

IT IS EXPECTED THAT CLUB OFFICIALS, TEAM CAPTAINS AND UMPIRES KNOW, UNDERSTAND AND UPHOLD THE SCCL REGULATIONS, THE ECB DIRECTIVES, THE MCC LAWS AND THE SPIRIT OF CRICKET.

CONSTITUTION OF THE SHROPSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET LEAGUE AND ITS SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTS (LEAGUE RULES, GCR, DISCIPLINARY, COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS PROCEDURES)

CONSTITUTION

In the following Constitution, and any Supplementary Documents mentioned within the Constitution, that wherever the words “in writing” or “written” appear, this may be by email or letter only.

1. Name

The organisation shall be known as **The Shropshire County Cricket League**, hereafter referred to as “SCCL”. **The name of the League’s sponsor(s) shall wherever appropriate be incorporated into that of the League, the form of such to be as decided by the Management Committee.**

2. INTENTION

2.1 The intention of the SCCL shall be to organise amateur cricket on a championship basis for the Member Clubs, with the object of playing Club cricket in the spirit and laws of the game as it exists and as it is understood by all who play within the auspices of the England and Wales Cricket Board “ECB” and the Club Cricket Conference.

2.2 The SCCL is affiliated to the ECB and is an important component of the ECB Premier League structure with promotion and relegation to and from the Birmingham District Cricket League “BDCL”.

2.3 The SCCL intends to promote the highest standards in all facets of the game, foster and develop the spirit of cricket within Shropshire and its bordering counties and to promote the best interests of its member Clubs.

3. AFFILIATION

3.1 The SCCL is affiliated to the England and Wales Cricket Board through Shropshire County Cricket Board.

3.2 The SCCL Club shall ensure that Member Clubs abide by the ECB Code of Conduct which incorporates the Spirit of Cricket and by the Laws of Cricket.

3.3 The SCCL shall ensure that Member Clubs adopt and implement the ECB Safe Hands – Cricket’s Policy for Safeguarding Children and any future versions of the policy and Member Clubs have a separate Safeguarding Policy Statement, as required by the ECB.

3.4 The SCCL shall adopt and implement the ECB Anti-Discrimination Code of Conduct and any future versions of this policy.

4. MEMBERSHIP OF THE SCCL

4.1 The SCCL shall consist of such number of cricket clubs “Member Clubs” as shall be decided upon at a General Meeting of the SCCL.

Any future new Member Clubs invited to join the SCCL, as maybe determined by the Management Committee, will be required to serve a probation period of at least one full season as a “Provisional Member”. Full Membership will only be granted once the Management Committee has confirmed that the Club has attained and maintained the standards in all areas expected of a Full Member

Club. Should the Management Committee determine that after two full seasons the Provisional Member Club has not attained or maintained the necessary standards or were responsible for multiple disciplinary issues, then the Management Committee may recommend to a General Meeting for their expulsion from the SCCL, and where for a Provisional Member the threshold for such motion to pass it shall require only a fifty percent majority vote.

4.2 All Member Clubs shall be affiliated to the ECB via their relevant County Cricket Board. Any Member Club that enters their 1st XI within the SCCL (inclusive of BDCL) shall be deemed to be a "Full Member Club".

4.3 The League shall consist of member Clubs who satisfy the requirements of the League and the Committee with regard to status, playing strength and standard of grounds and facilities.

4.4 The SCCL seeks to ensure that all present and future Members Clubs receive fair and equal treatment.

4.5 The SCCL takes seriously its responsibilities to all its Member Clubs and their players, including the welfare of young players. To this end, the SCCL endorses the relevant ECB Non-First-Class Cricket guidance, as maybe amended and updated by the ECB, inclusive of its Safe Hands (Safeguarding Children and Child Protection Policy), its Anti-Discrimination Code and Equality, Diversity & Inclusivity (EDI).

The SCCL requires all Member Clubs to observe all such youth mandates, directives and safety guidance issued by the ECB and requires all Member Clubs and SCCL Match Officials (Umpires, Scorers and Captains) to ensure that they are enforced.

4.6 All member Clubs must have a written Constitution, and shall provide a copy to the League Secretary if requested to do so.

4.7 All member Clubs must be in possession of Public Liability Insurance cover for not less than £5 million, and shall produce written evidence of this to the League Secretary if requested to do so.

4.8 Before the start of each season, each member Club shall send to the League Secretary a Declaration signed by its Chairman and Secretary committing the club to abide by the Constitution and Rules of the League and to observe the Code of Conduct and The Laws of Cricket. Failure to do so will mean that none of the Club's teams will be credited with any points until the Declaration is received.

4.9 All member Clubs with a team playing in the Premier Division, Division One or Division Two shall possess the Clubmark/Clubmark Lite accreditation or the Shropshire County Certificate of Compliance the conditions as defined within the League rules. Failure to achieve this status by the deadline stated within the League rules will mean that the Club will not be eligible to play in any of the above Divisions in the following season.

4.10 The teams of member Clubs shall play in Divisions; there shall normally be promotion and relegation between Divisions as determined by the Committee.

