

AGM news

As a result of the various discussions on the topic at the AGM, the following wording will be added to the regulations for Divisions 3 and 4 and the Development Knockout Cup:

"When selecting players for 2nd, 3rd and 4th XIs, clubs are required to consider the Spirit of Cricket as well as the League's Code of Conduct on this subject. When players are selected for these teams who regularly play for the club's higher ranked teams, it is important that the club communicates with the opposing captain prior to the match and explains the reasons for their selection. Where a club believes that their opposition has selected an inappropriate player, they should refer the matter to the League Committee, who can take appropriate action, which can include the deduction of points."

The AGM approved the following promotion applications:

- Division 4 to Division 3 – Buxton 2nd XI, Alvanley
- Division 5 to Division 4 – Stockport, Kingsley, Grappenhall

Buxton, as divisional winners, have exercised their automatic right to be promoted from Division 3 to Division 2. Lindow have similarly exercised their automatic right to be promoted from Division 2 to Division 1.

Upton are relegated from Division 1 to Division 2. Owing to the withdrawal of Stockport Trinity early in the 2023 season, and Porthill Park's decision not to apply for promotion, there will be no relegation from Division 2.

The meeting also approved applications for these existing member clubs to field additional teams in the hardball divisions in 2024:

- Stockport Georgians – 3rd XI
- Buxton – 3rd XI
- Didsbury – 3rd XI
- Lindow – 4th XI

The League Officers for 2023/24 are:

(Executive Committee)

Chair	Caroline Sheridan
Vice Chair	Martin Saxon
Secretary	Alan Rogers
Fixture Secretary	Martin Saxon
President	Di Totty
Co-opted Members	Jo Seddon, Sarah McCann

(Other Officer Roles)

Treasurer	Bob Halstead
Competitions Secretary	Carol Ingham
Results Secretary	Karen Prince
Umpires & Scorers Officer	Duane Jones
Disciplinary Chair	Derek Barnett
Disciplinary Officer	Chris Robinson
Safeguarding Officer	Carol Ingham
Strategy & Planning Officer	Ray Bell

Rules meeting news

The following resolutions were approved at the Rules meeting:

All competitions

1. Clubs shall only field a maximum of one player in each match who meets the definition of an 'overseas player'. An overseas player is any player who is not qualified to play for England or Scotland's national team; and who does not benefit from one of the 'ordinarily resident' exemptions.

An 'ordinary resident' is defined as someone:
who has been legally resident in the UK for at least 210 days prior to their first match of the season, without having been out of the country for a continuous 21-day period during that time; or who has been resident in the UK for a continuous period of two years prior to their first match of the season, without having been out of the country for a continuous 35-day period during that time or 70 days in total within the previous 24 months.

Clubs will be wholly responsible for obtaining copies of passports with relevant visas together with evidence proving residence for 210 days when registering such players with the League.

No club is permitted to play more than one overseas player in a season unless the club can satisfy the League Executive Committee that the player has left the country for compassionate reasons or is unavailable due to serious injury and not available to play for the rest of that season. No application to register an overseas player will be considered after 31st May.

2. When a scheduled match does not take place, then the home team is responsible for notifying this to the Fixture Secretary within five days, giving the reason why the match did not take place. This applies whether the fixture did not take place due to weather conditions, ground unavailability, either side being unable to raise a team, or any other reason.
3. Bonus points shall be awarded in an abandoned match for any innings where at least one-quarter of the full allocation of overs are completed:
 - 10 in Division 1
 - 9 in Division 2
 - 5/8 in Division 3 20/30 over matches
 - 5 in Division 4
4. If teams declare their innings, their batting points will be based on their run rate over the number of overs they could have batted for, not the number of overs they completed prior to the declaration. If the team batting second sees its number of overs reduced due to a weather interruption, their target will be reduced based on the assumption that their opponents would have scored the same number of runs in the full allocation of overs. (This means that a losing team in division 1 declaring on 125 after 30 overs will receive just four batting points. If their opponents were only able to bat for 20 overs in reply due to weather conditions, they would only need to score 63 to win.)

5. Any team which does not send a representative to a pre-season captains' meeting shall be docked two league points.

Division 1

1. Batting points shall be awarded for losing teams as follows:

- 50 – 1 point (1.25 per over)
- 75 - 2 points (1.875 per over)
- 100 - 3 points (2.5 per over)
- 125 - 4 points (3.125 per over)
- 150 - 5 points (3.75 per over)
- 175 - 6 points (4.375 runs per over)

Bowling points shall be awarded for losing teams as follows:

- 1 wicket - 1 point
- 3 wickets - 2 points
- 5 wickets - 3 points
- 7 wickets - 4 points
- 9 wickets - 5 points
- 10 wickets - 6 points

(Note: in the event that the batting side does not field 11 batters, or batters retire hurt, then the bowling side will be awarded six bowling points if they take all available wickets).

