform the club concerned of any recommendations for improvement and a report will be received from the club within one month regarding the carrying out of such recommendations. If such recommendations are not carried out, the matter will be referred to the AGM for its decision.
- 16.4 All clubs' facilities will be assessed during the season by League Appointed Assessors and marks will be incorporated into the Merit Table. Clubs will be advised of shortcomings at the end of the season.

## **M17 EXPULSION FROM & RE-ADMISSION TO THE LEAGUE**

- 17.1 Expulsion due to serious breaches of League Rules or Disciplinary Rules.  
The Management Board will have the power to seek the expulsion of any club whom they consider to be guilty of a serious breach of the League Rules or the League Disciplinary Rules. In such a situation an Extraordinary General Meeting will be convened at which clubs will consider the Management Board's recommendation and the club's defence and reach a conclusive decision by a majority vote which will be final and binding on all parties.  
A club which is expelled from the League under such circumstances will not be permitted to re-apply for re-admission to the League for a period of seven years. In order for the re-admission of a former club to be considered, the Management Board must be fully satisfied that the club will enhance the League and that all chances of a repetition of the original transgressions or shortcomings have been eliminated. Any such club will remain on probation for the same number of years that it has been absent from the League.
- 17.2 Re-admission to the League.
- 17.2.1 Any club or team that fails to be re-elected due to inadequate ground or facilities marks will only be eligible to apply for re-admission when such inadequacies have been suitably rectified.
- 17.2.2 Any club or team which is excluded from the League under Rule 7.4 may apply for re-admission at the following AGM at which time its application will be treated, on merit, as a 'new applicant'.
- 17.2.3 Any team that fails to be re-elected to the league following a failure to meet rule 9.5 may apply for re-admission at the following AGM at which time its application will be treated, on merit, as a 'new applicant'.
- 17.3 Freedom to Negotiate  
Any club or team that fails to be re-elected at an Annual General Meeting will be free to negotiate with any other league and accept immediate membership, providing it has fulfilled all financial and disciplinary commitments to the League.

## **M18 LIVE STREAMING OF MATCHES**

- 18.1 Clubs who wish to Photograph, Live Stream or Record matches (or parts of matches) must follow the guidance given in the document 'ECB Live Streaming Guidance'. The league supports the use of live streaming for matches. Individual clubs are responsible for ensuring that they comply with the ECB's live streaming guidance document, a copy of which is available in the General Information section of the YPLN website. Either club can request that a match is not live streamed, and this request must be complied with, or league disciplinary sanctions will be imposed. Such requests should be sent by email, at least 48 hours before the game, to the other club's Safeguarding Officer and Chair, copying



in [administration@yplncricket.co.uk](mailto:administration@yplncricket.co.uk). Requests made later than this (including at the toss) are strongly discouraged but must still be complied with. Umpires should check at the toss whether the match is being live streamed but are not responsible for preventing or empowering live streaming. To improve communication the league will hold a central register of clubs that wish to live stream. The register will be posted on the YPLN website. Registration should be made via email to [administration@yplncricket.co.uk](mailto:administration@yplncricket.co.uk). Footage recorded during a match is not to be used to challenge umpire decisions and any inappropriate comments made either during or after a game will be dealt with under the league rules.

## **M19 LEAGUE ACTION**

- 19.1 The Management Board will be empowered to adjudicate on any alleged infringement of the League Rules and to inflict penalties in accordance with the Schedule of Administrative and Other Penalties. Such action will be in accordance with the operative procedures, including a 'Right of Appeal', that are currently in effect.
- 19.2 The Management Board will be empowered to deal with any matter not determined by the League Rules and to take appropriate action, including the imposition of penalties.

## **M20 DISSOLUTION**

- 20.1 In the event of the dissolution of the League, the Management Board will become the trustees of the assets of the League and will distribute those assets equally to the member clubs at the time of the dissolution.

## **M21 DEFIBRILLATOR**

- 21.1 Clubs with teams Championship divisions and above must have a defibrillator located at their ground or any ground that they play on for use in emergencies.

# **P - PLAYING CONDITIONS**

## **P1 CONDUCT OF MATCHES**

- 1.1 All matches will be conducted in accordance with the Laws of Cricket, the Spirit of Cricket, and any current ECB directives, except as provided for in these playing conditions.
- 1.2 All Penalty Runs, as contained within the Laws of Cricket, will apply throughout the League.
- 1.3 If a fielder leaves the field during play, he will not incur Penalty time for the first 15 minutes of any absence. (Law 24)
- 1.4 Wide ball (ECB Premier, Championship and First Divisions only).
- 1.4.1 Any ball passing down the leg side of the batter and outside the line of the leg stump, which does not come into contact with the bat or any part of the batter's person, will be called and signalled "wide ball" regardless of any movement on the batter's part.
- 1.4.2 As a guideline to the umpires for the calling of wides on the offside, crease markings will be drawn from the bowling crease to the popping crease and 17 inches from the return creases at each end of the pitch.
- 1.5 Fielding Restrictions (All Divisions)
- 1.5.1 Throughout the match, the fielding team will have, at the instant of delivery, six fielders (including the bowler and wicket keeper) inside a designated area, which is defined by two semi circles, each with a radius of 30 yards, with their centres being the middle stumps. The ends of each semi-circle will be joined to the other by a straight line drawn on the field on the same side of the pitch.
- 1.5.2 Either umpire will call and signal 'No Ball' at the instant of delivery if this rule is not observed.
- 1.5.3 White plastic discs must be used to mark out the designated area.

