

NORTH WALES CRICKET LEAGUE

MATCH RULES & PLAYING CONDITIONS

1. COMPOSITION OF THE LEAGUE

(i). The NWCL shall comprise of 6 Leagues:

Premier League comprising of 12 Teams.

Division 1 comprising of 12 Teams.

Division 2 comprising of 12 Teams.

Division 3 comprising of 12 Teams.

Division 4 comprising of 11 Teams.

The Sunday 3rd XI League will comprise of 2 divisions East and West each consisting of 7 teams.

The League shall have a system of promotion and relegation apart from the Sunday 3rd XI League.

(ii). The primary aim of the NWCL MC will be to have a number of teams as agreed at the annual AGM in each division playing Saturday League cricket. The NWCL will also organise under these rules and regulations other competitions such as Sunday Leagues, and T/20 competitions where applicable.

(iii). If required, at the commencement of each season, the MC in consultation with the fixtures secretary may restructure the lower divisions in each League to contain more or fewer teams than that agreed at the AGM in order to provide effective Divisions for competitive cricket.

2. FIXTURES

(i). The Fixtures shall be arranged by the Fixture Secretary

(ii). Any club who has a known availability of ground issue or other circumstance that would affect a team's ability to complete a scheduled fixture during the course of the normal season will notify the Fixture Secretary of the nature of the problem as soon as possible and no later than the 1st December.

(iii). Draft fixtures will be circulated on the League Website, when possible, not later than 28th February of each year.

(iv). Any club wishing to alter a proposed fixture date or venue after 28th February will need the approval of the Management Committee. Any proposal to do so must be received, at least one week before the scheduled fixture, in writing, by the Fixture Secretary, copied to the League Secretary, stating the grounds for altering the fixture proposing an alternative date and enclosing a signed confirmation from the opposing team that they do not object to such alteration. In certain exceptional circumstances, as agreed by the MC, individual consideration may be given to a reduced period of notification.

(v). No re-arranged League fixture can be played before the natural start date of the League season or after the natural closing date for the season unless by express agreement of the Management Committee. The 'natural start date' and 'natural closing date' shall be determined by the Management Committee and notified to clubs at the AGM

(vi). Bank Holiday and any re-arranged match played on a Sunday shall be deemed to be Saturday fixtures for the purposes of all applicable rules.

(vii). All NWCL league fixtures will be played at the recognised home ground(s) of each member club. In any instances where this is not possible it is permissible to play the game on a neutral ground with the agreement of both teams and approved by the MC.

(viii). Teams shall play each other on a home and away basis, the Sunday 3rd XI League where this may be varied to be consistent with maintaining a meaningful calendar of fixtures.

(ix). In the event of any club/team failing to fulfil a published fixture on the appointed date, such club/team shall:

(a). Be deducted 15 points.

(b). Be responsible for repayment of any reasonable costs incurred by their opponents, to include teas and all other reasonable costs if applicable. In the event of a dispute on costs, the Management Committee's decision will be final after hearing from all parties concerned.

(c). The opponents in such an instance shall be awarded the average points gained by winning sides achieved in their Division on the weekend of the fixture. (Decimals will be rounded up). In the event that no other games are completed in the relevant division, the opponents awarded 11 points.

3. ECB DIRECTIVES AND GUIDELINES

All member clubs must:

(i). Adhere to the ECB Fast Bowling Directive for Young Fast Bowlers.

(ii). Ensure that safety guidance on the wearing of helmets (and any updates thereto) by players under the age of 18 years is adhered to as well as any fielding regulations applicable to young persons.

- (iii). Adhere to such other guidance and directives that are relevant to the current season.
- (iv). Arrange for Results of matches to be accessible by the ECB within time frames and in such media, format as required.
- (v). All matches shall be played under the current edition of the MCC Laws of Cricket unless otherwise provided for in these Rules, under Rule 19 Special Regulations, herein after.
- (vi). Encourage players to make themselves available for ECB XI and/or County Board selection – any player refusing to do so will not be eligible to play in any League Match scheduled for the same day without permission of their County Board.
- (viii). Complete a Team Sheet card and hand it to the umpires or, when there are no standing umpires, exchange with the opposing captain. This applies to all Leagues and Divisions and is especially important with regard to young players.

4. DISCIPLINE

The NWCL and the ECB are committed to maintaining the highest standards of behaviour and conduct both on and off the field of play. The co-operation of all members is sought and expected in this regard. In the event of disciplinary action being taken against a member club or individual the Policy and Procedure as set out in the NWCL Discipline Code will be followed in all cases.

