

North West Cricket League League Rules

1. TITLE & CONSTITUTION

1. 1. TITLE & CONSTITUTION The League shall be called NORTH WEST CRICKET LEAGUE.
2. The divisional structure will be as follows:-under
3. The PREMIER SECTION will consist of the 1st Elevens of the Premier Clubs and will consist of 2 Divisions; The Premiership & The Championship. There will be promotion and relegation between the two Divisions on a 2 up, 2 down basis.
4. The CONFERENCE SECTON will consist of 2nd Elevens from the Premier Section Clubs, together with the 1st & 2nd Elevens of Conference Section Clubs and will consist of 3 divisions. There will be promotion and relegation between the three Divisions on a 2 up, 2 down basis.
5. The DEVELOPMENT SECTION will consist of one division containing 3rd & 4th teams.
6. There will be no promotion or relegation between the 3 Sections.
7. Upon joining the League all clubs will be required to lodge a sum of £400 with the League Treasurer in the form of a Bond. The Bond will be repayable after the club has completed 3 seasons in the League and has not, at that date, tendered their resignation from the league.
8. Any club which is expelled from the League, or which ceases to be a member of the League, shall at once forfeit any rights to participate in the assets of the League.
9. THE LAWS OF CRICKET current Edition shall apply.

2. MANAGEMENT

1. The League shall be governed by an Executive Committee consisting of a President, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Umpires Secretary, Registrations Secretary, Assistant Secretary, League Safeguarding Officer, Deputy Safeguarding Officer, Chief Development Officer, Junior Section Development Officer, Youth League Chair, Deputy Youth League Chair, Umpires Appointments Secretary, Disciplinary Secretary, Disciplinary Officer, League Administrator, Press Officer & Social Media Secretary. Posts may be combined.
2. The Hon. Officials shall retire annually but shall be eligible for re-election if they so wish. Unless otherwise agreed, The Executive Committee will meet 12 times a year on a monthly basis. They will also meet 6 times a year with a representative from each member club in attendance on a bi-monthly basis.
3. The Hon. Auditor and Hon. Solicitor shall be elected annually but shall not be ex-officio members of the League Executive Committee.
4. The Chairman of a meeting shall be entitled to a casting vote if this is required.
5. The League Executive Committee may delegate its powers to a subcommittee.
6. Emergency Committee. Any five League Officials to form a League Emergency Committee.
7. The League Selection Committee shall consist of at least two members elected for this purpose by the Executive following the receipt of nominations.

8. The League Executive Committee, or any member club, shall have the power to nominate to the League A.G.M. the name of any person who by his/her meritorious service, for and on behalf of the League itself, shall be considered suitable to be granted Honorary Life Membership of the League. Such Honorary Life Members shall be invited to special League functions and shall be eligible to attend all meetings of the League, but without voting powers.

9. The League Secretary shall, on the written request of any Club Secretary, stating the business to be transacted, within 21 days, call a meeting of the League Executive Committee and in the event of the business being considered by the Committee as trivial or unimportant, the Club so requesting the meeting shall pay the cost of the meeting.

10. League Officials shall be paid such expenses as are agreed by the League Executive Committee, following their submission to the League Treasurer.

11. Any action taken by a member Club which shall bring the League into disrepute shall be punishable as the League Disciplinary Committee shall decide.

12. Any contravention of the rules herein contained shall entail such sanction as specified in the Rules itself. If the Rule does not contain a specified sanction, the sanction to be decided by the League Executive. Any such sanction would be subject to an Appeal by the Club(s) involved.

13. Any decision of the League Executive Committee and in relation to sanctions only decisions by the League Executive may be the subject of an appeal. Any such appeal must be made in writing and submitted to the League Secretary within 7 days of the original decision, accompanied by a cheque for £25 payable to the North West Cricket League which amount will be refunded in the event of such Appeal being successful. If the appeal is unsuccessful the club is responsible for the cost of the appeal hearing.

14. The Secretary will forward details of the appeal to all clubs and the appeal will be heard at the next meeting of the League Executive Committee, unless the Secretary believes the matter needs to be determined at an earlier hearing.

15. If an earlier hearing is needed the Secretary will call such a meeting not less than 7 days after the appeal is lodged. ALL club representatives will be invited to attend and vote at any appeal hearing, subject to the following. Members of the League Executive Committee will not be allowed to vote at any appeal meeting.

16. **Appeals** In all cases of appeal to the Committee the representatives of neither the appealing Club, nor the ones of those appealed against will be allowed to vote. The Chairman for the time being of the Committee shall not vote except in the case of an equality of votes when he shall be entitled to exercise a casting vote. Disciplinary Appeals will be as per ECB Regulations.

17. The decision taken at such an appeal will be FINAL and there is no further right of appeal.

18. The League Executive is empowered to investigate ways of accommodating Clubs whose Leagues may be disbanding, also any Club who may be interested in joining the League.

19. The Hon. League Treasurer WILL impose a 20% levy on ANY account not paid within TWELVE WEEKS of his issuing the ACCOUNT.

20. A list of fines from non-compliance with League Rules will where practical be submitted to the Clubs on a monthly basis. The Clubs will then have 30 days to pay such fine or at the discretion of the League Executive the fine will be doubled.

3. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

1. A General Meeting of the League shall be held annually on the last Monday in November. At the Meeting a Statement of Accounts, duly audited, shall be presented, Officers elected, Rules amended, and such other business transacted as may be deemed desirable: Notices of motion for inclusion in Agenda must be forwarded to reach the Secretary not later than 30th September in each year. The rules of the League may only be altered at an A.G.M. or Special General Meeting.

2. Any proposition to the League Secretary for the League A.G.M. from a club, **member of the executive, or Umpires Association**, shall only be accepted for the Agenda if there is a Seconder for it from another club, in writing, subject to the same deadline. Notice of any proposed alterations for discussion at the A.G.M. shall be forwarded to the Secretary of each club by October 31st. Amendments to such proposals for the A.G.M. shall be received by the Secretary with a Seconder in writing by 14th November. Proposals from clubs must be signed by two officials. Voting entitlement at an (Annual) General Meeting is as follows:

a) One vote to each Club.

b) One vote to the Umpires' Association.

c) One vote to the Junior League Committee.

d) The Chairman of such meeting shall not vote except in the case of an equality of votes when he shall be entitled to exercise a casting vote.

e) No member Club which has applied for membership of another League shall be entitled to vote on resolutions laid before any Annual General Meeting whilst such application is pending.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

1. A Special General meeting may be called by the Secretary of the League providing that notice of the Meeting together with notice of such business to be considered at the Meeting, shall be given to all Member Clubs not less than 21 days prior to the date fixed for the Meeting.

