

ENTRY CRITERIA

1.1 Due Diligence. Each club must have a constitution and keep proper records of accounts. These should be available for inspection by the League if they deem it necessary.

1.2 Governing Body Affiliation. All clubs must be affiliated to their respective cricket boards.

1.3 ECB Clubmark Accreditation. All clubs must be registered for Clubmark if they do not already have accreditation.

1.4 Junior Cricket. All clubs must demonstrate a genuine desire to promote junior cricket and wherever possible, run junior teams.

1.5 Playing Strength. All member clubs and new applicants must, as a minimum, have 1st and 2nd XI's.

1.6 Website. Clubs are required to have a 'play-cricket' website. (Training will be provided).

Facilities

2.1 Ground Availability. The ground that the relevant team plays on should be owned, leased, or subject to a long-term agreement, and be available on all dates when fixtures are scheduled. Availability dates would be typically from and including the third Saturday in April to and including the third Saturday in September. New clubs will be required to provide documentary evidence.

Note: Hiring other clubs' grounds or playing on public amenities does not count as leased. In special circumstances clubs may be given dispensation by the League to play on other authorised grounds.

2.2 -Pavilion. The club has a pavilion and there is full access to the ground & pavilion on all league and cup match days.

Note: Facilities should not be restricted by other events. Clubs must notify the league if this is not achievable.

2.3 Dedicated scoreboard & scoreboard. Clubs should have a dedicated scoreboard (electronic or manual) which is clearly visible from most of the ground.

Note: Portable scoreboard and table in public area for scorers is not acceptable unless dispensation is approved due to work on improvements etc. Scorers should not be placed in a public area. The numbers on the scoreboard should show at least: Total; Wickets; Overs Bowled or Overs Remaining; First Innings Total; Last Man's Score; Side Batting (Home/Visitors); and be of adequate size to be visible from the far side of the ground. The scoreboard should ideally be visible from the Pavilion and players viewing area. Umpires should be able to see the scorers' signals clearly, and the scorers should be able to see at least 90% of the playing area. The scoreboard should be clean, tidy and reasonably comfortable, with adequate table and chairs and full protection from the weather. The system for changing the numbers should be easily accessible to the scorers, simple to operate and in full working order.

2.4 Player Dressing Rooms. Separate secure dressing rooms for home & away teams.

Note: Dressing rooms should be well ventilated, lit and decorated, with heating whenever possible. Separate changing facilities should be provided for visiting teams. The changing rooms should be of adequate size for a full adult team including kit bags etc and with suitable seating, tables or shelving for bags and equipment, a mirror and at least one hook per player for clothes. Changing rooms should be easily accessible from the playing area whilst preserving the privacy of the players, and should allow viewing of the playing area whenever possible. Flooring should be suitable for bare feet. The changing rooms should have adequate security facilities to ensure the security of equipment and possessions.

2.5 Showers. Adequate clean and hygienic showers with relevant maintenance regime should be available and conveniently located to allow private access by players and umpires.

2.6 Match Officials. Separate secure dressing rooms for match officials

Bowler's markers, umpires' coats, drying cloths, ordinary and heavy bails and spare stumps should be available.

2.7 Toilet Facilities. Separate toilet facilities for male & female spectators.

Note: Clean and hygienic toilet, washing and hand-drying facilities, adequately equipped (including mirrors) and serviced, must be available for both males and females. Access for spectators must be consistent with the security and privacy requirements of players and umpires. All facilities must meet legal requirements and should take account of the needs of the disabled.

2.8 Hospitality. Clubs should have a dedicated area for match teas. This can be part of the bar, as long as it is exclusive at the time of tea.

Note: Teas should be of a good standard and at a reasonable price. The bar and surrounding area should have adequate facilities for players, supporters and families, including proper heating and seating arrangements. The bar should be adequately staffed and open before the close of play. The area used for serving meals should be adjacent to the playing area, of adequate size to accommodate players, officials and a few spectators and in good clean decorative condition. An area should be reserved for players, scorers, and match officials. Some clubs may not have bar facility.

2.9 Kitchen Area. The kitchen should meet all legal health and safety requirements and provide hot and cold water, washing facilities, adequate worktops in clean and hygienic condition, suitable storage space including a refrigerator and sufficient crockery and cutlery in good condition.

2.10 First Aid. A well-stocked first aid box must be available at all times for the treatment of minor injuries. A person qualified in First Aid should be available.

