

B: ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

1 LEAGUE POSITIONS

- 1.1 League positions will be based on the average number of points obtained by a team in completed matches. In all divisions, no points will be awarded to either team in a match which has been abandoned.
- 1.2 In the event of two or more teams having the same points average at the conclusion of the League programme, the higher position in the League shall be determined by the following criteria, in order, as necessary:
 - 1.2.1 the team winning the greater number of matches.
 - 1.2.2 the team with the greater number of ties.
 - 1.2.3 the team with the greater number of runs per over.
- 1.3 Averages shall be calculated to the precision necessary.

2 PROMOTION & RELEGATION

- 2.1 Between the Premier Division and Division 1:
The bottom team from the Premier Division shall be relegated to Division 1 and be replaced by the top team of that division, subject to that team holding a current overall accreditation grading of at least Silver with Gold potential.
- 2.2 Between Divisions 1 & 2:
The bottom two teams from Division 1 shall be relegated to Division 2 and be replaced by the top two teams of that division, subject to those teams holding a current overall accreditation grading of at least Bronze with Silver potential.
- 2.3 Between Division 2 & 3:
The bottom two teams from Division 2 shall be relegated to Division 3 and be replaced by the top two teams from Division 3.
- 2.4 Between Division 3 and the Hampshire Cricket League:
The bottom two teams in Division 3 shall be relegated to Hampshire Cricket League County Division 1 and be replaced by the top two teams in that division, subject to those teams holding a current overall accreditation grading of at least Bronze standard.
- 2.5 In the event of termination of a club's membership of the League in accordance with Article 4 of the Constitution, the number of relegated clubs may be reduced by a decision of the Annual General Meeting.
- 2.6 In the event of a promoted team not being eligible for membership of a Division, the Committee shall have sole jurisdiction over whether to accept the next eligible club from the division concerned or from the Hampshire Cricket League.

Note: The Management Committee's policy will generally be as follows:

If the top team in Division 1 is not graded at least Silver with Gold potential, the second placed team (if accredited) will be promoted to the Premier Division instead. If neither of the top two is so accredited, there will be no relegation or promotion.

If either of the top two teams in Division 2 is not graded at least Bronze with Silver potential, the third placed team (if accredited) will be promoted to Division 1 instead. If neither of the top two is so accredited, only the third placed team (if accredited) will be promoted, with one team relegated. If none of the top three is so accredited, there will be no relegation or promotion.

Promotion and relegation between Divisions 2 and 3 shall be achieved simply by those occupying the two top and bottom positions.

If either of the top two teams in HCL County Division 1 is not graded at least Bronze, the third placed team (if accredited) will be promoted to Division 3 instead. If neither of the top two is so accredited,

only the third placed team (if accredited) will be promoted, with one team relegated. If none of the top three is so accredited, there will be no relegation or promotion. No more than two teams in the Premier Division and three in Division 1, 2 and 3, will be relegated as a result of their League position or accreditation grading (see 8.2). Promotion and relegation in any other circumstances will be at the discretion of the Management Committee, whose decision will be final.

- 2.6 No club may have more than one team in a division. If necessary, to enforce this rule, the team of lower standing will be refused promotion, or relegated as necessary.
- 2.7 The accreditation grading referred to above shall be that which is current at the time of the General Meeting at which the promotion or relegation is approved.
- 2.8 Should a vacancy occur in any of the three Leagues, a team from a neighbouring League may be considered for entry into the Southern Premier League, subject to the approval of an AGM or EGM called in accordance with Clauses 5 and 6 of the Constitution. The level of entry of such a team shall be recommended by the League Management Committee, but shall be no higher than the Division in which the vacancy occurs.

3 NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS, ONLINE UMPIRES & GROUND DATA

- 3.1 **All Clubs are required to publish their scores and points through their Club's Play-Cricket site by 10.00am on the Sunday following the match (brought forward from 12 noon).**

Note: The Play-Cricket website needs to be populated with all match data. This is both an ECB Accreditation requirement for funding and for League Registration Control. As much detail as possible should be entered for scores over 50, including the number of balls faced and boundaries.

