

REGISTRATION

Registration of all players will take place in accordance with ECB guidelines at a time designated by The Management Board.

Every player registered to play in the League explicitly acknowledges, by virtue of his/her registration, the Rules of the League, the Playing Conditions, and, in particular, the powers of the League, in relation to conduct and disciplinary procedures, and undertakes to be bound by them.

The responsibility for registering a player shall be with the Club. The General Manager of the League will conduct random checks of team sheets throughout the season and he will report any infringements to the Disciplinary Sub-Committee, which has the power to deduct points and/or relegate teams as it sees fit.

After the first League match of the season, no player may act as a substitute professional for a Club in any other League in the UK. If a player does accept such an engagement, his registration with a BDPCL Club will be cancelled, with immediate effect, and he will be ineligible to play for any BDPCL Club for the remainder of the season.

Clubs must register their players in the following categories:

- Category 1: A player qualified to play for England under the current ECB regulations.
- Category 2: Contracted Player
A player (capped or uncapped) qualified to play for England under the current ECB regulations and, currently, under contract to a First-Class County Club or MCC Young Cricketers. For the purposes of clarification, a contracted player is one who has a current full playing contract, a summer contract or a development (scholarship) contract but not an Academy contract (16-19 years).
- Category 3: Overseas Player
A player not qualified to play for England under the current ECB regulations. The definition of an overseas player is as per ECB guidelines, a copy of which is held by the General Manager. (See Notes at end of the section).

In relation to the registration of Category 3 Players:-

1. Clubs must ensure that all relevant regulations are complied with and, if they are not, any such Player will be deemed ineligible for registration.

- Category 3 (E): Overseas Player (exempt)
A player not qualified to play for England under current ECB regulations, who is ordinarily resident in this country, and has been resident in this country for a period of 24 consecutive months, prior to the date of request for registration, and has not been out of the country for more than 35 days, consecutively, or 70 days, in total, during the previous 24 months. Any remuneration received from playing cricket must not be the main source of his income.

The definition of "ordinarily resident" shall be in the absolute discretion of the body responsible for registration of the player in the relevant competition.

In relation to the registration of Category 3 (Exempt) Players:-

1. Clubs must satisfy, themselves, by checking evidence of any such player's continuous residence in UK, e.g. utility bills, council tax bills, entry and departure dates on passport.

2. In addition, every Category 3 (Exempt) Player must sign a declaration, as follows:

“ I confirm that I have been resident in England and Wales for the past two years and, during that period, I have not been outside England and Wales for longer than 35 days, consecutively, or 70 days, in total. I, also, confirm that any payment that I receive for playing cricket is not my main source of income. I understand that the punishment for making a false declaration, in this regard, will be severe and will, most likely, result in a lengthy ban, which will apply to all forms of recreational cricket in England and Wales.” (Note: England and Wales includes the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.)

The declaration may be downloaded from the League website www.birminghamleague.org

3. In the event of a player making a false declaration, the Club will, also, be liable to disciplinary action if it has failed to carry out all reasonable checks on the player's documentary evidence. Clubs will, therefore, be expected to keep a record of all such checks.
4. As there is a continuing need to verify that the criteria are met, Clubs must re-register all Category 3 (exempt) players, **each season**, providing evidence of their continuous residence in this country, otherwise they will be deemed to be Category 3 players.
5. If a Category 3 (exempt) player has, unavoidably, due to personal reasons, had to leave England and Wales for longer than the permitted period, the General Manager will consider such player's application for continued Category 3 (exempt) status and his decision shall be final.
6. A player who has a home in England or Wales and has been granted “exempt” status, who, subsequently, accepts a temporary work assignment, unconnected to cricket, in another country, may apply to re-instate his “exempt” status immediately on his return. Approval is at the discretion of the General Manager and may not be automatic.
7. A student may be granted Category 3 (exempt) status subject to production of documentary evidence that he/she is a full-time student attending a three year course of study in a bona-fide education establishment.

Procedure

Players in all categories - Category 1, Category 2, Category 3 and Category 3 (Exempt) - must be registered on play-cricket.com by the Club and approved by the General Manager of the League.

Category 1 and Category 2 players, who were registered with a Club, during the previous season, will not be required to re-register unless they change Clubs.

Clubs must re-register all Category 3 and Category 3 (Exempt) players, **each season**.

In addition to their registration on play-cricket.com all Category 3 and Category 3 (Exempt) players must be registered with the General Manager of the League, **each season**, on Category 3 registration forms, accompanied by the appropriate documentation.

All Category 3 players must be registered with the General Manager of the League, with the relevant documentation, 14 days before they are due to arrive in UK.

