



SHROPSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET LEAGUE

PREMIER & DIVISION ONE

PLAYING DIRECTIVES

(2021)

In the event of any conflict between (a) Premier / Division One Playing Conditions and the Premier / Division One Playing Directives and (b) any other conditions, directives or regulations of the Shropshire County Cricket League, the Premier / Division One Playing Conditions and the Premier / Division One Playing Directives shall prevail in respect of Premier / Division One cricket (other than play off matches).

1. FIXTURES

- 1.1 Each side shall play all other sides in the Division, twice during the season, unless the weather makes it impossible for an arranged fixture to take place. The fixtures shall be arranged by the Fixtures committee and approved by the Management committee. All matches shall be played on the dates and at the venues designated as published unless agreed by the Management committee.
- 1.2 In the event of a fixture being unfulfilled for anything other than climatic reasons or unforeseeable circumstances beyond the control of a Club (including but not limited to riot, civil commotion, infestation of wasps or bees or illegal occupation of land), the match and 24 points in Win/Lose/Draw matches and 20 points in Win/Lose matches will be awarded to the “non-offending” club. The “offending” club shall, also, reimburse the “non-offending” club for cost of teas and umpires when insufficient notice shall have been given to avoid such expenses.
- 1.3 In the interests of the League, clubs are expected to field eleven players in the 1st XI, at all times, 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. (See Law 13.4 The Toss).
- 2.2 A team that is deemed to be late will forfeit the toss and the overs remaining at the re-scheduled start time will be divided equally between the two teams. The team claiming the toss will be deemed to have won the toss and, in the case of Win/Lose/Draw matches points will be allocated according to Playing Condition 9.

2.3 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 in Win/Lose/ Draw matches and 20 points in Win/Lose matches.

2.4 Normally, both teams must report to the ground before deciding if conditions are fit for play. However, in the event of severe weather conditions, when there is no prospect of the match being played, 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) The ground is inspected and the decision confirmed by an umpire independent of both clubs. The inspecting umpire will be entitled to claim an attendance fee of £10.
- (iii) Captains of both teams agree by speaking together and not by any other form of communication.

The home club must report the abandonment of the fixture to the Results Co-ordinator immediately after the decision to abandon has been made.

The home club must inform the appointed umpires that the fixture has been abandoned. Should they have cause to travel, they shall be entitled to claim the full attendance fee.

2.5 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 (if teas are supplied by the home team) up to a maximum of £75 if the match is, subsequently, abandoned without a ball being bowled.

2.6 If the option referred to in directive 2.5 is taken, the home team must attend, pending an inspection by the appointed umpires. If, subsequently, conditions are deemed fit and play commences, the umpires will report the facts to the Results Co-ordinator, who will impose a penalty of 24 points in Win/Lose/Draw matches and 20 points in Win/Lose matches on the home team, subject to appeal.

2.7 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 immediately. They should be paid the full attendance fee if caused to travel.

2.8 Any team that concedes a match, once it has commenced, will be reported by the umpires to the League Secretary. He will refer the matter to the League Disciplinary sub-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.

2.9 The following ECB Directives shall apply in all matches:

- (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 guidelines for junior players in open age cricket



Captains, team managers and umpires shall be responsible for ensuring the directives are followed. The captain of each side shall inform the umpires, prior to the commencement of the match, the names and relevant age group of any player under the age of 19 on 31st August of the previous year.

3. GROUND AND FACILITY CRITERIA

Clubs must meet the ground and facility requirements set out in the County League Premier Division / Division One

Ground & Facilities Audit document available on the League website. Appointed umpires are asked to take these criteria into account when completing their match reports.

4. BALLS

- 4.1 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 Premier Division matches. No other make of ball shall be acceptable.
- 4.2 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 should 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.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 In the event of a new ball being lost within the first five overs of either innings, then the replacement ball will be another new ball as supplied to the umpires, prior to the game.
- 4.5 If the home side 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 the case of Win/Lose/Draw matches, points will be allocated according to Playing Condition 9.
- 4.6 If the side claiming the toss, elects to field, the match will be delayed until the new balls arrive. If the side 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.

5. UMPIRES

5.1 All Panel members shall be members of ECB ACO.

5.2 Umpires shall be appointed by the SCCL Umpire's Secretary to officiate in Premier and Division One matches. Such umpires will each receive an allowance from the home club, the allowance to be decided by the Management Committee at the start of each season. 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 shall receive 1¹/₂ x the normal match fee.

5.3 All umpires should arrive at the ground at least 45 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 should take the field five minutes prior to the opening delivery of each innings.

