

L&DCC PLAYING REGULATIONS 2017

1. Competitions

- 1.1.1 The Management Committee will organise league and knockout competitions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd XIs. All matches will be played under the MCC Laws of Cricket (latest edition) except where these Regulations provide otherwise. Matches will be decided on one innings of each team.
- 1.1.2 All 1st and 2nd XI matches should be played on the member club's main ground.
- 1.2.1 The 1st and 2nd XI league competitions will each contain 36 teams with 12 teams playing in Premier, First and Second Divisions on a home and away basis.
- 1.2.2 Two teams will be promoted and relegated between the Premier, First and Second Divisions. The 1st and 2nd XI teams from one club, whose 1st XI is bottom of Division 2, will be relegated into the feeder league provided the top club in the feeder league meets all the requirements for membership of the L&DCC, eg. Club and Ground Criteria.
- 1.2.3 All promotions into the Premier, 1st and 2nd Divisions are subject to the appropriate divisional club and ground criteria and to the demonstration of a satisfactory administrative performance in the preceding season. The total fines payable will be used as a guide in this respect.
- 1.3.1 The 3rd XI league Saturday competition will comprise a Premier Division of 12 teams playing (home and away) over 22 matches, and a First Division of 12 teams playing (home and away) over 22 matches. Promotion and relegation will be based on two up and two down. A maximum of 6 matches (3 home, 3 away) per team may be transferred to a Sunday, but only with the agreement of the opposition and the Management Committee. Should a team withdraw from the competition after the fixtures have been published, all that team's matches, whether played or not, shall be deleted. The Management Committee will modify the pattern of First Division fixtures to ensure that all teams in a division play the same number of matches, eg. the four teams whose matches with the withdrawn team are not scheduled will not play one match, ie. two fixtures, which preferably have not been played, will be deleted.
- 1.3.2 The 3rd XI league Sunday competition will comprise a Premier Division of 10 teams playing 18 matches, and First Divisions North East and South West (both of 10 teams) playing 18 matches on a home and away basis. Promotion and relegation will be based on two down from the Premier Division and one up from each of the two First Divisions. A maximum of 6 matches (3 home, 3 away) per team may be transferred to a Saturday, but only with the agreement of the opposition and the Management Committee. Should a team withdraw from the competition after the fixtures have been published, all that team's matches, whether played or not, shall be deleted. The Management Committee will modify the pattern of First Division fixtures to ensure that all teams in a division play the same number of matches, eg. the two teams whose matches with the withdrawn team are not scheduled will not play one match, ie. one fixture, which preferably has not been played, will be deleted.
- 1.3.3 In all 3rd XI competitions, if a match is cancelled (for whatever reason), it must be automatically rearranged by the home team who must offer (a minimum of three) alternative dates within 7 days or the home team will be deemed to have conceded the match subject to appeal to the Cricket Committee. If none of the (minimum) three dates is accepted by the away team they shall be deemed to have conceded the match subject to appeal to the Cricket Committee. The agreed rearranged date must be confirmed by email correspondence. Rearranged matches must be scheduled on Play-Cricket and may be played at any time up to the end of the season. The results of matches that the Cricket Committee agrees cannot be rearranged because a ground is unavailable, eg. due to the proximity to the end of the season, shall be recorded as 'Abandoned'.

- 1.4.1 The league competition winners will be the team scoring the highest number of points at the end of the season.
- 1.4.2 If two or more teams finish level on points, their respective final positions will be decided using the following additional criteria in order:
- total number of matches won;
 - most batting bonus points obtained;
 - most bowling bonus points obtained.
 - most number of points obtained in matches between respective teams during the season.
- 1.4.3 If after application of the above criteria all is level, the title will be shared. For the purposes of promotion, relegation and county cup qualifications, places will be determined by the toss of a coin.
- 1.5 Special rules relating to the various knockout competitions are given elsewhere in this handbook.
- 1.6 Trophies will be awarded annually to the divisional champions and knockout cup winners, plus additional awards to the runners up as may be agreed by the Management Committee.

3. Balls

3.1 In all 1st XI matches:

3.1.1.1 All balls shall be Grade 'A' natural, ie. wax finish, and manufactured of English materials; either Reader Special County Imperial Crown, or Duke County International.

3.1.1.2 A new ball will be used at the start of each innings (except as described in 3.1.2.4 below).

3.1.2.1 Before the toss each home club will provide two new balls and two spare balls of the same type and manufacture as set out in 3.1.1.1 above. If such spare balls are not available, the other accepted alternative type and manufacture as set out in 3.1.1.1 may be used.

3.1.2.2 Both match balls will be given to and inspected and approved by the umpires before the toss. The umpires will then offer the choice of ball to the away team captain.

3.1.2.3 The captain of the home team will provide the umpires with spare balls to be used if an original ball is lost and becomes unfit for play. The umpires will allocate the spare ball(s) as appropriate and per age, condition etc. using law 5.5.

