

Dorchester and District Read Woodruff Evening Cricket League

History of the rules

The rules of the League have been formulated by being passed by a simple majority of the Clubs entitled to vote at the Annual General Meetings since 1933. All rules have been formulated to give each Club in the League an even chance in the League without games being virtually gifted by Clubs playing short or maneuvering fixtures to suit themselves. **Whenever you are in breach of the rules you should ask yourself would we be happy if we were on the receiving end.**

Title

1. The League shall be called "The Dorchester and District Evening Cricket League", and it shall incorporate the name of the principal sponsor if required by that sponsor.

General Meetings

2. The Annual General Meeting and Fixture Meeting will be held in the last two weeks of January in each year. Only those teams represented in the League in the previous season shall be entitled to vote. Each team shall be entitled to one vote.
 - 2a. **Any club failing to attend the entire meeting will forfeit its membership unless the Executive Committee have received adequate prior explanation.**
3. No alterations or additions shall be made to these rules except at the Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting convened for that purpose.
 - 3a. Any Club wishing to make any proposal, including changes to the rules, must notify the League Secretary in writing by 31 October preceding the date of the Annual General Meeting.
 - 3b. An Extraordinary General Meeting shall only be called by the Executive Committee, in which case the cost will be borne by the League, or by three Clubs requesting such meeting, in which case they will bear the cost of the hiring of the venue for that meeting and any incidental costs concerned with notifying all other Clubs'. Notice of this meeting will be given by the League Secretary at least 14 days before the date of the meeting and the notice shall contain details of the subject matter for which the meeting is being called.

Officers of the League

4. The officers of the League shall be the President, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Fixtures and Results Secretary, Treasurer and Umpires Secretary.

Executive Committee

5. The Executive Committee will consist of the Officers of the League, together with one representative of each Division and one member of the Umpires panel, who shall be elected each year at the Annual General Meeting. Five members attending and entitled to vote shall form a quorum. The Officers of the League shall have power to co-opt where considered necessary.
6. The committee shall meet as often as is necessary to ensure the proper control, conduct and management of the League and to hear any protests or deal with breaches of rules which have been brought to their notice. They shall impose such fines as are laid down in the rules and have power to impose additional fines and/or penalties for offences considered to be actions which contravene the spirit of the Evening League or cricket in general. **This to have particular reference to the conduct of players on the field specifically in their dealings with the Umpires, playing short and cancellation of fixtures.**

Membership

7. On or before 25 April every year, each Club shall pay a deposit to the Treasurer amounting to £40, in addition to any monies owed from the previous season. Of the deposit £40 shall be the entrance fee to the League and any balance remaining shall be refunded to the Club upon the satisfactory completion of its fixtures less any amounts deducted by way of fines and/or expenses. Failure to pay by the due date shall incur an automatic fine of £10 and the Club shall not be considered to be a member of the League.
8. Any Club wishing to resign from the League **must give notice** in writing to the League Secretary by 31 December following the season just past. The Club must settle all outstanding debts to the League by payment to the Treasurer. Failure to do this will mean that any individual player registered with that Club will be ineligible to register with another Club in the subsequent season until such time as they have paid their pro rata share of the outstanding money. Any player considering he has a legitimate cause not to pay this amount may apply to the Executive Committee for dispensation to register in the League.
9. Membership of the League will automatically lead to entry in the KO Cup. If any team wishes to withdraw from the KO Cup they must give notice to the League Secretary at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting and pay a withdrawal fee of £5.

Protests

10. Any protest must be in writing and lodged with the League Secretary within three days of the alleged misdemeanor. The protest must be accompanied by a fee of £5 which will be refunded only if the protest is upheld.

Divisions of the League and Matches

11. Unless there are more than 21 teams in the League it shall consist of three divisions. Where possible there will be an equal number of teams in each Division. Where this is not possible, the lowest divisions will have the most teams.
12. Competing teams in each Division shall play each other home and away each season.
13. Matches shall only be played on grounds accepted by the League at the Annual General Meeting. The Executive Committee shall have power to prohibit any League or Cup game being played on a ground they consider to be dangerous.