- 1.6 Short Pitched Bowling (All Divisions)
- 1.6.1 No bowler will bowl more than two 'short pitched' deliveries per over irrespective of which batter is on strike.
- 1.6.2 'Short pitched' is defined as above shoulder height of the batter standing upright at the crease.
- 1.6.3 The bowler's end umpire will inform the bowler and batsmen when a delivery has been deemed 'short pitched' by tapping his/her shoulder with 'one' or 'two' fingers, as appropriate.
- 1.6.4 A third or subsequent 'short pitched' delivery in an over will be called 'No ball'.

## **P2 CANCELLATIONS**

- 2.1 Home clubs must take all possible steps to ensure that matches take place in accordance with guidance prepared in association with the Institute of Groundsmanship. However, if, taking into account the ground conditions and weather forecast, the home team believes that cancellation is advisable before 9.00am (10.00am for Second Division and below) on the day of the match, they may do so only with the agreement of the visiting team and must notify any appointed umpires. The visiting team may insist that the match is not cancelled in advance and insist on travelling but should they do so and there is subsequently no play, they will be liable for match expenses (i.e. umpires' fees and teas). This liability will not apply where, in the opinion of the umpires, the pitch, surrounding areas and run-ups had not been adequately covered, and the home team will then be liable for all expenses. If the match is not cancelled before 9.00am (10.00am for Second Division and below) it should not be cancelled until the visitors and umpires are on the ground.
- 2.2 No club may cancel a fixture because of non-availability of players without first cancelling a fixture of a less senior team.
- 2.3 Any club that has a 'lower' team in another league must not cancel their YPLN fixture in order to meet commitments of their lower team without obtaining the prior approval of both Leagues.
- 2.4 Any club cancelling a fixture for reasons other than ground or weather conditions will be deemed to have conceded the match and must take the following action:
  - 2.4.1 Personal contact must be made with the person listed as the opponents' cancellation contact and acknowledgement of the cancellation obtained.  
***Note:** The leaving of a message on an answerphone or by text message, fax or e-mail is not acceptable.*
  - 2.4.2 In Divisions where neutral umpires operate, the two appointed umpires and the Umpires Appointment's Secretary must be personally informed of the cancellation and their acknowledgements obtained.
  - 2.4.3 The Secretary or Deputy must be advised of the concession, and the reason, at the earliest opportunity.
  - 2.4.4 The offending club will suffer a financial penalty and will be required to pay compensation to their opponents in accordance with the League's 'Schedule of Penalties'.
- 2.5 Failure to fulfil or complete a Fixture (other than for weather related reasons)
- 2.6 Failure to fulfil a fixture (Compensation) Applicable to: All Divisions & Cup Ties  
Transgression: Compensation Scheme for Failure to fulfil or complete a Fixture (other than weather related). All applicable only if the match is conceded after 6pm on the previous day. Claimants should contact the opposition directly. League involvement should only be when there is an issue. If the home team concedes, the away team can claim £25 per League match or £25 per Cup tie. If the away team concedes, the home team can claim £100 per League match or £50 per Cup tie. If an away team concedes a cup semi-final an additional £200 can be claimed by the home team

## **P3 GROUNDS**

- 3.1 It is left to Umpires and Captains to mutually agree, before each match, what will constitute

'4' or '6' hits.

**Note:** Clubs should be aware that a very small number of grounds have 'local rules' in place. Where these have been agreed by the league they must be taken into account.

3.2 All boundaries must be clearly defined by a continuous white line or an adequate alternative at ground level.

**Note:** This may include a visible rope.

3.3 Creases must be fully remarked between innings.

3.4 Sightscreens:

3.4.1 Suitable sightscreens must be provided at both ends of the ground.

3.4.2 Premier Division (s) & Championship Only

It is mandatory that sight screens should be of sufficient size to remove the need for movement whether the bowler is bowling over or round the wicket.

3.4.3 The structure and non-reflective paintwork of the sight screens should be in good condition. They should be of an adequate and appropriate size for the ground and should be completely outside the playing area whenever possible.

3.4.4 Screens should be properly positioned before the commencement of play.

3.4.5 Screens are to be provided at both ends unless explicit dispensation is given by the League Management Board.

3.4.6 A rope or boards should be provided to define the boundary if the sight screen(s) stand within the playing area, and the roped/boarded area must be of sufficient size to allow screens to be moved from side to side without adjusting the ropes/boards.