3.1.2.4 Teams will bowl their allocated ball. However, if the team batting first continues its innings for more than 60 overs, the fielding team shall be given the option of using the new ball of the team batting for the remainder of the first innings. The team bowling second will then use its originally allocated ball from the start of the second innings, the umpires having total control of procedures.

3.1.3 The umpires will take possession of the ball(s) at the end of each innings and return them to the home team captain at the end of the match.

3.2 In all 2nd and 3rd XI matches:

3.2.1.1 Reader Sovereign Grade 'A' balls are still also permitted in addition to those described in 3.1.1.1 above.

3.2.1.2 In matches where a new ball is not used, the ball must be acceptable to the opposing

captain.

3.2.2 Each team will provide an umpire with a ball before the toss and will bowl with its own ball. The captain of the bowling team will provide the umpires with a spare ball to be used if the original ball is lost or becomes unfit for play.

4. Playing times in league matches

4.1 1st XI matches:

4.1.1.1 Matches will normally commence at 1:00 pm but will commence at 12:00 noon on the Saturday between the 15th and 21st of August and for the remainder of the season.

4.1.1.2 1st XI, 2nd XI and 3rd XI matches may commence up to two hours earlier than their scheduled start time with the agreement of both clubs. Notifications to this effect must be made in writing either to the 1st and 2nd XI Fixture Secretary or to the 3rd XI Coordinator as appropriate by the home club no less than 14 days before the fixture in question. See also 4.2.2 below.

4.1.2.1 When, for any reason a scheduled match is played on a different date than the corresponding 2nd XI match, i.e. the 1st XI is earlier or the 2nd XI is later than the scheduled date, the matches shall then be considered 'locked' to that date. No player is eligible to play in both matches, whichever is played first, because this would have been impossible had they been played on the scheduled date. This principle shall only apply to players having played 6 or more 1st XI matches in their last 11 consecutive matches and shall not apply to other players, i.e. 2nd and 3rd XI players cannot be 'locked'.

4.1.2.2 Rearranged and locked fixtures as set out in 4.1.2.1 cannot subsequently be rearranged again without the matter being submitted in writing to the Cricket Committee (see also Constitution Clause 9.2).

4.1.3 All matches will be of no more than 6 hours 15 minutes playing time, plus any additional time taken for the bowling of a minimum 20 overs in the 'last hour'. The 10-minute interval between innings will be added to the playing time if it does not occur during the tea interval. If the first innings of a match ends in the 'last hour', overs will not be deducted for the 10 minutes' interval between innings. (This will allow the bowling of 110 overs in the day).

4.1.4 Teas

4.1.4.1 In league fixtures only, teas will be provided and paid for by the home team.

4.1.4.2 The tea interval will be of 30 minutes' duration and will normally be taken between innings, but in any event no later than 3 hours and 15 minutes after the scheduled start of play (i.e. 1:00 pm or 12:00 noon) irrespective of the state of the match.

4.1.4.3 In the event of the first innings being completed prior to 3 hours and 15 minutes playing time and tea not being able to be taken, play will continue, following 10 minutes between innings, until 3 hours and 15 minutes is reached when the tea interval will be taken.

4.1.4.4 In the event of a wicket falling within 2 minutes of the tea interval, tea will not be taken and the over will be completed unless the batting side is all out or its captain should decide to declare.

4.1.4.5 At the discretion of the umpires, tea may be taken at some other time that may be necessary and convenient, such as during a stoppage for rain. Should this be the case and if relevant, the subsequent interval between innings must not exceed 10 minutes and a tea interval taken during a stoppage for rain etc. must be designated and entered on the score sheet.

4.1.5 **Drinks**

4.1.5.1 Drinks will be taken 1 hour and 30 minutes after the start of play in each innings. and no later than 15 minutes prior to the commencement time of the 'last hour', (i.e. at 5.30 pm for a 12 noon start, at 6:00 pm for a 12:30 pm start or 6:30 pm for a 1:00 pm start). Umpires may arrange for drinks to be taken at an earlier time after the tea interval if agreed by both captains. Either or both drinks' interval(s) may be cancelled, if both captains agree.

4.1.6 Either captain can insist that both teams assemble at the venue for a ground inspection to be made prior to the start of the match.

4.1.7 No match may start later than two and a half hours after the scheduled start time (i.e. 1:00 pm or 12:00 noon). If tea cannot be taken during this period, play must commence within two hours of the scheduled start time.

4.1.8 **Over Rate Penalties**

4.1.8.1 To comply with ECB requirements all teams must bowl their overs at a minimum average rate of 17 overs per hour. Failure to do so will result in the following penalties in all matches irrespective of the result:

- between 16.0 and 16.95 overs per hour – 1 point penalty deduction
- between 15.0 and 15.95 overs per hour – 2 point penalty deduction
- between 14.0 and 14.95 overs per hour - 3 point penalty deduction
- less than 14.0 overs per hour - 4 point penalty deduction.

