

## Hampshire Cricket League - 2012 AGM Proposed Rule Changes

### Motion 1 – administration fine

*Proposed by the Management Committee*

Currently clubs who repeatedly fail to communicate with the Management Committee are given 28 days then fined £20 followed by 14 days then a points fine. This specified in 6a and 6b of H. Penalties of the Constitution.

6a.	Failure to reply to League correspondence, or to pay an original fine, within 28 days.	£20.	
6b	Failure to pay a secondary, or increased, fine within 14 days. Such deduction will be applied in the current season if this offence occurs on or before 31 August, and in the following season if after that date. Any outstanding fine(s) must still also be paid.		All teams 10 Points

This is complex and requires administrative time which is at a premium.

**H6a and H6b to be amended to:-**

<b>6.</b>	<b>Failure to reply to League correspondence, or to pay an original fine, within 28 days. No reminder will be issued. Such deduction will be applied in the current season if this offence occurs on or before 31 August, and in the following season if after that date. Any outstanding fine(s) must still also be paid.</b>		<b>All teams 10 Points</b>
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## **Motion 2 – Changing of subscription payment date.**

*Proposed by the Management Committee*

Fixtures are issued by 31<sup>st</sup> December. However subscriptions are not required to be paid until 1<sup>st</sup> February. This allows teams to resign from the League after the fixtures have been issued.

### **E. Subscriptions**

The Management Committee will keep subscription rates under review and will notify the amounts due by Members by the 1st ~~December~~ **October** annually. The subscription charges are due by the 1st ~~February~~ **December** following for the renewal of Membership. If payment is not received from any Member by 1st ~~February~~ **December** 10 points will be deducted from the following season's playing record of each team of that Club (see *Constitution H11*). If payment is then not received **by the 15<sup>th</sup> December**, ~~prior to the commencement of the A.G.M.~~ the club will be deemed to have withdrawn from The League.

Note: Clubs failing to meet these rules will not be readmitted to the League until the following season

## **Motion 3 – Points fine for failing to attend the distribution day.**

*Proposed by the Management Committee*

Arranging and running the distribution day requires considerable effort from the Management Committee. Most clubs understand this and send a representative to collect their forms, handbooks and cricket balls. However there is a core of clubs who prefer to pay the £25 fine and then collect from a member of the Committee. Loss of points will encourage all clubs to attend.

7.	Failure to be represented at General Meeting or for failing to attend Distribution Day.	£25.	
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Constitution rule H7 amended to:-

<b>7a.</b>	<b>Failure to be represented at General Meeting.</b>	<b>£25</b>	
<b>7b,</b>	<b>Failure to attend Distribution Day.</b>		<b>All teams 10 Points</b>

#### **Motion 4 – Date of receipt of averages**

*Proposed by the Management Committee*

The number of teams in the League has increased the requirement for Presentation evenings (there are now 3) which are therefore held earlier in the year. To help alleviate this time pressure, the return date for averages needs to be earlier.

#### **Rule 24. Averages**

Each team must send to The Results Secretary for their division, by ~~1st October~~ **14<sup>th</sup> September** each year, a copy of their League batting and bowling averages. (*see Rule H.8 for penalties for non compliance*).

#### **Notes:**

- a) **Averages received after the 14<sup>th</sup> September will not be included in the League averages.**
- b) **It is the responsibility of each club to ensure the Result Secretary receives the average in time and confirms receipt.**
- c) **Clubs should ensure that matches involving teams who subsequently withdraw from the League are not included in the averages.**

#### **Motion 5 – Auditing accounts**

*Proposed by the Management Committee*

Changes to the way auditors are regulated mean that an audit is now more expensive as it involves more work and the issue of a certificate from registered auditors. In the past qualified accounts were able to audit but this is no longer the case. Future audits will cost the League around £4000 a year.

Having taken advice, the Management Committee recommends that we remove the need for audit from our constitution.

#### **Constitution M. Accounts**

The accounts of The League shall be kept by the Treasurer and such accounts shall be ~~audited~~ **inspected** annually by **a qualified accountant who is independent of the League.** ~~the Auditors appointed at the AGM.~~ For the purpose of such ~~audit~~ **an inspection** the accounts shall be closed on the thirty-first day of December in each year.

#### **Motion 6 – Payment by BACS**

*Proposed by the Management Committee*

The Management Committee recommends the change to the Constitution to allow internet banking.

#### **Constitution M. Accounts**

Payments by Members should be made by cheque (payable to Hampshire Cricket League) or BACS. Bank details are available on application to the Treasurer.