Fixtures

14. The League season shall be from 28 April to 28 July 2008.
15. All fixtures must be made at the Fixture Meeting of the League in January of each year and must be within the League season and in no circumstances after the final date. The Executive Committee have power to extend the season but will only exercise this power in exceptional circumstances and in general **will expect all fixtures to be completed by the end of the League season.**
16. Except by stress of weather conditions or some other factor rendering the wicket unplayable (e.g. vandalism), **no match shall be altered or postponed from the date arranged at the Fixture Meeting.**
- 16a. **In very exceptional circumstances which could not have been foreseen at the time the fixture was made** the home club may apply to the Executive Committee for permission to alter the date, at the time the request is made a new date must be specified. When the Executive Committee have ascertained that the opposition has no legitimate objection to this change they will meet to consider whether the circumstances outlined justify a change of date and unless permission is given the original date will stand.
17. Any club failing to keep an engagement in contravention of rules 15 and 16 without satisfactory explanation shall have two points deducted from their total for that season, plus the game is forfeited and two points awarded to the opposition plus may suffer such other penalty as the Executive Committee deems appropriate.
- 17a. Should any club fail to keep an engagement on more than two occasions the Executive Committee shall consider whether their actions justify expulsion from the League and their record deleted.
18. Any match postponed for whatever reason **must be rearranged within seven days of the original date and the new date notified to the Fixtures and Results Secretary and Umpires Secretary by both Clubs within that period. The new date must be within 21 days of the original date or the official closing date of the season, whichever is the earlier.** Failure to comply will result in an automatic fine of £5.
19. Any club failing to complete their fixtures by the end of the season shall be fined £5 for each match they fail to complete.

Qualification of players

20. At the first game of the season it will be required to sign the 11 players who have taken part in the initial game using the forms provided. Clubs with more than one team must indicate those players who will normally play in the lower division. **(Particular note should be taken of rule 25.)**
- 20a. Following the initial match, single registration forms, as supplied by the League, should be completed and signed by each player. Other forms may be acceptable providing they show the name of the club, the name of the player, his address, his date of birth if under 21, a declaration that he has not signed for any other club in the league in the present season, the player's signature and finally the Club Secretary's signature.
21. All other registrations must reach the Fixtures and Results Secretary at least three days before the match in which the player wishes to take part. **Only in cases of extreme emergency may players be signed on the day of the match. In these circumstances, the registration form must be countersigned by the Umpire or opposition Captain before the match commences. A maximum of only three players may be signed on the day of the match.**
22. No charge will be made in respect of the registration of players.
23. No registration may be cancelled after it has been submitted to the Fixtures and Results Secretary.
24. A player may not sign a registration form or play for more than one club in the same season until or unless he is transferred to another Club. The player wishing to be transferred must make application to the League Secretary in writing and at the same time give written notice to the Club with which he is registered. The Executive Committee shall decide on each case with the Club holding the player's registration able to make representations or objections to the Executive Committee.
25. In the event of the Club having teams in more than one Division, it shall not be permissible for a player registered in the higher division to play in the lower division for that Club without prior written approval from the Executive Committee. Once such approval has been granted it shall not be permissible for that player to play for the same Club in a higher division during that season.
26. Any Club playing an unregistered or ineligible player shall be fined £5 and the Executive Committee shall have power to impose further penalties as they deem fit.

PLAYING RULES

27. Except as hereinafter mentioned the ordinary M. C. C. Laws of cricket shall apply. This does not include experimental laws applying to first class matches only.

Time of start

28. All matches should start by 6.30pm. Any club failing to be ready by 6.40pm shall be deemed to have lost the toss.

Duration of matches

29. Each match shall be on an overs basis and shall be subject to a maximum of 20 overs per side. The actual number shall be agreed upon by the Captains before the toss. In the event of disagreement, the Umpire shall decide and their decision shall be final. If no Umpires are present the maximum number of overs to be played shall be 18 in April, May and August and 20 in June and July.

Scoring

30. **All Clubs must provide a Scorer in accordance with the M.C.C. code.** Failure to comply with this rule in respect of the semi-finals or final of the Knock Out Cup will result in a fine of £5.
31. The Scorers shall record all necessary information for the completion of the result sheet to be sent to the Fixtures and Results Secretary. The match shall be considered to be at an end either at the completion of the agreed number of overs, or when the side batting second have passed their opponents total.

Results

32. Notice of the result of the match must be sent **by both Clubs** concerned so as to reach the Fixtures and Results Secretary within three days of the date on which the match was played, Sundays and Bank Holidays excepted, in a form as laid down by the League to contain all necessary information **to enable trophies to be awarded at the end of the season.** Clubs failing to comply with this rule shall be fined a sum of £3 for one day short with an additional £1 for every further day, to a maximum of £10. (E.g. matches played on a Monday the result sheet shall be in the Fixtures and Results Secretary's hands not later than midnight on Thursday, Tuesday/ Friday, Wednesday/ Saturday, Thursday/ Monday, Friday/ Tuesday.)