2. Requests for matters to be considered at a Special General Meeting shall be submitted to the League Secretary in writing and will only be accepted if the request/matter is seconded.

3. Any amendment to the proposals for discussion at an S.G.M. shall be provided to the League Secretary, duly seconded, not less than 14 days before the date fixed for the S.G.M.

4. Voting at an S.G.M. shall be as in Rule 3 (3).

3. LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP

1. Any Club joining the League shall pay an Entrance Fee of £400 Add to be repaid after three years of membership.

2. Subscriptions shall be of such amounts as the League Executive Committee shall, from time to time, decide.

3. The League Executive Committee shall have power considered necessary to accept Clubs into membership of the League, subject to ratification by the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting of the League.

4. Any member Club wishing to approach another League with a view to possible membership of that League, shall first obtain written permission from the League Secretary. Such permission shall not be interpreted as resignation or dismissal and shall be granted within 7 days unless the Club has failed to fulfil its financial obligations to the League or has failed to observe the Rules of membership.

5. Any member Club intending to resign its membership of the League shall inform the League Secretary, in writing, by 30th June of its final season of membership.

6. Any Club in membership of the North West Cricket League irrespective of Division, must enter its 1st XI as its premier team, playing in the League.

7. New Applicants:

a) If a new club applies to join the League, consideration will be given by the League Executive Committee as to whether they fulfil appropriate criteria for joining the League and in particular the Premier Section.

b) The criteria for admission to the League will be determined from time to time by the League Executive Committee but will include the Ground/Playing area, Club facilities – changing rooms, umpires' rooms and refreshment facilities and the standard of cricket previously played (this list is not exhaustive).

c) Subject to fulfilling the above criteria, a club that would be of appropriate standard to join the Premier Section of the League, may be admitted to the Premier Section. If there are Two Divisions of the Premier Section, then the club entering the League in this way will join the lower division of the Premier Section. **unless otherwise determined by the clubs.**

d) In such a case the club's 2nd XI will join the lower division of the Conference Section. If it is felt that a club warrants entry to the League, but that their first team is not suitable for entry into the Premier Section, then it will be open to the League to admit such a club, allowing both the club's 1st and 2nd XIs to join the Conference Section. In that situation, both the club's 1st XI and 2nd XI will join the lower division of the Conference Section, **unless otherwise determined by the clubs.**

e) Relegation and promotion places would be adjusted accordingly to balance up the number of clubs in the leagues if there is a new member/s. Such balancing exercise must be agreed by the League Executive Committee following a successful application for entry to the League.

4. PLAYER REGISTRATION

1. All Players must complete the appropriate Registration Form (See Website for up-to-date form) and forwarded to the League Registrations Secretary. The exceptions being those of a substitute professional or a loan player. The request to register a player on Play Cricket must be submitted at the same time.

2. All overseas players must provide copies of the immigration/entry documentation, allowing them to participate in the North West Cricket League, to the League Registrations Secretary at the same time as the Registration Form.

3. Due diligence on behalf of all registrations is the responsibility of the Club.

4. All registrations should be forwarded to the League Registrations Secretary to be received 5 days prior to the player turning out for the Club. (Tuesday for Saturday, Wednesday for Sunday). The player should not play for his/her new Club until authorisation is given by the League Registrations Secretary.

5(a) RULES IN RESPECT OF AMATEUR CRICKETERS

1. Only bona-fide members of North West Cricket League Clubs shall be eligible to play in the League and Cup Competitions. No individual playing regularly in another recognised weekend cricket league shall be eligible to play in this League without special permission of the League Executive.

2. No amateur player shall be eligible to take part in league matches unless registered on or before 31st July in each season. Excluding Loan Players under 5(8).

3. No amateur player shall be allowed to play with any Club in the League if he/she has already played, during the same season, in another league, i.e. a league with playing Professionals, without the special permission of the League Executive.

4. No player may play with two Clubs in this League in any season without the special permission of the League Executive. Excluding Loan Players under 5(9). Notwithstanding this rule, no player may play in any Cup Competition for more than one Club.

5. No player shall be nominated for, or play in, more than one match on the same day.

6. Any player leaving a Club in this League whilst any financial obligations are outstanding shall not be allowed to play with any other Club in the League until such obligations have been satisfied.

7. After 1st August each season the following criteria will apply for players to be eligible for selection in the Conference Section: Any player who has previously played 7 or more League or Cup games in the Conference Section in the same season will be eligible for selection irrespective of how many games they have previously played in the same season in the Premier Section (League & Cup). Any players who do not meet the above criteria who have played 10 or more games in the Premier Section (League & Cup) in the same season may only play in the Conference Section with the permission of the League Executive. 20/20 Fixtures do not count towards a player's First Eleven appearances. Permission must be given prior to the fixture taking place.

8. Other than players registered as Young Overseas Amateurs under rule 5 (18) no Club shall have registered with the League any amateur player who has not been continuously resident in the United Kingdom for a period of 12 months prior to the season. This Rule should not apply to expatriates of the United Kingdom. The League Executive shall have the right to allow the registration of any person who does not fulfil the above criteria providing that person is not entering the country primarily to play cricket and is able to prove that he/she is in the country for employment/educational purposes and not on holiday. This Rule shall not apply to player registered as their Young Overseas Player (Rule 5(18)) ***NB:- Irrespective of the above it is the responsibility of all clubs to ensure that all registered players are compliant with all ECB and UK Government regulations and are entitled to play amateur cricket in the UK.***

9. Loan Moves

a) In The Conference and Development Sections clubs are allowed to use players who play in other leagues, providing they have not played more than three games for their host Club's 2nd XI, in total, in the current season. If the said player has played for the host Club's 1st XI, they are not allowed to play in the North West Cricket League.

b) In The Conference and Development Sections Clubs are allowed to use players loaned from another North West Cricket League club for league fixtures only.

