

PLAYING DIRECTIVES

1. FIXTURES

- 1.1 Each side shall play all other sides in their respective Division, twice during the season, unless the weather makes it impossible for an arranged fixture to take place.
- 1.2 The fixtures shall be arranged by the General Manager and approved by the Management Board.
- 1.3 All fixtures shall be played on the dates and at the venues designated, as published, unless agreed by the Management Board.
- 1.4 If a fixture is unfulfilled for anything other than climatic reasons or other extraordinary circumstances, e.g. civil commotion, infestation by wasps/bees or illegal occupation of land, the match and 24 points (20 points in matches 1 to 5 and 17 to 22) will be awarded to the “non-offending” club. In addition, 24 points (20 points in matches 1 to 5 and 17 to 22) will be deducted from the “offending club”. The “offending” club shall, also, reimburse the “non-offending” club for the cost of teas and umpires when insufficient notice shall have been given to avoid such expenses.
- 1.5 If a club fails to fulfil a second fixture, during the same season, it shall be expelled from the League with immediate effect and its results, to date, shall be expunged.
- 1.6 Clubs are expected to field eleven players in all fixtures even if it leaves lower teams short of numbers.

2. THE MATCH

- 2.1 A team will be deemed to be late if less than seven members are present at the toss which shall take place on the field of play, in the presence of one or both of the umpires, not earlier than 30 minutes, nor later than 15 minutes before the scheduled or any rescheduled time for the start of play.
- 2.2 A team that is deemed to be late will forfeit the toss and the overs remaining at the rescheduled start time will be divided equally between the two teams.
- 2.3 The team claiming the toss will be deemed to have won the toss and, in the case of matches 6 to 16, points will be allocated according to playing condition 8.

- 2.4 A match may not be cancelled without the consent of both captains and any home team that cancels a match without offering the visitors an opportunity to view the conditions for themselves will be deducted 24 points (20 points in matches 1 to 5 and 17 to 22). In addition, 24 points (20 points in matches 1 to 5 and 17 to 22) will be awarded to the visiting club.
- 2.5 Normally, both teams must report to the ground before a decision is made regarding the fitness of the conditions. However, the match may be called off, before the start, without the away team travelling, subject to the following conditions: -
- (i) The weather forecast and the weather conditions are such that the state of the pitch and/or the outfield means that there would be no chance of the game starting by the latest time allowable by the rules, even if the usual drying methods are employed.
 - (ii) Captains of both teams agree on an abandonment by speaking together and not by any other form of communication.
- 2.6 If the captains fail to agree on an abandonment, and time is available, the ground should be inspected by an independent umpire who will be entitled to claim an attendance fee of £15. His/her decision will be final and binding on both clubs.
- 2.7 The home club must report the abandonment of the fixture to the General Manager immediately after the decision to abandon has been made.
- 2.8 If a dispute occurs, prior to or on the day of the match, the away team retains the right to travel to inspect the ground, for themselves, but they will be responsible for paying the full attendance fee of both appointed umpires and the cost of teas up to a maximum of £50 if the match is, subsequently, abandoned without a ball being bowled.
- 2.9 If this option is taken, the home team must attend, pending an inspection by the appointed umpires.
- 2.10 If, subsequently, conditions are deemed fit and play commences, the umpires will report the facts to the General Manager, who will impose a penalty of 24 points (20 points for matches 1 to 5 and 17 to 22) on the home team.

- 2.11 If the decision to cancel is taken on the day before or on the day of the match and the away team has declined the invitation to view the conditions, for themselves, the appointed umpires should be informed that the fixture has been abandoned immediately. They should be paid the full attendance fee if caused to travel.
- 2.12 Any team that concedes a match, once it has commenced, will be reported by the umpires to the General Manager. He will refer the matter to the Cricket & Registration Committee who shall have the power to impose fines and/or points deductions if it finds that the concession is inappropriate and/or contrary to the Spirit of Cricket.
- 2.13 The following ECB Directives shall apply in all matches; captains, team managers and umpires shall be responsible for ensuring that they are followed: -
- (i) Fast bowling directives
 - (ii) The safety guidance on the wearing of helmets by young players up to the age of 18
 - (iii) The guidance on fielding regulations for young players
 - (iv) The guidance for junior players in open age cricket

3. GROUND AND FACILITY CRITERIA

Penalties for non-compliance with any of the conditions listed below can be found in a document entitled "Fines Tariff" which can be found by clicking the Download button on the League website www.birminghamleague.org

- 3.1 Home clubs shall be responsible for the preparation, covering, re-covering and correct marking of the pitch and for setting up the wickets before the toss.
- 3.2 The match pitch must not be artificially watered less than 48 hours before the start of any match.
- 3.3 The pitch should be firm, dry and true, providing good carry and consistent bounce with no excessive seam movement or spin throughout and will be judged on how it plays not whether it is dry or what colour it looks.
- 3.4 Between innings the home team shall arrange for the pitch to be swept and re-marked and, if necessary, rolled.
- 3.5 Each club shall provide leak-proof pitch covers that cover the whole of the match pitch.

