

# **THE DEVON CRICKET LEAGUE – PLAYING REGULATIONS 2018**

## **1. STRUCTURE OF THE DEVON CRICKET LEAGUE**

The League is structured as an 'All Through League', with a Premier division of ten teams together with as many other divisions as required. Each division has ten teams, unless otherwise determined by the Playing Rules and Regulations Management Committee (PRRMC)

In order to provide a full competitive season:

- i) The Premier, A and B divisions will be county wide divisions
- ii) All other divisions will be regionalised on an East / West basis as operationally necessary, determined by the PRRMC
- iii) Promotion and relegation will be based upon 2 teams promoted and 2 teams relegated. Thus 2 teams will be promoted from the B division and 2 teams relegated; one team each to the regionalised C divisions. Each regionalised C division will relegate 2 teams and the division below will promote 2 teams etc. **However, for the 2018 and 2019 seasons only, from C Divisions downwards, 3 teams will be relegated and 3 teams promoted to assist in finding a team's appropriate competitive level**
- iv) No 2 or more teams from the same club will be permitted to play in the same division: Indeed it is **ALWAYS** the case that a club's 1<sup>st</sup> XI will be in a higher division than the club's 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, and it is **ALWAYS** the case that a club's 2<sup>nd</sup> XI will be in a higher Division than the club's 3<sup>rd</sup> XI, and it is **ALWAYS** the case that a club's 3<sup>rd</sup> XI will be in a higher division than the club's 4<sup>th</sup> XI, and so on. For clarity East and West regionalised divisions are considered to be the same division (i.e. at the same level) for the purposes of this rule
- v) No club with a single team may rise higher than the C division
- vi) No 2<sup>nd</sup> XI may rise higher than the B division. No 3<sup>rd</sup> XI may rise higher than the D division. No 4<sup>th</sup> XI may rise higher than the F division
- vii) In the event of a relegated XI dropping into a division in which there is already an XI from the same club, the lower team will also be relegated and automatically become the first team from that division to be relegated. Similarly, if an XI is in a promotion position but there is already an XI from the same club in the higher Division, then the XI will **not** be promoted and will be replaced by the next best-placed team. Any disputes will be resolved by the PRRMC

## **2) 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

### **i) Equality**

- a) Champion team: 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 fewest defeats shall be placed the higher. Should equality still prevail, the teams concerned shall be joint champions
- b) A team's position within a division: Should two or more teams have equal points, the higher placed shall be the team with the highest number of wins. Should equality still prevail, the team with the fewest defeats shall be placed the higher. Should equality still prevail, the team with the most batting points shall be placed the higher. Should equality still prevail, the team with the most bowling points shall be placed the higher

## ii) Promotion and Relegation

- a) **With the exception of 2018 and 2019 seasons**, the 2 teams finishing top in all divisions except the Premier and C East / C West divisions, will be promoted. In the regionalised C division, the top team only from each of the East and West divisions will be promoted.
- b) **With the exception of 2018 and 2019 seasons**, the 2 teams finishing bottom in all divisions will be relegated.
- c) **In 2018 and 2019 seasons only** the 3 teams finishing top in D East and D West divisions and below will be promoted. The 2 teams finishing top in A and B divisions will be promoted. In the C East and C West divisions, the top team from each division will be promoted
- d) **In 2018 and 2019 seasons only** the 3 teams finishing bottom in C East and C West division or below will be relegated. The 2 teams finishing bottom in the Premier, A and B divisions will be relegated
- e) The team finishing bottom in the lowest regional division must seek re-election to continue in the league
- f) If a team withdraws from Devon Cricket League (DCL) then of the clubs that would ordinarily be relegated from the division, in which that team is placed, the highest placed team will retain its place in that division
- g) Should a team fail to qualify for promotion due to not meeting the necessary ground criteria, including artificial pitch restrictions (rule 5), the team finishing in the next best position will be promoted instead
- h) Should a team be relegated to a division in which a lower club XI is already playing in the lowest division, the PRRMC will seek an equitable solution to ensure that no team is unfairly denied promotion

## 3) FIXTURES

### i) The season and rearrangement of fixtures

The DCL shall arrange home and away fixtures between all member clubs. Such fixtures shall normally be circulated to the clubs by 15<sup>th</sup> November each season. Matches shall commence on the first Saturday in May and continue to be played on consecutive Saturdays thereafter