- Players cannot play against their parent Club.
- Players who have played in any Premier Section fixture during the present season cannot be loaned.
- Each loan must have the agreement of the league, the parent Club, the player and the borrowing Club. • Clubs should notify the League Registration Secretary by 9.00 pm on Friday with details of the loan player. • The parent Club retains priority for selecting the loan player, if subsequently needed after giving permission to the borrowing Club.
- It is the responsibility of the Club borrowing the loan player to ensure the player is eligible to play under this rule.

10. With the permission of the League Executive, a registered player under contract to a County Club shall still be eligible to play for his/her Club, providing that he/she is still uncapped by the County Club and has not fulfilled a professional engagement during the season in question.

11. Transfers: All applications for transfer (under paras. 3 or 4 above from another league in membership of a County affiliation) must be made in writing to the League Registrations Secretary enclosing written clearance from the player's former Club and a completed transfer form.

12. Violation of Rule 5A: Any Club violating this rule shall be fined £25 and have maximum points deducted for each transgression, & maximum win points (12) to be awarded to the opposition.

The League Executive with have the power to vary the sanction in relation to the circumstances of the breach of the Rule

13. Inducements: On it being proven to the League Executive that any inducement whatsoever has been offered to any amateur to secure his/her services for a League Club except as Professional, the offending Club shall be fined for each offence. The player accepting such inducement shall be disqualified for such a period as the League Executive shall decide. A player offering his/her services for a consideration to any League Club, except as Professional, shall be immediately disqualified.

14. Any Club making a payment to a player (irrespective of team) for whatever reason (i.e., as Groundsman, Club Steward etc.) must have received permission from the League Executive prior to the player taking part in any match under the jurisdiction of the North West Cricket League. Clubs will provide to the League Secretary a copy of any contract of employment or written terms of engagement of the player receiving payment under this rule.

15. No amateur player engaged as a coach in a paid position will be permitted to play in the 1st XI of that Club unless he was a bona fide member of the said Club at the time of his engagement.

16. All Clubs must register their Junior players on Play-Cricket & with the League Registrations Secretary prior to them playing Senior cricket.

17. The League adopts the current ECB Directives for young players up to and including Under 19 age group.

18. In addition to any player registered as a Professional under the provisions of Rule 6, Clubs will have the option of registering an Overseas Player, who would not otherwise meet the 12 months residency rule as described in Rule 5 (8).

Any overseas player other than the professional must not have played any 1st Class, List A or Professional 20/20 games and must not receive any financial recompense or subsistence payments from the Club or any third party in return for his/her services.

Any Clubs registering a player under this rule may not then register a further overseas player under the provisions of Rule 5 (8) in the same season.

A. Should any player registered under this rule become unavailable for any reason they may not be replaced temporarily or permanently with another Overseas Player under the provision of this rule.

B. Any such player registered under this rule may play in any division of the North West Cricket League subject to any existing provisions of Section 5 of the League Rules.

6) RULES IN RESPECT OF PROFESSIONALS

1. This Rule applies to Premier Section only. In Conference & Development Sections Professionals are not allowed.

2. N/A

3. Any Club to have the option of employing the services of a Professional.

4. Any Club, having PERMANENTLY lost the services of a Professional previously registered with the League in the current season through illness, injury or some compassionate or other reason acceptable to the League Executive, may register another Professional to be agreed by the League Executive.

5. In the event of a registered Professional being unable to play for his Club either through accident, injury, sickness, being required to play for his country, county, minor county or state club, or for some compassionate or other reason acceptable to the League Executive, a substitute Professional to be agreed by the League Executive may be engaged.

6. In case of unavailability due to accident or sickness, a medical certificate shall be forwarded, to reach the League Registrations Secretary within 14 days of notification of his unavailability and shall be repeated each weekend during the Professional's indisposition.

7. Clubs will only be allowed to engage a substitute Professional if they have lodged a signed copy of their Professional's contract with the League Registrations Secretary before the start of the season.

8. A signed copy of the Professional's contract, together with appropriate documentation if required, with financial details deleted, shall be lodged with the League Registrations Secretary at least three days prior to the Professional commencing to play in the League.

a) Where a Professional has been signed for the season by any Club and said Professional has not arrived to be available for selection by the 4th scheduled set of fixtures of the season, the Club involved will NOT be allowed to engage a sub-professional AFTER that date, until such time that the Professional arrives, or a permanent replacement is engaged.

9. Each Contract of Employment shall include a clause stating that it is for the full season. It shall also include a clause whereby the Professional acknowledges that his employment is subject to the provisions of the League's Disciplinary Rules and that the Professional further acknowledges that he is aware that the League has adopted the ECB Disciplinary Rules and that the provision of such Model Rules have been brought to his attention.

10. Clubs which employ Overseas Professionals shall obtain the appropriate Visa issued by Relevant HM Gov Dept. before registering the Professional with the League.

11. No Club Professional in the League shall be approached with a view to engagement by, or on behalf of, another member Club before 1st August, without the written consent of his present Club.

12. For any breach of Rule 6, the offending Club shall be subject to such penalty as the League Executive shall decide.

13. Any fine levied by a Club against its Professional, following an internal Disciplinary Hearing into a breach of League Rules, shall be paid to the League.

7. CODE OF CONDUCT AND SPIRIT OF CRICKET DISCIPLINE AND CONDUCT

1. The NWCL adopts the ECB's General Conduct Regulations (GCR) and Anti-Discrimination Code. All clubs must ensure their members and those visiting the club are aware of its contents. League Officials, Club Officials, players, members of any NWCL club and those spectating on any NWCL ground, shall not act in any way that brings or would bring the NWCL into disrepute. The following points in this section are provided by way of additional information to that contained in the GCR as it relates to and will be applied within the NWCL.

2. With regard to their responsibilities, Captains or any player acting as Captain should be aware of The Preamble – The Spirit of Cricket in the MCC's Laws of Cricket where it says:

Cricket is a game that owes much of its unique appeal to the fact that it should be played not only within its Laws, but also within the Spirit of the Game; any action which is seen to abuse this spirit causes injury to the game itself. The major responsibility for ensuring the spirit of fair play rests with the captains.

3. When umpires are reporting on or off the field issues, the club needs to be informed within 2 days of the game being reported on. Where the report submitted indicates that the player, captain and / or club official has been informed by the umpires directly, the Disciplinary Officer will treat this as the club having been informed.

4. Umpires will only put in one report per incident for the match they are reporting on. The report must reach the Disciplinary Officer within 2 days of the game.

