



Yorkshire Cricket Southern Premier League

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Premier Section captains' meeting – 1 April 2026

Note of meeting

1. **Welcome.** Roger Pugh welcomed all to the meeting.
2. **Rule changes.** RP summarised five key rule changes, that will be applicable in the Premier Section in 2026, about which captains need to be aware:
 - Revised competition Rule 8.iii, which details equipment clubs must have; notification at the toss of what is available and will be used at the game; arrangements to be made to have a person available to work on the ground, who must have sufficient knowledge on what action needs to be taken to enable play to take place, and who must be able to operate any equipment; and states that players from both teams should be prepared to help with any ground-drying measures and covering of the playing area on matchdays.
 - The removal of the facility for third placed teams to be promoted from the Championship and Division 1 where, for any reason, a team in the promotion places will not take their place in the higher division.
 - The removal of the 30 minutes grace period before which overs are lost, when time is lost before the start of play (this grace period will now only apply to time lost after the start).
 - Any game abandoned due to serious injury of a player/official will be recorded as a four-point abandoned game, irrespective of the state of play.
 - Wide balls will now be judged in line with the ECB generic regulations, which require the 17" lines to be marked on the pitch; there is also clarification on wide balls and switch hits.
3. **Captains' reports and marks**
 - David Ward emphasised the need for fairness and objectivity in markings, rather than being influenced by one or two decisions that may have gone the other team's way. He said that there was often a significant disparity between the markings of the winning and losing captains, and gave examples. It is important that markings are as fair and accurate as possible for the purposes of umpire progression.
 - RP said that, as last season, in the event of reports not being completed on [WhostheUmpire](#) within the three days following the game, he would on the first occasion text a reminder; the second occasion would result in a formal warning; the third would result in a final warning; and if there was a fourth occasion, a points deduction would be applied. He sincerely hoped that last situation did not arise. We just want completed reports – not to impose penalties.
4. **Discipline.** Neil Vaughan said that the YCSPL Disciplinary Committee have concluded that a change is necessary in relation to dangerous and inappropriate throwing of the ball at the batter, which is a Level Two offence. In 2026, where a report from an umpire is received, and the committee are content that the rule has been correctly applied:
 - The minimum penalty will be a suspended one-week ban and one team disciplinary point (both to expire at the end of the following season).
 - The maximum penalty will be a one-week ban from all cricket, plus a suspended two-week ban and three team disciplinary points (both the latter to expire at the end of the following season). A further three disciplinary points will be suspended until the end of the following season, and only be activated should a player for the same team be reported for a similar offence during the period in question.
 - The operation of the above will be reassessed at the end of the coming season.

5. **Points quota system.** RP provided the background to the proposal and its aims:

- to encourage the development of, and opportunity for, home-grown players
- to promote a more level playing field for all clubs, and protect against a situation where a club obtains a wealthy benefactor and is able to buy success
- to further support the overall objectives of Premier Leagues in developing junior players

There followed a very useful discussion in which several captains spoke in support of the proposal, and the following main points were also made:

- There needs to be ongoing discussion with the Nottinghamshire PL to learn from their experience and their assessment of the success of the system. It appears to have made little difference in terms of the stronger and weaker sides. RP agreed to continue dialogue with NPL.
- There were concerns that the system could force standards down and make top YCSPL teams weaker than counterparts in other Leagues – RP said that he believed that the teams that have been most successful in the YSPL and YCSPL to date would not have been adversely affected by the system, as all contained significant numbers of ‘homegrown’ players.
- There was concern that promoted teams might be restricted by the system in strengthening their squads, and thus be vulnerable to a ‘yo-yo’ effect – RP said that the cap needs to be set carefully to allow some flexibility but still act as an incentive.
- It was felt that there was sufficient space within the proposed cap to allow an overseas player to be recruited and a couple of other players to be brought in.
- There was a question about the other Premier Leagues in Yorkshire. RP said that he will maintain dialogue with YPLN colleagues.
- There were questions about the timescales and voting arrangements. RP said that if quick progress was made, and the new system voted in at an EGM during the early part of 2026, it could potentially be brought in for 2027, otherwise a vote at the 2026 AGM for introduction in 2028. The YCSPL constitution says that a change in playing conditions must be voted by the clubs in the affected divisions, and decided on a simple majority.

RP said that the next step would be to set up a small working group to fine tune the proposals, and invited anyone interested in being involved to contact him.

6. **YCF.** Gareth Davis emphasised the need to comply with the ECB Premier League requirements on girls’ teams. RP supported GD’s comments, and said that if a Premier Section club did not field a girls’ team in at least one game during 2026, the League would be required to impose a 24-point deduction, and would itself suffer a financial penalty from ECB. He said that he very much hoped this situation would not arise.

7. **Close.** RP thanked all for their attendance and for their very valuable input, and said that if any other points or questions arose in relation to the discussions, to contact him. He wished everyone all the best for the coming season.