4.1.8.2 For over rate calculations, the following allowances will be made: 2 minutes per fall of wicket (unless a wicket falls to the last ball of the innings), 3 minutes per drinks break, and any time lost for rain, bad light or other major delays, eg injury to a player or umpire. Calculations will be finally rounded to one place of decimals. Umpires are responsible for ALL recorded times in connection with over rate calculations and their decisions are final. Over rate penalties will only be imposed if a minimum of 2 hours playing time has elapsed during the innings, ie. the total time between the various calls of 'Play' and 'Time'.

4.1.8.3 Incidents of lost time, e.g. intervals, stoppages, injury, other unforeseen circumstances, will be reported on the Match Result Form by the umpires. Deliberate time wasting by either the batting or the bowling side will be penalised and reported by the umpires as required by Laws 42.9 and 42.10 (see also Clause 11.5 of the Constitution).

4.2 **2nd and 3rd XI matches:**

4.2.1 Matches will normally commence at 1:45 pm but will commence at 12:45 pm on the Saturday between the 15th and 21st of August for the remainder of the season.

4.2.2 If both teams agree, 3rd and 4th XIs shall have the option of commencing matches at 12:45 pm or sooner throughout the season. In the event of there being disagreement between the team, regulation 4.2.1 shall apply. Notice of an 'early start' match must be given to the 3rd XI Coordinator a minimum of 24 hours in advance.

4.2.3 All matches will be of no more than 5 hours 15 minutes playing time, plus any additional time taken for the bowling of a minimum 20 overs in the 'last hour'. The 10 minute interval between innings will be added to the playing time. if it does not occur during the tea interval.

4.2.4 Either captain can insist that both teams assemble at the venue for a ground inspection to be made prior to the start of the match.

4.2.5 **Teas**

4.2.5.1 **In 2nd and 3rd XI league matches** only, teas will be provided and paid for by the home

team.

4.2.5.2 The tea interval will be of 30 minutes' duration and will normally be taken between innings, but in no event later than three hours after the scheduled start of the match, i.e. 12.45 pm or 1.45 pm.

4.2.5.3 At the discretion of the umpires, tea may be taken at some other time that may be necessary and convenient, such as during a stoppage for rain; should this be the case and if relevant, the subsequent interval between innings must not exceed 10 minutes and a tea interval taken during a stoppage for rain etc. must be designated and entered on the score sheet.

4.2.6 **Drinks**

4.2.6.1 Drinks will be taken no later than an hour and a half after the start of play in each innings or as agreed by both captains, unless both captains agree to dispense with either or both drinks intervals.

4.2.7 No match may start later than two and a half hours after the scheduled start time (i.e. 1:45 pm or 12:45 pm) whether the tea interval has been taken.

4.2.8 The start of the 'last hour' may be delayed for up to 30 minutes only in the event of play being affected by adverse weather and/or light conditions.

4.2.9 If a team is unable to field the minimum number of players (see 7.1.2) at the scheduled start time plus 1 hour, the team captains may extend this period by mutual agreement but, in any event, the 'last hour' must start no later than 7.00 pm for a 1.45 pm scheduled start. If no agreement is reached the incomplete team will concede the match (see Clause 6.1).

4.3 **All Matches – Sight Screens**

Where four sight screens are, available and are of adequate size, when a bowler is bowling an over containing delivery from both over and round the wicket, the screens will be divided and left suitably aligned on either side of the wickets.

5. **Points awarded in league matches**

5.1 Teams winning a match – 20 points.

5.2 Bonus points:

5.2.1 **1st XI matches**

5.2.1.1 Batting: - 1 point at 100 runs, 2 points at 130 runs, 3 points at 160 runs, 4 points at 190 runs and 5 points at 220 runs.

5.2.1.2 Bowling: - 1 point for 2 wickets, 2 points for 4 wickets, 3 points for 6 wickets, 4 points for 8 wickets and 5 points for 10 wickets.

5.2.2 **2nd and 3rd XI matches:**

5.2.2.1 Batting: - 1 point at 100 runs, 2 points at 125 runs, 3 points at 150 runs, 4 points at 175 runs and 5 points at 200 runs.

5.2.2.2 Bowling: - 1 point for 2 wickets, 2 points for 4 wickets, 3 points for 6 wickets, 4 points for 8 wickets and 5 points for 10 wickets.

5.2.3 **all matches:**

5.2.3.1 Full bowling bonus points will be awarded in the event of the dismissal of a batting side whose number comprises less than 11 players, or when there are no further players available to bat.

5.2.4 Batting bonus points will be awarded up to and including the 55th over (45th over in 2nd and 3rd XI matches) of the first innings and for the whole of the second innings.

5.2.5 If a team batting first declares, or is all out, before or on the completion of 55 overs (45 overs in 2nd and 3rd XI matches) and wins, all batting bonus points awarded will be retained in addition to the 20 points for a win.