- 3.1.1 The League will provide result sheets. They must be fully completed, be legible and then signed by both captains at the close of every match. **The home team** shall then 'scan & E-mail' the result sheet to the Results Secretary, Stephen G Jones, at results@southernpremierleague.com as soon as possible after the match, and not later than **9.00pm on the day of the match**.
- 3.1.2 In the event of the match being cancelled **BEFORE** the start of the match, the **HOME TEAM MUST notify the Results Secretary**, as soon as possible after the decision to abandon / cancel the match is made, and in any event not later than **9.00pm on the day of the match**.
- 3.1.3 In the event of the match being abandoned **AFTER** the start of the match, the **HOME TEAM SHALL fully complete the result sheet** with the relevant details and 'scan & E-mail' it to the Results Secretary, as soon as possible after the decision to abandon / cancel the match is made, and in any event not later than **9.00pm on the day of the match**.
- 3.1.4 Any club in breach of any part of the above Administration Rule 3.1 shall be liable to the following penalties (see also Constitution section 12.3):-
- First offence - Level 3 fine
 - Second offence - Level 4 fine
 - Third offence - a deduction of 5 points. Any further offence - the penalty will be at the discretion of the Management Committee, whose decision shall be final.
- 3.2 **All Captains are required to submit online forms (Ground & Umpires Reports), by 12 noon on the Sunday following the match (brought forward from 10.00pm).**
- 3.2.1 Any club in breach of any part of the above Administration Rule 3.2 shall be liable to the following penalties (see also Constitution section 12.3):-
- First offence - Level 1 fine
 - Second offence - Level 2 fine
 - Third offence - a deduction of 5 points. Any further offence - the penalty will be at the discretion of the Management Committee, whose decision shall be final.
- (see also section: 7.2 Inclement Weather)

4 ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

4.1 General Conditions

- 4.1.1 A player is entitled to play in a Southern Premier League match for the cricket section of the club of which he is a fully paid up member and is registered (See Clause 4.3.1). Category 1 players are reminded that Registration for an SPCL Club is permanent unless removed by their Club or transferred (Rule 4.3.2a), hence once registered a player may not play in the Southern Premier League, SPCL T20 Cup, Hampshire Cricket League, any other ECB accredited Premier League or a National Cup competition without a transfer. **However a player may play for another Club in the National Village Knockout.**

If a Member Club has any doubts as to the eligibility of a player, it should contact the Registration Secretary BEFORE the player takes part in a competitive match for the club.

- 4.1.2 **No player shall play for a member club while there is a debt owed to a previous club. Evidence must be available to prove such a debt. Either party shall have the option to request the Management Committee to conduct a hearing and/or investigation in relation to an outstanding debt. The decision reached by the Management Committee shall be final and binding.**
- 4.1.3 **No payments shall be made to players for representing clubs in the Southern Premier Cricket League and/or T20 Cup.**
- 4.1.4 **All Registration and Transfer Responsibilities [NB formerly Rule 4.10.1]**

It is the total responsibility of the Club to ensure that any player they register is correctly registered and is free to sign having not played for any other club in a League or Cup competition during the current season in the Southern Premier Leagues, Hampshire Cricket League, any other ECB accredited Premier League or a National Cup competition (excluding the National Village Championship), see Rule 4.1, General Conditions, above. **Should it be found the player has been signed in contravention of Rule 4.1 or plays in a match contravening Rule 4.1, the offending team shall lose any points gained in matches in which the said player played, and not less than 10 points per game played.**

- 4.2 After 31st July no club may play in a minor XI in the League, more than two players who have each played more than six games in a more senior Saturday XI of the club.
- 4.3 **Registration of players**

- 4.3.1 All Clubs in the Southern Premier Cricket League shall register all players as follows:-

Category 1 – Players Qualified to play for England under the current ECB Regulations or he has been resident in any of the qualifying countries for the immediately preceding four consecutive years*

Qualifying Countries - England, Wales, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man ***The player will only be treated as having been resident within a qualifying country for the relevant consecutive period if he has spent a minimum of 210 days in each year within those qualifying countries, for which purpose “year” shall mean year ending 31st March.**

Note: Players from Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland are considered to be Overseas Players under this regulation.

Category 2 – Contracted players (see Rule 4.5)

Category 3 – Overseas Players (a cricketer who is not qualified to play for England under the current ECB Regulations or he has not been resident in any of the qualifying countries for the immediately preceding four consecutive years* - (see Clause 4.3.1)

Only one Category 3 Player may be registered to any one member Club in any one season (see 4.4.2).

Category 3 – (Exempt) - Overseas players ordinarily resident in England who have been resident in one of the qualifying countries for a period of 18 consecutive months before the date of his request for registration, and he has not been out of these countries during that period for longer than 35 days consecutively nor 70 days in total.

Note: Category 3 (Exempt) registrations will not count towards the number of overseas players allowed by the League.

