

Tolchards 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 on two teams promoted and two teams relegated. Thus two teams will be promoted from the B Division and two teams relegated; one team to each of the regionalised C Divisions. Each regionalised C Division will relegate two teams and the division below will promote two teams etc. **However, for the 2018 and 2019 seasons only, from the C Divisions downwards, three teams will be relegated and three teams promoted to assist in finding a team's appropriate competitive level.**

iv. No two 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 1st XI will be in a higher division than the club's 2nd XI, and it is **ALWAYS** the case that a club's 2nd XI will be in a higher division than the club's 3rd XI, and it is **ALWAYS** the case that a club's 3rd XI will be in a higher division than the club's 4th 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 B Division.

vi. No 2nd XI may rise higher than the B 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 eligible 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 two 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 two teams finishing bottom in all divisions will be relegated.

c. **In 2018 and 2019 seasons only**, the three teams finishing top in D East and D West Divisions and below will be promoted. The two 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 three teams finishing bottom in C East and C West Division or below will be relegated. The two teams finishing bottom in the Premier, A and B Divisions will be relegated.

e. 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.

f. Should a team fail to qualify for promotion due to not meeting the necessary Ground Criteria, including artificial pitch restrictions (Regulation 5), the team finishing in the next best position will be promoted instead.

g. 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 15th 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 by the home team 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 un-availability 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 15th 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 hours 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 hours 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 three 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 fulfil 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 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. Inspection

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 3rd XI or lower, playing in the lowest two divisions East and West, will be granted an exemption if their home ground has no grass pitch available throughout the whole season. This applies to one season, reviewed annually.
- b. Upon application to the DCL, a club may be granted dispensation for one season 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 1st XI or 2nd 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 manufacturer's markings on shirts are permitted, including the player's 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 T20 Cup
- Corinthian Cup
- Other T20 Competitions
- 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 division. Registration of all players will take place in accordance with guidelines issued by 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.
- d. All players playing in any of the Cup competitions organised by the DCL must be registered.
- e. Each team must include a minimum of nine 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 four consecutive years within the UK (for which purpose shall mean a year ending 31st March), **or**
- d. Are a citizen of a UK Overseas Protectorate eg 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, ie 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 two UK seasons prior to his 18th birthday **and** played at least 12 matches in total in DCL League or Cup games in the preceding two UK seasons **and** was a member of the club immediately prior to the award of a contract.

iv. Definitions – Category 3

This category comprises 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, except for the Devon T20 Cup when none are permitted.

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 four 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 31st March), **or**
- b. Hold a passport issued by a member state of the European Union.

9. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

- i. For the 2018 season onwards the registration system of all players will be moved to the devoncl.play-cricket.com site. It will be the responsibility of

the club to register all players. Players in categories 2, 3 and 3E must complete the current year DCL Registration Form and the completed form must be forwarded to the Registration Secretary before he approves the registration. All registrations must be received by the Registration Secretary no later than 22:00 on the 23rd 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 which they wish to play.

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 31st 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 the 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, airfares, lodging allowances, coaching fees, groundsman's fees, provision of a vehicle, mileage allowances or appearance money.

d. The club, at the date of registration, is also required to inform the DCL whether or not the player will be involved in coaching at any level. If so, then a Level 2 coaching certificate (or equivalent in the players own country) must be produced. 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 18s and, if so, a DBS certificate (or equivalent in the players 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 approve all registrations via devoncl.play-cricket.com providing all requirements laid out in **9. Registration of Players** are met and within the time limits stated. Once registered with a club, a player remains registered with them until officially transferred or the holding club requests removal of the registration via devoncl.play-cricket.com.*

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, eg 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 31st July: Only players who 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 (this does not affect the F Divisions downwards who will be allowed to continue to use the Loan Player Scheme & Casual Players registration).

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 C Divisions and below. These guest players need to be registered as normal and the process is as follows:

- i. Casual players may only be Category 1 players (see 8(ii) above).
- ii. Note the individual's name (needed for the scorecard).
- iii. Complete the registration via devoncl.play-cricket.com for approval by noon on the Wednesday following the match being played.