5. When reporting under Law 42 and the correct on-field sanctions have not been applied or the player/captain not advised of the intention to make a report, the Disciplinary Officer will seek an explanation from the umpire and the Disciplinary Officer reserves the right to (1) dismiss the report or (2) proceed and consider / apply sanctions as per the normal process where it is felt that mitigating circumstances exist, such as (but not exclusively) where an umpire has officiated alone.

6. For L1 and L2 offences, umpires may simply tick the appropriate box on the report to confirm the nature and level of the offence committed. Additional commentary need not be provided.

7. For L3 and L4 offences which will be the subject of additional process by the Disciplinary Officer, umpires should provide a more detailed commentary on the offence being reported.

8. The Disciplinary Officer will send the report and proposed ban to be imposed to relevant Club's Secretary or League Representative within 2 days of receipt of the report from the umpire.

9. Both the NWCL and its' member clubs are aware of and take note of the ECB's guidelines issued in relation to the recreational game, sentencing guidelines and the guidance issued in relation to the Content of Hearings and Appeals.

10. Penalties will be in line with relevant ECB guidelines and served from the first match following the offence. Under exceptional circumstances, the NWCL Executive reserves the right to amend these guidelines as required.

11. All other offences reported by the umpires will be considered as appropriate by the Disciplinary Officer. This includes any repeat of the offences listed above. The penalties imposed may include a ban, fine and/or a points deduction and, where appropriate, the future registration of players and their ability to play in the NWCL may be considered.

12. Where a player is banned for any of the above offences, the ban will be given on a match-by-match basis as decided upon and advised by the Disciplinary Officer/Disciplinary Adjudicator who will also advise the League Secretary of any bans imposed.

13. During the period of a ban, the player will be unable to play in any matches under the jurisdiction of the NWCL, the ECB and LCF.

14. If a ban cannot be served in the current season it may be necessary, where appropriate, to carry it over to the following season. Bans issued for offences committed during the outdoor season cannot be served during the indoor season.

15. A club may suspend a player who has been reported to the Disciplinary Officer but this will have no bearing on the length of ban the player might receive.

16. The following will apply to Club Officials (Senior and Junior) making a report:

- Club officials and spectators may only report matters that are outside the umpires' jurisdiction.
- A report must be submitted on behalf of the Club only and in the name of 2 of their officials.

- Club Officials making a report must advise the Disciplinary Officer within 2 days of the alleged incident taking place.
- All persons being reported must be named in the report.

The Disciplinary Officer will decide whether further investigation is warranted, informing the Club Secretary or League Representative as appropriate, within 2 days of receiving the report. Penalties imposed may include a ban, fine and/or a point(s) deduction and where appropriate, the future registration of players and their ability to play in the NWCL may be taken considered.

17. A player currently serving a suspension for misconduct may not represent the NWCL.

18. If an umpire is requested to attend any meeting within the GCR process, their expenses will be met by the League. This will amount to one match fee.

19. Once a club/player has been advised of a proposed ban or other sanction, they have the right to an appeal. If the player/club makes an appeal and a mutually convenient date cannot be agreed upon then, the appeal will be heard on the Thursday in the week following the ban being imposed.

20. A deposit of £100 must be paid (£250 if the club or player intends to have legal representation, other than a member of the club's committee, at an appeal).

21. Clubs, officials and players as well as individuals, will be held responsible for postings on social media accounts.

22. The NWCL will follow the ECB guidelines on the use of social media. Individuals other than NWCL Officials and Umpires should bring any matters of concern relating to social media to the attention of the Disciplinary Officer via their club's officials.

9. FIXTURES

1. All matches shall be played between April and September, both inclusive, and shall be played under the Revised Rules of the MCC, except as provided for in League Rules.

2. Fixtures shall be arranged by a Sub-Committee appointed by the League Executive or in such other manner as the League Executive decide.

3. A list of provisional dates on which fixtures are to be played in the forthcoming season shall be submitted by the Fixtures Secretary for discussion as soon as possible after the close of the playing season.

4. After publication of the Fixtures any re-arrangement of Fixtures shall only be made for exceptional reasons and with the sanction of the League Executive, who shall be given 14 days notice prior to the original date of the fixture. Clubs must inform the League at the earliest opportunity if there are potentially foreseeable problems with the fixtures.

5. Official League & Cup Fixtures shall take precedence over any other fixtures arranged by member Clubs unless in exceptional circumstances and with the sanction of the League Executive.

6. Matches may not be re-arranged if the original fixture is not played due to bad weather, except that the first complete "No Result" day in any Division of the Premier or Conference Section, on or before the last weekend in July shall be replayed on a date to be decided by the League

Executive Committee. Where 25 or more league matches are scheduled to be played during the season in any division there will be no rearrangement of fixtures.

7. Where a set of “No Result” fixtures in any Division is replayed in accordance with this Rule, all details of the original matches shall be expunged from League Records and shall not count in either League or Club averages.

8. Any Club refusing to fulfil its engagement may forfeit its deposit and be expelled from the League.

9. In the event of any Club being disqualified from taking part in the competition by the League Executive Committee, all matches such Club has played, no matter what the result has been, shall be considered void and all matches they are engaged in shall be considered void as League matches. Such Club to pay its annual subscription current at the date of disqualification and such other monies as may be due from it to the League.

10. In the event of any team failing to fulfil a fixture, the following penalties shall normally apply:

a) In the case of a League Match the maximum points available for a Win shall be awarded to the other side.

b) In the case of a Cup match, the other side shall automatically progress to the next round of the competition. In a Group Cup match the offending team will be removed from that season’s competition.

c) Any costs incurred shall be met by the offending Club.

d) If prior permission to withdraw from the fixture has been granted by the League, a fine of £15.00 shall apply to teams from the Premier and Conference Sections.

e) Cases involving teams from The Development Section shall be dealt with individually by the League Executive Committee, following the submission of written evidence by the Club concerned.

f) If prior permission to withdraw from the fixture has not been granted by the League a fine of £25.00 shall apply in all Divisions and the offending club deducted 12 points. In exceptional circumstances the League Executive Committee shall have the power to override the above and deal with a case individually.

11. Where there is a clash of fixtures between a North West Cricket League Competition and that of any other competition, a member Club must field its strongest team in the North West Cricket League Competition, except where the permission of the League Executive has been obtained due to exceptional circumstances.

