



# Yorkshire Cricket Southern Premier League

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## Pre-season clubs' meeting

Wednesday 9 April 2025 – Shaw Lane Sports Club, Barnsley

### Note of meeting

1. **Welcome & apologies.** Roger Pugh welcomed all to the meeting, and passed on apologies from Gareth Davis and Matt Summerhill.
2. **Ball issues.** RP apologised for any issues with the new ball-ordering process, saying that we have followed these up with the manufacturers and would learn for next year. Any outstanding issues should be raised with Linzey Scothern (Readers balls) and David Ward (Oxbridge balls). Any Senior Section club that did not collect their balls on the night should contact Linzey.
3. **ECB guidance & regulations.** RP outlined new regulations and guidelines, which have already been communicated to clubs via the League Bulletins as follows:
  - i. *Juniors* – under new ECB Safety Regulations, all junior players in open age cricket must have written parental permission to play – it is the clubs' responsibility to ensure that this is done in case of any incident occurring, in particular, injury or safeguarding, but how they do it is up to them. When captains sign their team sheet, they are confirming that written permission has been given for any juniors to play.
  - ii. *Concussion* – umpires will enforce the ECB concussion guidance this season, including;
    - a. the nomination of a responsible adult to assess any head injury (in the absence of any other named person, this responsibility will fall to the captain and vice-captain)
    - b. call of dead ball' immediately following any head impact, whether by ball, ground or other player; after which the responsible adult must assess whether the player is fit to continueThe emphasis must always be on the welfare of the player; the ECB concussion training can be accessed at <https://concussionlearning.ecb.co.uk/#/>, and the Safety Guidelines also contain links to life support courses provided by the British Heart Foundation and UK Coaching.
  - iii. *Age groups* – the regulations now refer to the actual age of the player rather than the age groups of players. The ages of junior players must now be entered on team cards. These will be used to determine the new fast bowling (handbook p 105) and fielding restrictions.
  - iv. *Recommendations.* RP outlined two aspects of the Safety Guidelines:
    - a. clubs should have a Medical Emergency Action Plan and should conduct a Medical Emergency Impact Assessment. These should be in place at clubs hosting any League finals or representative games.
    - b. a qualified first aider is present at all cricket-related activity
  - v. RP said that there had been a lot of dissatisfaction with the way the regulations above have been introduced, with no consultation, poor communication and insufficient time to implement the changes. He had written to ECB already on the issue and will follow up.
4. **Fixtures.** Matt Summerhill has urged that clubs be as helpful and co-operative as possible when dealing with requests from fellow clubs for rearrangements. The message is that we never know when we will need co-operation ourselves, and therefore to treat others as we would hope to be treated.

5. **League subscriptions.** The treasurer has issued League and YCB subscription invoices via Play-Cricket. These are due for payment by 30 April.
6. **Officials' recruitment**
  - i. RP welcomed the fact that a number of new umpires have been recruited for 2025, but we are still 50 umpires short of what we need to cover all matches. He urged all clubs to continue their efforts to recruit, even if they have already put umpires into the system, in order to help reach our target of full coverage of games. He stressed that it does not matter how many games a new umpire wants to do, or whether they want to stand only as a club umpire. Every new recruit is welcomed on the basis that if they enjoy it, they may gravitate to being a full member of the panel.
  - ii. Clubs will again be asked at the end of the season about their recruitment efforts, and if they wish to avoid paying a levy, to respond with details of what they have done.
  - iii. RP asked that clubs ensure that scorers and umpires facilities are suitable and welcoming to visiting officials – eg, adequate covered accommodation for scorers, scorer and umpire accommodation clean and free from clutter – in order to provide a welcoming environment and demonstrate that they are valued
7. **Safeguarding issues.** Lindsay Pepper reiterated the importance of ensuring that all clubs are fully compliant on the Safe Hands Management system, and that DBS's are up-to-date for all captains and coaches. She made the point that Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
8. **Scoring issues**
  - i. Richard North said that the concept of losing overs in the event of a delayed start had now been introduced into the Senior Section, and the playing conditions had been amended to reflect this.
  - ii. Steve Ward had passed on the message that if any club needs help or advice on scoring issue, he will be very pleased to provide it.
9. **YCB update.** No update in the absence of GD.
10. **Other business**
  - i. *EDI training.* It is recommended that someone from every club completes this training, which is accessed through the ECB e-learning portal - <https://elearning.ecb.co.uk/login/index.php>
  - ii. *Long-term planning.* RP emphasised the need for clubs to plan for the unexpected incapacity of key officials, by having deputies, who can take over either temporarily in the short term, or who may do so in the longer term.
  - iii. *Play-Cricket scorecards.* RN drew attention to the P-C item in the [last bulletin](#), whereby there will be penalties imposed for incomplete scorecards. There were strong views expressed that this should not be used for comparatively minor omissions such as the scorer's name. RP undertook to take this feedback away for further discussion.
  - iv. *PL accreditation.* RP clarified two issues with regard to the Premier League Accreditation Criteria, which apply to Premier and Championship Division clubs:
    - a. overseas players/coaches that do not qualify for an ECB Enhanced DBS Check due to residency, should only be used in a coaching capacity if they have completed the ECB non-UK residents vetting procedure
    - b. clubs must have at least one Girls' Section (see definition below) by 31 March 2026.
  - v. *Wentworth ground facilities.* RN said that the Wentworth venue, that is being used by Oughtibridge 3rds and Wath 3rds, will have restricted Covid-style facilities this season, due to pavilion issues.
  - vi. *Handbooks:*
    - a. The playing conditions have been rewritten in order to make them easier to understand – the only material change is the removal of the right to declare, in line with ECB guidance.
    - b. Two telephone numbers are incorrect:
      - Eden Grove 1<sup>st</sup> XI contact (Jamie Bunn) should read 07492 427372

- Umpire Abbas Shah should be 07811 282421

c. A small number of handbooks have been found to be faulty, with pages 3-16 and 93-106 missing. Please advise RP if you receive one of these.

vii. In response to a delegate query, RP said that the participation of Rotherham Town CC in the League this coming season was in doubt, and that a club meeting was to take place next week, after which it is hoped that the position will be clear. If a team or teams drops out at this stage, there can be no rearrangement of fixtures, and the other teams in the division(s) will have two 'blank' weekends. We will advise clubs as soon as we have confirmation either way.

11. **Roll-call.** The only clubs not represented were Adwick-le-Street, Handsworth JSC, Mexborough Athletic and Rotherham Town.
12. **Close.** RP closed the meeting by wishing everyone an enjoyable season, and hoped that our three new clubs, Frickley Colliery, Wadworth and Waverley, would enjoy their time in our league.

#### **Girls' section definition from Premier League Accreditation Criteria:**

A 'girls' section' is defined as a minimum of one girls' team playing in either a softball or hardball fixture, league or friendly, indoors or outdoors, either on Play-Cricket and/or through the ECB's Women's and Girls' Clubs & Teams Audit. **By 31 March 2026**, leagues must be in a position to self-certify that the clubs competing in the top two 1<sup>st</sup> XI divisions of their competitions have at least one girls' team. This can be a junior team of any age group. Where a club to whom this obligation applies is not in a position to comply by 31 March 2026, in order not to be in breach itself, the relevant league must take appropriate action against such club as follows; a points deduction in the first instance, leading to relegation or denial of promotion where a club fails to establish a girls' section within a reasonable period of time.