



Yorkshire Cricket Southern Premier League

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Feedback from the Premier Section captains' meeting – 10 August 2022

Main survey areas

1. **Preferred start time.** In line with the survey, no wish was expressed to change from current 12 noon.
2. **Preferred overs.** The Premier League needs to bowl 50 per side in line with Premier League requirements; no wish was expressed to change in the Championship.
3. **Balls/clothing.** In line with the survey, no wish was expressed to change from current red ball/white clothing in league games, although it was suggested that this might be different in younger age groups. *When we conduct another survey, we will ask respondents to indicate their age group, and will consider how we might incentivise more responses.*
4. **Preferred maximum bowlers' overs.** It was noted that the first choice amongst Premier Section respondents in the survey was for a straight five bowlers/10-over maximum, in order to increase participation, but several points were made that could support the compromise suggestion of two bowlers to have a 15-over maximum and the rest an eight-over maximum:
 - if no bowler was allowed more than ten overs, it could make it difficult to recruit specialist bowlers into the League, and might result in bowlers leaving the League, thus resulting in a reduction in playing standards
 - whilst we want to promote wider participation, we do not want to detract from the enjoyment of existing players who are used to a longer spell (batsmen are not restricted in any way)
 - all teams may not have five bowlers of sufficient quality/experience to bowl ten overs and may then struggle to find a capable sixth bowler in the event of injury or a bowler having to be taken out of the attack
 - a change may create more problems for captains who already have bowling restrictions for junior players
 - there are already cup competitions with ten-over maximums

There were, however concerns subsequently expressed about:

- what would happen if a bowler got injured after nine overs, or had to be removed from the attack for any reason
- how bowlers will feel who are then limited to eight overs, because someone else has bowled nine-15

The issue was left for more consideration, both within clubs and the Premier Section committee, so that an informed decision can be taken if proposals are put for clubs to decide at the AGM. It was suggested that if clubs were going to need to use five bowlers for significant spells, they might need a year to prepare for that.

5. **Teas.** Views expressed on the provision of teas were mixed, but there was support for a comment that all clubs should do the same (certainly within the Premier Section). The present system is not satisfactory and potentially confusing. It was suggested that if teas are reintroduced, the home club should always pay for them, and they would then be free to visitors. Again, this is likely to result in a proposal to the AGM. There was comment that the result of a vote at the AGM will depend on the delegate – a committee man may vote differently to a player. *Captains were encouraged to ensure that their AGM delegate's mandate takes into account the wishes of players.*

6. **Cups.** In line with the survey, no wish was expressed to change the current Viking Cricket and Whitworth cup competitions. There was no strong view on whether or not these cups should remain mandatory.
7. **T20.** The majority view was that the T20 Blast should revert to having a single group matchday (four groups of three, so that each team gets two games and the winner of each group will go forward to finals day (decided, firstly, on win points and, secondly, on net run rate). No wish was expressed to change the T20 plate format.

Other survey comments

8. **Improving ground standards.** There was no view expressed that the grounds are unsuitable for the standard of cricket being played. The captains' marks should continue to be used to monitor; *the suggestion to arrange independent pitches inspections and give advice about improvements should be taken forward.*
9. **Play-off system for second promotion place.** A suggestion in the survey was that the Championship winners are promoted, the bottom team in the Premier relegated, and a play-off takes place for the second promotion place between the second-bottom in the Premier and the runner-up in the Championship. There was little appetite for this, the view being expressed that the efforts over the whole season should count for more than a single game.
10. **Three-hour ten-minute limit for overs to be bowled.** It was questioned whether this was really needed – would it hurt to allow an extra ten minutes, so that when a game is played on a green pitch and seamers are mainly used, a team is not penalised? There were also concerns about how it is being applied – some umpires being quite strict, and others not at all. *Irrespective of whether the limit is changed, there needs to be more clarity on what time should be added, and umpires must ensure that captains are warned as early as possible when a deduction appears likely.*
11. **Communications.** There is room for improvement in communications – both on who receives them and the tone of some communications. *Could we have a small group to look at this – how we can minimise communications, ensure that the bulletin is used wherever possible, and ensure that communications are professional and respectful?*
12. **Safeguarding.** A respondent had raised this as a significant issue, and captains were assured that the League takes this matter very seriously, and would take appropriate action on offenders.
13. **More younger people on committees.** There were several reasons put forward why younger people did not get involved in committee work, and a question raised about whether there was a player representative on committees – both the Premier and Senior Section committees, whilst not having a specific 'player representative' do have a number of players on them. *Captains were encouraged, if a player shows an interest in how the League is run, to ask them if they would like to become involved, and to contact Mark Beardshall, Roger Pugh or Steve Ward to register the interest.*
14. **Minimum boundary size.** This is a difficult issue to legislate on in terms of existing clubs because then the new Yorkshire Premier League structure was introduced, it was stipulated that clubs would not be excluded on ground size. However, this issue can be considered for new clubs.
15. **Introduction of powerplays in League games.** There was little support for this suggestion.
16. **Responsiveness to suggestions and to change.** It was emphasised that we will listen to players and seriously consider suggestions made. We want to ensure that players get the game they want.
17. **Improving relations between clubs and League.** We will take on board the feedback that sometimes the manner and approach that has been used by League officials does not facilitate good relationships. Culture takes time to change, but it can be done.
18. **Workings of the disciplinary process and challenging reports.** Where a club does not accept the umpires' report, they should request a hearing. *We will ask Neil Vaughan to address the Pre-Season Captains' meeting on the subject of disciplinary policies and processes.*

19. **Review of rules.** A suggestion was made that all rules should be reviewed and grey areas removed. It was explained that rules cannot cover all eventualities, and sometimes there needs to be some flexibility. *It was agreed that a small sub-committee should be set up to look at any disputes or queries about the Premier Section Playing Conditions, to clarify interpretations, and ensure consistency of interpretation, recommending changes where necessary.*
20. **Junior set-ups.** It had been suggested that the league should look in depth at clubs' junior set-ups and get involved with promotion of the game in schools and clubs, and that clubs who aren't providing adequate junior sections should be helped with fundraising or assistance from other clubs, with the League's involvement. Gareth Davis commented on the numbers of All Stars, Dynamos, etc, and the excellent work being done by many clubs. *The issue of whether there is more the League can do will be suggested for discussion at the League Executive Board.*