12. Any club fielding a team of fewer than eleven players in any match shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £10.

13. REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: The League shall, in all cases, have first choice of players for North West Cricket League Representative matches. Any players who have made themselves unavailable for a North West Cricket League Representative Match may not play for their club on the same day that the match is taking place unless prior permission, in writing, has been granted by the League Executive.

10. MATCH RULES

1. Toss for Innings and Team Nomination: Umpires must accompany the two Captains to the toss. In all League and Cup games, at the toss for innings, each Captain shall nominate his players by handing the Team Nomination Sheet to the opposing Captain and then to the Umpires, together with each team's match balls. The players thus nominated shall not be changed thereafter without the consent of the opposing Captain.

2. All league matches start at 1pm throughout the season, **with the exception of those in September which will start at 12.30pm**. A declaration may not be permitted.

3. The maximum duration of a game shall be 90 six-ball overs.

a) In **Premiership and Championship Sections only:** One Bowler will be limited to no more than 15 overs per game; the remaining bowlers will be limited to no more than 12 overs per game. In the **Conference Section** no bowler may bowl more than 12 overs in any league game. There will be a proportionate reduction in overs for time lost before the match commences. (Please see table in appendix)

4 No game shall commence after 4.10pm **(3.40pm if 12.30pm start)** except where the Captains have agreed and informed the Umpires that an early tea will be taken. Then it shall not commence any later than 4.25pm **(3.55 pm if 12.30pm start)**.

5. Each innings will be a maximum of 45 six ball overs and should be bowled in 2 hours and 50 minutes. If time is lost due to weather, ground conditions or injury/ ill health to any player or official, overs shall be bowled at a rate of 16 per hour (one every 3 & 3/4 minutes).

o For every FULL over still to be bowled AFTER the time limit 1 point will be deducted from the bowling side's League points total, other than in exceptional or unavoidable circumstance(s). The Umpires on the day will be the sole judge as to if the circumstance(s) is exceptional or unavoidable.

o Any such circumstance must be recorded on the scoresheet and be included in the Umpires Match Report.

o No bonus bowling points will be awarded to a side, who bowls out or takes wickets which would result in any additional bonus points in any of the overs still to be bowled after the time limit expires other than as above in exceptional or unavoidable circumstance(s). The Umpires on the day will be the sole judge as to if the circumstance(s) is exceptional or unavoidable.

o Any such circumstance must be recorded on the scoresheet and be included in the Umpires Match Report.

o Late overs should be recorded on the scoresheet by the Umpires and a report sent to the League Secretary and League Umpires Secretary.

o Umpires should keep both sides informed at regular intervals of how the over rate is progressing.

6. N/A

7. If a start is delayed by weather, one over per innings will be deducted for every full 7 & 1/2 minutes lost time. Once reduced, overs cannot subsequently be increased. In a game which is

interrupted by weather or injury/ ill health to any player or official, one over shall be deducted from each innings for each full 7 & 1/2 minutes lost time during the first innings. Again reduced overs cannot be subsequently increased. Time should be accumulated. So, for instance, if play is delayed or interrupted during the first innings for 10 minutes, 2 overs (one per innings) are lost for the full 7 & 1/2 minutes. However, the remaining 2 & 1/2 minutes will be accumulated and added to any subsequent time lost.

8. Over 187 & 1/2 minutes lost at the commencement of play – “No Result” game. Time lost to weather or ground conditions or injury.

9 Following the completion of the first innings, if the weather or injury or ill health to any player or official interrupts play, the number of overs remaining at the time when play recommences following the interruption shall be calculated by the following method. One over shall be bowled for every full 3 & 3/4 minutes remaining from the time of recommencement until 7.10pm (6.50pm if 12.30pm start). The total overs to be bowled in the second innings must not exceed the number of overs entitled to be bowled in the first innings and once reduced cannot subsequently be increased.

NB – 7.10pm (6.50pm if 12.30pm start) is not a finishing time and play can continue beyond 7.10pm if necessary, to complete the remaining overs.

10. No overs shall be deducted for time lost for any reason other than weather or injury or ill health to any player or official.

11. ” Lost time” will not be added other than in exceptional or unavoidable circumstance(s). The Umpires on the day will be the sole judge as to if the circumstance(s) is exceptional or unavoidable.

- o Any such circumstance must be recorded on the scoresheet and be included in the Umpires Match Report.

- o Any time lost at the commencement of a game, or after an interval or interruption (except for adverse weather, ground conditions or exceptional/unavoidable circumstances.) The Umpires on the day will be the sole judge as to if the circumstance(s) shall be punishable by a fine on the offending club of £1.00 per minute. All such lost time shall be recorded on the scoresheet and reported to the League Secretary and League Umpires Secretary.

12. Where time is lost either at the start of the match or during the first innings due to weather conditions or injury or ill health to a player or official, half the time that is lost shall be subtracted from the 2 hours 50 minutes playing time allocated for the first innings.

13. The total number of runs scored in the first innings shall be agreed by both Captains and the Umpires during the interval and the winning target score should be displayed on the scoreboard. The winning target score will be one run more than the total number of runs scored in the first innings. Subject to Rule 21.

14. The number of overs remaining in each innings shall be displayed on the scoreboard with deductions after each over bowled.

15. Fielding Circle – Now applies to all Divisions except the Development Section. At the instant of delivery, a minimum of 4 fielders plus the bowler and wicket keeper must be in an area bounded by 2 semi circles fixed on each middle stump, each with a radius of 25 yards and

joined together by parallel lines on each side of the pitch. In the event of infringement, the strikers end (square leg) umpire shall call and signal “No Ball”.

- o N.B. – Metal discs are not permitted.

- o A line 17” inside the return crease line at both ends to be marked in order to assist and to give umpires consistency of judgement of the offside wide ball any delivery not being a no ball passing outside of this line on reaching the striker who not having moved towards the ball will be called and signalled a wide.

16. Points: The team scoring most runs or who successfully achieves or defends a rearranged target will be deemed to have won. Subject to Rule 21.

17. 10 points will be awarded for a win.

18. 2 points will be awarded to any side who bowls the opposition out. Subject to Rule 5.

