

THE DEVON CRICKET LEAGUE CONSTITUTION 2017

1. TITLE AND STATUS

- i) The League shall be known as the Devon Cricket League (hereinafter referred to as 'the DCL') and shall include, if required, reference to its sponsors.
- ii) The DCL is a not-for-profit organization which belongs to the member clubs.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the DCL shall be:

- i) Organize cricket for member clubs on a competition basis
- ii) Promote the highest possible standards of cricket and the playing facilities
- iii) Ensure that play is conducted within the spirit and laws of the game of cricket and the DCL competition rules
- iv) Ensure a duty of care to all member clubs and members regardless of race, gender, disability and sexual orientation

3. MEMBERSHIP

- i) Those clubs who have in the past been elected to the membership of the DCL and are still participating the league structure
- ii) Additional clubs may be admitted to membership of the DCL by written application to the DCL Secretary no later than 30th September following the season end.

All applications for membership of the DCL shall be considered by the Operational Management Committee (hereinafter referred to as 'OMC'). All clubs which meet the criteria for membership, as laid out in the DCL Playing Rules and Regulations (hereinafter referred to as PRR), shall have their applications put forward to a vote at the Annual General Meeting (hereinafter referred to as AGM). Those successful clubs (accepted at the AGM) will be eligible to participate in the DCL competitions with effect from the forthcoming season

- iii) Membership shall be continuous unless a club:
 - (i) Terminates it in writing to the DCL Secretary no later than 30th September following the season end. This includes where a Club wishes to withdraw one or more teams. Only the lowest position team may be withdrawn first
 - (ii) Is expelled by the vote of member clubs at either the AGM or Extraordinary General Meeting (hereinafter referred to as EGM), where a majority of the member clubs vote for expulsionMember clubs will only be eligible to participate in the DCL fixtures or competitions if all monies owing to the DCL are paid by **1st May or**

15th May for clubs that pay subscriptions by instalments (but see DCL Administration Section 5 for late payment penalty)

4. STRUCTURE OF THE DEVON CRICKET LEAGUE

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

i) The First XI League will consist of a Premier Division of ten teams together with as many other Divisions ('A', 'B', 'C' etc.), each with a maximum of ten teams and a minimum of eight teams, as necessary unless 4(v) applies. The Premier, 'A' and 'B' Divisions will be County-wide Divisions. The Divisions below these will be regionalised on an East/West basis as operationally possible.

ii) The Second XI League (to include any additional teams of member clubs) will consist of a Premier Division of ten teams together with as many other Divisions ('A', 'B', 'C' etc.), each with a maximum of ten teams and a minimum of eight teams, as necessary unless 4(v) applies. The Premier and 'A' Divisions will be County-wide Divisions. The Divisions below these 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 OMC.

iii) No club will be promoted to the 'B' Division of the 1st X1 League unless the 2nd X1 of that club plays in the 2nd X1 League.

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

v) For operational reasons, the Playing Rules and Regulations Management Committee (hereinafter referred to as PRRMC) as advised by OMC 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 to ensure as near as possible a full competitive season.

5. MANAGEMENT AND OFFICERS

For the sake of efficiency and ease of understanding the DCL shall be managed by separate bodies; the OMC, the PRRMC, the Emergency Committee (hereinafter referred to as EC) and the General Committee (hereinafter referred to as GC)

THE OMC

This will comprise the following positions with the incumbents known as Operations Officers (OO):

Chairperson

Vice Chair

Secretary (non-voting)

Treasurer

Registration Secretary

Playing Rules Secretary

Logistics manager (supplies coordinator)

This committee will be responsible to the members for:

- i)** Implementing control of finance, direction and administration of policy on matters that affect the organization of the DCL. This will also include the power to appoint sub-committees as necessary, to appoint advisors as required to fulfil its business and to co-opt additional people to the committee when considered appropriate
- ii)** Preparing annual accounts of the DCL in accordance with appropriate current accounting practice
- iii)** Acting on behalf of and reporting to the Devon Cricket Board Ltd (hereinafter referred to as 'DCB') as required of them and to the England and Wales Cricket Board (hereinafter referred to as ECB)
- iv)** The employment, control and supervision of any paid staff

All Operation Officers will serve for 12 months commencing from their election date before seeking re-election

THE PRRMC

This will comprise the following positions and known collectively as the Rules and Regulation Officers (hereinafter referred to as RRO):

Playing Rules Secretary (and acting Chairperson)
Secretary of OMC (non-voting)
Fixtures Secretary
Registration Secretary
Divisional Representatives from the Premier, 'A' and 'B' Divisions
1st X1 East and West Regional Representatives
Divisional Result Secretaries
DACO representative
Discipline Officer
County Welfare Officer

This committee will be responsible to the members for:

- i)** The registration of players
- ii)** Devising league and cup rules in conjunction with members
- iii)** The arranging and cancellation of league fixtures to include unavailability or fitness of grounds
- iv)** Arranging cup competitions, fixtures for these if required and grounds as necessary
- v)** Conduct of matches
- vi)** Collating results of matches and the preparation of league statistics
- vii)** Assimilating member views and informing the OMC as necessary
- viii)** Ground criteria
- ix)** The Code of Conduct
- x)** Disciplinary Rules and Procedures

All RROs will serve for 12 months from their election date before seeking re-election.