5. PITCHES

- (i). Pitches may not be watered less than 36 hours before a match.
- (ii). Each club in the Premier Division and 1st Division shall provide leak proof covers capable of covering the whole pitch and the bowler's run-ups to a minimum of 5 meters behind each centre stump.
- (iii). Home clubs are responsible for pitch preparation, marking and setting of wickets prior to the start of play.
- (iv). Between innings, sweeping, remarking and rolling, if requested, is the responsibility of the home club.

6. UMPIRES and SCORERS

- (i). Every game in the League's Premier and 1st Divisions must have two umpires in attendance other than people participating in the match itself. No match can start in these Divisions without two such umpires, save in the instance where one umpire is available and with his/her and the captains agreement he/she officiates at both bowling ends. Failure to provide or name an umpire shall result in an automatic 1 penalty point deduction being applied for every occurrence. Below is a schedule showing teams responsibilities regarding the provision of umpires:

1st XI League

Premier Division	Panel
Division 1	Panel/Club Appointed (competent, preferably qualified)
Division 2	Club Appointed/Competent Player (both preferably qualified)
Division 3	Club Appointed/Competent Player (both preferably qualified)
Division 4	Club Appointed/Competent Player (both preferably qualified)
3rd XI League	Club Appointed/Competent Player (both preferably qualified)

- (ii). Interpretation: for competent the minimum expectation will be that the individual has PASSED a Level 1 umpires course.
- (iii). Premier and 1st Division Clubs must have a competent scorer other than a player for every game. Failure to provide a scorer will result in an automatic 1 penalty point deduction being applied for every occurrence.
- (iv). The umpires and scorers must be named on the Play Cricket match result.

7. PLAYING CONDITIONS

- (i). The duration of any match is dependent on the League/Division involved:
 - (a) Matches in the Premier League and Division 1 will be of a maximum of 50 overs per innings.
 - (b) Matches in Division 2 and 3 will be of a maximum of 45 overs per innings.
 - (c) Matches in Division 4 will be of a maximum of 40 overs per innings.
 - (d) Matches in the 3rd XI League will be a maximum of 40 overs per innings.

The North Wales Cricket League sets a minimum standard over rate in all games as 17 overs per hour.

Where any complete Division is officiated by Panel Appointed qualified umpires a penalty point system will be enforced for any non-compliance. For the sake of calculation purposes in all cases 1 over = 3.5 minutes.

The penalties will be as follows:

Less than 17 overs per hour – 1 Penalty Point

Less than 16 overs per hour – 2 Penalty Points, any Second occurrence in the same season an automatic First and Final Warning to the Captain

Less than 15 overs per Hour – 3 Penalty Points and an automatic First and Final Warning to the Captain

For the team bowling first, where that side has bowled out the side batting first, the number of overs used

in the calculation will be those available to the batting side at the start of the match, or as subsequently reduced in a rain affected situation under Section 10 (i) below. The time applicable in any over rate calculation by the match officials will only determined by reference to the reasons given in clause (iv) of this Section below

- (ii). Each match must be scheduled to commence no later than 1.00pm to allow for the maximum games overs to be completed within the normal daylight hours available. At the beginning and end of the season all 100 over matches will start earlier due to the fading light conditions and the latest start times will be published in the League Handbook. Earlier starts at any time of the season are permissible with agreement of both participating clubs, and notification of the proposed start time being sent to the Umpires Appointment Secretary at least 5 days before the day of the match. In the case of panel appointed umpires it is the responsibility of the home captain to personally notify the appointed umpires in good time of the proposed start time.
- (iii). The toss shall take place 15 minutes before the scheduled match time. Any team failing to arrive in time will forfeit the toss. Where non-playing umpires are officiating they must be in attendance at the toss.
- (iv). No game shall be interrupted other than for one of the following reasons:
 - (a). Inclement weather
 - (b). Tea interval
 - (c). Agreed drinks intervals as required by weather conditions to be fair to all players.
 - (d). Injury to any participant
 - (e). Agreement of both captains and where applicable panel umpires
 - (f). Any interruption outside the control of those participating that may present a danger, real or perceived, to those participating.
- (v). If a team is dismissed in the first innings before the last over the remaining overs will NOT be carried over to the second innings.
- (vi). Tea intervals will be of 30 minutes duration and under normal circumstances will be taken between innings. However in the case of an interruption to play, the tea interval may be taken either during the interval or at the end of play by agreement of both captains. If the captains fail to agree on this then the decision shall pass to the umpires whose sole reasoning should be any opportunity to maximize the potential maximum playing time.
- (vii). In the event of the tea interval being taken during a break in play in the first innings when there are still remaining overs to be played in the first innings, if a later calculation is required to determine the remaining time/overs in a game, the allowance for change in innings will be 10 minutes.
- (viii). A new and approved match ball will be used at the commencement of both innings (Readers Sovereign) in the Premier and 1st Division, (Readers Sovereign or Crown) in Divisions 2 and 3. Other Divisions to use an approved match ball (Readers Sovereign or Crown) providing it is either new or in good condition.
- (ix). The bowling side should provide approved spare balls of good quality in both innings.
- (x). Movement of sightcreens behind the bowlers arm is solely the responsibility of the batting side. The umpires will not suffer any delay in play or cause members of the fielding side to be responsible for moving the screens. Any batsman failing to take guard in such circumstances on instruction from the umpire shall be issued with a First and Final Discipline Warning for Time Wasting.