11. PLAYING AN UNREGISTERED OR INELIGIBLE PLAYER

i. Should a team play an 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 or ineligible player, in addition to the penalties detailed in Regulation 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 by, 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 2nd XI or lower can be a part of this scheme. Once a player plays in a club's 1st 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. Once a player is registered on devoncl.play-cricket.com he cannot register with another DCL member club until a transfer request is made and accepted by the holding club and the Registration Secretary via devoncl.play-cricket.com.

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 1st XI cricket for the new club during that season. Please note that a DCL match refers to a league or DCL affiliated cup game.

GUIDANCE NOTE

The transfer system applies to all players moving between DCL member clubs.

ii. Transfer Time Scale

a. A request must be received by the Registration Secretary via devoncl.play-cricket.com no later than 22:00 on 23rd 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, a player registration/transfer request (via devoncl.play-cricket.com) must be received by the Registration Secretary no later than 22:00 on the Thursday prior to the first match in which 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 1st 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

14. MATCH RESULTS

i. **In the Premier and A Divisions**, the match results are to be entered onto play-cricket.com by 22:00 on the evening of the match being played, and a FULL SCORECARD submitted by the Home team within 48 hours of the end of play – that is by the first Monday evening following completion of the match. The Away team then has until noon on Thursday to make any amendments to spelling and the like and/or to confirm the result. The Result Secretaries will check the entries and points claimed before "locking" the scorecard.

When uploading the Scorecard, it should include all players' names (including first names), whether they have batted or not, and the bonus points that are being claimed. Cancelled or Abandoned matches should be entered in the same way. The key to success in this process is to have the Members Database on your play-cricket.com website correct and up-to-date.

Any breach of these rules can attract a fine.

After the third, and any subsequent offence during the same season, 5 points will be deducted from the appropriate team total in addition to the said fine. Errant clubs will be notified of each offence in the most expedient manner.

ii. **In all other Divisions**, FULL SCORECARDS are to be uploaded onto play-cricket.com by the Home team. This has to be done by noon on the Tuesday following the match being played. Clearly, it is in everyone's interests if it can be done sooner. The Away team then has until noon on Thursday to make any amendments to spelling and the like and/or to confirm the result. The Result Secretaries will check the entries and points claimed before "locking" the scorecard.

When uploading the Scorecard, it should include all players' names (including first names), whether they have batted or not, and the bonus points that are being claimed. Cancelled or Abandoned matches should be entered in the same way. The key to success in this process is to have the Members Database on your play-cricket.com website correct and up-to-date.

Any breach of these rules can attract a fine.

After the third, and any subsequent offence during the same season, 5 points will be deducted from the appropriate team total in addition to the said fine. Errant clubs will be notified of each offence in the most expedient manner.

iii. In all Divisions where clubs make use of electronic scoring (eg TCS), the Home team, unless agreed otherwise, will be responsible for uploading the Scorecard to play-cricket.com. Both clubs are to check that the upload was successful and any errors corrected using their play-cricket.com Administrator's rights. It is strongly recommended that corrections are not attempted by either team uploading the Scorecard again.

15. MATCH REPORTS

i. Team Captains: In the Premier, A and B Divisions, where Independent Umpires are appointed by DACO, both Captains must fully complete their "Umpire Performance Feedback" forms on 'Who's The Umpire' (WTU) by no later than noon on the first Wednesday following the match taking place. If either Captain fails to comply, then their team will be deducted 2 points for each such occurrence.

The "Umpire Performance Feedback" form provides helpful information for the development and performance of Umpires. Care and consideration in compiling these reports are requested: it is the responsibility of the team Captain to complete these forms.

ii. Umpires: In the Premier, A and B Divisions, where Independent Umpires are appointed by DACO, both Umpires must together check match timings, allowable time, overs bowled and overs allocated at the end of the match. The Home team will then enter the overs allocated and actual playing time on their play-cricket.com website in the 'Highlights" box for the match concerned.

In addition, both Umpires must together agree the "Facilities and Pitch Mark" form for the DCL on WTU, by no later than noon on the first Wednesday following the match taking place. In matches where only one Independent Umpire is appointed, it is their responsibility to ensure all forms are correctly completed and signed.