**A. ALL DIVISIONS GENERIC RULES**

1. Each side of Member Clubs of the League shall play all other sides in its respective Division once during the season in the limited over format designated by the League unless the weather makes it impossible for an arranged fixture to take place.
2. i. The fixtures shall be arranged by the Honorary Fixtures Secretary of the League in conjunction with the Fixtures Secretaries of Member Clubs.

ii. Any issues with fixtures in 2020 should be resolved where possible between the clubs.

iii. For 2020 season – if a fixture is unplayable due to a ground being unavailable for a reason related to the Covid-19 pandemic (ie needing more preparation) then both clubs involved in the fixture may approach the league and ask for the game to be arranged on another date – this could be on a Sunday or after the scheduled final day of the league season (12th September 2020). Both clubs must agree to the fixture being moved and the new date and/or venue. The league committee will assess each individual request on its own merits and circumstances.

1. All matches in each Division shall be played on Saturdays designated by the Executive Committee – except in the case set out in 2 iii above.
2. Before the toss for innings, the captain must nominate his players, who may not thereafter be changed without the consent of the opposing captain.
3. The nominated players must be set out on a team sheet which is made available to the umpires prior to the scheduled start of the match – for 2020 this must be completed according to the guidance set out from ECB and ECB ACO.

Guidance from ECB ACO as follows

To minimise contact we are suggesting the handing over of Team Cards can safely be achieved by doing one of the following:

* The person responsible for the team takes a photo of the completed card and forwards it to the umpires by email or other messaging service.
* The umpires can take a photograph on their device of the completed cards left in a place agreed with the person responsible for the team.
* The person responsible for the team can provide a signed list that umpires can copy onto a team card.
* Alternatives are possible as long as they provide the details available on the team card.

1. The age group of all players who are Under 19 or younger must be clearly shown on the team sheet. Contracted and overseas players must also be indicated. The umpires are requested to ensure that this Playing Condition is strictly adhered to in all circumstances. ***Failure to do so may result in a 5 point deduction.***

5. a. The League shall run a Panel of Umpires to umpire as many matches as availability dictates. The Executive Committee has appointed the Essex County Cricket Board Association of Cricket Officials (ECCBACO) to be responsible to the Executive Committee to recruit and run the Panel of umpires. The representatives of the ECCB ACO shall operate and organise the umpiring of all matches in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Executive Committee from time to time.

b. In all other matches each Member Club shall provide its own Umpire. In a match where only one side provides an umpire, if he is prepared to do so, he shall always stand at the bowler’s end while the batting side representative takes it in turns at the striker’s end.

c. Each member club shall attempt to provide a competent scorer for each match where possible. Any home club failing to provide a competent scorer for any Premier Tier match ***will incur a one point penalty on each occasion***. The umpires must advise both teams and indicate to them that a one-point penalty will apply. The Umpires must also report the occurrence via an Exception Report.

6. a. All matches shall be played with identical new balls nominated and supplied to the Member Club by the League for that season to ensure complete uniformity; other species of ball will not be acceptable for League fixtures. ***Any club in default will incur a 5 point penalty.*** If a ball is lost during play a similar equivalent ball would be acceptable.

b. Two new balls, one for each innings, shall be used in all League matches. The new ball must be taken at the start of each innings.

c. Each club will provide a new ball per match – this is the ball they will take in to the field with them when bowling

7. All divisions will be decided at the end of the season as follows:

1. The side finishing with the most number of points in their respective division will be crowned champions..
2. In the event of two or more sides finishing equal on points with each other, then in order to ascertain their respective finishing positions in their respective Divisions for the purposes of determining the champion, the position shall be determined in the following manner:
3. The side with the most number of wins shall be placed higher.
4. If there are still two or more sides with an even number of points in equal position then the side with the most number of ties shall be placed higher.
5. If there are still two or more sides with an even number of points in equal position then their position shall be decided by the results of the matches played between each other in that Season, i.e. the side which obtained the highest number of points in the matches shall be placed the higher.
6. If there are still two or more sides with an even number of points in equal position then their position shall be decided on the basis that the side which finished in the higher position in the League structure in the previous Season shall be deemed to be the side finishing higher.

8. Cancelled and conceded matches.

* 1. In the event that any club is unable to raise a side for an arranged fixture the non-offending club shall receive the maximum 20 points
  2. In the event that any club is unable to raise a side for an arranged fixture (any XI) and calls off the fixture after Thursday evening it will be responsible for any costs incurred by their opponents.
  3. If a ground arranged for a scheduled home fixture is unavailable, inaccessible or unplayable for any reason other than the weather then the visiting side shall receive the maximum 20 points and the home side 6 points. This is subject to the League Executive’s confirmation on each occasion.

9. a. All Member Clubs shall endeavour to provide waterproof covering for the whole pitch in the event of play being suspended on account of bad light or rain during the specified hours of play.

b. For all Premier Tier matches - between innings sweeping and remarking should take place

c. Where there are no panel umpires officiating, captains of both sides must agree on whether to continue, or resume play, in adverse conditions of ground, weather or light. If the captains disagree then play will be suspended if currently in progress, or not restart if the players are off the field, until and if conditions improve and the captains agree.

10. Matches may be played on artificial turf pitches at the discretion of the home side, but Premier, 1st and 2nd Tier matches may only be played on artificial turf pitches with the prior permission of the Executive Committee.

11. All Member Clubs participating in the League shall be equipped on their ground(s) with a clock sufficient in size to be readily visible by players and umpires during the course of a match.