## **Motion 7 – League divisional structure change**

*Proposed by the Management Committee*

The number of teams in the League has steadily increased over the last 5 years, giving us 350 teams over 20 divisions, making the HCL the largest cricket league in the world. Over the last few years new teams entering the League have been geographically biased towards the south, at the same time there has been a decline in the teams in the north of the county where there tend to be more single team, village based clubs.

Because of this the geographical positioning of regional divisions has undergone a fundamental change with the north/south boundary steadily creeping south. So much so, that we are now finding that clubs based in and around Eastleigh can no longer be considered as “southern” based teams.

To reflect these changes, and to halt this southerly creep, the Management Committee propose a modified divisional structure to allow more flexibility. Increasing fuel costs and pressure on player’s time has also demanded an enhancement of the regional structure of the League.

The following proposal will give more of a balanced pyramid structure through all levels of the League, which will also help to give more of an even chance for promotion at all levels by getting rid of the bottom heavy format that we currently have. This structure will also give a more even and defined level at which clubs are required to achieve the necessary ground standard at each level for progression through the League.

If this proposal is accepted, the changes in the structure will be implemented for the 2013 season, with additional promotions applicable to achieve the new structure.

<b>Proposed Hampshire Cricket League Format for Season 2013</b>					
Promotion/Relegation per division	<b>CD1</b>			<b>2 up 3 down</b>	
	<b>CD2</b>			<b>3 up 4 down</b>	
	<b>CD3 North</b>	<b>CD3 South</b>		<b>2 up 3 down</b>	
	<b>CD4 North</b>	<b>CD4 South</b>		<b>3 up 3 down</b>	
	<b>RD1 North</b>	<b>RD1 South</b>	<b>RD1 West</b>	<b>2 up 3 down</b>	
	<b>RD2 North</b>	<b>RD2 South</b>	<b>RD2 West</b>	<b>3 up 4 down</b>	
	<b>RD3NE</b>	<b>RD3NW</b>	<b>RD3SE</b>	<b>RD3SW</b>	<b>3 up 3 down</b>
	<b>RD4NE</b>	<b>RD4NW</b>	<b>RD4SE</b>	<b>RD4SW</b>	<b>3 up</b>

By introducing a third division at level 5 & 6 we are making the transition from a 4 region layout at RD3/4 to the 2 region layout easier by adding a 3<sup>rd</sup> geographical region. This region will encompass the western area of the county, giving us 3 fairly similar sized regions of North, South and West.

## Proposed new rules

### 20. Promotion and Relegation.

20.1. Between The League and The Southern Premier League.

The top two teams in County Division 1 will be promoted to the Southern Premier League, subject to meeting accreditation requirements. The bottom two teams in the Southern Premier League will be relegated to County Division 1.

20.2. The following promotions and regulations per Division will apply.

	Promotions	Relegations
County 1 division	as per rule 20.1	3
County 2 division	3	4
County 3 divisions	2	3
County 4 divisions	3	3
Regional 1 divisions	2	3
Regional 2 divisions	3	4
Regional 3 divisions	3	3
Regional 4 divisions	3	-

Where extra promotions are involved the next team to be promoted will be that with the best points average in the position below those already promoted. Any further additional promotions will then be awarded to the remaining teams at the same level in the other regional divisions by points average. When all the teams on that level have been promoted the process will be repeated for the next divisional position downwards.

20.4. The number of teams to be relegated from Regional Division 3 will match the number promoted from Regional Division 4 unless the Management Committee feel that fewer should be relegated to ensure a better structure for the following season. Teams in the bottom positions in Regional Division 3 will be relegated first and then teams that are second to bottom and so on. Where necessary the team with the lowest average will be relegated.

20.5. General.

20.5.1. Clubs may not have two teams in the same County Division, Regional Division One or Regional Division Two of The League. This includes being in different geographic areas within that division. Where necessary a team will be refused promotion or the lower team will be relegated in the application of this rule. However in Regional Divisions 3 and 4, clubs may have more than one team in these divisions and they may all play in the same geographic area.

20.5.2. The Management Committee may be obliged to rearrange teams within Regional Divisions commensurate with geographical locations.

20.5.3. In operating the above rules, teams finishing in the relegation positions in divisions with vacancies will be relegated. However any team withdrawing under rules 16.1 or 23.3 after the completion of matches in week 14 will create one less relegation position from that division.