8. MATCH CLOTHING

All match clothing shall be white or cream. Shirts, sweaters and trousers may display up to unobtrusive sponsors logos and a club badge/insignia. The club badge/insignia must be on the chest and can be accompanied by one commercial device. Any second commercial device must be placed on the sleeve or collar but not on both. Only manufacturers' logos/devices may appear on shoes and trousers. The area of each logo/insignia shall not exceed 10 square inches or the following external dimensions: [Rectangle 4 x 2.5 inches], [Rectangle 5 x 2 inches], [Square with sides of 3.33 inches], [Circle of 3.5inches diameter]. Alternatively, if only one commercial logo is being used the maximum area will not exceed 24 square inches, on pattern formats as above. In all circumstances where commercial devices are likely to be used the intended design/s must be submitted to the NWCL MC for approval beforehand. No personalised individual player names or numbers will be permissible on trousers, shirts or jumpers. In the case of club caps, external personal identification as regards a player shall be permissible on the condition that it is appropriate in size and content.

9. FIELDING RESTRICTIONS

For the Following Leagues and Divisions 'Fielding Restrictions' will be in place for both innings - Premier Division, Divisions 1 and 2. There are no fielding restrictions in Divisions 3; 4 and the Sunday 3rd XI League These restrictions are set as follows:

- (i). First Fielding Restriction Period. For the First ten overs of a 50 over innings, the first nine overs of a 45 over innings or the first 8 overs of a 40 over innings a total of SEVEN fielders plus the bowler and

- wicket keeper must be within the 30 yard Fielding Restriction Area.
- (ii). Second Fielding Restriction Period. For the remainder of the innings a total of FOUR fielders plus the wicket keeper and bowler must be within the 30 yard Fielding Restriction Area.
 - (iii). In the event of either innings being shortened due to loss of playing times the duration of the Fielding Restrictions will be as detailed in the table below.
 - (iv). Either Umpire shall call and signal No Ball if in his opinion the fielding side breach the requirement as regards positioning of fielders. An additional ball will be bowled in the over and 1 penalty run awarded to the batting side.
 - (v). The umpires shall judge the fielders position as at the time of delivery of the ball.

Number of Overs in the Innings	First Fielding Restriction Period	Second Restriction Period	Number of Overs in the Innings	First Fielding Restriction Period	Second Restriction Period
50	10	40	34	7	27
49	10	39	33	7	26
48	10	38	32	7	25
47	10	37	31	7	24
46	10	36	30	6	24
45	9	36	29	6	23
44	9	35	28	6	22
43	9	34	27	6	21
42	9	33	26	6	20
41	9	32	25	5	20
40	8	32	24	5	19
39	8	31	23	5	18
38	8	30	22	4	18
37	8	29	21	4	17
36	8	28	20	4	16
35	7	28			

10. RAIN/WEATHER AFFECTED MATCHES

- (i) The decision regarding weather conditions for the commencement of matches shall be the responsibility of the home club in every game. In the event of a game where panel umpires have been appointed, the responsibility of fitness for play passes to the umpires 30 minutes before the scheduled start of play. Once any match has started the responsibility relating to the fitness to commence or continue to play rests with the umpires.
- (ii) For 1st XI Premier Division and 1st XI Division One only - If and only if rain is forecast (using the Met Office forecast) for later in the day the captains and umpires together can agree to shorten the number of overs to be played before the scheduled start of the match. If there is no unanimous agreement, then the default position of 50 overs per innings prevails.
- (iii) From the time of the agreed Scheduled Match Start Time, or, during the course of the first innings, any play is lost due to individual or accumulated weather related stoppages, the total number of overs available is reduced by 2 overs (one per innings) for every 7 minutes lost.
- (iv) After the completion of the First Innings in the case of an interruption, overs reductions will be calculated at one over for every 3.5 minutes.
- (v) Before the commencement of play in any match where there has been a delay in the start of the game there must be a minimum number of overs available to be played in both innings to constitute a match as follows.