- 4.3.2a Category 1 players registered on Play Cricket Clause 4.3.4, will remain permanently registered unless removed by their Club or transferred (See clause 4.8)
- 4.3.2b All Category 2; 3 and Category 3 (exempt) players will have their registrations removed following the 30th September each year.
- 4.3.3 No Category 1, 2, 3 or 3 (exempt) player can play in the League until confirmation of that player's registration is authorised by the Registration Secretary. However, in an emergency a **Category 1 only** player can be registered on the day of the match, provided that both Umpires have countersigned the registration form as being fully completed **BEFORE** the start of the match. The Registration Secretary must receive the fully completed registration form **and the player registered on Play Cricket before Wednesday 12 noon** following the Saturday of the match. Failure to comply will mean an automatic deduction of 5 points for the offending Team. Should it be subsequently found that any player registered was not free to register the player shall be assumed to have played illegally and the points deduction in section 4.1.4 above shall be enforced. **The form can be faxed, 'scanned & E-mailed', or hand delivered.**

- 4.3.4 **All Clubs will be required to use Play Cricket for on-line player registration as directed by the Management Committee.**

Note 1. Clubs are able to download complete lists of registered players via Play Cricket and are encouraged to do so.

Note 2. Clubs should regularly check to ensure that their player database at club level is clean and accurate.

4.4 **Players from Overseas**

- 4.4.1 A foreign national (a cricketer who is not qualified to play for England under the current ECB Regulations or who has not ordinarily been a resident* within England, Wales, the Channel Isles or the Isle of Man (see Clause 4.3.1), may play for a member club, **but must be registered as a Category 3 player.**

Note: Players from Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland are considered Overseas Players under this regulation.

- 4.4.2 Clubs may register only one overseas player during the season.

Such a player shall have previously attained a Certified Coaching Certificate from his country of origin or a UKCC2 coaching qualification and have evidence of a current and relevant Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) check or equivalent. Should the coaching certificate from his country not be accepted by the ECB as equivalent to the UKCC2, he may coach only with supervision of a suitably qualified coach.

The currency question regarding a DBS or equivalent check is for the Club to prove. It is usual for the Registration Secretary to receive a document that describes DBS clearance or its equivalent, as being authorised within the preceding three months.

Proof of the player's coaching qualification certificate and DBS check or equivalent, along with a scanned copy of the player's visa or passport and a signed "ECB non-ordinarily resident player registration form", must be lodged with the Registration Secretary. All necessary documentation must be provided prior to the player's electronic registration application being made via the Play-Cricket website.

Overseas players are expected to play a full and an active part in club junior activities.

4.5 **Contracted Players (this includes Development Contracts)**

- 4.5.1 No Contract player (**Qualified to play for England**) who received emoluments as a cricketer from a First Class County in the preceding 12 months or who has played First Class cricket overseas in the 12 months prior to the start of the League season, may play for a member club unless he is registered with the League as a **Category 2 player**. Only one such player may be registered by each Club during the playing season unless he qualifies via Clause 4.5.2 or 4.5.3 However a young Contract or Development Contract Player (**Qualified to play for England**) under the age of 24 at

the commencement of the season who loses his Contract within the previous 12 months may be registered as a **Category 1**.

An Overseas Player whether he has or has not received emoluments or played First Class Cricket in the 12 months prior to the start of the League season shall be registered as a **Category 3 only**. Only one such player may be registered by each Club during the playing season.

Note: For limitations & playing restriction see Clauses 4.5.1a; 4.5.1b; 4.5.2; 4.5.3 & 4.5.4

4.5.1a **In the Premier Division only**, a Contracted Player (Category 2), **who is qualified to play for England**, may play in the same match as an Overseas Player (Category 3) and Contracted Player (Players) who qualify under Clause 4.5.3a.

4.5.1b **In Divisions 1, 2 & 3**, a Contracted Player (Category 2), may not play in the same match as an Overseas Player unless the said Contracted Player qualifies under Clause 4.5.2 or 4.5.3.

4.5.2 **In Divisions 1, 2 & 3**, a contracted young player in further education during that season may play for a Club in the League provided that:-

The individual concerned is the product of the Hampshire Development system or the Youth Section of any Southern Premier League Club that is situated outside Hampshire and no more than one such player can play in the same game as either a full Professional or Overseas Player.

4.5.3a **In the Premier Division only** a Contracted Player or First Class Professional who has been a full member and played for a member club for the three seasons immediately prior to obtaining a contract, (the three years may include the time a young player called up by and plays for the Hampshire Academy providing, during that period that player was registered by his home Club), may continue to play for that club at the same time as an Overseas Player (Category 3) and a Contracted player as in Clause 4.5.1a. Should a member club have two such Contracted Players, those Contracted Players may continue to play for that member club in the same match as **either** an Overseas Player (Category 3) or a Contracted player as in Clause 4.5.1a .