- 3.6 The match pitch shall be covered for the two nights before the match and, if necessary, until the first ball is bowled and whenever necessary during the preparation of the pitch. The bowlers' run-ups and the pitches either side of the match pitch must also be covered.
- 3.7 Under the supervision of the umpires, the home team is responsible for ensuring the pitch, the bowlers' run-ups and the pitches either side of the match pitch are fully covered:-
- (i) if there is any rain after the toss has taken place or
 - (ii) during any rain interruption or
 - (iii) during any interval and there is threat of rain or
 - (iv) if play is suspended due to poor light and there is a threat of rain
- 3.8 In the interests of time-saving, it is permissible to use flat sheets to cover the pitch during the match at the discretion of the umpires but, if the break in play is likely to be for an extended period, the roll-on wheeled covers, covers for the bowlers' run-ups and side sheets for the pitches either side of the match pitch must be applied.
- 3.9 It is expected that the home team will ensure that full access is available to all equipment needed to clean up in the event of adverse weather and to use it as soon as rain has ceased, or as directed by the umpires.
- 3.10 Clubs must provide adequate mopping-up equipment for use during wet weather. The minimum equipment required is a bow-dry mopping-up machine or equivalent. This work should be carried out under the direction and supervision of the umpires.
- 3.11 Clubs are expected to make all possible efforts to ensure that their grounds are fit to play in the event of bad weather. This requirement should take precedence over other activities such as warm-ups etc.
- 3.12 In exceptional circumstances (usually caused by poor weather) and if both sides agree, a fresh pitch may be cut on a match day to allow cricket to be played. The 45-yard boundary requirement may be relaxed for this purpose only.
- 3.13 The captain of either team may request to have the pitch rolled before the toss is made at the start of the match.

- 3.14 A choice of light or heavy roller should be made available for use prior to and during all matches. Although it is desirable to have a heavy roller available during matches, this may not, always, be possible due to the lack of a suitable driver, contract hire etc. Rollers available on a match day should be confirmed between the umpires and captains prior to the toss.
- 3.15 The square should be well maintained and in good condition. The entire square should be cut prior to each game, the pitch clearly identified from the remainder of the square and fully prepared for positive cricket.
- 3.16 Outfields should be flat, even and well maintained with good drainage, closely-mown every week, below $\frac{3}{4}$ " or 20mm, with no grass cuttings left on the surface enabling the ball to run truly.
- 3.17 The boundary should be clearly marked by a fence OR a substantial rope OR a white line supplemented by boundary flag markers every 20 yards. It should be a minimum distance of 45 yards from the centre of the match pitch.
- 3.18 Two sight-screens (black in matches 1 to 5 and 17 to 22 and white in matches 6 to 16) covering a minimum width of 24 feet, shall be placed at each end of the ground. They should be painted with non-reflective paint and should be in good condition. If the screen stands within the playing area, a roped/boarded area must be provided of sufficient size to allow the screens to be moved without adjusting the screens/boards.
- 3.19 All member clubs shall be equipped on their ground with a working clock which is clearly visible to all players and umpires during the course of the match.
- 3.20 The ground surrounds should be regularly cut and neatly maintained with suitable measures in place to ensure that time lost searching for lost balls is minimised. All paintwork should be in good condition.
- 3.21 Dressing-rooms should be of a reasonable size for home and away teams and well decorated with adequate seating and hooks for clothes. The floor should be of suitable material for bare feet, non-slip and must be disinfected on a regular basis.
- 3.22 Separate and secure changing rooms should be provided for umpires of a similar standard to those for players and with easy access to showers. They should also be of a reasonable size. Rooms must be lockable and, if this is not possible, a secure locker should be provided.