19. 7 points shall be awarded to each team where the game results in a tie. The result shall be a tie if the scores are equal at the close of play, regardless of wickets lost Subject to Rule 21. No bowling or batting points will be awarded in the event of a tied game.

20. 5 points shall be awarded to each team if no result is obtained. In a no result game no bonus points will be awarded to either side.

21. Rearranged Targets

- Delayed or Interrupted games
- In a game where the second innings is delayed or interrupted due to weather, ground conditions or injury or ill health to any player or official, 20 full overs or more must be bowled or time must allow for 20 overs or more to be bowled to constitute a game, unless a result has already been achieved.
- If at the point of resumption time does not allow for a full 20 overs to be bowled in the second innings play may still recommence to allow either team the opportunity to achieve a result by either passing the full 1st Innings total or by bowling out the opposition.
- If the team electing to continue the match fails to pass the target or dismiss their opponents as appropriate, the win will be awarded to the other team, unless there is a further interruption for weather or light. The match may finish in a tie. Once one captain has informed the umpire(s) and the opposing captain they wish play to resume or continue the rule applies to their team.
- Rearranged targets in games where the start is delayed or there is loss of time in either innings, will be calculated using the Duckworth Lewis Stern latest version (DLS) in play cricket in all NWCL matches, unless otherwise stated.
- At the request of the umpire(s) the par score should be displayed on or near the scoreboard, updated at the end of every over or the fall of a wicket. It is accepted that displaying the par score may be more important than other information, for example "last man"

22. Games ended: If a game is ended during the second innings due to weather ground conditions or injury or ill health to any player or official, 20 full overs or must have been bowled to constitute a game.

23.

a) Any over not completed through injury to a bowler or any other reason shall be completed by another bowler.

b) The interval between innings shall be a minutes. This will be reduced to 10 minutes in any match affected by ground or weather conditions providing that the two captains have agreed to take an early tea during a stoppage in play during the first innings of the match and so inform the umpires before taking tea. (No overs shall be deducted during the tea interval). In these circumstances the teams shall not retake the field until the expiration of the said 10 minutes.

c) Where a target has been rearranged it shall be indicated on the score sheet in the relevant box provided.

24. Bonus Points in the Second Innings: Bonus points in the second innings shall be awarded to the losing team as follows:

Bowling Wickets taken Points awarded:

5 - 1

6 - 2

7 - 3

8 - 4

9 - 5

Batting points will be awarded for getting within so many runs of the winning target –

50 - 1

40 - 2

30 - 3

20 - 4

10 - 5

e.g. – If the winning target is 201 then the first bonus batting point will be awarded at 151, second at 161, third at 171, fourth at 181 and fifth at 191.

25. Cricket Balls

a) The League shall supply cricket balls which will be deemed the only official balls, in ALL North West Cricket League competitions. The League Executive to select a suitable ball for each season.

b) Each side to bowl their own ball (which shall be handed to and approved by the umpires prior to the game), and which in the Premier and Championship Section and Cups shall be a new ball. Umpires are to examine the balls handed to them for use, rejecting any that are not in accordance with this rule or which are considered unsuitable for any reason.

c) Balls which have been renovated by being lacquered or varnished shall not be used.

26. Eligibility of players: No player banned or suspended in another League shall be allowed to play in this League whilst that ban, or suspension is in place.

27. Clothing: Cricketers must wear white clothing at all times on the field of play and at post-match presentations. Tracksuit tops must not be worn on the field of play during matches or presentations.

28. Wickets: It is the responsibility of the home club to ensure that wickets are pitched at least 30 minutes before play is due to commence, or as soon as is practicably possible in exceptional circumstances.

29. Withdrawal of team from field of play: If, for any reason a team captain withdraws his team from the field of play before the conclusion of the match and against the direction of the umpires, the team captain responsible will be suspended for FIVE matches and the club will be deducted a MINIMUM of 24 points.

30. Leg Side Wide: Any ball that passes outside of the batsman's pads on the legside and outside of the leg stump shall be called and signalled as a wide ball. This rule does not apply in the Development Section.

31. If the Captain of any team challenges a League umpire on any point of law or playing condition and then ignores the resultant decision, he will be reported to the League Executive Committee as per the Code of Conduct. In this League the "umpires on the day" are in charge of the game at all times and their decision will be final.

32. No Balls: All No Balls will result in a Free Hit, no changes in the fielding positions allowed other than if the batsman change ends. Fielders within the fielding circle allowed to move back to the edge of that circle

11. SCORING

1. The competing Clubs shall appoint their own scorers.

Clubs with no scorer .

- If the home has team no scorer they will pay their opponents scorer £35 Plus £20 if the scorer is also responsible for the operation of the scoreboard.
- If the away club has no scorer they will pay their opponents scorer £35.

- If a team do not have a scorer they must also nominate a player or club official who will liaise with their opponents scorer.

2. The Home Club shall make available a suitable system for acknowledging signals from the Umpires and shall ensure that in all matches there shall be exhibited the following information, as a minimum:

- a) Progressive score of each innings, run by run.
- b) Reducing total of overs bowled in the first innings.
- c) Reducing number of overs bowled in the second innings, commencing with the number of overs notified by the Match Umpires.
- d) Every club MUST have amended their scoreboards to show spectators, players and umpires the required target in the second innings. This shall be amended every time it alters.

12 RESULTS INFORMATION

1. After completion by the Scorers, the Results Sheet shall be agreed by the two Captains and be available for signature by the Umpires immediately following the match.

2. The sheet from the visitors book will be used for this purpose and should be retained by the visiting club as a formal record of the result and points in case of any dispute.

The Home Club shall be responsible for:

- a) Entering the result on the play cricket website within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the game, including the scores of each team, the points for each team and any performances of note, failure to do so will result in a fine of £10.

- b) Entering the completed scoresheet on the Play-Cricket website within 24 hours of the conclusion of play, failure to do so will result in a fine of £10.

3. The visiting team must check that the information posted on the result section of the website is correct within 72 hours of the conclusion of the game, failure to do so will result in a fine of £6 with a £3 fine for each subsequent day that the errors remain uncorrected.

4. If a ball has been bowled the Results Sheet shall contain complete details of both teams and shall be signed by both Captains and both Umpires.

5. If a match is abandoned without a ball being bowled, the Results Sheet shall so signify but need not contain details of the teams. The sheet must be signed by both Captains and both Umpires. (other than abandonment under Rule 17(7a).

