

Appendix 2: Hertfordshire Cricket League Handbook 2024 extracts



**Hertfordshire
Premier Cricket
League**
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Handbook 2024

www.hertsleague.co.uk
www.hertfordshirecl.play-cricket.com
https://issuu.com/hertsleague/docs/handbook2024_online

Constitution

1. Title

The name of the League shall be the "Hertfordshire Premier Cricket League" (hereinafter referred to as "the League") and may also incorporate a sponsor's name or identity if appropriate. Reference to Premier & Championship divisions shall hereinafter be referred to as Premier divisions.

2. Object

The object of the League shall be to organise and control an annual league and other cricket competitions for founder member clubs and other invited clubs.

3. Membership

New members:

- a) Any cricket club may, in writing, apply to the Secretary requesting an invitation to membership. Such applications are to be received at least 12 months before the start of the first season in which such club wishes to enter the League, except for existing member clubs wishing to enter additional teams, which must apply by 30th September preceding the year in which the additional team wishes to join.
- b) New Members by Invitation; HPCL Executive may at their discretion invite clubs to join the league. In order to be invited to join the League, clubs must normally be able to demonstrate that they have fulfilled three years consecutive competitive cricket, immediately prior to their application, before they can be considered. Clubs must meet the criteria for maintaining membership and will be admitted to membership only at the divisional level which the standard of their facilities allows, subject to the discretion of the Executive Committee whose decision must be accepted. All new member clubs shall pay to the league the designated membership fee within one month of their election to membership.

Maintaining membership: To maintain membership of the League, all clubs must:

- a) Be properly constituted
- b) Be affiliated to the ECB through their membership of the Hertfordshire County Cricket Association, either as full or associate members, and to the Club Cricket Conference.
- c) Ensure a duty of care to all players and members by adopting and implementing the ECB 'Safe Hands - Safeguarding of Young People in Cricket' policy and any future versions of that policy.
- d) Have grounds and other facilities acceptable to the Executive Committee, including any alternative or occasional ground used for league matches. All clubs must have a well maintained playing area, particularly with regard to the square. No club will be eligible for promotion to a higher division unless the minimum standards for that division are attained, or unless otherwise agreed by the Executive Committee.

The minimum requirements for facilities will be:

Divisions 10 and below: Changing rooms, showers (in full working order) and toilets must be available close to the playing area, together with a suitable room where food can be consumed under hygienic conditions. In the absence of a scoreboard, a scoreboard is required, visible from the pitch. Boundaries shall be clearly marked by a white line, rope or flags. A well-stocked first aid kit shall be available. A clock must be provided, visible from the pitch. An artificial pitch may be used only in Divisions 10a and below.

Divisions 7-9: As above except that changing rooms etc. must be adjacent to the playing area. In addition, boundaries must be marked by a white line or rope, with flags added where possible. In Divisions 7-9 inclusive dispensation from the minimum standards for facilities may be granted by the Executive Committee for 3rd XIs and lower.

Divisions 5a-6b: As above, plus: sight screens positioned at each end of the ground. Boundaries must be marked by a white line or rope, plus flags to aid visibility. In addition, there must be a fully functioning scoreboard or scoreboard and a telephone must be available in the main pavilion.

Division 4b and above: As above plus bar facilities within the pavilion. Changing rooms must be an adequate size for each team and all players' kit.

Premier divisions: All clubs must meet ECB Premier League Assessment Criteria and any other ECB specified requirement, prior to any season's commencement. This includes a separate, adequate Umpires Changing room.

Voluntary termination of membership: Any club wishing to withdraw from the League must give written notice to the Hon. Secretary by 1st November prior to the last season in which it participates in the League.

Clubs must provide for every match, other than exceptionally (e.g., holidays or illness) either a qualified umpire or one who has been granted dispensation.

Failure to meet this requirement will result in a 5-point penalty for each match.

- e) In Divisions 1-2B each club is required to register with the League a minimum of one scorer who has either:
- Completed the ECB ACO Club Scorer course or equivalent; or
 - Received dispensation from the League on the grounds that the club has a long-standing and experienced scorer. A League sub-committee will agree any dispensation on this basis.
- It is expected that the scorer(s) so registered will be appointed in all matches other than, exceptionally, in the case of holidays or illness. Failure to provide a competent scorer for the duration of matches in Divisions 1-2B will result in a 5-point penalty.
- f) The penalty of 5 points will not be applied as follows:
- In (d) where the club has supplied at least as many umpires as it has teams playing in Divisions 6B and above to the Umpires Panel, and
 - In (e) where the registered scorer is also a registered umpire and that umpire is a member of the Umpires Panel.
- g) It is expected that in cases where a club is able to claim exemption from the penalty of 5 points that it will make every effort to provide, in all matches, an umpire or scorer as applicable for the benefit of the participants.
- h) It is the responsibility of every club to ensure that its umpires and scorers are correctly registered on the League website and a claim for exemption under (f) will be determined from those registration details.

9. Covers

Covering of pitches and bowlers' run-ups shall be allowed after play has commenced. Where only partial covers are available, to ensure play can resume as quickly as possible, bowlers' run-ups shall be covered up to a distance not exceeding five feet in front of the popping crease.

10. Pitches

Grounds on which matches are to be played shall be listed in the handbook. Alternative grounds may be used, providing the visiting team and umpires are advised of the change before 8pm on the Thursday prior to the date of the match, and formal acknowledgement of the change obtained from an officer of the opposing club and the umpires (where appropriate).

No game shall be switched to a ground (or pitch) other than the one on which the game is scheduled and/or is normally used by the home team, after 8pm on the Thursday prior to the date of the match. Exceptional circumstances may apply, if a late change of ground is approved by the League Executive Committee.

Artificial pitches may be only be used in games in Divisions 10 and 11 of the Regional Divisions.