Should a member club have three or more such Contracted Players, those Contracted Players may continue to play for that member club in the same match. But not at the same time as an Overseas Player (See Clause 4.5.4a)

4.5.3b **In Divisions 1, 2 & 3**, a Contracted Player or First Class Professional who has been a full member and played for a member club for the three seasons immediately prior to obtaining a contract, (the three years may include the time a young player called up by and plays for the Hampshire Academy providing, during that period that player was registered by his home Club) may continue to play for that club at the same time as an Overseas Player (Category 3).

Should a member club have two or more such Contracted Players, those Contracted Players may continue to play for that member club in the same match but only one Contracted Player may play at the same time as an Overseas Player.

4.5.4a **In the Premier Division only**, a member club with three or more Contracted Players qualified to play for that club under Rule 4.5.3 shall not register another Contracted Player or First Class Professional covered by Rules 4.5.1

4.5.4b **In Divisions 1, 2 & 3**, a member club with two or more Contracted Players qualified to play for that club under Rule 4.5.3 shall not register another Contracted or First Class Professional Player or Contracted Young Player covered by Rules 4.5.1 and 4.5.2

4.5.5 Should any player obtain a contract after the start of a season, he may continue to play for the member club for which he is registered, for that season, without penalty to that club.

4.6 All Category 2 and 3 players must be registered by **31st May** (brought forward from 1st July). (See 4.3.2b above)

Category 3 (exempt) players may be registered at any time during the season providing there is no Transfer involved. (See 4.3.2b above & 4.8.7 below)

Category 1 players may be registered at any time during the season providing there is no Transfer involved. (See 4.3.2a above & 4.8.7 below)

- 4.7 No transfers will be permitted for Category 2 or 3 players.
- 4.8 **Transfers**
- 4.8.1 **All Category 1 players now registered on Play Cricket are considered permanently registered. Therefore to change Club during or out of season will require a Transfer. This includes transfers to any ECB Accredited League or any Club within the Hampshire Pyramid.**
- 4.8.2 Transfers may be arranged using either of the following methods:
- 4.8.2a An email from the present club's chair or secretary, confirming the present club is happy to release the player, no monies or playing kit etc. owed to the present club; see Clause 4.8.4 below **OR**
- 4.8.2b An approved transfer form, available from the registration secretary, to be completed and signed by the player concerned and signed by chair or secretary of both clubs. This may be posted or scanned and emailed to the registration secretary.
- 4.8.3 On **confirmation of receipt by the Registration Secretary** of an email or completed transfer form from the present club, the player ceases to be eligible to play in a league or cup competition for his present club and **immediately** becomes eligible to play for his new club – providing he is not cup-tied (see clause 3.2 T20 cup rules)
- 4.8.4 If the player's present club objects to the transfer and refuses to sign section 2 of the Transfer Request Form, the reasons must be stated separately. Normally the only reasonable objection is that the player has unpaid debts or other unfulfilled obligations to that club.
- No player shall be permitted a transfer at ANY time or be permitted to play for another club within the Pyramid should he have an outstanding debt with his present club.
- 4.8.5 The transfer of Category 1 or Category 3 (exempt) players will not be permitted within the SPCL after 1st July. The transfer window will reopen at the end of each playing season.
- 4.8.6 The transfer of any player to a SPCL Club will not be permitted after midnight 1st July in any season
- 4.8.7 No transfers will be permitted for Category 2 or 3 players
- 4.9 **Special Regulations for the Hampshire CCC Academy.**
- 4.9.1 All players shall be registered in accordance with Clause 4.3 above. The Academy shall not be permitted an Overseas Player.
- 4.9.2 Before the commencement of the season Hampshire CCC will register a squad comprising a maximum of 14 Academy or prospective Academy players from the Hampshire pyramid, who shall be registered a minimum of 14 days prior to the first match of the season.
- 4.9.3 Full Contract or Development Contract players Cat 2, shall be registered in accordance with Clause 4.3
- 4.9.4 All Contract and Development Contract players Cat 2 shall be registered no later than midnight 1st July.
- 4.9.5 Any additional Prospective Academy players not registered prior to 14 days before the first match of the season that may be required during the season would not come from clubs in the Hampshire Pyramid unless mutually agreed between Hampshire CCC and the clubs concerned. No Player will be approached without the prior consent of the player's home* club and would not play against his home* club without agreement of the home* club.
- 4.9.6 The Limitation of Full Contract and Development Contract Players playing in any one game shall be as follows:
1. No more than one Full Contract player over 24[†] years old and one Full Contract player under 24[†] years old, plus two Development Contract players. Or
 2. Two Full Contract players under 24[†] years old, plus two Development Contract players. Or
 3. One Full Contract player over 24[†] years old, plus three Development Contract players. Or
 4. One Full Contract player under 24[†] years old, plus three Development Contract players. Or
 5. Four Development Contract players
- Note [†] 24 years old on 1st May of the current season

