

CONSTITUTION OF THE MIDDLESEX CHAMPIONSHIP

1. TITLE

The Cricket League established by and affiliated to the Middlesex Cricket Board Ltd shall be known as the Middlesex Championship (hereinafter the "Championship"). At the discretion of the League Management Committee, this title may be amended from time to time to incorporate the name, words or symbols referring to a sponsor or other appropriate body.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 To organise cricket on a Championship basis for its Member Clubs.
- 2.2 To ensure that cricket is played and maintained to the highest standards.
- 2.3 To promote a good standard of playing strength and general facilities among Member Clubs.
- 2.4 To encourage and strengthen colts and junior cricket.

3. MEMBERS

- 3.1 The Championship shall consist of such number of Clubs, which shall be members of the Middlesex Cricket Board and the CCC, as the Member Clubs shall from time to time stipulate at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting. Non-payment of the MCB subscription by 30th April each season will incur a fine of £50.
- 3.2 The Championship shall be open to Clubs which own or have control over the use of a cricket ground in the cricketing county of Middlesex.
- 3.3 Any new Club wishing to join the League will have to demonstrate that they meet all the requirements for the league. All new entrants will be assessed on the standard of their structure, ability and facilities so as to determine which Division they will fit into. However, no new club will be considered for Division one, in their first year of entrance into the League.

To gain entry into the Middlesex Championship League, and to gain Promotion within the League, a Club must meet the criteria set out in "The Middlesex Championship Entry & Promotion Criteria" This document can be found at:
<http://www.middlesexchampionship.com>.

- 3.4 In recognition of a duty of care to all players, particularly children and young people, the Championship has adopted the ECB "Safe hands - Welfare of Young People in Cricket" Policy, and will adopt any future version of the Policy. The Championship requires Member Clubs, too agree, to adopt and implement the ECB Welfare of Young People Policy and Procedures, and any future version of the Policy, in the event that they are running junior teams, or include juniors in their adult teams. The Championship has appointed a Welfare Officer who will work with a Member Club's Welfare Officer, as appropriate, and liaise with the Middlesex Cricket Board's Welfare Officer.
- 3.5 No Member Club may play more than one player in any Championship match who is at that time **of joining the Member Club is** contracted to an English first-class County Club. Furthermore, a player who has played at first-class level in a country which is a full member of the International Cricket Council, other than England, will be ineligible to play in a Championship match **since his/her last match at 1st Class (County or Equivalent) Level**. For the purpose of this Rule, no player who was first awarded an English first-class County contract when a member of a Member Club shall be deemed a contracted player when playing for the same Member Club.

Any Player that has represented any 1st or 2nd X at County level in the UK in the last twelve months and who is not a contracted player, the Member Club & Players MUST seek & receive approval from the League Committee prior to that player playing in any Championship League Match.

- 3.6 No Member Club may play more than one **non-resident player (regardless of nationality)** player in any Championship Match. For the purpose of this Rule a non-resident player is defined as a player who and has not been permanently resident in the British Isles (England, Scotland, Wales, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man) for a period of twenty-four consecutive months immediately before the date of the first match in which the player **and respective Member Club wishes him or her to play**. Permanently resident means the occupation of a bona fide home (the main residence of the player) for a period of a minimum of thirty consecutive weeks in each year. Any case where the residential qualification of a player is not clear shall be referred, in advance, by the Member Club to the League Management Committee, whose decision shall be final. The League Management Committee shall have the discretion not to apply this Rule in circumstances in which the Rule is deemed to operate against the spirit in which it was introduced. Member Clubs must register all Non-Resident players by supplying the following information to the Registration Secretary of the Championship prior to April 20th of each season:

Full Name,

Nationality,

Current Home Address, including postcode.

Date of birth, Country of birth,

Date of most recent entry into UK,

Previous Club / Clubs,

Photocopy of the personal details page of the passport,

Four passport-sized photos of any Non-Resident player who wishes to play in Division One, Two and Three both 1st and 2nd Elevens.

Please Note: If you have changed your name in the last five years please state all previous name/s.

No Member Club may play a player in any Championship match who is at the time contracted to an English First Class County Club as either a Professional or Semi Professional.

Any subsequent registration of a new non-resident player must be received and approved by the Registration Secretary on or before the Wednesday prior to that non-resident player being allowed to play for that Club. Unless a Member Club is in receipt of the Non-Resident player's Middlesex Championship Photo ID Card, that Non Resident player will not be allowed to play in any Division One, Two and Three matches. After July 31st of each season, no non-resident player may be registered without the express permission in writing of the League Management Committee. Such permission will only be granted in the most exceptional circumstances. Non-resident players may not be transferred during the season.