5.2.6 If a captain loses the toss and his team bowls first and wins, all bowling bonus points awarded will be retained in addition to the 20 points for a win.

5.3 Teams drawing or losing a match will retain all bonus points awarded.

5.4 Tied matches: 15 points will be awarded to each team.

5.5 **Abandoned matches:**

5.5.1 Matches abandoned without a ball being bowled will be regarded as 'abandoned' and each team will be awarded 5 points.

5.5.2 Sunday 3rd XI matches which cannot be rearranged because of ground non-availability, see Clause 1.3.3 above, will be regarded as 'abandoned'

5.5.3 Matches abandoned after the start due to weather and/or light conditions will be regarded as 'no decision'. In 'no decision' matches each team will be awarded 5 points or will retain its bonus points gained (if more than 5) if 15 overs or more of the second innings have been completed.

6. **Fines and penalties**

6.1 **Conceding a fixture**

In the event of a team conceding a L&DCC league fixture for an unacceptable reason 25 points will be awarded to its opponents. A club must always fulfill fixtures at the highest level in the event of a concession, if the 2nd XI would have conceded, the 3rd XI fulfils the fixture). This regulation does not apply in the 3rd XI competitions. The offending team will be subject to the following penalties:

6.1.1 on the first occasion, a deduction of 10 points and a fine of £50.00 (£20 for 3rd XI matches)

6.1.2 on the second occasion, a deduction of 15 points and a fine of £50.00; (£30 for 3rd XI matches)

6.1.3 on the third occasion, a deduction of 20 points and a fine of £50.00; (£50 for 3rd XI matches)

6.1.4 on the fourth occasion, a deduction of 30 points, a fine of £50.00 and any further penalties imposed as a result of a mandatory appearance before the Cricket Committee which will be automatically required. A 3rd XI will be automatically withdrawn from its division and all its results removed without incurring further penalty

6.1.5 In addition to the above penalties, the non-offending club shall be reimbursed by the offending club for any incidental expenses incurred as a result of the cancellation.

6.1.6 In a knockout fixture - a club failing to raise a team and subsequently unable to fulfil a fixture, will be fined £50 and may not be entered in the following season's competition at the discretion of the Management Committee. In the event of exceptional circumstances the decision of the Management Committee will be final.

6.2 **Defaulting a match**

6.2.1 Any team found to have played a player in any L&DCC match who was ineligible for any of the reasons contained in these rules and regulations will have defaulted on the fixture and be subject to the following penalties:

6.2.2 **in a league fixture** - in addition to forfeiting any points gained during it, be subject to the following penalties:

- on the first occasion a deduction of 10 points and a fine of £25.00;
- on the second occasion a deduction of 20 points and a fine of £50.00;
- on the third occasion a deduction of 30 points, a fine of £75.00 and any further penalties resulting from a disciplinary hearing, which will be called automatically.

6.2.3 In addition to all or any of the penalties 1 to 3 above, 25 points will be awarded to the opponents in any league fixture when a team has played an ineligible player.

6.2.4 If a club should provide incorrect information to an umpire regarding the age/date of birth of a junior player for whatever reason, the following penalty will apply:

a deduction of all points gained, plus a fine of £75.00 and any further penalties imposed as the Management Committee considers necessary in the circumstances and for which there will be the opportunity for appeal by the club.

6.2.5 **in a knockout fixture** - the match will be forfeited and a fine of £25.00 imposed.

6.2.6 If a club should provide incorrect information to an umpire regarding the age/date of birth of a junior player for whatever reason, the following penalty will apply:
the match will be forfeited, plus a fine of £75.00 and any further penalties imposed as the Management Committee considers necessary in the circumstances and for which there will be the opportunity for appeal by the club.

6.3 **Less than 11 players in a team**

6.3.1 If a team having less than 11 players represents a club in a higher team when a lower team has a greater number of players, a fine of £25 for each player less than the required number will be levied.

6.4 **In 3rd XI competitions**, despite the 48 hour relaxation, if a club fails to register someone who has already played a 3rd XI match and it is clear that he would otherwise have been eligible, eg. not barred by virtue of Clause 7(f), a fine of £5 will be levied for the match but no penalty points will apply.

6.5 In addition to these fines and penalties: fines are imposed in accordance with the following sub-clauses: 8.1.2; 8.1.10; 8.1.12; 8.1.13; 8.2.1; 9.1.2; 9.4.2; 10.1; 10.2.2 and 10.3.5; and KO Competition Playing Regulations 2.4 and 6.1; and point penalties as in 4.1.9 above.

7. **Players (eligibility, team sheets, registration and equipment)**

7.1 **Eligibility**

7.1.1 Each nominated team in each 1st XI match must field at least nine players qualified to play

for England, and may contain no more than one non-resident overseas player, i.e. who is not eligible to play for England and who does not satisfy the criteria for 'overseas players resident in England'.