- 4.9.7 Any Academy or prospective Academy player not chosen in the team 12 for any match will be available to play for his home* club for which he must be registered, hence he will have dual registration. This Clause and Clause 4.9.8 shall apply to any County Academy.
**Home club being the club to which he was playing at the time of joining the Academy*
- 4.9.8 Should an Academy or prospective Academy player wish to have dual registration with a SPCL Club other than his home* club he may do so providing he has registered for that Club prior to midnight 1st July of the season and where necessary obtained the required transfer.
- 4.9.9 All full or development contract players may register with another club in the League in accordance with Rules 4.5, 4.6 and 4.7 and play for that club when not required by their County or Academy
- 4.9.10 No Contract or Academy player shall be paid to play in a League match.

5 SCORERS

- 5.1 Each team shall supply a competent scorer, who preferably shall have passed the Level 2 Scorer Membership of the ECB ACO. The scorer shall not in normal circumstances (see 5.2 below) be a player in the match. Regular failure to comply with this provision shall result in a penalty at the discretion of the Management Committee.
- 5.2 If no scorer is available then the Captain will nominate one of his team players to undertake the scoring. No substitute shall be allowed for this player who may however, resume his place in the nominated side, with any resultant penalties under the Laws, if a scorer is subsequently provided.

6 DISPUTES & COMPLAINTS

- 6.1 Disputes and complaints shall be made in writing to the General Secretary within seven days of the incident or occurrence to which they refer. The General Secretary shall refer these matters to the Committee and the decision of the Committee shall be final.

7 CANCELLED FIXTURES

- 7.1 Any member Club failing to honour a fixture for reasons other than weather shall advise the reasons in writing to the General Secretary as early as possible, and not later than the Monday after the fixture was due. If the opponent club wishes to claim any expenses in regard to the cancelled match, it shall lodge its claim with the General Secretary within seven days of the fixture date.

In the event of a member club having more than one Saturday team and being unable to fulfil all its fixtures on any day, the playing of Southern Premier League matches shall take precedence. Any club failing to comply with the above shall be subject to a penalty laid down in the Constitution (see Article 12 of the Constitution).

- 7.2 **INCLEMENT WEATHER – Postponed & Abandoned Matches**

No match is to be postponed due to adverse ground conditions without a prior ground inspection by a Member of the South Coast Panel.

The decision to abandon any game shall be the responsibility of the umpire(s). However, the result sheet must still be provided and Play-Cricket updated as directed (see clause 3.1 above).

Online forms (see clause 3.2 above) are not required in an Abandoned match.

- 7.3 Where a club withdraws from all its fixtures, whether before or during the relevant season, the Management Committee shall take such action as it considers necessary in order to best serve the needs of the club concerned, the League, other Leagues and club cricket in general.

8 GROUND STANDARDS & MINIMUM FACILITIES CRITERIA

- 8.1 The minimum facilities requirements for ground and youth development shall be specified by the Committee and certified by the Hampshire Cricket Board. The requirements shall vary by division,

with basic criteria applying to Division 3 and incrementally more stringent criteria applying to Division 1 and the Premier Division respectively. Variation of these criteria shall be at the sole discretion of the Committee. Any such variation shall not normally take place following commencement of the playing season.

- 8.2 For the removal of doubt, should the accreditation of a side fall below the minimum level required to compete in a particular division, the side shall be relegated to the division or League appropriate to its accreditation. (see also Note to Clause 2.5)

9 CLOTHING

- 9.1 Cricket Wear. Other than for Premier Division Limited Over White Ball Cricket, where all teams shall wear coloured clothing and coloured pads, all clothing shall be white. The current ECB Regulations on advertising insignia shall apply to all items of clothing and equipment worn or used on the field. Teams may have named and or numbered shirts providing all eleven players are similarly attired. Names will be surnames only and numbers shall be 2 digits maximum.

10 REFRESHMENTS

- 10.1 The Home side shall provide lunches and teas (as appropriate) without cost to the visiting side.

RESULT NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES

FOR ALL DIVISIONS

HOME CLUBS

MUST

- Scan & E-mail the Result Sheet to the Results Secretary, Stephen G Jones, at results@southernpremierleague.com, immediately after the match and no later than 9.00pm Saturday.
- Input match details into www.play-cricket.com as soon as possible and in any event by 10.00am the day following the match.