## **P4 TOSS, NOMINATION OF PLAYERS & PRE-MATCH MEETING**

4.1 Before the toss for innings, the captain of each team must nominate his/her players to the umpires. The ages of all players covered by ECB directives on fast bowling and wearing of helmets must be stated. Such nominations must be provided on the cards provided by the League for this purpose.

## **P5 LATE ARRIVAL OF PLAYERS**

5.1 In the event of the late arrival of a team, or major part of a team, the following will apply:

5.1.1 No match can commence without a minimum of seven players per team present.

5.1.2 Any team not available to make the toss 15 minutes prior to the scheduled, or re-scheduled (in the event of inclement weather), start will forfeit the choice of innings.

5.1.3 Any team not having a minimum of seven players present and ready to commence play at the scheduled, or re-scheduled (in the event of inclement weather) start time will forfeit the choice of innings.

5.1.4 In the case of late arrival of players, overs will not be deducted for a late start.

5.1.5 Where a team is unable to start the match within 30 minutes of the schedule start time, they will be required to submit a written explanation to the Management Board, who will consider the facts and may levy penalties in accordance with the League's Schedule of Penalties.

5.2 When a player arrives after the official starting time, the following will apply:

5.2.1 ECB Premier Division (s) – Laws 24 and 25 will apply.

5.2.2 Championship and below

Fielding Team: A player arriving late will not be permitted to bowl until he has been on the field of play for an equivalent number of overs to that which had been bowled prior to him appearing on the

field of play.

Batting Team: A player arriving late will not be permitted to bat until he has been present at the ground for an equivalent number of overs to that which had been bowled prior to his/her arrival except upon the fall of the ninth wicket. The onus is upon the captain of the bating team to inform the umpires of the arrival of the player.

5.2.3 'Equivalent number of overs' will be counted from the commencement of the match.

## **P6 START OF PLAY**

6.1 Unless ground or weather conditions do not permit, matches will commence at 12.00pm in the ECB Premier, Championship and First Divisions and 1.00pm in the Second Division and below, unless otherwise agreed by both clubs without involving the Management Board. The League Secretary must be informed by e-mail of any change in the start time by the home club once agreement has been reached.

6.2 No match will start at 4.29pm or later, unless tea has been taken, in which case 4.44pm or later (4.14pm and 4.29pm for Second Division and below).

6.3 Umpires are required to ensure that matches commence promptly.

## **P7 DURATION OF PLAY**

7.1 The normal duration of play will be 50 overs (45 overs in Second Division and 40 overs in the Third Division and below) per team, unless reduced due to ground or weather conditions – see rule 10 below. Any unused overs in the first innings will not be carried forward into the second innings.

7.2 In order to achieve a result, both teams must have had the opportunity of bating for a minimum of 20 overs.

## **P8 INTERVALS**

8.1 A tea interval of 30 minutes will be taken between innings unless tea is taken during a stoppage due to ground or weather conditions. If the tea interval is not taken between innings, 15 minutes of playing time will be saved and a further interval of 15 minutes will be taken between innings. One drinks interval will normally be taken in each innings; this may be dispensed with or added to only by agreement of both captains.

8.2 Umpires are required to ensure that a tea interval of 30 minutes is strictly enforced.

## **P9 TEAS**

9.1 Host clubs are required to provide adequate teas for two full teams plus umpires, scorers and coaches if appropriate.

**Note:** *Private arrangements between clubs cannot be made whereby neither side provides teas for the other.*

9.2 In the ECB Premier Division (s), the cost of teas will be borne by the host club.

9.3 In the Championship and below, the visiting team will be expected to pay the host club for 11 teas at a maximum charge to be set the Management Board each year.

## **P10 MATCHES AFFECTED BY WEATHER OR GROUND CONDITIONS**

10.1 Where it is impossible to commence or re-commence a match due to adverse weather or the state of the pitch, light or ground, the match will be regarded as cancelled/abandoned. However, both teams must be prepared to begin, and continue the match until such time as the umpires agree the state of the weather, pitch, light or ground makes play impossible. Any club failing to attend will be deemed to have conceded the match in accordance with Rule 17.2.5

10.2 Once the toss has been carried out, the Umpires are the sole judges with regard to ground and weather conditions. They have sole authority in deciding whether a match continues or is abandoned

and will make their decision in line with their responsibilities under “Duty of Care”. In arriving at their decision, they will have considered the safety of the players and, where appropriate, consulted with both captains and ground staff. Any inappropriate attempts to influence their decision will be regarded as a disciplinary issue and may result in penalties being imposed on the offending person or club.

10.3 Play should not commence or re-commence in rain.

10.4 At the discretion of the umpires, and with agreement from the two captains, tea may be taken during a period when play is suspended or delayed because of the weather. In this event, overs will not be deducted for a period of 30 minutes and, upon subsequent resumption or start of play, there will be an interval of 15 minutes between innings.

10.5 During the first innings where weather interrupts play in the course of an over and no further play is possible in the innings, it will be regarded as complete to the end of the uncompleted over.

## 10.6 ECB PREMIER, CHAMPIONSHIP & FIRST DIVISIONS

10.6.1 Any delay of 15 minutes or more to the start of the match will result in the deduction of two overs per innings for every complete 15 minutes lost, except that, if between 225 and 255 mins are lost a 20 over per team match can take place.