7.1.2 A minimum number of 7 players constitutes a team, but see Clause 4.2.9.

7.1.3 The use of substitute professional players as defined under Player Registration sub-clause 5.6 is not allowed.

7.1.4 In a Sunday 2nd XI rearranged match, only players who have played more than 50% 2nd XI (or lower) league matches for their club during their previous eleven consecutive matches will be eligible. This rolling period may include part of the previous season. (But see Clause 4.1.2 above for 'locked' fixtures). If the team which is not responsible for the rearrangement has a problem with player eligibility it should refer the matter to the management Committee for resolution before playing the match.

7.1.5 In 3rd XI league matches played on Sundays or Bank Holiday Mondays:

7.1.5.1 any 1st XI player, as calculated by the last 11 consecutive games countback rule, who has not played on either or both previous two days for a 1st or 2nd XI will be eligible to play subject to the batting and bowling restrictions set out in 7.1.5.4 below and the batting and bowling pattern of the player in their most recent 1st XI match;

7.1.5.2 any 2nd XI player as calculated by the last 11 consecutive games countback rule who has not played on either or both of the previous two days for a 1st or 2nd XI will be eligible to play without restriction;

7.1.5.3 no more than three players who have played on either or both of the previous two days for a 1st or 2nd XI will be eligible to play and then only if they have played 50% or more of their matches for a 3rd XI in their previous eleven consecutive league matches (this rolling period of time may include part of the previous season); and

7.1.5.4 Players under the age of 19 or over the age of 40, on 1st September the previous year, can play on both days; however, such players from a club's 1st XI are subject to the following restriction:

- if they batted or were scheduled to bat in the top 5 of a 1st XI match they shall not bat higher than number 6 in the 3rd XI match;
- Any player, irrespective of age, who has bowled 5 or more overs for a 1st XI on the preceding Saturday is not allowed to bowl.

The Cricket Committee will monitor their usage to ensure that Spirit of Cricket is not abused;

7.1.6 In the event of a captain deliberately using young players to contravene the requirements laid down in these Directives, the captain must be informed that:

- he/she personally takes on the legal responsibilities if there are subsequent injuries;
- the matter **must be reported to the Management Committee** by the umpire(s) or other responsible person(s);
- the game will be forfeited by the side in breach of the Directive; and
- in addition, other sanctions may be applied.

7.1.7 Any player in contravention of these regulations will be treated as ineligible and the matter

dealt with under the terms of 6.2.

7.1.8 On special application to the Management Committee on a case by case basis, permission may be granted for an otherwise ineligible player to play and act as a driver in away games. Such a player will be subject to strict monitoring under Spirit of Cricket.

7.2 Team sheets

7.2.1 In accordance with the Laws of Cricket each team shall provide a list of its players playing in the match before the toss. The ECB model team sheet shall be used for this purpose. In all 1st and 2nd XI matches the team sheets are to be given to the MCUA appointed or club appointed umpires respectively before the toss. In all 3rd XI matches if no appointed umpires are present the captains shall exchange team sheets before the toss.

7.2.2 In all 1st, 2nd and 3rd XI matches the team sheets shall be returned by the umpires to the home team captain/scorer at the end of the match and such official shall then ensure that they are forwarded to the appointed Assistant Results Secretary for the division together with the appropriate Match Result Form.

7.3 Registration

7.3.1 The Cricket Committee will nominate one or more of its members to administer the 'Registration of Players' scheme.

7.3.2 Only registered players will be allowed to play in 1st and 2nd XI and at least 72 hours notice will be required for the registration of new players.

7.3.3 3rd and lower XI players should be registered before playing but in any event they must be nominated for registration on Play-Cricket within 48 hours of playing their first match.

7.3.4 All overseas players must be registered to play at a particular level (e.g. 1st XI) at the time of registration and cannot play at a different level without the agreement of the Management Committee. No player having played first class cricket within the past five years may play in other than 1st XI cricket without the permission of the Management Committee.

7.3.5 Each club must ensure that a playing member who joins it from another club has fully paid his due playing membership subscription at his previous club for that season and that he has not been expelled from, nor is under suspension from another club before offering facilities.

7.4 Equipment

7.4.1 All players shall wear white clothing and footwear on the field of play. Advertising on clothing and equipment is within the allowable and acceptable terms of the International Cricket Council Rules and Regulations as far as the same may apply.

7.4.2 The wearing of names and numbers on cricket playing shirts is allowable subject to International Cricket Council Rules and Regulations and the following:

- Surnames only are allowed. No nicknames. (Where there are two players with the same surname, the forename initial should be used);
- One colour only is permitted for the name and number; and
- Each player must only wear his own 'named' and 'numbered' playing shirt during a match.

7.4.2 The ECB 'Fast Bowling' and 'Wearing of Helmets by Young Players and Fielding' Directives will be implemented in all matches.