## **Motion 8 – Reduction of Batting Bonus Points**

*Proposed by Fair Oak CC*

*Seconded by Hambledon CC*

Currently the winning team receive a winning points value equal to the total for maximum batting and bowling points. The bonus points are also weighted in favour of batting. This proposal gives more of a premium on winning and brings parity to batting and bowling performances. This would also align the points system with the Southern League.

### **Change Rule 15.2:**

Reduce the maximum available batting points to 5 with the batting bonus points allocated as shown below. No bonus points to be awarded for teams batting second and bowling sides out with respective low scores itemised in this rule.

Batting bonus points

Division	1 point	2 points	3 points	4 points	5 points
CD1-4	125	150	175	200	>= 225
All others	100	125	150	175	>= 200

## **Motion 9 – Additional Batting points in Rain Reduced Games**

*Proposed by Fair Oak CC*

*Seconded by Hambledon CC*

When inclement weather causes match interruptions and there is a reduction in the number of overs for the team batting first to less than that of the team batting second, the ruling in 15.2 for teams not to have additional bonus points available seems unfair. If the captain winning the toss decides to bat first this could immediately affect the team batting second from gaining maximum bonus points, which is a decision that is out of their control. Also if the teams had to go off for a short period resulting in only 1 over lost in the second innings then this could again unfairly disadvantage the bonus points for the team batting second. Teams batting second and bowling sides out cheaply again could be unfairly disadvantaged. The net result of this could be that one or both teams effectively have little incentive to play the game.

Although there is the general view that the team batting second with match interruptions has a clear advantage, Rules have been laid out to attempt to set a fairer Target Score. If this is still viewed as unfair then perhaps the calculation for a Target Score should be reviewed. An extension to the Rule, for example, could be a common sense approach that if both captains agree and umpires deem the light and general conditions to be safe why not try and finish the game with the full complement of overs allocated for the second innings (especially in the case of only 1 over being lost). There is no proposal to change the calculation of the Target Score but maybe something to consider for the future if Clubs feel the current calculation is unfair.

## **Remove last clause of Rule 15.2**

~~**Clarification all divisions:** The additional points available to the team batting second are not available when chasing a target score in a rain reduced match.~~

## **Motion 10 – New Ball both Innings**

*Proposed by Fair Oak CC*

*Seconded by Hambledon CC*

County Division 4 should to be brought into line with County 1, 2 and 3 with regard to Rule 5 – The Match Ball, given that the number of overs is the same as the Divisions above and pitches in this division should be of a high enough quality for a new ball to be used in each innings.

### **Change to Rule 5:**

In County Divisions 1, 2, 3 and 4 a new ball shall be used at the start of each innings and each side shall provide one new ball.

## **Motion 11 – Earlier Start Times**

*Proposed by Fair Oak CC*

*Seconded by Hambledon CC*

Although there is provision in the Rules to start games earlier (Rule 10.1) some fixtures do involve long travelling distances and teams may prefer to finish earlier. In County Divisions 2-4 especially, only 10 overs fewer are played than County 1 which starts at 1pm and there are occasions when the light has diminished towards the end of the game.

### **Change to Rule 10.1:**

- 10.1. Except due to inclement weather, time of start for matches in County Division 1 shall be not later than 1.00 pm. **In County Divisions 2 - 4, the start shall not be later than 1.30pm and in** all other divisions the start shall be not later than 2.00 pm. Clubs are permitted to start earlier by mutual consent.  
(See Rule 13.2 for matches subjected to a late start due to inclement weather).  
~~In August all County Divisions 2 to 4 matches shall start at 1.30 pm.~~

### **Motion 12 – Reduction of Overs per Bowler**

*Proposed by Fair Oak CC*

*Seconded by Hambledon CC*

The maximum number of overs per bowler should be reduced to 9 in all divisions below County 1.

#### **Change Rules 7.1 and 7.3:**

Change the wording such that bowlers in all divisions other than County 1 shall not bowl more than 9 overs. County Division 1 would remain at a maximum of 10 overs per bowler.

### **Motion 13 – Duration of Play in Regional Divisions**

*Proposed by Fair Oak CC*

*Seconded by Hambledon CC*

Change the duration of play to 40 overs in all Regional divisions as 42 seems an odd number to play. The bonus points system should not be affected even if Motion 8 is passed.

#### **Change Rule 12.3 to:-**

Regional Divisions: In an uninterrupted match which starts not later than 2.00 p.m., the duration of play will be 42 40 overs entitlement to each side.