10.6.2 All time lost after the start of the match will be aggregated. The first 30 minutes lost will be ignored. Any time lost due to ground, weather or light conditions in excess of 30 minutes (except as in 10.6.5 below) will result in the deduction of four overs from the match total for every further complete 15 minutes lost. For example:

Time lost in total	Net loss over 30 minutes	Deduction
20 mins	Nil	Nil
1 hr 15 mins	45 mins	12
2 hr 25 min	1 hr 55 min	28 (10 min ignored)

10.6.3 Where possible, the deducted overs will be shared equally between the two innings. Where that is not possible the remaining 1st innings overs will be deducted, the innings closed and the balance of overs to be deducted will be taken from the 2nd innings.

10.6.4 Where overs are reduced after the start of the match, the result will be determined by DLS.

10.6.5 Where, for whatever reason, the first innings lasts for less than 3 hours 10 minutes, the balance of unused time will be added to the 30 minutes that is allowed before overs are reduced in the second innings. For example; when the first innings lasts for 2 hours 30 minutes, there is an unused balance of 40 minutes, which means that in the second innings, 1 hour 10 minutes will be allowed before overs are deducted as above.

## 10.7 SECOND DIVISION & BELOW

10.7.1 All time lost before or after the start of the match will be aggregated. The first 30 minutes lost will be ignored. Any time lost due to ground, weather or light conditions in excess of 30 minutes will result in the deduction of two overs from the match total for every complete 7.5 minutes lost for interruptions during the first innings or one over for every complete 3.75 minutes lost for interruptions during the second innings to a minimum of twenty overs per team.

10.7.2 Where possible, the deducted overs will be shared equally between the two innings. Where that is not possible, the remaining 1st innings overs will be deducted, the innings closed and the balance of overs to be deducted will be taken from the 2nd innings.

10.7.3 Where overs are reduced after the start of the match, the result can be determined by DLS if both captains agree before the toss.

10.7.4 Where the number of overs in the second innings is less than the first innings and DLS is not being applied, a target score will be calculated for the team bating second to win the match by multiplying the revised total number of overs in the second innings by the average number of runs per over scored by the team bating first and then rounding up to the next highest whole number. (Note: if a

team is dismissed in less overs than the maximum that they were allowed, that maximum number will be used in this calculation). If this calculation leads to a whole number without rounding up, then 1 run should be added to determine the target winning score.

- 10.7.5 Where, for whatever reason, the first innings lasts for less than 2 hours 50 minutes, the unused time will be used before overs are reduced in the second innings. For example; when the first innings lasts for 2 hours 30 minutes, there is an unused balance of 20 minutes, which means that in the second innings, 20 minutes will be allowed before overs are deducted
- 10.7.6 Where DLS is decided to be used on the day, the League will not accept appeals for challenged results, owing to the incorrect target score being calculated. Captains on the day must ensure, and agree the correct target score is applied.

## **P11 BOWLING RESTRICTIONS**

- 11.1 In the ECB Premier divisions, Championship and First Divisions, bowlers will be restricted to a maximum of one-quarter of the overs allocated for the innings (fractions of an over to count as one over) with an upper limit of 13 overs.
- 11.2 In the 2nd Divisions and below, bowlers will be restricted to a maximum of one-quarter of the total overs scheduled for the innings, except that, where the total number of overs is not divisible by four, an additional one over will be added to the minimum number of overs. (e.g. in a 45 over innings, 25% of 45 is 11.25, 11+1 = 12 overs maximum per bowler)
- 11.3 If the total number of overs in an innings is reduced following an interruption in play, the maximum number of overs should be re-calculated and bowlers restricted to the new figure (unless such a number has been exceeded before the interruption).
- 11.4 When an interruption occurs mid-over and on resumption the bowler has exceeded the new maximum allocation, they will be allowed to finish the incomplete over.
- 11.5 In the event of a bowler breaking down and being unable to complete an over, another bowler will bowl the remaining balls. Such part of an over will count as a full over only in so far as each bowler's limit is concerned.

## **P12 OVER RATES**

- 12.1 Teams in all Divisions are expected to bowl their overs at a minimum rate of 16 overs per hour with an allowance of 3 hours and 10 minutes for a 50 over innings and 2 hours and 50 minutes for a 45 over innings.
- 12.2 These targets will be adjusted pro rata in the event of the total number of overs in the innings being reduced as a result of an interruption.
- 12.3 In the event of an innings not being completed within the target time, the batting team will be awarded five penalty runs for each full over remaining to be bowled at this time. The over in progress at this time will not count.
- 12.4 The target time for an innings may be extended by the umpires in the case of unavoidable delays such as a lost ball, an injury, time wasting by the batting team or a second drinks break.
- 12.5 Over rate penalties will only be applied in matches covered by panel umpires.
- 12.6 The umpires are required to advise the fielding captain of the over-rate position at the drinks interval in each innings.