### ii) Cancellation of fixtures

- a) No fixture shall, on account of weather or ground conditions, be cancelled before 9:30 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, as to whether cancellation should take place or any lack of firm agreement, the clubs should contact a member of the PRRMC. Cancellation must **NOT** be made unless both teams fully understand that the cancellation has been made.
- b) The away side shall have the option to travel and inspect the ground. If this option is taken, the home team must attend the on-site decision and the away side shall be responsible for all independent umpire costs should the match subsequently be cancelled without a ball being bowled

- c) In matches where independent umpires are appointed, they shall be informed immediately of the decision to cancel, assuming agreement has been reached under a) above. They will be paid if caused to travel

**iii) Exceptional circumstances**

If for wholly health and safety or exceptional circumstances beyond the control of the club concerned, a fixture has to be cancelled, the cancellation will be notified as soon as possible to the appropriate people, as in a) above. In these circumstances if it is possible to re-arrange the fixture for a later date, the PRRMC will sanction this intention. If the fixture cannot be re-arranged, then the normal points awarded for cancelled games will apply

**iv) 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 Fixtures Secretary by 15<sup>th</sup> October of the previous year

**v) Ground sharing**

Where teams share a ground with teams from another club, they should inform the Fixtures Secretary, in writing, whether these arrangements will continue for the next season, or whether they will change to a different arrangement

**4) INABILITY TO FULFIL A FIXTURE**

- i) Should any team be unable to fulfil a fixture where a suitable ground is available, it shall forfeit the match and be awarded 0 points; 20 points being awarded to the opposing team. Such team shall also have 10 points deducted from its total to date
- ii) If the away team is unable to give a clear 48 hour notice of their inability to fulfil the fixture, they shall pay to the home team the sum of £33.00. If the away team is unable to give a clear 24 hour notice of their inability to fulfil the fixture, they shall pay to the home team the sum of £50.00. If the away team cancel their participation on the day of the match, they shall pay the home team the sum of £66.00 and they shall be responsible for paying independent umpires where applicable, as if the fixture had taken place
- iii) Should a particular team be unable to fulfil a fixture where a suitable ground is available, on more than 3 occasions in one season that team will have all its points removed. Whilst it may continue to play in that season, it will no longer be able to gain points. Furthermore, any points accrued by other teams against this team will also be removed. However, for statistical purposes, individual records will be retained
- iv) 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 for failure to observe this part of the rule is the loss of all points from the team cancelling and any lower team fixtures fulfilled on that day, in addition to penalties (detailed above) applied to the team failing to fulfil its fixture

**5) LEAGUE GROUNDS**

League grounds will be monitored and facilities inspected by officials of the DCL as required, maintaining compliance with DCL grounds and facilities criteria. Technical assistance and advice will be offered to clubs to improve the standard of cricket grounds by the Devon County Groundsman's Association (DCGA) and the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG)

i) **Availability and use of Covers**

In the Premier and 'A' Division 1<sup>st</sup> XI matches effective covers must be available for immediate use in rain affected matches (See facilities criteria). It is also a requirement that the covers are used during the 24 hours prior to the commencement of the match if the weather is inclement. The umpires shall have discretion in arranging to re-locate the pitch to another part of the square in an effort to commence the match. This will be done in conjunction with the home side groundsman. **No Club shall be promoted to a higher division unless its facilities comply with the Facilities Criteria for that Division (refer to the appropriate section in the handbook)**

ii) The Grounds will also be monitored from regular inspection reports received by the DCL. The decision of the DCL PRRMC as to compliance of grounds and facilities will be final and binding

iii) **Artificial Pitches:**

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

- a) Upon application to the DCL, a club 3<sup>rd</sup> XI or lower, playing in the lowest two divisions East & West will be granted exemption if their home ground has no grass pitch available throughout the whole season. This applies for 1 season only
- b) Upon application to the DCL, a club may be granted dispensation for one season only to use an artificial pitch when they are moving to a new ground and their new square needs time to bed in.
- c) Upon application to the DCL, a club 1<sup>st</sup> XI or 2<sup>nd</sup> XI may be granted dispensation to use an artificial pitch if their home ground is unavailable on any particular Saturday and no alternative grass pitch is available.

**6) CLOTHING and ATTIRE**

The DCL requires clubs to maintain standards across all league competitions. It is preferred that all clothing worn in League matches is predominately white. However, sensible, minimal sponsor and manufactures markings on shirts are permitted, including the players name and a number on the rear of a shirt.