8. Umpires

8.1 1st XI matches:

- 8.1.1 The Merseyside Cricket Umpires Association, hereinafter referred to as the MCUA, will appoint two umpires for each 1st XI match who are responsible for ensuring all matches commence at the appointed time in accordance with Clause 4.1.1 unless advised otherwise by a member of the Management Committee.
- 8.1.2 Each umpire will receive travelling expenses, payable BEFORE the start of the match, of an amount as from time to time agreed by the Management Committee in consultation with the MCUA and notified to clubs at the start of the season, the cost being shared equally by the participating clubs. In the event of these not being provided before the start of the match, the umpires are obliged to record the fact on their match report card and an automatic fine of £25.00 will be imposed.
- 8.1.3 It is the responsibility of the home club to inform both umpires when a match has been cancelled or rearranged.
- 8.1.4 If an umpire should travel to a ground when a match has been cancelled, 50% of current travelling expenses will be paid by the home club. A similar sum will be payable in the event of cancellation after 10:00 am on the morning of the match.
- 8.1.5 Normal expenses are payable if the match is cancelled whilst the umpires are at the ground.
- 8.1.6 At least one umpire must be present at the toss in all matches and it is both captains' responsibility to ensure that this happens. If the toss takes place without an umpire present, the toss shall be retaken.
- 8.1.7 In the event of there being only one appointed umpire, he will stand at the bowler's end throughout the match and he will be the sole judge of all matters relating to the MCC Laws of Cricket (latest edition) and these Regulations. He will be entitled to receive three quarters of the travelling expenses as agreed in 8.1.2 above from each team.
- 8.1.8 The decision as to whether the ground or weather and/or light conditions are fit for play will rest with the umpires who will be the sole judges both before the start of the match and throughout. In the event of only one MCUA member umpire being present, the decision will rest with the umpire and the captains who all must agree that the conditions are fit for play before play can commence (recommence).
- 8.1.9 All clubs must provide a self-contained and secure changing room for umpires with lockable door(s) and provide the umpires with key(s) to lock the door(s). Umpires will report on these facilities on the normal Umpires' Report Card.
- 8.1.10 The umpires will be provided BEFORE the toss with an accurately completed team sheet by each captain. In the event of a team sheet not being submitted or submitted after the start of the match, the umpires are obliged to submit a report and an automatic fine of £25.00 will be imposed. Accurately completed team sheets will be completed by and exchanged between captains BEFORE the toss. Should player-umpires need to be used during a match, it will then be the responsibility of each captain to ensure that there is full compliance with ECB fast bowling directives.
- 8.1.11 AFTER the match the umpires will COMPLETE the Over Rate Calculation section for each innings (see 4.1.8 above) on the Match Result Form and will CHECK AND SIGN it having CONFIRMED all the other details. If the umpires have awarded a Level 1 Disciplinary

Offence during the match this must also be recorded on the MRF.

- 8.1.12 As mandated by ECB, Premier Division 1st XI captains must rank the eleven opponents' pitches they have played on in order from best to worst. The ranking list must be forwarded to the Club and Ground Chairman by the Saturday following the last league match. An automatic fine of £50 will be imposed on the club should this deadline not be met.
- 8.1.13 The umpires are to be marked in all matches. Both captains are to mark each umpire on cards provided by the MCUA. Completed cards are to be forwarded by the home team, either by post or electronically, to the MCUA. Those not received by 5.30 pm on Wednesday for a Saturday fixture (5.30 pm on Thursday/Friday for a Sunday/Monday fixture) will incur a fine of £15. If a captain has not sent in a captain's card with the umpires' marks by the due deadline three times in a season, his club will then be summoned to attend a Management Committee meeting.
- 8.1.14 Umpires will report on the ground and conditions for play, players' behaviour and captain's control in respect of all matches on cards provided by the Management Committee. The umpires and the captains should meet to discuss these and other matters arising at the end of the match.
- 8.1.15 Completed cards are to be forwarded by the umpires to the person named on the card within 5 days following the date of the match.

8.2 **2nd and 3rd XI matches:**

- 8.2.1 Each member club will appoint a competent umpire. Failure to appoint an umpire at each 2nd XI match, will result in a fine of £20.00 being imposed in respect of each failed appointment. Regulation 8.1.7 above will apply if only one appointed umpire is present.
- 8.2.2 Accurately completed team sheets will be completed by and exchanged between captains BEFORE the toss. Should club umpires or player-umpires need to be used during a match, it will then be the joint responsibility of each captain and umpire to ensure that there is full compliance with ECB fast bowling directives. If player umpires are necessary, senior players should be used whenever possible and should be at least 18 years old.
- 8.2.3 See 7.2.3 regarding team sheets in 3rd XI matches.
- 8.2.4 In the event of poor playing conditions and no MCUA member umpires being present, the decision to play will rest with the captains who must both agree that the conditions are fit for play. Should an MCUA member umpire be present, all three parties must agree but if two MCUA member umpires are present, the decision will be made solely by the umpires in accordance with Clause 8.1.8.
- 8.2.5 At least one umpire must be present at the toss in all matches and it is both captains' responsibility to ensure that this takes place.
- 8.2.6 For 2nd and 3rd XI matches the umpires (if present) and the captains will COMPLETE, CHECK AND SIGN the Match Result Form AFTER the match having CONFIRMED all the details.