## **P13 MATCH DAY PRACTICE (ECB Premier Division only)**

- 13.1 No practice will be allowed on the playing area in the 5 minutes before the scheduled time of start and the five minutes before the resumption of play after any interval.
- 13.2 Other than at these times, practice will be allowed on the playing area on the day of the match whilst play is not in progress, except on the strip being used for the match and the two strips to either side of it

- 13.3 The home team should designate an area on the outfield where the opposition can practice and provide a cut strip on the square (ECB Premier Division's only), unless ground and weather conditions preclude.
- 13.4 Whilst play is in progress, there will be no practice on the playing area, except that a new bowler will be allowed a maximum of two practice deliveries on the outfield before bowling.

## **P14 COVERING OF PITCHES**

- 14.1 All clubs with teams in the ECB Premier, Championship and First Divisions must have adequate covers. The covers must be capable of covering the whole of the pitch and should cover a minimum of 81' x 15' (24.69m x 4.57m).
- 14.2 Clubs with teams below the First Divisions must inform the League if they do not have or do not intend to use covers during matches.
- 14.3 Pitches, including bowlers' run-ups and adjacent pitches, should, wherever possible, be fully covered when there is a likelihood of rain during the week before a match, and should, wherever possible, be covered during the match whenever there is a stoppage due to rain.

## **P15 ENTRY ONTO THE FIELD OF PLAY**

- 15.1 The incoming batter should enter the field of play from the pavilion area and cross on the field with the outgoing batter.
- 15.2 Players should not enter the field of play at the commencement of an innings or following a break in play, in advance of the umpires.

## **P16 DRESS CODE**

- 16.1 No player will be allowed to take part in a league match unless his/her clothing is of a predominantly white appearance. Umpires are required to enforce this rule and report any breach of the rule to the league secretary.
- 16.2 All umpires (including club umpires & players standing in), when on the field, must wear a white umpire jacket or white shirt and dark coloured trousers.

## **P17 DISTRIBUTION OF POINTS**

- 17.1 A win will be determined in accordance with Law 16.2 (irrespective of the length of the match), by the Duckworth Lewis system (ECB Premier, Championship and First Divisions) or by Average Run Rate (Second Division and below). If the scores are equal or the team bating second equals the DLS/Average Run Rate par score when both innings have been completed, the result will be a tie regardless of wickets lost.
- 17.2 Points will be awarded as follows:
- 17.2.1 Win: The winning team will be awarded 10 points.
- 17.2.2 Tie: Each team will be awarded 5 points.
- 17.2.3 Losing Teams: The team which loses the match will be awarded bonus points as follows;  
0 points if, in the 2nd innings, they fail to achieve 75% of the 1st innings score or, in the 2nd innings they fail to take 6 or more wickets.  
2 points if, in the 2nd innings, they score 75% or more, but less than 90% of the 1st innings score or, in the 2nd innings they take 6 or 7 wickets.  
4 points if, in the 2nd innings, they score 90% or more of the 1st innings score or, in the 2nd innings they take 8 or 9 wickets
- 17.2.4 Cancelled/Abandoned matches: In a match where no play is possible or each team does not have the opportunity to bat for at least 20 overs due to ground or weather conditions, each team will be awarded 4 points.

- 17.2.5 Conceded matches: The failure to fulfil a match due to any reason other than adverse weather or ground conditions will be regarded as 'conceding the match'. The offending club will be subject to penalties in accordance with the schedule of penalties. Where a team is handed victory via a conceded match, they will receive 10 points providing at least two other matches in the same Division has been completed on the same day, otherwise they will only receive the points relating to an abandoned match. The conceding team will receive no points.

## **P18 CRICKET BALLS**

- 18.1 The League will negotiate for the bulk buying of balls of approved standard on an annual basis and present their recommendations to the Annual General Meeting. All clubs must purchase a minimum of 6 cricket balls per team.
- 18.2 Clubs will agree, by a vote every three years, which specific ball is to be regarded as the official league ball for use in the ECB Premier Division and also in the Championship and First Divisions.
- 18.3 In the ECB Premier, Championship and First Divisions, each team must use an official league approved new ball as in Rule 18.2. In all other Divisions each team must provide a ball, which need not be new, but must be a quartered leather ball, conforming in all aspects, to the M.C.C. Laws of Cricket and must be a Grade 'A' ball of British manufacture, as approved by the Management Board.
- 18.4 Each team must provide a spare ball which conforms to the specification operative within that Division.
- 18.5 Umpires and Captains will be held responsible for seeing that this rule is enforced.