- 3.7 Only properly elected members of a Member Club shall play in the Championship. Member Clubs must register the names of all their players (in addition to any non-resident players registered under Rule 3.6), who have not previously been registered by the Member Club, by supplying the following information to the Registration Secretary of the Championship prior to May 1st of the season:

Full name,

Nationality,

Current home address, including postcode,

Date of Birth, Country of Birth

(if outside UK, date of most recent entry into UK),

Previous Club/Clubs.

Four passport-sized photos of any player who wishes to play in Division One, Two and Three, both 1st and 2nd Elevens.

Please Note: If you have changed your name in the last five years please state all previous name/s.

No Member Club may play a player in any Championship match who is at the time contracted to an English First Class County Club as either a Professional or Semi Professional.

Any subsequent registration of a new player must be received and approved by the Registration Secretary on or before the Wednesday prior to that player being allowed to play for the Club. Unless a Member Club is in receipt of the player's Middlesex Championship ID Photo Card, that player will not be allowed to play in any Division One, Two or Three matches. After July 31st of each season, any new registration shall be subject to the express permission in writing of the League Management Committee. Such permission will only be granted in the most exceptional circumstances.

A player may only play for one Member Club in any one season unless he receives the prior permission of the League Management Committee. Approval must be granted at least 48 hours prior to the player being allowed to play for his new Club. Transfers will only be approved where a player has discharged all financial and other obligations to his former Club. After July 31st of each season, transfers will only be granted in the most exceptional circumstances. Players contracted to an English first-class County Club or non-resident players may not be transferred during the season.

- 3.8 No player may receive any direct or indirect payment or expenses from his Member Club or any other source for playing in matches falling within the jurisdiction of the Championship.
- 3.9 A Member Club must field the strongest side available on the day for each Eleven. Any attempt to 'reinforce' the strength of the Second Eleven artificially for tactical reasons will be treated as a serious breach of the Constitution and will be dealt with under the Disciplinary Rules. A Member Club may be required to justify its selection policy to the Disciplinary Sub-Committee.

Any club found guilty of deliberately strengthening their team will suffer a 10 point deductions and loss of all points gained and a win being awarded to the opponents."

4. OFFICERS

- 4.1 The Officers of the Championship shall be:-

The Chairman;

The Vice Chairman;

The Honorary Secretary;

The Honorary Treasurer;

The Honorary Fixture Secretary;

The Honorary Results Secretary;

- 4.2 The Officers of the Championship and the other members of the League Management Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting to serve until the end of the following Annual General Meeting.

- 4.3 No Club can be represented on the League Management Committee by more than two members.

- 4.4 To be elected to the League Management Committee or as an "Officer" of the League Management Committee he/she shall require a proposer and seconder. The League Secretary must receive any nomination, by the 1st December prior to the AGM in January".

- 4.5 **Each League Management Committee Member must serve a minimum of 12 months on the Committee before holding an "Officers" position".**

5. HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

The League Management Committee may nominate Honorary Life Members for appointment by the Members Clubs at an Annual General Meeting. An Honorary Life Member is not a member of the League Management Committee. The maximum number of Honorary Life Members at any one time shall be five

6. ADMINISTRATION

6.1 A Council consisting of:

- a) The League Management Committee (as defined in 6.2 below); and
- b) The First Eleven Captain or another representative of each Member Club shall be responsible for discussing and, when necessary, making recommendations to a General Meeting concerning the affairs of the Championship.

6.2 The routine business of the Championship shall be conducted by a League Management Committee consisting of:

- a) The Officers (as defined at 4.1 above); and
- b) Five other members elected at each Annual General Meeting.

7. GENERAL MEETINGS

7.1 The Annual General Meeting of the Championship shall take place in the evening of a day in January for which at least 21 days notice in writing shall be given to each Member Club.

7.2 Member Club may submit any proposals for changes to either the RULES or PLAYING CONDITIONS to the League Management Committee by September 30th before the Annual General Meeting.

The submission of these proposals must either:

- a) be approved by the League Management Committee, but not necessarily endorsed by it, for submission to the Annual General Meeting; or
- b) be proposed by a minimum of five Member Clubs in which case there is no need for the proposal to be approved by the League Management Committee.

7.3 With the notice calling the Annual General Meeting the League Management Committee will enclose:

- a) An Independent Accounts Report of the Championship's Income and Expenditure during the year ended September 30th preceding and a Balance Sheet at that date; and
- b) Statements of any proposed changes to the Rules or Playing Conditions to be considered at the meeting.

