



Yorkshire Cricket Southern Premier League

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Premier Section Cricket Committee

20th meeting – Wednesday 22nd January 2025 – 7.30pm by Zoom

Note of Meeting

Present: Roger Pugh (chair), Mark Beardshall, Jason Booth, Chris Froggett, Mick Forrester, Andy Harrison, Nick Kendall, Richard North, Neil Vaughan, Steve Ward

Apologies: Alex Fletcher

1. **Welcome & apologies.** RP welcomed everyone, in particular RN, who was attending in his new capacity as Head of Senior Section to get to know people and find out what we do, and NV, attending his first meeting as umpires' representative.
2. **Matters arising from last meeting.** RP updated the meeting on the two action points from the last meeting:
 - i. the red Dukes ball will cost £28.50 – David Ward (DW) will arrange a supply for trials in 2025
 - ii. there is no upper age limit for umpires on the Premier League panel – it is about ability and safety – if anyone thinks otherwise, we should advise DW, who will reassure them.
3. **Playing conditions and competition rules**
 - i. Unfortunately, the project to rewrite our playing conditions by a small group of umpires will not now come to fruition, due to misunderstandings about the approval and ownership of the product. We thank those concerned for their time and efforts.
 - ii. RN and RP have now reviewed and redrafted the format and wording of our existing playing conditions and competition rules and the drafts have now been circulated around both Section committees and the umpires' association committees for comment. **RP asked for any comments to him as soon as possible.**
 - iii. MB was concerned about the possibility of any bad feeling between League and umpires as a result of what had happened. RP and NV reassured him that they did not think this should be the case.
4. **Overseas player rules**
 - i. CF said that a small sub-group of interested parties (David Jones, Matt Morland, RP and himself) had met to discuss possible changes to the existing Administrative Rules relating primarily to overseas players, to improve clarity in respect of:
 - a. A definition of 'ordinarily resident' for Category 1 qualification purposes
 - b. Safeguarding & coaching requirements for overseas players not on International Sportsperson Visas, which will necessitate a change to the Overseas Player Registration forms – to be done as soon as possible
 - c. Clarification that 'sub-professionals' are not allowed in the YCSPL but that it is up to clubs to decide whether to allow their own players to 'sub-pro' elsewhere
 - d. Although not directly related to overseas players, the proposed new rule on dual registration of students was also reviewed

ii. RP had sent an initial draft to CF for consideration, after which it will go to the sub-group for agreement. RP will then circulate it to Section committees for approval before submitting to LEB for ratification. **RP to action.**

5. **Club visit.** RP reported that a visit to a club has been fixed for Wednesday 12 February. The purpose of the visit is threefold:

- Pitch markings. The club's average pitch score was well below the threshold that requires us to inform the ECB of remedial action being taken. JB has kindly arranged for a Grounds Management Association pitch adviser to be present to advise on what needs to be done in the short term for the 2025 season, and for the longer term.
- Dressing room project. Gareth Davis will attend for an update on work being done.
- NV will attend to address the issue of last season's unsatisfactory fair play markings.

RP will report back.

6. AH raised the wider issue of feedback to clubs on markings. RP said that he had arranged with DW to have access to the captains' and umpires' reports, in order that he could monitor on a regular basis. JB and AH agreed to be involved in the monitoring process. Intermediate reports to be provided to clubs where markings were low during the course of the season, in order that action could be taken to address. **RP to organise.**

7. **Other business**

i. *ECB.* RP reported back on the ECB chairs' call the previous day as follows:

- a. A national four-year funding agreement has been obtained for PLs – the same size pot as last year but each League share will be slightly less, as there is one more PL (next payments July & December – roughly 70% and 30% respectively)
- b. Most of the accreditation requirements reflect what is already being done, and we will self-certify. Specifics:
 - CoSG requirements – succession planning is a key area – need to ensure turn-over and avoid 'burn-out' without losing experience. People can continue to contribute but not necessarily 'at the top table'
 - every club in the top two divisions to have at least one junior girls' team by 31.3.26 * - *see appendix*
 - scorers action plan – to provide scorers with support and working with clubs to ensure they are members of ECB ACO
 - umpires – all to be ACO members in top two divisions and work to implement throughout structure
 - Player P-C registration
 - all players to be registered and to state whether they are Cat 1 or Cat 3 (definition of 'ordinarily resident' is up to the League)
 - phone numbers are not mandatory and email addresses can be generic
 - the 'about us' section must be completed by clubs
- c. Other forthcoming changes include:
 - GCRs – amendments to accommodate Cricket Regulator, who may 'pick up tricky cases' that have exhausted the hearing & appeal processes subject to specified thresholds being met
Question raised by one chair about the notice to be given of an appeal hearing date – consensus being that it depends of the complexity of the case (RP suggests not less than what is required for any original hearing)
 - Disparity policy – will become regulation rather than recommendation (we must comply)
 - First Aid – stronger requirements including risk assessments

- ii *Play-offs*. Rumours circulating that 2025 Premier Leagues play-offs will be deferred to 2026 are not correct. Paul Cummins has clarified that no decisions have been made regarding the Premier League play offs for 2025. He is currently talking to YCCC around the potential of Headingley being available on the 28th September. After confirming if that is an option, he intends to gather people's thoughts on the play-offs and how we move forwards, taking into account that there will be five teams eligible for the play-offs in 2025.

8 **Close.** Meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Appendix

Girls' teams requirement

Extract from ECB 2025 Premier League Accreditation: Process, Criteria and Guidance Notes

Requirement:

Leagues must take steps to ensure that every club in the top two 1st XI divisions of their competitions have at least one girls' section. A grace period will apply such that Leagues must be in a position to comply with this condition by 31 March 2026.

Guidance:

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, 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 1st 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.