The PRRMC will have the power to co-opt as necessary additional people to the committee in-order to facilitate its business

THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

This will consist of 3 members of the OMC with the Chairperson or his/her deputy able to co-opt from the PRRMC or from outside the DCL if necessary or considered appropriate. The purpose of such a meeting will be to discuss a matter(s) that would require a response earlier than the next scheduled OMC meeting

A full report of any such meeting must be made at the next meeting of the OMC and PRRMC.

THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

Each member club is entitled to one representative who will be empowered to vote at any AGM or EGM

6. AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION AND PLAYING RULES

i) Constitutional changes and playing rules may only be amended, deleted, or new rules adopted, at an AGM or at an EGM called specifically for this purpose.

ii) Proposals for any change to the Constitution or playing rules to be put forward for consideration at the next AGM must be received, in writing, by the DCL Secretary not later than 1st October. The DCL will introduce a process to assist in the preparation of proposals to go forward to the AGM. The final list of proposals will be circulated, along with the AGM agenda, to all member clubs at least 28 days before the AGM.

7. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

THE OMC –

- i) Will meet on a monthly basis throughout the year as necessary
- ii) All meetings are to be minuted and accessible to interested parties
- iii) Each committee member including co-opted members with the exception of any salaried official shall have one vote. The Chairperson at the meeting will have a casting vote
- iv) To constitute a quorum 50% of officials must be present
- v) Abstentions will not be counted in the recording of votes cast

THE PRRMC –

- i) Will meet on a monthly basis in conjunction with the OMC meeting between March and October each year and as required at other times
- ii) All meetings are to be minuted and accessible to interested parties

iii) Each committee member, to include co-opted members with the exception of any salaried official shall have one vote. The Chairperson at the meeting will have a casting vote

iv) To constitute a quorum 50% of officials must be present

v) Abstentions will not be counted in the recording of votes cast

8i). ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Constitutional matters

i) The AGM of the DCL shall be held as near as possible to the last Friday in November, following the end of the financial year, and attended by the member clubs (defined as the General Committee)

ii) Each member club shall have one vote on each topic

iii) A quorum at the AGM shall consist of 75% of the member clubs represented

iv) The business transacted at the AGM shall be as follows:

Apologies for absence

Obituaries

Chairperson's Report

Adoption of the Minutes of the previous AGM

Secretary's Report that had been issued in advance for discussion and adoption

Treasurer's Report that had been issued in advance for discussion and adoption

Election of the Auditor

Subscriptions

Constitutional rule changes

Election of the OMC officers excluding any salaried secretary

Election of any new members

Any other business for which prior notification has been received

In order to make any Constitutional change(s) a two-thirds majority of votes cast will be required.

8ii) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Playing Rules and Regulations matters

i) Discuss and adopt the proposed rule changes for the following season

ii) Each member club shall have one vote per topic

iii) Election of the PRRMC officials

iv) Presentation of awards (unless alternative arrangements have been made for this)

v) Any other notified business concerning the playing rules or regulations

vi) OMC Chairperson's closing address

In order to make any changes to the playing rules and/or regulations a simple majority of votes cast is required

8iii). EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

i) An EGM may be called by either the OMC or on written application of no less than 25% of the member clubs. Each application must state it supports the actual resolution that is to be put before the meeting; it must be on the club's official headed paper and be signed by an officer of the club. This can be submitted to the DCL Secretary by post or any form of electronic transmission

ii) The Secretary shall arrange for the EGM to be held no more than four weeks after its request and shall give at least 14 days' notice of the meeting to member clubs together with details of the resolution(s) to be put before the meeting

iii) No other business other than the resolution(s) that is/are being put to the meeting will be allowed

9. FINANCE AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

i) The financial year shall run 1st October to 30th September

ii) The income and expenditure of the DCL shall be the responsibility of the Treasurer who will be accountable to ensure funds are utilised effectively to ensure that the DCL stays within budget

iii) All monies received shall be paid into a bank account in the name of the DCL.

iv) Invoices and accounts shall be paid by any automated banking system approved by the OMC or by cheque signed by the Treasurer and any other nominated member of the OMC as necessary to comply with the banking mandate.

v) Before any change is made to the banking mandate this must have the prior approval of the OMC. Any written instruction must be on DCL headed paper and signed by the Chairperson and the Treasurer

vi) Subscriptions for membership of the DCL must be paid on or before 1st May or 15th May for clubs that pay by instalments.

vii) Any surpluses retained year-on-year shall be held for the benefit of the member clubs and as an advance of funds for the future administration of the DCL

viii) Surpluses will not be distributed as dividends or profits to member clubs but will be used for the future costs of running the DCL

ix) 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

x) Any club leaving the DCL consents to all funds being retained for the benefit of the continuing membership

xi) The Treasurer will recommend to the OMC and AGM the level of subscription to be paid by the member clubs each year.

xii) The annual accounts, to be presented to the AGM will be drawn up by the Treasurer. An independent accountant who holds an appropriate professional qualification will confirm whether or not the accounts are in accordance with the books and records of the DCL

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.