Coloured clothing would ideally be worn in all DCL Cup Competitions.

**7) LEAGUE MATCH**

Any reference to a 'League Match' with regard to rules and regulations, applies to all types of matches played under the auspices of DCL, this includes;

- Saturday League matches
- Devon Senior Cup
- Corinthian Cup
- Other T20 competition
- Friendly matches organised by the DCL

**8) PLAYERS – ELIGIBILITY & REGISTRATION**

i) **Procedure**

- a) All players must be registered to be eligible to play in any DCL divisions. Registration of all players will take place in accordance with guidelines issued the PRRMC

- b) The rules will apply to all genders and must comply with PRRMC guidelines, which are subject to change
- c) Registration of players applies to ALL teams and any player in category 2 or 3. For the avoidance of doubt, category 2, 3 or 3E players in any team below must also be registered
- d) All players playing in any of the cup competitions organised by the DCL must also be registered
- e) Each team must include a minimum of 9 category 1 players. Additionally, teams may include either:
  - One category 2 and one category 3 **OR**
  - One category 2 and one category 3E **OR**
  - One category 3 and one category 3E **OR**
  - Two category 3E players **OR**
  - If ten category 1 players are included, one player only from category 2, 3, or 3E

## ii) Definitions - Category 1

This category comprises players who either:

- a) Are qualified for England under current ECB rules (available from the ECB website) **OR**
- b) Hold a British passport **OR**
- c) Are a foreign citizen who has 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 31<sup>st</sup> March) **OR**
- d) Are a citizen of a UK Overseas Protectorate e.g. Anguilla, St Helena, Falkland Islands **OR**
- e) Who otherwise falls under category 3 or 3E but who, on the 1st September in the preceding year is under 17 years of age

## iii) Definitions - 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 i.e. a player regarded as non-overseas for the purpose of county cricket may nevertheless still fall within the DCL category 3 definitions 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
- 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 2 UK seasons prior to his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday **and** played at least 12 matches in total in DCL league or cup games in the preceding 2 UK seasons **and** was a member of the club immediately prior to the award of a contract

**iv) Definitions - Category 3**

All players not covered by category 1, 2, & 3E or by the “home grown” rule. Only one category 3 player may play in any DCL League or Cup game

**v) Definitions - Category 3E**

**a)** This category comprises players who do not qualify under category 1 or 2 but who have been resident in the UK between 18 months and 4 years as of the date of registration and who have spent a minimum of 330 days in the UK (for which purpose shall mean a year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March) **OR**

**b)** Hold a passport issued by a member state of the European Union

## 9) REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

- i) Where a category 1 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 reaffirming the registration. Players in categories 2, 3 and 3E 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 no later than 10.00 p.m. on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April each season in order to be eligible for the first match of the current season
- ii) After this first match, a player can be registered up to 22:00 on the Thursday prior to the match in that they wish to play in
- iii) No new player registrations will be accepted by the Registration Secretary (or the PRRMC in the absence of the Registration Secretary) after 22:00 on the 31<sup>st</sup> July of the current season
- iv) Once registered with a club, a player remains registered until officially transferred or the holding club notifies the Registration Secretary that the player's registration is to be cancelled
- v) Any substitute (as defined by the Laws of Cricket) used in a league or cup match need not be a registered player
- vi) At the time of registration category 1c, 2, & 3e players must provide a written statement of their compliance with the eligibility rules
- vii) At the time of registration category 1e players must provide proof of age
- viii) 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
- ix) At the time of registration, category 1d, 3 & 3E players must provide the following:
  - a) A copy of their passport to include entry stamp into the UK where appropriate plus
  - 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 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, and 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 player's own country) must be produced. If not, then the DCL will accept a copy of confirmation of payment for the appropriate course, that course and qualification to be obtained within the current season
  - 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 DBS certificate (or equivalent in the player's own country) must also be produced
  - f) Registration will be granted providing that a, b, c and if appropriate, d above, are complied with at the date of registration BUT subject to g below.
  - g) If the documents to support e above are not available at the time of registration but requirements of a, b and c above have been met, the 'Provisional Registration' will be granted but it remains the responsibility of the club to comply with all relevant and current UK Tax Laws (such as PAYE and NI)