Category 3 registration forms may be downloaded from the website www.birminghamleague.org

Players transferring from another Club may not be registered on play-cricket.com until a transfer form is received by the General Manager of the League, signed by an official of the Club that the player is leaving and an official of the Club that the player is joining.

Player transfer forms may be downloaded from the League website www.birminghamleague.org

Player transfer forms and, if appropriate, Category 3 and Category 3 (Exempt) registration forms must be submitted to the General Manager of the League, unless Clubs are notified of any alternative arrangement.

Players Moving Clubs

Players who move to a new Club, from a Club which was a member of BDPCL, in the immediately preceding season, **or** from a Club which was not a member of BDPCL, in the immediately preceding season, will not be approved for registration on play-cricket.com until the General Manager of the League receives a transfer form, signed by an official of the Club that the Player is leaving and an Official of the Club that the Player is joining.

Players Moving between Member Clubs of the League

In the case of a player moving from a Club which was a member of BDPCL, in the immediately preceding season, the Player and an Official of the Club, seeking to register the player, must complete Part 1 of a transfer form and forward it to the Club that the Player is leaving, by **20th March**, prior to the current season. An Official of the Club that the Player is leaving should complete Part 2 of the form, confirming that the Player has no disciplinary or financial obligation to the Club, or League, and return it to the Club that the Player is joining, by **31st March**, prior to the current season.

The completed transfer form should be returned, by post, to the General Manager of the League, by **10th April, prior to the current season.**

Players Moving from a Club outside the League

In the case of a player moving from a Club which was not a member of BDPCL, in the immediately preceding season, the Player and an Official of the Club, seeking to register the player, must complete Part 1 of a transfer form and forward it to the Club that the Player is leaving. An Official of the Club that the Player is leaving should complete Part 2 of the form, confirming that the Player has no disciplinary or financial obligation to the Club, or to the League of which the Club is a member, and return it to the Club that the Player is joining, **within 10 days of receipt.**

The completed transfer form should be returned, by post, to the General Manager of the League, by the Club that the player is joining, **48 hours before the player is eligible to play in a 1st XI match.**

The deadline for players moving from a Club which was not a member of BDPCL, in the immediately preceding season, is **31st July**, in the current season.

Dual Registration

Only bona fide club members who have a student placing at a University may have dual registration.

2nd XI Players

Unregistered players are permitted to play in 2nd XI matches, up to and including the last match of the season, as long as the player is registered on play-cricket.com within 48 hours of the completion of the match.

De-Registration

All Clubs must submit a list of de-registered players to the General Manager of the League, before **30th April**, in the current season. The list must include the names of all players who have moved to another Club, in BDPCL, or any other League, as well as the name of any player who has not appeared in a League match, a Graham Williamson Trophy/Plate match or a (Twenty20) Challenge Cup match in the previous two seasons. It is not permissible for a Player to de-register himself but Clubs may not prevent a Player from joining a new Club unless he has an outstanding disciplinary or financial obligation to the Club or League.

Players who move to a Club, outside BDPCL, **after the season has commenced**, must be de-registered **within seven days** of the transfer being approved. A Club may not hold a Player's registration if he moves to a Club in another League.

Any Player who moves to a Club, outside BDPCL, **after the 31st March deadline**, will not be permitted to transfer back to a BDPCL Club (including the Club he has left) before the end of the current season.

Transfer Window

From **22nd May to 31st May**, each season, there will be a 10 day transfer window, when players who are, currently, registered with a BDPCL member Club, will be permitted to move to another BDPCL Club, providing that they have not played in a League match, a Graham Williamson Trophy/Plate match or a (Twenty20) Challenge Cup match, for the Club that they wish to leave, during the current season.

A Player will be deemed to have played a League match (1st XI or 2nd XI in all Divisions), Graham Williamson Trophy/Plate match or (Twenty20) Challenge Cup match if his name has appeared on the match result sheet and the sheet has been signed by both Umpires (or Captains in the absence of Umpires), even though the match may have been abandoned with little or no play at all.

Player Eligibility

On the date of any League match, when a Club's Second XI has a League fixture and its First XI does not, the composition of the Second XI side concerned shall be such that it does not include more than one player who had participated in that Club's First XI's previous League match. For the purposes of this rule, no Category 2 or Category 3 player shall be allowed to play in the said 2nd XI fixture.

Category 1 Player

A Category 1 player must be registered with a new club on play-cricket.com and approved by the General Manager of the League, **48 hours before he plays**, to be eligible to play in a 1st XI match.

A Category 1 player may join a club from a club in another League during the season providing that he is registered in accordance with the League's registration procedure and regulations (as above).

A Category 1 player may not play in a 1st XI match, unless he is registered by that club, by 5.00 p.m. on **31st July** in the current season.

A Category 1 player may be registered to play in a 2nd XI match at any time during the season (up to and including the day of the match) providing that he is registered on play-cricket.com within 48 hours of the completion of the match.