- o The time at which the match was abandoned shall be stated and the reason for abandonment.

6. If a Results Sheet is incorrectly completed the Home Club shall pay a fine of £5.00 unless the mistake is a result of wrong information given by the Visiting Captain, in which case the Visiting Club shall pay the fine.

7. Each Club shall appoint a person to liaise with the Fixtures Secretary on all matters connected with Fixtures, Registrations, Results Sheets and Telephone Results. This person shall be named in the League Handbook along with two other Club Officials.

8. Any appeals against fines, as above, shall reach the League Secretary, in writing, not later than 48 hours prior to the next meeting of the League Executive Committee.

9. It is mandatory for all captains to submit a Captains Report Form on the umpires(s) officiating the game (league cup and T20) to reach the Umpires Secretary no later than four days after the match. In the absence of a report the team will be deducted one point that week and every subsequent week it is late.

13. TEAS

It is a condition of membership of the North West Cricket League that all home teams shall be responsible for providing, free of charge, teas for the players, umpires and scorers. All clubs should provide a separate table for the umpires and scorers at the tea interval. Failure to comply with this rule will be subject to such punishment which the League Executive Committee consider appropriate.

14. LEAGUE AWARDS

1. All League Trophies shall be vested in the League Executive Committee and it shall be their duty to get guarantees duly executed and to take whatever steps they may deem necessary for the safe custody and return to them of the trophies. They shall be empowered to act for the League in all matters concerning trophies and shall cause the names of the winning Clubs to be inscribed upon the trophies each year.

2. The Clubs having the highest number of points in their respective divisions at the end of the season shall be considered the Champions for that year and shall be entitled to hold for twelve months the League Championship Trophies.

3. All League trophies (duly cleaned), including individual awards, shall be returned to the Hon.Sec. at the Executive meeting in July, failure to do so shall render Clubs to a fine not exceeding £10.

4. The Officers or representatives of each winning Club shall give a guarantee for the return of their trophy in good condition to the League Executive Committee.

5. An allowance for the purchase of souvenirs shall be presented to each winning team, such allowance and the League Championship Trophies to be presented not later than the last Saturday in October.

6. If two teams finish level on points League placings, including league titles, promotion and relegation places shall be determined by

1. most wins, 2. most bonus points 3. Net Run Rate (Play - Cricket)

7. Where there is a tie-on points for promotion or relegation Clubs shall be placed in order in the League Table according to the ratio between runs scored and wickets lost, as defined above.

8. For the purpose of Final League Tables, where two or more Clubs have equal points, they shall be placed in order according to the ratio between runs scored and wickets lost, as defined above.

9. The minimum qualification for individual awards shall be as follows Premier and Conference Sections & – a minimum of 12 innings, average over 20 and a minimum of 300 runs scored.

Bowling average to be a minimum of 20 wickets. Development Section – 8 innings and 200 runs and minimum of 15 wickets.

10. Lancashire Cup Representation: The number of teams that will represent the League in the Lancashire Cup will be determined by the LCF, the highest placed teams the previous season shall provide the basis for qualification.

15. UMPIRES

1. Clubs shall be responsible, with the League Executive Committee, for the establishment and maintenance of a panel of Umpires. The Umpires shall be notified as to their appointment, and shall report the time of starting matches, duration of interval and the result, also stating, in the event of lost time, how the delay arose.

2. Each Club shall provide one Umpire, not already a full-time member of the League Panel, when requested to do so by the Umpires' Secretary. If this request is not adhered to, then the Club will be subject to a fine of £10. All club umpires must be DBS checked.

3. Any failure of Umpires to report for duty shall be reported by the Home Club to the Umpires' Secretary within 48 hours of the game.

4. If a club fails to nominate an umpire (when requested), then the panel umpire shall be paid one and half times normal expenses.

5. Each Club shall provide a safe, secure and uncluttered place, in or adjacent to the pavilion, for Umpires to change and leave their belongings. Such facilities shall be available for inspection prior to the season, where necessary.

6. Umpires shall be paid such expenses as are, from season to season, agreed by the League Executive Committee.

a. When a game is cancelled BEFORE the scheduled start time the umpires will be entitled to HALF of the currently agreed expenses. (Other than under Rule 17(7a) and the Umpire has not travelled to the ground). However, if a game is called off AFTER the start time they will be entitled to receive FULL match expenses.

7. These shall be paid by the Home Club before the end of the tea interval, a return of the expenses to be rendered to the Fixtures Secretary on the Match Report sheet provided.

8. The Umpires only may order play to cease from any reasonable cause which may arise. Full report of same to be made by them to the League Secretary within three days.

16. UMPIRES' DUTIES

1. Condition of Match Balls:

a) Umpires are to examine the match ball and second ball handed to them for use in the match, rejecting any which are not in accordance with Rule 16 (1) or which are considered unsuitable for other reasons.

2. Umpires must report to the Secretary of the League any breach of the League rules or of these regulations.

3. Where the League rules conflict with other rules, the League rules must prevail.

4. Umpires must maintain an acceptable standard of dress at all times.

17. INSTRUCTIONS TO UMPIRES

1. The “over” in all North West Cricket League matches shall be six balls.

2. Time of arrival: Umpires must be on the ground at least 45 minutes before play is due to commence.

3. Rolling: The roller shall be taken away 5 minutes before play is due to commence. Except for a rolling of 7 minutes between innings at the request of the Captain of the team which has still to bat, no further rolling shall occur save on the discretion of the Captains or should they disagree at the discretion of the Umpires.

4. Lost Time: “Lost Time” will not be added at the end of a game but it should be notified to the Scorers who should then record it in the scorebook other than in exceptional or unavoidable circumstance(s). The Umpires on the day will be the sole judge as to if the circumstance(s) is exceptional or unavoidable. Any such circumstance must be recorded on the scoresheet and be included in the Umpires Match Report.

5. Discipline – Code of Conduct: Refer to instructions under Rule 7.

6. Fitness of Ground and Light for Play: The question of the fitness of the ground and the light for play shall, at the outset of the match, be settled by the Captains. Should they disagree, the Umpires’ decision shall be final; Once a match has been started the Umpires shall be in complete control, deciding all questions of the fitness of the ground or light for play. A match can only be abandoned before the normal time for close of play after consultation and with the concurrence of both Captains.