8.3 **all matches:**

- 8.3.1 Umpires will report any case of alleged misconduct to the L&DCC Disciplinary Secretary by telephone, e-mail or fax within 48 hours of the match and in writing using the standard form within 7 days.
- 8.3.2 No more than 2 fast short pitched deliveries below head height and aimed at the batsman are permitted per over. Any deliveries in excess of this number will be called as 'no ball' by the

bowler's end umpire.

8.3.3 The bowling of any high full pitch delivery above waist height, whatever the pace, is an unfair delivery and will be called as a no ball although not necessarily dangerous, i.e. slow deliveries will incur no further penalty. Fast deliveries will be subject to caution, warning and then removal from the attack as per the Laws of Cricket.

9. Scorers and Match Result Forms

9.1.1 Each club will appoint a competent scorer for each match. In the Premier Division, the scorer should be accredited to at least ECB ACO Level 1.

9.1.2 Failure to provide competent scorers for both 1st and 2nd XI matches will result in a fine of £20.00 being imposed in respect of each failed appointment.

9.2 The scoreboard will indicate the number of the over in progress at all times except at the start of the 'last hour' in a league match when the number will revert to '1' and thereafter show the over in progress of the minimum 20 overs.

9.3 In all matches, the home team's scorer (or other nominated person) will be responsible for completing and signing the Match Result Form with all the details listed below within half an hour of the end of the match for completion and signing by the away team's scorer, umpires and captains:

9.3.1 the winner of the toss;

9.3.2 the line scores together with number of overs bowled and the match result;

9.3.3 the score after 55/45 overs in the first innings (league matches);

9.3.4 **in 1st XI matches only**- the number of overs bowled in the 2nd innings at the start of the 'last hour';

9.3.5 brief details, including significant statistics, i.e. century partnerships, hat tricks etc; and

9.3.6 the bonus points awarded to each team.

9.4.1 The home team's scorer or other nominated person must post the completed and signed Match Result Form, including that for a 'no decision' match, together with the two team sheets, to the appropriate Assistant Results Secretary to arrive by 5.30 pm on the Wednesday following a Saturday fixture (5.30 pm on Thursday/Friday for a Sunday/Monday fixture). For 3rd XI matches an extra two days will be allowed and the single sheet MRF plus team sheets may be used (available on the website).

9.4.2 If a team sheet is missing the home side must note on the form the circumstances leading to this omission. Failure to post the Match Result Form and the team sheets by the required time will result in a £5.00 fine for the home team.

9.4.3 The Match Result Form will be deemed invalid if not accompanied by two team sheets.

9.4.4 A Match Result Form is not required for conceded or abandoned matches.

9.5 Where a club has been provided with a laptop computer, the 'Total Cricket Scorer' computer scoring system and an internet 'dongle', the home team scorer will use this computer scoring system in all home 1st and 2nd XI matches and is encouraged to make use of the TCS 'Live Update Facility'. The away team scorer in these matches will use whatever method he/she normally uses.

10. Reporting results

- 10.1 All 1st XI premier division clubs must operate Live Update, or any ECB required successor system, in their home games. The use of Live Update by a club shall be optional in away games. Any such club failing to operate this system in its home games shall be fined £10 on each occasion
- 10.2.1 All results from the previous season(s) shall be held to be permanently fixed seven days after the last match of the season.
- 10.2.2 In order to maintain accurate league tables it is essential that the home team, in 1st and 2nd XI team matches, enters the summary results on Play-Cricket as soon as possible after the match and in any event no later than 12 noon on the day following the match even if the match was conceded, abandoned or 'no result'. Failure to comply will result in a £5.00 fine for the home team. Teams using the TCS computer scoring system will automatically download the result and the scorecards after the match.
- 10.2.3 3rd and lower teams will be allowed an additional 24 hours to enter summary results.
- 10.3 Full match scorecards must be entered on Play-Cricket in accordance with the following rules:
- 10.3.1 **for clubs issued with laptop computers**, whether the 1st or 2nd XI team is involved, the home club must download the scorecards from the TCS computer scoring system as soon as possible after the Match Result Form has been signed by scorers, umpires and captains, and in any event no later than 10.00 pm on the evening of the match;
- 10.3.2 **in all other 1st and 2nd XI matches** the home club must enter the scorecards on Play-Cricket no later than noon on the day after the match;
- 10.3.3 **in all 3rd XI matches** the home team will be responsible for ensuring that the full scorecard of its match is recorded on Play-Cricket by 7.00 pm on the Tuesday following a Saturday fixture (Wednesday/Thursday for a Sunday/Monday fixture);
- 10.3.4 **in all 1st, 2nd and 3rd XI matches** the away team will be responsible for ensuring that the full scorecard of its match is checked on Play-Cricket by 7.00 pm on the Wednesday following a Saturday fixture (Thursday/Friday for a Sunday/Monday fixture). If any changes to the scorecards are made by the away team, the home team must be advised so that it can reconfirm the details.
- 10.3.5 If a team fails to comply with these deadlines it will be fined £5.