Playing Short

33. In the event of a Club failing to have eleven players available to take part at some time during the match the fact shall be reported to the Executive Committee who shall impose a fine of £3 in respect of each offence (i.e. £3 per player short.)
- 33a. All players must take part in the first innings or be ready to take part in the first innings, i.e. no one may bat in the second innings unless he fielded in some part of the first innings and no player may be added to the fielding side after the first ball of the second innings has been bowled unless he has already batted and is temporarily indisposed. **Substitutes shall only be allowed in cases of injury sustained in the match being played.**

Restrictions

34. No batsman shall retire from the crease unless he is given out or is indisposed.
- 34a. Not more than five minutes shall be allowed between innings.
- 34b. No bowler shall be permitted to bowl more than six overs in any one match (irrespective of the number of overs per innings).

- 34c. No bowler shall be permitted to extend his run up beyond eleven yards from the bowling crease. **Clubs are responsible for marking the ground with a line eleven yards behind the bowling crease.**
35. The Umpires shall have sole charge of Ground, Weather and Light as provided for in Law 3 (8) of the M. C. C. 2003 code after the toss has been made.

Players conduct

36. The general principles of Law 42 (13) will apply at all times to the League. Any player by word, action or deed considered to be bringing the League into disrepute shall suffer such fine and/or penalties as the Executive Committee shall deem appropriate to the offence. **This rule shall have particular application to players conduct on the field and specifically in their dealings with the Umpires.**

Wides

37. Umpires are instructed to apply a strict and consistent interpretation in regard to this Law in order to prevent negative bowling wide of the wicket. Particular note should be taken of persistent bowling outside the batsman's legs when in his normal position of taking guard.

League positions

38. Two points shall be awarded for a win, one point each for a tie.
39. When the fixtures are completed, if the leading Clubs in any division or if the bottom Clubs in all but the lowest division have an equal number of points these Clubs shall meet in a play-off to decide the League placings at a time, venue and date fixed by the Executive Committee. The play-off will be on a knock out basis. Where there are an in equal number of teams a draw will take place to decide which team is awarded a bye.
40. Should there be a vacancy in all but the lowest division by reason of the resignation of any club then that club which was relegated and had the highest number of points of the relegated clubs shall remain in the higher division.
- 40a. With the exception of Rule 40, in all cases one team will be relegated and one promoted in all divisions. In the event of the highest division having only five clubs, only one club will be relegated and one club promoted from the second division and these numbers of promotion and relegation will be followed in the second and third divisions dependent on the number of teams in the second division.

Trophies

41. The League trophies shall at all times remain the property of, and is insured by the League. The President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be the legal holders for the League.
42. The League shall make twelve awards to the leading club in each Division in addition to the Championship Trophy.

43. The League shall make the following individual awards **based on information supplied by the member Clubs when submitting the League result sheets. Only matters appertaining to League games will count when assessing the winners of the individual trophies.**
- A. The Bugler Cup will be presented to the player scoring the highest total of runs in the League season.
 - B. The H S Bailey Cup will be presented to the player capturing the highest total of wickets in the League season.
 - C. The Dobell Cup will be presented to the wicketkeeper taking the highest total of catches and stumpings in the League season.
 - D. The G Stickland Cup will be presented to the player, other than the wicketkeeper, taking the most catches during the League season.
 - E. The Jeffrey Trophy will be awarded to the player scoring the most sixes during the League season.
 - F. The C. J. Knott Trophy will be awarded for what the Executive Committee considers as the best individual performance of the season in matches played in the League season. Nominations to be made by Club Secretaries not necessarily of the player's own Club. **When this trophy was presented to the League it was intended that the recipient should not be one of the premier players but one of the lesser members who on their night make runs, take wickets, or even make a catch at a vital time.**
 - G. The Derek Gale Memorial Trophy will be awarded to the man-of-the-match in the KO Cup final to be selected by the Executive Committee on the night.
 - H. The Umpires Cup will be awarded to the outstanding young player under the age of 18 on the closing date of the season. The award will be made on the recommendation of the Umpires.
 - I. The D Ray Memorial Trophy will be awarded for what the Executive Committee considers as the best individual performance of the season by a player under 18 on the closing date of the season in matches played during the League season. Nominations to be made by Club Secretaries.
 - J. The H Boothman Trophy will be awarded for what the Executive Committee considers the outstanding individual performance by a young player under the age of 21 on the closing date of the season. Nominations to be made by Club Secretaries.
 - K. The Bill Edwards Memorial Trophy will be awarded by the Executive Committee for outstanding achievement within the League. (Long service and/or good conduct).
 - I. The Reg Standfield Memorial Trophy will be awarded for what the Executive Committee considers as the most all-round responsible, efficient and sportsmanlike Club throughout the season.

RETURN OF TROPHIES

Club Secretaries are responsible for the **return of all team and individual trophies** in a satisfactory condition to the League Secretary by **1 June** next after the presentation. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine of £10 in addition to any repair costs.