7.4 The Annual General Meeting shall be held to transact the following:

- a) To receive reports from the League Management Committee;
- b) To receive and approve the financial statements and the Honorary Treasurer's report;
- c) To fix an entrance fee for newly elected members;
- d) To fix an annual subscription for the coming year;
- e) To consider any proposals for amendment to the Rules or Playing Conditions;
- f) To consider any applications for membership; and
- g) To elect the Officers and other members of the League Management Committee for the following year.
- h) To approve the appointment of Honorary Life Members nominated by the League Management Committee.

7.5 A Special General Meeting may be called at any time by the League Management Committee or by Member Clubs on application to the Honorary Secretary in writing. The application must be signed by the Secretaries of not less than five Member Clubs of the Championship and shall state clearly the motion(s) which shall form the purpose of the Special General Meeting. The meeting shall take place within six weeks of receipt of the application and shall discuss only the motion(s) which form the contents of the application. Notice of this meeting shall be given as defined in 7.1 above.

7.6 A quorum at all General meetings of the Championship shall be the representatives of not less than one third of the Member Clubs.

7.7 General Meetings must be attended by at least one but no more than two bona fide members of each of the Member Clubs. At the discretion of the League Management Committee and as specified in the notice calling the General Meeting, any Member Club not represented at a General Meeting may be fined up to £50.00 or up to 30 points depending upon the importance that the League Management Committee attaches to the proposals being considered.

8. COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Council shall meet in September of each year and at such other times as necessary. Notice of the meeting shall be given as defined in 7.1 above and a quorum shall be as defined in 7.6 above.

9. LEAGUE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

9.1 The League Management Committee shall meet as directed by the Chairman or Secretary, at a suitable frequency to ensure the efficient administration of the Championship's affairs. A quorum shall be not less than one half.

9.2 If an elected Committee member absents himself/herself from three consecutive meetings without good reason the League Management Committee will consider that he/she has resigned and is empowered to replace that member with a substitute to act until the following Annual General Meeting.

9.3 The League Management Committee may co-opt any person whom it feels can assist on any particular item to be discussed by the League Management Committee.

Co-opted Members will only act as consultants in they're chosen field and will not have a vote on the committee.

10. VOTING

10.1 At the Annual General Meeting, at a Special General Meeting and at a Council Meeting the voting shall be on the basis of

10.2 In the event of a tied vote the Chairman or his nominated deputy, who shall not otherwise vote by reason of his office, shall have the casting vote.

A majority of those present and voting will be decisive

10.3 For the avoidance of doubt, any Club which participates in the Championship on a probationary basis pending election to the status of a Member Club by the voting of the Member Clubs at an Annual General Meeting shall not have the rights of a Member Club. In particular,

a Club that participates on a probationary basis shall not be entitled to vote on any Resolution to be proposed at a General Meeting, and none of that Club's members shall be eligible for appointment as an Officer of the Championship or to serve on any Committee

11. FINANCE

- 11.1 Each Member Club shall be required to pay within three months of its acceptance in the Championship an entrance fee as fixed from time to time at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting.
- 11.2 Each Member Club shall be required to pay an annual subscription as fixed from time to time at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting.
- 11.3 An Independent Accounts Report for the year ended September 30th shall be prepared and sent to Member Clubs together with the notice convening the Annual General Meeting.
- 11.4 The day-to-day financial affairs and other business of the Championship shall be managed by the League Management Committee. The League Management Committee shall have the power to deal under the Disciplinary Rules with the failure after three weeks by a Member Club to respond, in writing, to a letter from the Management Committee, and with late or non-payment of subscriptions, levies and fines.