## **P19 UMPIRES**

- 19.1 Two umpires will be appointed from the Yorkshire Premier League Umpires' Association to each ECB Premier Division match.
- 19.2 Two umpires will be appointed from the Yorkshire Premier League North Umpires' Panel to matches in the Championship and wherever possible below that.
- 19.3 Where umpires are not appointed from either Umpires' Panel, clubs will be responsible for providing a non-playing umpire for each of their teams and must satisfy themselves as to the ability of such umpires. Such umpires will umpire for the whole match.
- 19.4 Where teams in divisions not covered by Panel Umpires do not a non-playing umpire;
- 19.4.1 They may choose to designate a specific player to act as a non-playing umpire for the whole match, however, this is not mandatory.
- 19.4.2 If there are not two designated non-playing umpires, the batting team must take it in turns to umpire the match regardless of whether they have a non-playing umpire.
- 19.4.2.1 If there is only one designated non-playing umpire then the two captains will agree that he/she will umpire for the whole match either;  
changing ends and acting as bowler's end umpire for the whole match with players acting as striker's end umpire for the whole match  
or
- 19.4.2.2 staying at one end and alternating between bowler's end umpire and striker's end umpire with players alternating between bowler's end umpire and striker's end umpire at the other end.
- 19.5 If there are no non-playing umpires then players will umpire at both ends.
- 19.6 Umpire fees in the ECB Premier Division will include travelling costs and will be determined annually by the Board. They must be paid prior to the resumption of play after tea. Each team will be responsible for paying one umpire. Once umpires have arrived at the ground the full fee will be payable, irrespective of whether or not play takes place.
- 19.7 Fees for umpires from the YPLN Panel will be collected from clubs and paid to the umpires after the end of the season. There will be a fixed fee, determined annually by the Board and a mileage



allowance.

- 19.8 In the case of a duly appointed umpire being absent, the captains of the respective teams must mutually agree the appointment of an umpire during such absence, and they will be recognised by the League as official umpires.
- 19.8 Umpires in all divisions are expected to follow all ECB guidance and directives, even if it contradicts the current version of the MCC Laws of Cricket. This list, though not exhaustive includes the “ECB Fast Bowling Directives” and “Concussion Guidance.”

## **P20 SCORERS**

- 20.1 Each team is required to provide a competent scorer who must ensure that the match details are recorded accurately.

**Note:** *The names of both scorers must be included on each and every scorecard*

- 20.1.1 Failure to provide a scorer - Premier Division, Championship & Division One.

### **20.2 Live Scoring**

Live scores for matches in the ECB Premier Division & Championship must be maintained on Play-Cricket using an ECB approved system. Live scores in matches in both Division One’s should also be maintained wherever possible.

- 20.3 In divisions where DLS is to be used in the event of interruptions, the ideal scenario is that all scorers are in possession of and competent in the use of;

- A laptop with Windows operating system and Play-Cricket Scorer Pro installed
- An internet connection (wi-fi, USB dongle or mobile phone hotspot connection)
- A printer (optional)
- Walkie Talkies for communication with the umpires (optional)

Where the two scorers are scoring using different platforms (eg a laptop and a tablet) they must agree with the umpires before the toss which platform is to be used for DLS calculations if required. Ideally, that should be the laptop and the latest version of DLS should be used. Scorers will be expected to display the DLS par score from the commencement of the second innings.

If there is no facility to use DLS and there is an interruption, due to inclement weather or other unavoidable cause, calculations of target scores will be based on average run rate as per Playing Condition 10.7 in the Second Division and below.

- 20.4 In divisions where DLS is to be used in the event of interruptions, scorers will be expected to display the DLS Par Score from the commencement of the second innings.
- 20.5 In all league and cup matches, the scoreboard must be updated as a minimum at the end of each over and display the over in progress.
- 20.6 Scorers must agree details of the first innings prior to the commencement of the second innings and ensure that the correct first innings total is correctly displayed on the scoreboard and agree details at the end of the match.
- 20.7 Any discrepancies evident at the end of either innings must be resolved in conjunction with the umpires.
- 20.8 Scorers in all Divisions must be in an enclosed area away from the public. Portable scoreboards and tables in public areas for scorers are not acceptable unless dispensation is approved due to work on improvements etc.
- 20.9 All umpires officiating regularly under the auspices of the League must hold a current ECB DBS certificate.

## **P21 SUBMISSION OF RESULTS, SCORECARDS & CAPTAINS REPORTS**

### **21.1 Match Result (including Cups)**

All **home** teams must submit the result via play-cricket by 9.30pm on the day of the match.

**Note:** For all Cup competitions it is the winning side who are responsible.

21.2 Match Scorecard (including Cups)

Home teams are responsible for submitting full detailed scorecard onto play-cricket by 9.30pm on the Wednesday following the match.

For teams competing in The ECB Premier Division and the Championship this must be submitted by 9.30pm on the day of the match.

**Note:** For all Cup competitions it is the winning side who are responsible.

21.3 Match Scorecard Details

All clubs should ensure that the name of both scorers and both umpires are named on each and every scorecard.

**Note:** If there is not a scorer or umpire present for please add in either / or no umpire present or nor scorer present.

21.4 Captains Marks

Clubs and teams are required to ensure that the marking (Captains Marks) of grounds and umpires (where appropriate) is undertaken by the team captain or a responsible person using the appropriate guidelines.

**Note:** For ECB Premier Division this is via 'Who's the umpire' and includes cup ties. For all other divisions this should be via play-cricket and does not include cup ties.