12. Overseas Players:

1. An overseas player is defined as one who is not qualified to play for England under ECB regulations. However, certain Overseas Players are exempt from the restrictions placed on overseas players. An Exempt Overseas Player is one who:
2. has been ordinarily resident in this country for a period of 18 consecutive months and under three years before the date of his request for registration**.** (For the avoidance of doubt any overseas player who has been ordinarily resident in this country for over three years is classified as a Category 1 UK Resident player as long as he remains ordinarily resident in this country and does not leave this country for any extended periods.) and
3. has not been out of the country for longer than 35 days consecutively or 70 days in total during the previous twenty four months; and
4. does not derive the main source of his income from playing cricket.

The definition of what is ordinarily resident shall be in the absolute discretion of the body responsible for registration of the player in the relevant competition.

(For the avoidance of doubt a copy of the regulations governing qualification of cricketers to play for England is retained by the Hon. League Secretary. Please note that holding a British passport is not necessarily an automatic qualification.)

1. All Overseas Players and overseas exempt players must be registered with the League and must be registered on the Play-Cricket site. Forms for completion for Exempt Overseas Players must be completed and returned to the Executive Committee ASAP Clubs should remember deadlines for scorecards and try to register players before they play.
2. A Member Club may not field more than one non-exempt overseas player in any match in any division.

13. Contracted players:

a. In each division of the Essex League no Member Club may play more than one player in any match who is at that time contracted to a county club or who is on the MCC groundstaff (hereinafter in both cases referred to as a contracted player).

For the purpose of this playing condition a player who was first awarded a county contract or who was first taken on the MCC groundstaff when a member of a club shall not be a contracted player when playing for that same club.

In the event that the contracted player registered by a member club is also a non-exempt overseas player, as defined in Regulation 12.1, then that club cannot play any further non-exempt overseas players in their 1st XI. However that club can register and play a further English qualified or overseas exempt contracted player in their 1st XI.

b. A contracted player shall only be entitled to play in the 1st XI side of a Member Club. For the purpose of this playing condition a contracted player shall mean any contracted player and the exemption in playing condition 13.a shall not apply to exempt any contracted player from his rule.

c. No contracted player as defined in playing condition 13.a above shall play in any match until he has been registered by his Member Club with the Executive Committee as a playing member of that club. Registration shall take place on an annual basis and any contracted player must be re-registered each year if he has not changed clubs.

d. During 2020 – the league may work with the county to get more contracted players playing in the league before and during the county cricket season. In this case the league may have to take special measures to allow for these contracted players to participate in the league.

14. Transfers will be allowed during 2020, but the existing club must approve the transfer to the new club on Play Cricket before the player can take part in a game for his new club.

15. There will be no limit to the amount of games players can play at a higher XI before being unable to drop to lower XI. However the Spirit of Cricket remains and the league expects clubs to play their strongest XIs at the appropriate level.

16. In accordance with the accreditation by the ECB, the League will meet the following requirements:

a. Ensure that all Member Clubs adhere to the following:-

1. ECB Guidelines for Junior Players in Open Age Cricket
2. ECB Fast Bowling Directives for young fast bowlers
3. ECB Safety Guidance on the Wearing of Helmets in the Recreational Game
4. ECB Fielding Regulations for young players
5. ECB COVID-19 Advice and Guidelines

b. Ensure that all Member Clubs and Umpires adhere to the ECB Premier League Disciplinary Regulations.

c. Ensure that all Member Clubs and Umpires adhere to the ECB Premier League Suspect Bowling Action Protocol.

d. Encourage players to make themselves available for the ECB Xl and for County Board or County Club sides. The following regulations will apply:

“Any player selected for an ECB Xl match or County representative match who does not make himself available will not be eligible to play in a Premier Division match scheduled for the same day unless approval is received from the ECB Director of Cricket Operations or Cricket Operations Manager (Recreational Cricket), or from the Manager of the County team in the case of County matches. This rule also covers the period when players would be expected to travel/report for ECB or County matches.

17. Short-pitched Bowling

i. In any one over the bowler may only bowl one delivery that would pass over the shoulder height but below the head height of the batsman when standing upright at the crease. Any further deliveries that pass above shoulder height shall be called No ball by the bowler’s end umpire.

ii. In addition to i above any ball passing over the batsman’s head when standing upright at the crease will be called and signalled No ball by the bowler’s end umpire. Such delivery will count as the bowler’s one delivery for the over as defined in iv above.

18. Notification and checking of results:

1. Each home team must enter an accurate summary result and scores on play-cricket (including details of all times and lengths of rain stoppages and, in limited overs games, changes to targets and any over reductions):-

All matches – by 8pm on the Sunday following the match.

Failure to do so will result in a ***one point penalty****.*

1. Any team not entering full match details on play-cricket by 8pm on the Friday following the match will have ***five points*** deducted. This includes home and away teams confirming the results on play cricket by making sure the result has been confirmed with the ticked option.

19. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to deal with any query or dispute concerning the Organisation and Playing Conditions of the League and all disciplinary matters. In the event of any query or dispute concerning the Organisation and Playing Conditions or disciplinary matters or in the event of any breach thereof or of the Spirit of Cricket the decision of the Executive Committee shall be final. In addition to the penalties laid down in these Playing Conditions, the Executive Committee shall be empowered to take whatever other action and impose whatever other penalties it deems appropriate against a Club or any individual member or members of a Club found to be in breach. This rule shall not, however, give the Executive Committee the power to expel a Member Club from the League - such a decision can only be taken in accordance with Rule 8.3 of the Essex League Constitution.