4.11 Any Club wishing to be admitted to, or any member Club seeking to change the number of its team in, the League, shall apply in writing to the League Secretary not later than the closing date set by the League Committee for that year, indicating the number of teams it wishes to enter for the next season. The League Secretary will notify all member Clubs not later than the 31st August of the closing date by which such application is to be received. Each application shall be considered in accordance the requirements of Clauses 4.2 to 4.8 above. The Committee shall have the

power to refuse any application and may, if it wishes, but is not bound to, give reasons for its decision. In exceptional circumstances, applications received after the closing date may be considered.

- 4.12** Any member Club wishing to resign from the League shall give notice in writing to the League Secretary not later than the date set by the League Committee for that year (as defined in Clause 4.11 hereof).
- 4.13** Clauses 4.10 and 4.11 shall not apply to any Club promoted to or relegated from another recognised League forming part of the ECB's pyramid structure.
- 4.14** In the event of any of the League's former member Clubs currently playing in the Birmingham and District Premier Cricket League applying to return to this League for reasons other than relegation, there will be a presumption in favour of acceptance, subject to the application complying with the requirements of Clause 4.8 above.
- 4.15** The Committee shall have powers to require any member Club to resign if, in its opinion, the general conduct of the club does not satisfy the requirements of the League. Any member Club against which such action is proposed shall receive not less than 14 days' prior notice in writing of the date of the meeting at which the matter is to be considered and shall be invited to be represented at that part of the meeting. This action shall be in addition to any steps taken under 'Rules for the Conduct of Matches'.
- 4.16** Players and team officials shall refrain from any form of abusive comments or actions against fellow players, officials, members and supporters. Clubs must operate an active open-door membership policy, whilst respecting player qualification regulations, and shall welcome players/members irrespective of ethnic origin or gender.
- 4.17** A member Club which removes its first team from the League shall be deemed to have resigned its membership: it may, however, apply to re-enter one or more of its lower teams and the application will be considered in accordance with the requirements of Clause 4.12 above.
- 4.18** Any Club which ceases to be a member of the League shall at once forfeit any rights of participation in the assets of the League.
- 4.19** Following a recommendation from the Committee, the Annual General Meeting may confer the honour of Life Membership of the League on any person whom it considers worthy of special recognition by reason of services rendered to the League. Life Members shall be entitled to attend meetings of the Management Committee.

5 MANAGEMENT

Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the control and management of the League shall be vested in the Management Committee, hereafter referred to as "the Committee", which shall make rules governing the general principles of the conduct of the League's affairs and shall have the powers to create, apply, amend or revoke such rules as it sees fit.

6 COMPOSITION

6.1 The Officers of the League shall be the President, Chairman, Vice Chairman, League Secretary, Treasurer, Results and Registrations Secretary, Fixtures Secretary, Safeguarding Officer, Umpires Secretary and Publicity Officer.

6.1 The Officers shall be elected annually at, and shall take office from the end of, the Annual General Meeting.

6.2 The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, League Secretary and Treasurer shall be known as “the Executive Officers” and shall collectively exercise day-to-day administration of the League and shall hold executive powers to deal with urgent matters which may arise between Committee meetings or which are not specifically covered by the Constitution.

7 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

7.1 The Committee shall consist of *ex officio* the Officers in Clause 6.1 above, fifteen Elected Members, Life Members and a nominated member from the Shropshire Cricket Board.

7.2 One-third of the Elected Members shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting for a term of three years, after which time they shall retire from the Committee and, if they wish, offer themselves for re-election.

7.3 Not more than two Elected Members from any one Club shall be elected to serve on the Committee at the same time.

7.4 Life Members (pre- AGM 2025) will retain their voting rights but all future Life Members will not have this right unless they are an active member of a League Sub Committee.

7.5 At least ten days notice of meetings shall be given. Accidental omission to give notice of any meeting or non-receipt of such notice by any Committee member shall not invalidate any resolution passed at any such meeting.

7.6 The Chairman shall preside at meetings of the Committee. If the Chairman is absent the Vice-Chairman shall preside; if both are absent, the Committee members present shall, before any other business is transacted, choose one of their number to preside at the meeting.

7.7 Seven members of the Committee shall form a quorum.

7.8 All questions arising at a Committee meeting, other than questions of order, shall be decided by a simple majority of votes: in the event of an equality of votes, the chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

7.9 Committee members are not representatives of their clubs and shall “declare an interest” when an issue directly affecting their own club is to be discussed and shall normally abstain from any vote on such matter.

7.10 The Committee shall have power to co-opt to fill a vacancy. Co-opted members shall serve until the next Annual General Meeting when the vacancy shall be filled by election.

7.11 The Committee may appoint sub-committees with such powers and terms of reference as it thinks fit.

7.12 The Committee shall have the power to review and, if considered appropriate, reject any nomination received for Officers of the League or Elected Members of the Committee if it considers that there are reasonable grounds to believe that such nomination would be contrary to the best interests of the game of cricket or the smooth functioning of the League.