- 3.23 An adequate, sheltered, seated viewing area should be available for the batting team.
- 3.24 A minimum of three showers per team should be provided in a hygienic area with non-slip flooring.
- 3.25 Toilets should be adequate and hygienic. Separate WCs for men and women should be provided. A toilet for the disabled should be included in new buildings and in any plans for refurbishment.
- 3.26 All club grounds, clubhouses and other facilities should comply with current health and safety, fire and food hygiene legislation.
- 3.27 First aid equipment should be clearly displayed and available to all players and spectators. Clubs are encouraged to train a member in first aid and to make a qualified first aider available on match days.
- 3.28 Teas should be provided to a high standard. There should also be adequate bar facilities available for post-match hospitality. Clubs are urged to make food available for spectators, if possible.
- 3.29 Every effort should be made to ensure that there is disabled access to all areas of the ground and clubhouse (including the scoreboard) and, where the pavilion is on more than one level, consideration should be given to how, for example, a wheelchair user would access the floors either above or below ground level.

4. DAMAGE TO GROUND & FACILITIES

- 4.1 If damage is caused to any member club's ground and facilities by visiting player(s) or spectator(s), the visiting club shall be responsible for the payment and repair of such damage.

5. BALLS

- 5.1 A new Dukes County International "A" ball, supplied to the home club, by the League, to ensure complete uniformity, shall be used at the commencement of each innings in all matches in Premier Division One and Premier Division Two.
- 5.2 Home clubs must ensure that four new balls and at least six spare balls of the same brand are available to the umpires before the toss. These balls shall be of varying ages and use and should be approved by both captains. Once approved, they may not be changed under any circumstances and the selection of a spare ball from this stock, when the ball in use is lost, shall be at the sole discretion of the umpires. Failure to supply the correct balls to the umpires, prior to the toss, may result in a points deduction.

- 5.3 At the end of each match, home clubs are advised to mark the used balls with the number of overs bowled in the relevant innings. This will assist captains and umpires with their selection of spare balls in future matches.
- 5.4 In the event of a new ball being lost within the first five overs of either innings, the replacement will be another new ball as supplied to the umpires, prior to the game.
- 5.5 If the home team fails to provide new balls at the time of the toss, it shall forfeit the toss. The team claiming the toss will be deemed to have won the toss and in matches 6 to 16, points will be allocated according to playing condition 8.
- 5.6 If the team claiming the toss, elects to field, the match will be delayed until the new balls arrive. If the team claiming the toss, elects to bat, the match will start at the scheduled time and the fielding side shall bowl with a used ball throughout the innings. The ball to be used shall be selected by the umpires.

6. UMPIRES

- 6.1 All Panel members shall be members of ECB ACO and they shall be appointed to officiate in both Divisions of the League.
- 6.2 They will each receive an allowance from the home club, the allowance to be decided by the Management Board at the start of each season.
- 6.3 Clubs must pay the umpires fees before the match commences. Fees are an attendance fee and must be paid even when no play is possible. In the event of an umpire standing alone, he/she shall receive 150% of the normal attendance fee.
- 6.4 All umpires should arrive at the ground, at least 60 minutes before the scheduled start of the match, to confirm the completion of team sheets and any local conditions. They will also oversee the toss and they should take the field five minutes prior to the opening delivery of each innings.
- 6.5 Umpires in matches 1 to 5 and matches 17 to 22 must wear coloured clothing, as prescribed by the Umpires Committee at the start of each season.
- 6.6 Umpires in matches 6 to 16 must wear a white coat/blouson, a white shirt, a tie, and dark trousers (black or navy blue). Coat/blouson and tie are optional according to the weather. A polo shirt may be worn, as an alternative, but, in all cases, the umpires must be dressed the same.

- 6.7 Where there is no umpire present at the commencement of a match, both sides should attempt, in the first instance, to find a suitable person to stand on their behalf. If this is not possible, a player from the batting side should stand at the bowler's end and another player from the batting side should stand at square leg. If the match commences late because there is no umpire present at the start, the playing time may be extended to cover the delay e.g. if a match commences 10 minutes late then all timings for intervals and the completion of innings shall be put back by 10 minutes.
- 6.8 The penalty runs provided for in Law 41 shall not apply in matches where there is no umpire appointed by the Management Board.
- 6.9 Umpires should ensure that: -
- (i) when necessary, sight-screens are moved by the batting side.
 - (ii) the outgoing and incoming batsmen cross on the field of play following the fall of a wicket.
 - (iii) on the conclusion of an innings, the match is resumed punctually, within 30 minutes.
 - (iv) when the last over has commenced it shall always be completed, unless a result has been reached or the players have reason to leave the field.
- 6.10 Umpires are responsible for noting the times and duration of play which must be noted on the Umpires Report.
- 6.11 Umpires are asked to notify the General Manager of any match which is late starting.
- 6.12 The umpires shall be the sole judges of the fitness of the ground, weather and light for play.
- 6.13 If, at any time, the umpires together agree that the conditions of ground, weather and light are so bad that there is obvious and foreseeable risk to the safety of any player or umpire, so that it would be unreasonable or dangerous for play to take place they should immediately suspend play, or not allow play to commence or to restart.
- 6.14 Any captain, player, groundsman or club official who attempts to contradict the umpires or adopt delaying tactics to prevent a prompt start or resumption of play will be reported to the Disciplinary Committee for dissent.