Ground

3.1 Ground staff. Clubs are required to have a dedicated groundsman or deputy on hand during matches.

3.2 Pitch and Square. The square should be well maintained and in good condition with the whole of it being cut within two days of the start of each match. The pitch should be clearly distinguishable from the remainder of the square and shall be marked and rolled before play. The bounce of the pitch should be true and predictable throughout the match, and should not produce excessive spin or movement off the seam. It shall not have been artificially watered within 36 hours of the match. Stumps, which should be properly matched sets in good condition and with matching bails, shall be pitched by the groundsman with holes adequately watered to allow easy resetting by the umpires.

The pitch shall be brushed and re-marked (and rolled if required) during the interval between innings. At least one roller must be available for use during the match. Any holes or ruts on the square caused by previous matches must be levelled, filled and firmed before a subsequent match.

3.3 Outfield. The outfield should be well maintained and adequately drained. It should be closely mown with no noticeable grass cuttings. Balls should be able to run true and the outfield should be free of holes, ruts or other obstructions that might pose a hazard to fielders.

3.4 Boundary. The boundary should be clearly marked by rope or white line and with markers approximately 20 yards apart. (markers only necessary where there is a line, not necessary where a rope is provided) Alternatively where a gutter is used the edge shall be cleanly cut; if a picket fence or advertising boards form part or all of the boundary they shall be secure and in good condition. The boundary should be a minimum of 40 yards from the nearest middle stump.

3.5 Sight Screens. It is desirable that clubs have sightscreens at either end of their ground.

The structure and non-reflective paintwork of the sight screens or the fabric should be in good condition. They should be of an adequate and appropriate size for the ground and should be completely outside the playing.

Screens should be properly positioned before the commencement of play. Screens are to be provided at both ends unless explicit dispensation is given by the League Management Board. A rope or boards should be provided to define the boundary if the sight screen(s) stand within the playing area, and the roped/boarded area must be of sufficient size to allow screens to be moved from side to side without adjusting the ropes/boards.

3.6 Covers. All clubs must have covers to protect the pitch and the bowlers' run-ups from rain both during the match and in the preceding days as appropriate. Arrangements should be made for the ground staff, players or other helpers to put the covers in place as quickly as possible. Wheeled covers are recommended, although plastic sheets/tarpaulins can be used provided that they are well maintained and are laid over a hessian underlay which covers the pitch area. The covers must protect an area of at least 80 feet by 12 feet and clubs are encouraged to protect a larger area, including the bowlers' run-ups, whenever possible. Clubs will be required to show that their covering arrangements are adequate to protect the pitch, taking into account the contours and draining characteristics of the ground.

3.7 Drying Equipment. The ground has adequate water removing equipment.

Note: An adequate supply of sawdust and cloths should be available to minimise lost playing time due to wet ground conditions. Additional covering for areas likely to cause a delay in play (e.g. the ends of previously used pitches) should be provided whenever possible. Other drying facilities, including brushes, forks, squeegees etc. can also be useful.

3.8-Rollers. Light (5 to 10 cwt) and heavy (minimum 30 cwt) rollers should be available for use on the pitch. At least one roller must be available for use during the match.

3.9 Ground Surrounds. The surrounds should be maintained by regular cutting. Fences and walls should be well maintained. The entrance(s) to the ground should be clearly signed, showing the name of the club. Seating for spectators should be in good condition. Suitable measures should be taken to ensure that lost balls do not delay play.

3.10 Car Parking. Every effort should be made to provide adequate car parking for players, officials and spectators either within the ground or immediately adjacent to the ground. Clubs should make suitable provision for disabled access to the ground and social areas.

3.11 Practice Facilities. Clubs should ensure that they have access to good quality practice facilities for mid-week practice for senior players and either mid-week or weekend practice for junior players. It is recommended all clubs provide good practice facilities either on or off field, grass or artificial.

3.12 Viewing Area. A seated area, ideally covered and sheltered, should be provided for the batting side to view the match.

3.13 Spectator Seating. There should be adequate spectator seating around the ground.

Compliance

4.1 Child Protection: All clubs must have a Child Welfare Officer who has attended an approved Safe Hands training course in the past three years.

The Welfare Officer plus the following post holders must be DBS checked

- Open Age Team Captains
- Scorer
- Umpire
- Volunteer Co-ordinator
- Coach (whether volunteer or paid, assisting or leading)
- Colts/Juniors managers
- Age Group Managers
- Junior Supervisors
- First Aiders / Physiotherapists / Medical Support