7. No game shall be called off before the normal starting time, except with the concurrence of both Captains and both Umpires in attendance at the ground; or, if in the opinion of the home captain, conditions are so bad that play will be impossible, then the following procedure may be followed;-

a) The home captain informs both appointed umpires and the opposition captain, who, is then given the option to meet at the ground with one of the appointed umpires, or a designated league umpire who lives nearby to discuss and decide; or

b) Is sent a photograph via a mobile/pc and a designated umpire meets the home captain to verify that in both their opinions play will not be possible.

c) If the opposition captain is not in agreement, he then has the right to override this decision, and with his team, travel to the ground for the said start of play. The normal process will then apply.

d) **The process is to start two and a half hours before the scheduled start.**

The appointed umpires must be kept informed of all developments and must be notified immediately if the game is called off.

8. Markers shall be used in addition to white lines where boundary lines cannot be clearly seen from the pitch.

9. If in the opinion of the Umpire the boundaries of any ground are not clearly marked, he shall send details to the League Secretary so that the League Executive Committee may consider the question and, if necessary, take up the matter with the Club concerned.

10. Sightcreens: Where sightcreens are inside the boundary marking (i.e. wholly or partly within the field of play) all Clubs shall provide a white board to be placed across the front of the sight screen wheels. This will signify the boundary line and any ball pitching behind this line and within the extremities of the sight screen will count six runs.

11. Obstructions On or Over the Field of Play: Umpires and Players are requested to note the following regarding obstructions on certain grounds. Any ball striking any part of the tree situated within the field of play, or telegraph or power cables passing over the field of play, shall count as SIX runs.

Local Rule – Chatburn; any ball striking any part of the tree situated within the boundary line shall count as FOUR runs.

12. Use of Covers (where available): the following shall apply:

- a) Where necessary, due to weather conditions, the Home Club shall ensure that the pitch is completely covered on match days prior to the scheduled starting time for play.
- b) If play is interrupted by rain, the Home Club shall be responsible for the immediate complete covering of the pitch.

13. Rain: In the case of interruption from rain, as soon as the rain has ceased the Umpires shall immediately without further instruction, inspect the pitch, unaccompanied by any of the players and decide upon its fitness.

- Should it prove unfit, they shall continue to inspect, at intervals, until they decide that it is fit for play, when they shall call upon the players to resume the game.
- N.B. – M.C.C Law 17 (5) “If during the last over the Players have occasion to leave the field the Umpires shall call ‘time’ and there shall be no resumption of play and the match shall be at an end.”

14. The Ground is Unfit for Play: When water stands on the surface, or when it is so wet or slippery as to deprive the Bowlers of a reasonable foothold, the Fielders, other than the deep fielders, of the power of free movement, or the Batsmen the ability to play their strokes or to run between the wickets.

15. In deciding whether play should be suspended (due to rain, light or ground conditions) or restarted after an interruption, the Umpires are not to be influenced by the opinions of either side or the state of the game. Still less are they to be influenced by the impatience of the spectators for the resumption of play.

16. Mopping up Surface Water from the Pitch: Should surface water be standing on the pitch, its removal during the course of a match shall be allowed but only with the agreement of both Captains.

17. If both Captains are in agreement and the work can be carried out without damaging the pitch, the Umpires shall supervise removal of the surface water with blankets, foam pads, Water Hogs, etc. Forking or use of a roller should NOT be allowed.

18. If either Captain is not in agreement with surface water being removed from the pitch it should be left to drain away naturally.
19. In all cases Umpires should ensure that no advantage can be gained by either side through damage to the pitch, especially in a situation where the first innings has already been completed.
20. N.B. The “pitch” is the area between bowling creases, 22 yards long and 10 feet wide. The Umpires have sole responsibility for its use and maintenance once the toss has taken place. Before the toss for innings the pitch is the responsibility of the Home Club.
21. Water on Other Areas: The above refers only to the “pitch”. There is no reason why other methods, e.g. brushing, forking, etc., cannot be used on other parts of the square or outfield to get rid of water. Brushes should not be used on the pitch, due to the possibility of damage to the surface.
22. A copy of “The Preamble – the Spirit of Cricket” should be displayed and duly observed.
23. First Aid boxes must be provided in a fully stocked condition at every ground
24. Law 28(3) shall be interpreted in The North West Cricket League matches as follows:
 - o When playing conditions require sawdust to be used during a game, any helmet placed behind the stumps at the striker’s end shall be placed on the Ground behind the wicketkeeper and in front of the pile of sawdust.

18. THE NORTH WEST CRICKET DEVELOPMENT SECTION RULES

1. The rules governing this Division shall be those pertaining to the North West Cricket League, except as agreed by the League Executive Committee.
2. Teams shall provide their own Umpires for all matches.
3. All club umpires must be DBS checked.
4. Fixtures shall be arranged annually by the League Fixtures Secretary/League Executive.
5. Where fixtures have to be rearranged due to the unavailability of grounds, Clubs not having played their fixture by the date of the next meeting of the League Executive Committee shall notify that meeting of the date for the rearranged fixture to be played, or accept a date decided by the Fixtures Secretary/League Executive.
6. All clubs in this division to arrange their own start times, which must be arranged with the opposition. If agreement cannot be reached, start times will be 1.00pm.
7. Eligibility of players. All registered players will be eligible for selection in Division with the exception of the players registered as the Club as their Professional (Rule 5B). However, Clubs are expected to act in the spirit of the competition in regard to the use of players with 1st team experience both in the selection and participation in matches.

Any player who has played for the clubs 1st XI (either Prem & Championship) in that season can not bat higher than number 7 & may only bowl a maximum for 4 overs. This rule does not apply to players in the Under 18 age group or younger.

8. If a fixture coincides with a Premier or Conference Section Cup match, the fixture should be reversed if the away ground is available, otherwise the game shall be recorded as “Postponed”, to be replayed if possible. If the game cannot be replayed, then it shall be a ‘No Result.

9. Each innings shall be limited to 40 overs. No bowler to bowl more than 8 overs in one match. This number to be reduced in proportion if the total number of overs in the game is reduced.

10. Rules regarding rain affected games in shall be as per the full league rules with the following variations: -

- No overs will be lost for the first 20 minutes lost time in the first innings.
- Should the start time be changed from 1pm the count back time for overs remaining in the 2nd innings (7.10pm) Will be adjusted accordingly