7.13 The Committee shall have residual powers to consider and adjudicate upon any matter not specifically covered by this Constitution.

7.14 The decision of the Committee is final.

7.15 Committee members are expected to attend all of its meetings. Anyone other than a Life Member who fails to attend three or more consecutive meetings is liable to expulsion, at the discretion of the Committee.

7.16 Any Committee member whose Club ceases to be a member of the League may be required, at the discretion of the Committee, to resign from the Committee.

7.17 The Committee may at its discretion appoint an Honorary Legal Advisor.

8 FINANCE

8.1 Each member Club shall pay to the Treasurer, not later than the end of April, an annual subscription for each team. Any club which fails to pay by the due date may be charged an additional penalty for each month or part of a month that it is in arrears. The amounts of the subscription and the penalty will be determined each year by the Committee and notified to all member Clubs.

8.2 If the subscription income is found to be insufficient to meet the League's needs, the Committee may levy an additional subscription on member Clubs.

8.3 The Committee shall cause proper account to be kept of all sums of money received and paid out by the League.

8.4 The financial year of the League shall end on 31st October.

8.5 The accounts of the League shall be examined annually by a qualified accountant, who shall certify their correctness.

8.6 A statement of accounts shall be presented by the Treasurer to the Annual General Meeting.

8.7 The funds of the League shall be invested as the Committee decides after considering the recommendations of the Treasurer, and day-to-day transactions shall be dealt with by and through one or more bank accounts in the name of the League.

8.8 No moneys shall be paid from any account in the name of the League except upon the signatures of any two from the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, League Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be the authorised signatories.

9 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

9.1 The Annual General Meeting, hereafter referred to as "the Meeting", shall be held in November each year or as practicable thereafter.

9.2 Notice of the Meeting shall be given in writing to all member Clubs at least twenty-one days before the date thereof.

9.3 Any member Club wishing to make a proposal for discussion at the AGM must submit in writing to the League Secretary at least fourteen days before the date thereof.

9.4 The President shall preside at the Meeting. If the President is absent the Chairman shall preside; if the Chairman is absent the Vice-Chairman shall preside; if all are absent, the member Clubs present shall, before any other business is transacted, appoint a chairman of the Meeting.

- 9.5** Nominations for the Officers of the League and elected Members of the Committee shall be submitted in writing by member Clubs and received by the League Secretary at least twenty-eight days before the AGM.
- 9.6** Each member Club shall have one vote. In the event of an equality of votes, the chairman of the Meeting shall have a single casting vote.
- 9.7** Proxy votes will not be accepted.
- 9.8** No changes shall be made to the Constitution except at an Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting and any such changes shall require the assent of at least two thirds of the votes cast.
- 9.9** Proposals to change the Constitution must either be submitted by the Committee, or be proposed and seconded by at least two member Clubs and received by the League Secretary not later than 30th September. The wording of any such proposed changes to the Constitution shall be included in the Notice of Meeting.
- 9.10** One third of the member Clubs shall form a quorum.

10 EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

- 10.1** An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be called by the Committee, either at the discretion of the Committee, or on receipt by the League Secretary of a written request signed by not less than one third of member Clubs, stating the reason(s) why the meeting is being requested.
- 10.2** The provisions applicable to the Annual General Meeting shall, with the exception of 8(a) and 8(h) above, apply also to the Extraordinary General Meeting.
- 10.3** Proposals to change the Constitution must either be submitted by the Committee, or be proposed and seconded by at least two member Clubs and submitted in writing to the League Secretary. The wording of any such proposed changes to the Constitution shall be included in the Notice of Meeting.

11 TROPHIES

- 11.1** Trophies will be awarded to the Champions in all Divisions.
- 11.2** Additional awards may be made at the Committee's discretion.
- 11.3** Trophies that are the property of the League must be returned in good condition to the League Secretary not later than 1st September.

12 FIXTURES

- 12.1** All League matches shall be played on the dates published in the League Handbook.
- 12.2** Any Club that fails to fulfill a fixture shall be penalised for that offence in such manner as shall be determined by the Committee and published in the League Handbook. Any club that repeatedly fails to fulfill its fixtures may be

required to resign its membership of the League in accordance with the procedures contained in Clause 3(o) hereof.

- 12.3** Member Clubs will be informed of the dates on which a League Representative XI may be taking part in a Competition. Clubs shall not under any circumstances withdraw a player selected to play in such match in favour of a Club competition.

13 AMENDMENTS

The Constitution may be amended at a General Extraordinary General Meeting by resolution passed by two-thirds of the votes cast.

14 WINDING UP

- 14.1** The Members may vote to wind up the League if not less than three quarters of those present and voting support that proposal at a properly convened General or Extraordinary General Meeting.

- 14.2** The Committee will then be responsible for the orderly winding up of the League's affairs.

- 14.3** After settling all liabilities of the League, the Committee shall dispose of the net assets remaining by dividing them equally between those Clubs entitled to vote at the General Meetings of the League on the date the resolution to wind up the League was passed.