5.4 Umpires must wear a white coat/blouson, a white shirt, 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,.

5.5 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.

5.6 The penalty runs provided for in Law 41 shall not apply in matches where there is no umpire appointed by the Umpire's Secretary.

5.7 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 is commenced it shall always be completed, unless a result has been reached or the players have reason to leave the field.

5.8 Umpires are responsible for noting the times and duration of play which must be noted on the Umpires Report.

5.9 Umpires are asked to notify the League Secretary of any match which is late starting.

5.10 The umpires shall be the sole judges of the fitness of the ground, weather and light for play.

- 5.11 After play has started or resumed after an interruption, either captain may appeal against the conditions to the umpires. The umpires shall uphold the appeal only if, in their opinion, the factors taken into account when making the previous decision are the same or the conditions have further deteriorated.
- 5.12 If at any time either umpire or both umpires acting together, believe 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. They must both agree that conditions are fit before play is resumed
- 5.13 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 sub-committee for dissent.
- 5.14 Umpires should only enter players' dressing rooms at the invitation of the captain.
- 5.14.1 Players, club officials or spectators should only enter the umpires dressing room at the invitation of the umpires.
- 5.15 Cricket bats should only be measured at the request of the opposing captain and should be measured when the batsman comes to the wicket.
- 5.16 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 held in the umpires' room or other suitable, private location.

6. FIELDER LEAVING THE FIELD

- 6.1 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 on to the field during a session of play without the consent of the umpire. The umpire shall give such consent as soon as practicable.
- 6.2 If the 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 permitted 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.
- 6.3 For the purposes of directives 6.2 (i) and (ii), playing time shall comprise the time play is in progress excluding tea intervals, intervals between innings and official drinks intervals.
- 6.4 The restriction in directives 6.2 (i) and (ii) 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

consequently 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).

6.5 In the event of a player already being 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 had play been in progress.

6.6 Similarly, if at the commencement of an interruption in play through ground, weather or light conditions or for 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.

7. SCORING

7.1 The scorers should be totally under cover and the box (or room provided) should be of an acceptable standard, maintained inside and outside in good condition. The board should be clearly visible from the pavilion and throughout the field of play.

In the Premier Division provision of electricity and printing facilities are expected.

7.2 A competent non-playing scorer shall be provided by each team.

A competent scorer is considered to be a person who:

Has basic knowledge of the Laws of Cricket;

Has basic knowledge of scoring procedures;

Has a knowledge of umpires' signals and is able to communicate appropriately with umpires;

Is able to identify all individual players of the team for which they are scoring.

It would normally be expected that a competent scorer would be scoring on a regular basis and is likely to be aged 14 or over.

7.3 Scorers are urged to acknowledge umpires' signals by displaying a white or coloured disc or a light which can be clearly seen from the middle.

7.4 Any team without a competent or qualified scorer in any game will be deducted 1pt

8. TEAM SHEETS

8.1 At the start of each season, the League will provide all clubs with team cards which must be completed by the Home and Away teams before every match and throughout the season.

- 8.2 Before the toss for innings each captain must nominate his players and they may not, thereafter, be changed without the consent of the opposing captain.
- 8.3 The nominated players must be set out on a team card which must be presented to the umpires and the opposition captain at the toss.
- 8.4 Captains, wicket-keepers, Category 3 players (Overseas) and players under the age of 19 years must be identified on the team card.
- 8.5 If it transpires after the start of the match that a mistake has been made on the team card (e.g. the same player is named twice) the match shall continue and the umpire shall report the facts to the Registrations & Results Co-ordinator. He shall have the power to deal with the matter himself or refer it to the Disciplinary sub-committee who will have the power to impose sanctions and penalties if they see fit.

9. UMPIRES REPORTS

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.

The form should be completed online via the League website no later than 5pm on the Monday immediately after the match.

10. CAPTAINS' REPORTS

- a) Captains are required to assess and mark the umpires online and forward to report to the Umpire's Secretary.
- b) Mark the quality of the pitch and outfield via the League website.

Both reports should arrive no later than 5pm on the Monday immediately after the match.

11. CLOTHING



White clothing must be worn in all matches and it is recommended that advertising insignia regulations comply with those required by ECB for the First Class game. Details are available from the ECB website.

12. TEAS

For 2021 season there will be no teas provided for players or officials.

~~12.1 The home side shall provide teas for the away side, umpires and scorers free of charge.~~

~~12.2 A separate tea 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.~~

13. LEAGUE TABLES

13.1 Teams will be ranked in a League Table according to the number of points awarded.

13.2 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 most 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 most 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, their position shall be decided by the drawing of lots in accordance with a procedure determined by the League.