## GUIDANCE NOTE

*The Registration Secretary will accept by fax, post, email or by hand the fully completed DCL registration forms (full names including initials, postcodes, contact telephone numbers and date and place of birth, are all a requirement), together with any supporting documents that are required to fulfill the requirements laid out in 9) **Registration of Players** and within the time limits stated. 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 PRRMC) shall have the power to refuse registration at any time in the best interest of the DCL***

### x) **Club Responsibility when Registering Players**

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

- a) Checking that the player's name is shown on the list of Registered Players as supplied by the Registration Secretary
- b) Ensuring that a Player is not registered with any other club e.g. that the player was officially transferred to his club in the previous season
- c) Failure to respond in time will result in Unregistered Players and their ineligibility to play in the first match of the season.
- d) Eligibility after 31<sup>st</sup> July: Only players that have played during the current season in a League Match at any level in the DCL up to and including the last Saturday in July or were registered to that club in the previous season and had played in at least three matches at any level in the DCL, shall be considered eligible to play in any remaining fixtures of that season

## 10) REGISTERING A CASUAL PLAYER

There is often the need for teams who are short of players to ask members of the public to play. This is only permitted in the F East and West Divisions and below. These guest players need to be registered as normal and the process is as follows:

- i) Note the individual's name (needed for the scorecard)
- ii) Complete a Registration Form for this individual
- iii) Forward the completed Form to be with the Registration Secretary by noon on the Wednesday following the match being played

## 11) PLAYING AN UNREGISTERED OR INELIGIBLE PLAYER

- i) Should a team play unregistered or ineligible player(s) in a match, then that team shall have 5 points deducted from its total to date for each player. The club concerned shall also be fined £25 for each such player
- ii) Should a team be found guilty of deliberately playing an unregistered player or ineligible player, in addition to the penalties detailed in Rule **11)i**) above, that team shall forfeit all points gained in the match in question and have a further 20 points deducted from its total to date. The club concerned shall also be fined £50.00



## 12) LOAN PLAYER SCHEME

In order to enable players who are not required or selected to play for their own club to have a game of cricket the following process is permitted:

- i) Neighbouring clubs may agree to share their pool of players when one club or the other is short of players, in order to 'Get the Game On'
- ii) Only players who normally play in their own club's 2<sup>nd</sup> XI or lower can be a part of this scheme. Once a player plays in a club's 1<sup>st</sup> XI in the current season, they are then no longer eligible to take part in this scheme
- iii) The scheme is only permitted in the F East and West divisions and below

## 13) PLAYERS – TRANSFER

- i) Application for transfer:
  - a) No previously registered player can re-register with another DCL member club without completion of the official DCL registration / transfer form – This form must be signed by an authorised official from each of the clubs involved
  - b) No previously registered or unregistered player, irrespective of whether they played in the previous or current season, can switch between DCL member clubs or any club affiliated to the ECB without notifying the player's previous club of their intent
  - c) A Category 3 or 3E player may transfer between DCL Clubs in the current season but may not play 1<sup>st</sup> XI cricket for the new Club during that season. Please note that a DCL match refers to a league or DCL affiliated cup game

In order to expedite the transfer process, the Registration Secretary will accept, by concession, any form of instruction from a player's previous club offering the player for transfer. Any such document must be signed by an authorised official of the ceding club. The player's new club must still submit a completed official DCL player registration / transfer form, which has been signed by both the player and an authorised official of the "new" club.

### GUIDANCE NOTE

*A registration / transfer form must be completed for all players who change clubs, irrespective of whether they may have been registered to, but not played for that club, or have played during the previous or current season in the DCL for a club that they were not registered to. The transfer system applies to all players moving between DCL member clubs*

- ii) Transfer Time Scale
  - a) A completed Player registration / transfer form must be received by the Registration Secretary no later than 22:00 on 23<sup>rd</sup> April if the transferring player is required to play for their 'new' club in the first match of the forthcoming DCL season
  - b) After this first match, the completed player registration / transfer form must be received by the Registration Secretary no later than 22:00 on the Thursday prior to the first match the transferring player is required to play for their 'new' club. The power to accept or reject a player registration / transfer rests solely with the Registration Secretary, or in the event of a dispute, with the PRRMC
  - c) No player transfers will be permitted after 1<sup>st</sup> July each season
- iii) Financial Commitment to a Previous Club  
No player may be transferred to, or registered with **any DCL** club until such time as **all** financial commitments have been settled with that player's previous club