- 6.15 Cricket bats should only be measured at the request of the opposing captain and should be measured when the batsman comes to the wicket.
- 6.16 Should either captain require a meeting with the umpires at the end of the match they should request this immediately the match ends and the meeting should be in the umpires' room or other suitable, private location.

7. FIELDER LEAVING THE FIELD

- 7.1 If a fielder fails to take the field with his side at the start of the match or at any later time, or leaves the field during a session of play, the umpire shall be informed of the reason for his absence, and he shall not thereafter come onto the field during a session of play without the consent of the umpire. The umpire shall give such consent as soon as practicable.
- 7.2 If a player is absent from the field for longer than eight minutes, the following restrictions shall apply to their future participation in the match: -
- (i) The player shall not be permitted to bowl in the match until he has either been able to field, or his team has subsequently been batting, for the total length of playing time for which he was absent (hereafter referred to as penance time), subject to a maximum cumulative penance time of 90 minutes.
 - (ii) The player shall not be allowed to bat in the match until his team's batting innings has been in progress for the length of playing time that is equal to the unexpired penance time carried forward from the previous innings, subject to a maximum cumulative penance time of 90 minutes. However, once his side has lost five wickets in its batting innings, he may bat immediately.
- 7.3 The restriction in (i) and (ii) above shall not apply if the player has suffered an external blow (as opposed to an internal injury such as a pulled muscle) whilst participating earlier in the match and has subsequently been forced to leave the field or is consequently unable to take the field. External blow should be interpreted broadly to include, but not restricted to, such things as collisions with boundary boards, clashes of heads, heavy falls, etc. Nor shall the restriction apply if the player has been absent for very exceptional and wholly acceptable reasons (other than injury or illness).

- 7.4 For the purposes of (i) and (ii) above, playing time shall comprise the time play is in progress excluding tea intervals, intervals between innings and official drinks intervals.
- 7.5 If a player is off the field at the commencement of an interruption in play through ground, weather or light conditions, he shall be allowed to count any such stoppage time as playing time, provided that he personally informs the umpires when he is fit enough to take the field if play had been in progress.
- 7.6 Similarly, if at the commencement of an interruption in play through ground, weather or light conditions or other exceptional circumstances, a player is on the field or waiting to bat but still has some unexpired penance time remaining from a previous absence, he shall automatically be allowed to count any such stoppage time as playing time provided he returns to the field of play immediately after the interruption or, in the case of a batsman, provided that he personally informs the umpires that he is fit to participate

8. SCORING

- 8.1 Each team shall supply a competent scorer, who, preferably, shall have passed the Level 2 Scorer membership of ECB ACO. If he/she is not a member of ECB ACO, a competent scorer should be scoring on a regular basis and is likely to be aged 13 or over.
- 8.2 A competent scorer is a person who: -
- (i) Has a basic knowledge of the Laws of Cricket
 - (ii) Has a basic knowledge of scoring procedures
 - (iii) Has a knowledge of umpires' signals and is able to communicate appropriately with the umpires
 - (iv) Is able to identify all individual players of the team for which they are scoring
- 8.3 The penalty for failing to provide a competent non-playing scorer is a three-point deduction on the first and every, subsequent, occasion during the season.
- 8.4 If no scorer is available, the Captain will nominate one of his team players to undertake the scoring. No substitute shall be allowed for this player, who may resume his place in the nominated side without any penalties under the Laws of Cricket if a scorer is, subsequently, provided.