## **P 22 JUNIOR PLAYERS**

- 22.1 The regulations issued by the England & Wales Cricket Board relating to junior players in respect of the wearing of helmets, fielding distances and bowling restrictions will apply in all matches played under the League's jurisdiction. The Umpires will be the sole judges, after consultation with the captain, as to whether a junior bowler is deemed to be 'fast' from a bowling restriction viewpoint.

## **E - PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

### **1 ECB PREMIER DIVISION**

- 1.1 All players must be fully registered before playing in any League or Cup match.
- 1.2 No team may field more than 1 player from Category 3 (Unqualified Player)
- 1.3 Clubs may sign a maximum of one replacement Category 3 player before 30 June.
- 1.4 Clubs may play County contracted players provided that in any season the player plays for only one club in any one season.
- 1.5 Dual registration and open age loans are not permitted in this division or in related Cup competitions, but teams can loan players to clubs in lower divisions subject to team strengthening rules
- 1.6 Players cannot play in other ECB Premier Leagues under the 'dual-registration' scheme.
- 1.7 Players may be transferred from other Saturday league clubs in accordance with the YCB transfer rules. Any such transfer must be approved by the League before the player takes part in any match.
- 1.8 No transfers or registrations will be allowed after midnight on August 22nd except with the specific permission of the League
- 1.9 Under 12 age group players or younger may not play, or act as substitute fielder, in matches played under the auspices of the League, unless they have previously been selected in a County U12 or Area U12 squad, are a minimum of 11 years old on 1st September in the year preceding the current season and the club holds explicit written consent for them to play.
- 1.10 Under 13 age group players may play in matches played under the auspices of the League provided that the club holds explicit written consent for them to play.
- 1.11 Any team in breach of any of these rules will be subject to penalties as laid down in the League's

## **2 OTHER DIVISIONS**

- 2.1 All players must be fully registered before playing in any League or Cup match. Teams competing in division One and below may register players within 24 hours of playing. This does not apply to players moving from other clubs.
- 2.2 All teams must include a minimum of 8 Category 1 players.
- 2.3 Category 3 players are not eligible to play below the first two Levels of the divisional structure without special permission from the Registration Secretary. This special permission will only be granted for players who fail to meet the Category 1 criteria because they have only recently moved to this country for genuine reasons involving work or study. Clubs must provide written evidence of this when making the application for special permission. Note: first two levels are the Two ECB Premier Divisions and The Championship.
- 2.4 There is no limit to the number of Category 3 players who may be registered by a club.
- 2.5 Clubs may play County contracted players provided that in any season the player plays for only one club in YPLN.
- 2.6 All bona-fide members of a club will be regarded as eligible, irrespective of whether they receive financial or other reward for playing cricket, from any source.
- 2.7 No transfer will be permitted after midnight on August 15th except with the specific permission of the League.
- 2.8 All players may transfer on a loan basis in order to assist short-handed clubs.
- 2.9 Loan players will only be allowed to play for the club's lowest team in YPLN.
- 2.10 Teams can only loan players if they are in Division One or below.
- 2.11 Loan players will not be allowed to play in re-arranged Saturday League Matches.
- 2.12 A club's lowest ranked or single team in Divisions 1 to 5 will only be able to loan players who are regular players in the same or a lower division.
- 2.13 Loan players must be fully registered on Play-Cricket with a 'parent' club in YPLN and must also be registered as a Loan Player by the borrowing club within 24 hrs of the match being played and using the Thursday following the match as the 'expiry date'.
- 2.14 Any player, whether adult or junior, involved in a loan transfer will not be permitted to sign for the borrowing club for the current or subsequent season without the specific permission of the loaning club and approval by the League's Registration Officer.
- 2.15 Players may be 'dual-registered' with two or more clubs in the instances of clubs loaning out players. Written permission must be given by the club holding the player registration, who will then be eligible to play for another named club until that permission is withdrawn. Team strengthening rules will apply. Dual-registered players will not be permitted to permanently join any other club they have played for under this rule for a period of 12 months after the agreement has been terminated unless both clubs agree.
- 2.16 No loan players will be permitted to play in re-arranged Saturday League matches. Note: This rule is to prevent teams from being strengthened by the use of the number of loan players who could be available if the match were to be re-arranged to be played on a Sunday for example.

## **3 OTHER REGISTRATION RELATED RULES**

- 3.1 Under 12 age group players or younger may not play, or act as substitute fielder, in matches played under the auspices of the League, unless they have previously been selected in a County U12 or Area U12 squad, are a minimum of 11 years old on 1st September in the year preceding the current season

and the club holds explicit written consent for them to play.