Batting bonus points for teams in weather-curtailed matches will be awarded for scoring at 1.25, 1.875, 2.5, 3.125, 3.75 and 4.375 runs per over. (Note: if teams are bowled out points will be based on the number of overs they could have batted for).

Bowling points will be awarded as for losing teams, as set out above.

2. The default start time for matches in September shall be 12.30pm, wherever possible.

Divisions 2, 3 and 4

It shall be permitted to re-arrange matches which commence, but where sufficient play for a result is not possible. If the match is weather affected once again on a re-arranged date, the official match points shall be determined from the play that took place on the occasion where the most overs were bowled.

Senior Knockout and T20 Divisional

All deliveries that pass to the leg side of the batter's normal stance, and where the ball does not make contact with the bat or the batter's person, shall be called as 'wide'.

Division 4

1. Three regional division 4s shall be formed. Clubs are asked to note that the final placings in these three regional divisions may be used to determine in which division the club is placed in the following season.
4 West: Oakmere 2nd, Kingsley, Wistaston Village, Grappenhall, Lymm, Toft
4 East: Lindow 3rd, Heaton Mersey & Cheadle, Stockport, Stockport Georgians 3rd, Hawk Green, Didsbury 3rd
4 South East: Lindow Development XI, North East Cheshire, Langley, Macclesfield, Buxton 3rd, New Mills & High Peak North
2. Where a team does not field 11 players, retired batters will not be permitted to return to the crease.
3. The maximum number of overs per bowler in each match shall be reduced to four.

Development KO

The retirement score for batters shall be raised from 25 to 30.

Knockout Draws

Nantwich and Stockport Georgians meet in the first round of the National Knockout. Leigh will also need to play a first round match, while Lindow, Didsbury and Leyland go straight through to the second round. Didsbury have become the first club to field two teams in the national competitions, with their second team to go straight into the Plate, to be joined by the first and second round losers.

Holders Nantwich Vipers have been drawn away to last year's runners-up Didsbury Swordettes in the quarter-final of the league's Senior Knockout. The Development Knockout sees 2023 winners Chester Boughton Hall 2nd XI away to reigning Division 3 champions JG Meakin Northern Stars in the first round.

League Fixtures

I have pleasure in revealing the master fixture list for the CWCL hardball divisions and for our cup competitions – please see the separate attachment sent with this newsletter.

The matches will take place on the default dates shown, unless re-arranged as permitted under league regulations.

Until seven days before the start of the season, i.e. until April 14, matches in all competitions can be re-arranged by mutual consent. Please advise me of any new dates. Please do not re-arrange for August 11 (Finals Day) or September 15 (Finals Reserve Day) unless it is known that neither team will be involved in a CWCL cup final.

After April 14, matches in divisions 1 and 2 can only be re-arranged due to ground unavailability or National Knockout involvement.

Division 2 clubs will also be allowed to re-arrange their August 11 fixtures if they are involved in the Senior Knockout final.

As the league intends to hold Finals Day as early as August 11 this year, it is important that clubs do not postpone Development Knockout Cup matches for more than a few weeks past the default dates. Because of this, some of the second round matches will be played at the same time as the first round this year.

May 5 and July 7 are the weekend dates on which county Under 18 competitions are scheduled, and no fixtures in divisions 1 and 2 are scheduled for this date. At present, league rules will not allow you to re-arrange a fixture at short notice should Cheshire (or any other applicable county) progress in the Under 18 knockout and thus have matches on subsequent Sundays.

Where clubs have two teams, the fixture list has been drawn up so that there are no clashes between the 1st XI and 2nd XI. Where clubs have more than two teams, they should not have more than two fixtures on the same day and no more than one of their women's teams should have a home fixture on the same day.

Please can I ask all club representatives to check your own fixtures here. The dates should be the same on both pages of the spreadsheet, and these should also agree with what is on Play Cricket. Please advise me of any discrepancies.

These league fixtures see Didsbury start their League Championship defence at Stockport Georgians on April 28. Lindow make their bow as a top-flight club by hosting Appleton seven days earlier.

League Meetings

As mentioned above, it is now a league regulation that any club in divisions 1 to 4 which fails to send a representative to a league pre-season captains' meeting shall be deducted two league points. This means that, where the captain is unable to attend, it is imperative that the vice-captain or another club representative attends instead.

The principal opportunity to attend a captains' meeting will be on Wednesday March 20, where this meeting will take place at 1900 ahead of a full committee meeting at 1945. The venue here is still to be confirmed. Details will also be supplied in due course of any additional opportunities to attend a captains' meeting.

Representative Cricket

The annual fixture between the League XI and MCC will take place on Tuesday August 6, at a venue to be confirmed.

Cricket Courses in Cheshire

You can still book for a [series of coaching sessions](#) at The Grange in Northwich. The Grange also hosts a girls' cricket festival on [April 3](#).

The county continues to offer its wide range of [umpiring and scoring courses](#).