11. Disciplinary Procedures

The L&DCC's Disciplinary Procedures, based on the model rules of the ECB and as described elsewhere in this handbook will apply to all matches played under its auspices.

12. Breach of Regulations

Except where specifically provided for in these Regulations, all reported breaches of the Regulations will be dealt with by the Disciplinary Committee whose decision will be final.

13. Powers of the Management Committee

The Management Committee will have the powers to determine any matter not provided for in these Regulations.

APPENDIX 1

Detailed MRF procedure for recording and reporting results for all matches actually played, i.e. excluding conceded and abandoned matches

- 1 Home team scorer completes the Match Result Form (MRF) (except for the MCUA time allowances' section, which is applicable to 1st XI matches only).
- 2 Captains and umpires (if present at 3rd XI) check the MRF data, and **in 1st XI matches only** complete the MCUA allowances section, enter the agreed overall over rates for each innings, include details of any L1DOs awarded and sign the form.
- 3 Scorers sign the MRF. Home scorer obtains signatures of both team captains after each has checked the scores.
- 4 Home team posts the MRF, including the two team sheets, to the appropriate ARS to arrive by 5.30 pm on Wednesday for a Saturday fixture (5.30 pm on Thursday/Friday for a Sunday/Monday fixture). For 3rd XI matches an extra 2 days is allowed for MRF receipt. If two team sheets are not enclosed a note of explanation must be added to the MRF.

Reporting results on Play-Cricket for all matches except for those teams using the TCS scoring system on laptop computers.

- 5 Home team's representative completes the Summary Result on Play-Cricket using the MRF information by noon on the day following the match. For 3rd XI and lower teams an additional 24 hours will be allowed.
- 6 Assistant RS (ARS) compares the Summary Results with the MRFs and if necessary makes changes and 'rl' locks them.
- 7 By 7.00 pm on the Tuesday following a Saturday fixture (Wednesday/Thursday for Sunday/Monday fixture): home team enters scorecards from home team scorebook via home team's play-cricket website and ticks home team's 'confirmed' flag.
- 8 By 7.00 pm on the Wednesday following a Saturday fixture (Thursday/Friday for Sunday/Monday fixture): away team enters scorecards from away team scorebook via away team's play-cricket website and ticks away team's 'confirmed' flag.
- 9 If the away team makes any changes to the result or scorecards the away team should advise the home team who should then re-confirm the Play-Cricket result.
- 10 Minimum requirements to be entered on the website are:
 - 10.1 Names of all players involved, with captains and wicket-keepers indicated;
 - 10.2 Details of each batters' innings with how out including fielder's and bowler's name where applicable and runs scored – including 'did not bats';
 - 10.3 Total extras in each innings (plus breakdown if available);
 - 10.4 Details of each bowler's analysis (including those that did not take a wicket); and
 - 10.5 Fall of each wicket and batter dismissed/batter not out.

For teams using the TCS scoring system on laptop computers.

- 11 After the scorers, umpires and captains have signed the MRF and by 10.00 pm on the evening

of the match, the 1st or 2nd XI home team scorer will upload the result and scorecards from the TCS computer scoring system directly to the Play-Cricket website.

For all matches

- 12 ARS checks scorecards for completeness and any obvious errors, compares with the Summary Result and if possible makes corrections and locks them. If data is missing ARS will contact clubs concerned.
- 13 When ARS is satisfied that all is correct ARS locks the scorecard; "sl" is applied

APPENDIX 2

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE STATEMENT - TEAM SHEETS

All clubs are warned that in accordance with the directive of the England & Wales Cricket Board (hereinafter called the ECB) prior to the toss, each Team Captain is to hand a team sheet to the Umpire, and in the case of a 3rd XI match the opposing Captains will mutually exchange a team sheet, using the official ECB card, showing details of:

1. All players under nineteen years of age with their age group;
2. In respect of these players the Umpire / Team Captain will ensure that those players under eighteen years of age will wear a helmet when batting or when standing up to the stumps when keeping wicket a helmet or a faceguard;
3. In addition ECB fast bowling directives will apply to young fast bowlers.

This is the strict and absolute responsibility of the clubs and having given this mandate, the Management Committee of The Liverpool & District Cricket Competition will bear no responsibility in the event of a breach of this directive, including the incomplete submission of the ECB Team Sheet. Umpires or, in their absence, Captains are recommended to retain the Team Sheets for a 12 month period in circumstances where they are not required to be submitted together with a Match Result Form (MRF) in accordance with the Playing Regulations.

It will be a disciplinary offence for any team sheet to include a false name or names. The team captain will be held responsible and the match defaulted as described above (Clause 6.2.6).