- 3.2 Under 13 age group players may play in matches played under the auspices of the League provided that the club holds explicit written consent for them to play.
- 3.3 Registration of all players will take place in accordance with ECB guidelines.
- 3.4 Registration will be via Play-Cricket.com. The information required will contain full player name (surname, forenames and initials); current address including postcode, date of birth, country of birth (if outside UK date of most recent entry to UK), previous club(s); registered category plus player and club administrator's authorisation. In addition, all Category 3 players must complete a Registration Form. Each player will be allocated a unique identifier.
- 3.5 By virtue of his/her registration, every player registered to play in the League explicitly acknowledges and agrees to abide by the following: -
- The ECB Code of Conduct and the Spirit of Cricket. The League's Rules, Disciplinary Rules and Playing Conditions.
- 3.6 The responsibility for registering a player shall be with the club and it is the club's responsibility to ensure that all players are correctly registered and eligible to play in the relevant competitions. If a member club has any doubts about the eligibility of a player, it should contact the Secretary **BEFORE** the player participates in a competitive match for the club. The Secretary will conduct random checks of scorecards published on play-cricket.com throughout the season and he will report any infringements to the Disciplinary Committee, which has the power to deduct points and/or impose financial penalties and/or relegate teams as it sees fit.
- 3.7 Registration will be accepted after a match only if a player has been brought in as a last-minute replacement, and under no circumstances having played for another club. Any such registration must be completed within 48 hours of the match.
- 3.8 Clubs must remove any player from their on-line players' register once they have left the club.
- 3.9 Clubs must check an approved photocard identification when a previous club or player history cannot be found.
- 3.10 Clubs must satisfy themselves into which category each player falls prior to registration and make sure that all required paperwork including visas, work permits, etc, where required, is complete and accurate. Neither ECB nor the League are registered immigration officials and cannot offer definitive advice.

Player transfers must be completed at least 48 hours before the player concerned appears in a League or League Cup match.

Clubs may only withhold a transfer request if the player has failed to fulfil all financial and contractual obligations.

A player may not transfer to any other affiliated club if he has failed to pay any fines imposed by a league disciplinary panel.

Any objection to a transfer must be via the play-cricket player transfer option within five days of the transfer request. A player will have the right to appeal to the General Manager if a transfer is refused or delayed without just cause.

- 3.11 Players must be registered in one of the following categories:

Category 1 – Eligible Player

- A British Citizen born in England or Wales, OR
- A person who does not meet the above criteria but who has been resident in this country for a minimum of 210 days (not necessarily continuously) between the preceding 1st April and 31st March and who has not played as a 'Home Player' in another country.

Category 2 – Contracted player

A player (capped or uncapped) qualified to play for England under the current ECB regulations and, currently, under contract to a First-Class County Club or MCC Young Cricketers. For the purposes of

clarification, a contracted player is one who has a current full playing contract, a summer contract or a development (scholarship) contract but not an Academy contract (16-19 years).

#### Category 3 – Unqualified player

A player who does not meet the criteria for either Category 1 or Category 2.

## **4 UN-REGISTERED & INELIGIBLE PLAYERS**

### **4.1 Championship & below (including cup ties)**

All players (including loan players) must be correctly registered online via the League play-cricket website.

The League will accept the registration of players after a match has been played only if the player has never played for another club (typically the player would be a last-minute replacement). This must be completed within 48 hours.

The onus and responsibility for ensuring that all players are fully eligible rests totally with each individual club.

### **4.2 Ineligible Players**

Players who are still registered with other clubs, or who should not have played for other reasons such as disciplinary bans. This list is not exhaustive. The League may impose reduced penalties where the club successfully proves that a genuine error has occurred.

### **4.3 Ineligible Players (category 3)**

YPLN League Rules Page 22 of 23

Any player adjudged by the ECB, UK Visas & Immigration, the Home Office, or other official body to be on an incorrect visa or in the UK illegally will be deemed to be ineligible.

League points will be deducted for the current season unless official notification is received after 1st November, in which case the league points will be deducted from the following season.

In the event of an investigation there will be administration charges of £250 which reflects the amount of work in time hours, and professional advice the league may have to take.

## **TEAM STRENGTHENING**

- 1 No club will strengthen its second, or lower, team, at any stage in the season, with a player who has played regularly for one or more of its higher teams. If in any doubt clubs should ask.  
**Note:** Please contact The League Secretary, Phil Robshaw for further advice and clearance agreement.
- 2 A player will be classed a regular player for the team that he has made most appearances for during the season. Players will only be classed as a regular player for a team once they have played 4 matches for that team during the current season. County players will be regarded as regular first team players.
- 3 Clubs may drop a player to a lower team for a genuine reason such as loss of form, return from injury, signing of new players or more players becoming available, for example, but clearance must be sought from the Secretary or a deputy before the fixture takes place.  
**Note:** Please contact The League Secretary, Phil Robshaw for further advice and clearance agreement.
- 4 If one of a club's teams does not have a fixture, for whatever reason, any player who has been a regular player for that team cannot play for one of the club's lower teams without clearance from the Secretary or a deputy who may place a caveat on the role that the player can play in the match.  
**Note:** Please contact The League Secretary, Phil Robshaw for further advice and clearance agreement.
- 5 Any player who has played 10 or more matches for particular teams by August 15th will only be eligible to play for a lower team for remaining matches of the season with clearance from the Secretary or a deputy before the fixture takes place.  
**Note:** Please contact The League Secretary, Phil Robshaw for further advice and clearance agreement.