- 8.5 Scorers must be in an enclosed area, away from the public, which is totally under cover. The scoreboard (or room provided) which may be within or detached from the pavilion, should be of an acceptable standard, clean, tidy and maintained inside and outside in good condition. It should be clearly visible from the pavilion and everywhere on the field of play. Access to the internet is mandatory to enable Live Scores to the League website.
- 8.6 A suitable 13Amp socket must be available to facilitate the use of two laptop computers in all matches played under the jurisdiction of BDPCL. The home club must, also, provide a printer in matches 1 to 5 and 17 to 22, as well as Williamson Trophy and Twenty20 Challenge Cup matches to enable DLS printouts to be given to captains and umpires.
- 8.7 Scoring must be undertaken on a laptop computer or a tablet and Live Scores must be maintained using the latest version of PCS PRO available at the start of the season, together with any updates released during the remainder of the season.
- 8.8 Scorers are urged to acknowledge umpires' signals by displaying a white or coloured disc which can be clearly seen from the middle.

9. TEAM SHEETS

- 9.1 At the start of each season, the League will provide all clubs with a book of team sheets which must be completed by the home and away teams before every match played under the jurisdiction of BDPCL.
- 9.2 Before the toss for innings, each captain must nominate his players who may not, thereafter, be changed without the consent of the opposing captain.
- 9.3 The nominated players must be set out on a team sheet, a copy (pink) of which must be presented to the umpires and another copy (yellow) which must be presented to the opposition captain at the toss. The top copy (white) must be retained by both clubs for inspection by the League on request.
- 9.4 Captains, wicket keepers, Category 2 players (Contracted), Category 3 players (Overseas) and players under the age of 19 years on 31st August of the previous year must be identified on the team sheet.

- 9.5 A replacement player shall be allowed by right in the event of a Category 2 player, currently playing in a League match, being required to join his First-Class County team after the commencement of the match or being placed on official stand-by prior to the commencement of the match. Such replacement player may be permitted to bat or bowl in that match. If the player is batting at the time when he is required to leave the match, he shall retire “not out”. His replacement shall be permitted to bat later in the innings.
- 9.6 If it transpires, after the start of the match, that a mistake has been made on the team sheet (e.g. the same player is named twice, or a player is wrongly named) the match shall continue, and the umpire shall report the facts to the General Manager. He shall have the power to deal with the matter himself or refer it to the Cricket & Registration Committee who will have the power to impose sanctions and penalties if they see fit.

10. CAPTAINS' REPORTS

- 10.1 Captains are required to: -
- (i) Assess and mark the umpires
 - (ii) Mark the quality of the pitch and outfield
- 10.2 The form should be completed online via the League website no later than 5.00 p.m. on the Monday immediately after the match.

11. UMPIRES' REPORTS

- 11.1 Umpires are required to: -
- (i) Record which side won the toss
 - (ii) Report on the facilities provided for themselves and the scorers
 - (iii) Report any failure to meet the required over-rate
 - (iv) Mark the quality of the pitch and outfield
 - (v) Report on the conduct of the match
 - (vi) Report any other matter they deem relevant
- 11.2 The form should be completed online via the League website no later than 5.00 p.m. on the Monday immediately after the match.

12. CLOTHING

- 12.1 Players in matches 1 to 5 and 17 to 22 shall wear coloured clothing and players in matches 6 to 16 shall wear white clothing. The current ECB Regulations on advertising insignia shall apply to all items of clothing and equipment worn or used on the field. Details are available from the ECB website. Teams may have named and or numbered shirts providing all eleven players are similarly attired. Names will be surnames only and numbers shall be two digits maximum.

13. TEAS

- 13.1 The home side shall provide teas for the away side, umpires and scorers free of charge.
- 13.2 A separate table **MUST** be laid for umpires and scorers. They should not be expected to queue or help themselves to tea, which should be available on their table, as soon as the first innings is completed.

14. LEAGUE TABLES

- 14.1 Teams will be ranked in a League Table according to the number of points awarded.
- 14.2 In the event of two or more sides finishing equal on points then in order to ascertain their respective finishing positions in their respective Divisions, both generally and for the purpose of promotion and relegation, the positions shall be determined in the following manner: -
- i) The side with the highest number of wins shall be placed higher.
 - (ii) If there are still two or more sides with an even number of points in equal position, then the side with the highest number of ties shall be placed higher.
 - (iii) If there are still two or more sides with an even number of points in equal position then their position shall be decided by the result of the matches played between each other in that season, i.e. the side obtaining the highest number of points in the matches shall be placed higher.
 - (iv) If there are still two or more sides with an even number of points in equal position, the team with the higher runs per wicket calculation (rpwc) shall be placed higher. Rpwc is calculated as follows: - runs scored/wickets lost minus runs conceded/wickets taken in all (completed) matches.