A Category 1 player may not be registered whilst continuing to play for another club in another League, particularly with the express purpose of playing on those dates when the other League does not have a match programme.

Category 2 Player

Arrangements for contracted players to play for clubs shall be made by the Warwickshire and Worcestershire County Cricket Clubs (and any other County Cricket Club which may be appropriate) in consultation with the League.

A Category 2 player shall not play in any League match until he has been registered by his Member Club as a playing member of that club on play-cricket.com and the registration has been approved by the General Manager of the League.

Clubs in the Premier Division and Division One will be permitted to register and play one Category 2 player, each season, and he will be eligible to play in all League, Graham Williamson Trophy, Graham Williamson Plate and (Twenty20) Challenge Cup matches.

An exemption will be granted to all Category 2 players who are classed as "Home Grown." The definition of a "Home Grown" Player is that the player was a bona fide member of that club for at least two UK seasons preceding his 21st birthday and played at least 12 matches in total for the club in the preceding two UK seasons in any of the Player Pathway environments listed below* and was a member of the club immediately prior to the award of a contract.

*Player Pathway environments are:

All ECB Premier Divisions and all Feeder Divisions administered by a Premier League Executive Committee.

Player Pathway environment matches are:

Premier Division League and Premier League administered cup knockout matches
Premier Division and designated Feeder Leagues/Divisions
National Knockout Cup
Cockspur Twenty20 Cup (League, Area, Regional and National Finals)
CCC and LCC Inter League Competitions (Presidents Cup and Premier League Trophy)

A Category 2 player may not play in another League match in the current season unless he has played two League matches before the end of August.

Category 3 Player

Each Club will be permitted to register and play one Category 3 player, each season.

Category 3 player registrations must be accompanied by a passport photograph, a copy of the relevant pages of the Player's passport and a transfer form (if transferring from another Club in UK). The player must sign the registration form.

A Category 3 player must quote his overseas address on the registration form as well as his residential address within the UK.

A Category 3 player may not play in a 1st XI match unless he is registered by 5.00 p.m. on **31st July** in the current season.

A replacement Category 3 player will not be permitted, under any circumstances, at any stage of the season.

A Category 3 Player will be classed as an Overseas "Professional" or an Overseas "Amateur."

Overseas Professional

A Category 3 Player, classed as an Overseas “Professional” may not be registered without a copy of the registering Club’s Certificate of Sponsorship for the player, issued by ECB. A Certificate of Sponsorship will not be issued unless the Player has:-

- a) Played in a minimum of FIVE first-class matches (three days or more in duration) during the 24 months prior to the first League match of the season.
- b) Holds the equivalent* of a UKCC2 Coaching qualification.

*The following are classed as equivalent to a UKCC2 coaching qualification:-

1. Cricket Australia Level 1
2. New Zealand Cricket Level 1
3. South Africa Level 2 (but only if taken at the Bakers Academy)

Overseas Amateur

A Category 3 Player, classed as an Overseas “Amateur” may not be registered without a copy of ONE of the following:-

- a) UK/EU Passport.
- b) UK Ancestry Visa.
- c) Sports Visitor Visa.

Overseas “Amateur” Players will, only, require permission (a Sports Visitor Visa) to come to UK for a sports visit of up to six months if they are a visa national. (See the visa services website for more information.) If the Player is a non-visa national (e.g. Australian or New Zealander) permission to enter as a sports visitor is not required.

All Category 3 Players who enter UK through the Sports Visitor Visa route must satisfy the following criteria:-

1. They only want to visit UK for up to six months.
2. They plan to leave UK at the end of their visit.
3. They must have enough money to support and accommodate themselves without working, help from public funds or they must be accommodated by relatives or friends.
4. They do not intend to charge for services provided.
5. They do not intend to study.
6. They are able to meet the cost of the return journey.
7. They are joining, as an amateur, a wholly or mainly amateur team and they must not be paid anything other than board and lodging and other reasonable expenses.

A Player who is registered due to his possession of a Sports Visitor Visa must not receive any remuneration for playing or coaching cricket. If it is, subsequently, discovered that a Player, registered via this route, is receiving or has received payment for playing or coaching, the player and the Club will face disciplinary action by the League and they will be reported to ECB and the UKBA.

In all the above cases, the onus is on the Club to ensure that the Player is entitled to be in the UK. Clubs should not employ anyone who does not have the legal right to be in the country, or have the legal right to work for them. Under the new regulations, it is the Chairman and Committee of the club who are legally and personally responsible.

Category 3 (Exempt) Player

Each Club will be permitted to register and play one Category 3 (Exempt) player, each season.
In all other circumstances, the regulations and procedures relevant to a Category 1 Player will apply.