12. FORM OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP

- 12.1 Each match shall be played according to the Laws of Cricket as issued by the M.C.C. except where the Playing Conditions adopted by the Championship shall differ from such Laws. The Playing Conditions of the Championship shall be as set out below.
- 12.2 The Divisional Structure for multi-team clubs will be Division One, Two and Three, First and Second Elevens. The Divisional Structure for single team Clubs will be Division 4 and below.
- 12.3 The ultimate winner of each Division shall be the side with the most points on completion of the Championship programme. In the event of more than one side having the same number of points, the winner shall be the side with the greatest number of wins. If still equal the winner shall be the side taking the most wickets in the season. If still equal, the winner shall be the side scoring the most runs in the season. The same rules will apply to determine the respective finishing positions of other sides, which finish on an equal number of points.
- 12.4 Promotion and Relegation between the Championship's grades and Divisions shall be as set out in the Playing Conditions below.
- 12.5 A Member Club shall not be promoted to Division One 1st & 2nd Elevens if the member club facilities do not meet the required standards for the MCCL. Member Clubs from the lower Division shall not be promoted to a higher grade Division if the member Club's facilities are not of a sufficiently high standard to enable it to play in that grade. For the purpose of this Rule, Divisions 1 and 2 are defined as senior grade and Division 3 as intermediate grade. Division 4 and below will be junior grade.
- 12.6 For the purpose of Promotion, Member Clubs shall meet the standards for that Division,
Any Member club that has been asked to improve their facilities to the requirements of the Division One and Two, should do so by the season end (15th October) prior to the next season.
- 12.7 Subject to satisfying certain specified minimum qualifying conditions, the top side in Division 1, First Elevens and Second Elevens shall be promoted to the relevant Division 3 of the Middlesex County Cricket League and that side shall be replaced in the relevant Division 1 by the bottom side in the relevant Division 3 of the Middlesex County Cricket League.
For Member Clubs which have First and Second Eleven sides playing in the Championship, the top two sides in Division 2, and 3 will replace the bottom two sides in the Division above in the subsequent season subject to Rules 12.5, 12.6,
The lowest team in the first and second eleven division 3 structure may be moved to Division 4, if there is a first or second eleven team of a multi team club due to be promoted from Division 4.
To allow Single Team Clubs to be promoted from Division Four to Division Three, however, the club will not be allowed to be promoted any further until the club has two teams and may be relegated to Division 4 in subsequent seasons if potential replacement member clubs are meeting the set criteria for Division 3.
In order to accommodate new teams, or teams deciding to leave the League, changes to the League's divisional structure may be made by the League Management Committee. Such changes could affect promotion and relegation arrangements and the number of teams in a division.
- 12.8 A member Club in a relegation position at a season's end shall be relegated if the Member Club due to replace it achieves the grade required of that Division.
- 12.9 Once "The Middlesex Championship Entry & Promotion Criteria" are implemented the Clubs In Division One will be assessed against the new Criteria. Where a particular criteria is not met the club concerned will agree with the Committee a plan for rectifying the situation. Each plan will be given a timetable and failure to meet the timetable will incur a penalty. The Committee will have the discretion to implement a points deduction or, in extreme cases, relegation.

13. GrADING

- 13.1 The grading of member clubs will be undertaken and reviewed annually by a Grading Sub-Committee appointed by the League Management Committee.
- 13.2 The grading will depend on the Member Club's facilities. Any appeals must be made in writing to the Honorary Secretary of the Championship.

14. ENTRY INTO AND WITHDRAWAL FROM THE CHAMPIONSHIP

- 14.1 Application for membership of the Championship shall be made in writing to the Honorary Secretary. Upon election new members shall not commence active membership of the Championship until the Annual General Meeting following that at which their election took place unless with full agreement of any previous League of which they were members or where they had not previously been members of a

14.2 For new **Club/or additional team from existing Member Clubs** wishing to enter into the League, to pay a returnable deposit of £250.00, which will be returned at the end of their 2nd **consecutive** season with the league.

14.3 Member Clubs undertake to give at or before an Annual General Meeting not less than 12 months' notice of withdrawal from the Championship.

Failure to provide such notice may subject the Member Club to a penalty of not more than £250.00.

15. ALTERATION OF THE RULES

No alteration shall be made to the Rules of the Championship except at an Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting as provided for in Rules 7.2, 7.5 and 10 above.

16. DISSOLUTION

The Championship may be dissolved by a resolution of a General Meeting, the conditions of voting described in Rule 10 being applicable. In the event of a dissolution any surplus funds held to the credit of the Championship shall be disposed of as determined by Trustees who shall be appointed by the Middlesex Cricket Board's Management Committee. Should there be insufficient funds at the time of dissolution to meet liabilities the deficit shall be met by the Member Clubs in such proportion as the General Meeting dissolving the Championship shall determine.

17. INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION

The League Management Committee is empowered to interpret, to implement and enforce these Rules and the Playing Conditions of the Championship, and to take such action as it sees fit in its absolute discretion to uphold the reputation and standards of the Championship. In the event of any dispute on the Rules and Playing Conditions, the matter shall be referred for jurisdiction to the League Management Committee whose decisions on interpretation and on any matters not covered by them shall be final and binding on all Member Clubs unless and until set aside by a vote of a General Meeting.