Full Game 50 overs per side –

Minimum Number of Overs to constitute a match is 20 overs per innings.

Full Game 45 overs per side –

Minimum Number of overs to constitute a match is 20 overs per innings.

Full game 40 overs per side –

Minimum Number of Overs to constitute a match is 20 overs per innings.

(A theoretical calculation indicates that the maximum amount of playing time required for a 20 overs a side match is 150 minutes, this allows for tea to have been taken during the interruption and 10 minutes between innings.

Therefore if there has been no play in the worst case scenario a match would have to be able to commence no later than the times shown below for a scheduled 13:00 start

Scheduled overs	Scheduled duration	Reduced overs	Revised Duration	Maximum delay period	Latest Start Time
50	6 Hours 20 Mins	20	2 Hours 30 Mins	3 Hours 50 Mins	16:50
45	5 Hours 45 Mins	20	2 Hours 30 Mins	3 Hours 15 Mins	16:15
40	5 Hours 10 Mins	20	2 Hours 30 Mins	2 Hours 40 Mins	15:40

(For other start times add the "Maximum delay period" onto the new start time to get the latest start time)

(vi) In the event of any match where the side batting second does not have the opportunity to bat the same number of overs as was completed in the first innings, The Winning Target Score required in the second innings will be determined by the following calculation method.

This can be done by using the Leagues Online Calculator (<http://nwcl.wales/>) or the manual method below.

Rain Affected Matches Calculation Aid

The Number of overs to be bowled is calculated as per section 10 (iv)

The Target Score for the second Innings is calculated each time the number of overs is revised, using the formula below.

Step 1 – Calculate 1st

$$\frac{\text{1st Innings Runs}}{\text{1}} =$$

Step 2 – Calculate Runs adjustment

$$\text{x Run rate x Overs Lost = Total Runs Lost}$$

$$\text{x 0.75 = Rounded down to whole Runs}$$

$$\text{Total Runs Lost x 0.75 = Runs Adjustment}$$

$$\text{– To Tie}$$

$$\text{+ 1 To Win}$$

Step 3 – Calculate Par and Target Scores

$$\frac{\text{1<sup>st}}
$$\text{Par Score + 1 = Target Score}$$</sup>$$

Please note in the calculation for the 1st innings run rate, it is the scheduled (not rain affected), or revised Scheduled because of rain you use.

Similarly, on the online Calculator the "1st Innings Overs:" and "2nd Innings Overs:" are the scheduled or rescheduled (after reduction) and **NOT** overs faced.

For second and subsequent stoppages in the 2nd innings the target score will have to be recalculated using the same method as above.

Should if when calculating the second innings overs in 10 (iv) it becomes less than 20 overs the match result is Abandoned, as the minimum overs to constitute a match has been reached, section 10 (v)

11. POINTS (Standard for ALL Leagues and Divisions)

(i). The winning points will be determined as the side who scored the most runs over the course of their completed innings. The winning team will be awarded 10 points.

(ii). 5 further bonus points will be awarded as follows.

[a]. (Band 1) 1 Point for a victory by 1,2, or 3 wickets, or up to 25 runs. The remaining four points to the losing side.

[b]. (Band 2) 2 Points for a victory by 4 or 5 wickets or between 26 and 50 runs. The remaining 3

- bonus points to the losing side.
- [c]. (Band 3) 3 Points for a victory by 6 or 7 wickets or between 51 and 75 runs. The remaining 2 bonus points to the losing side.
- [d]. (Band 4) 4 Points for a victory by 8 or 9 wickets or between 76 and 100 runs. The remaining 1 point to the losing side.
- [e]. (Band 5) 5 Points for a victory by 10 wickets or over 100 runs.
- (iii). In the event of a tie both side will be awarded 8 points. A tie will be any match when both innings score the same number of runs alone and is not dependant on wickets lost, run rate or any other factor.
- (iv). In the event of a cancelled or abandoned match both sides will be awarded 3 points. (To be Discussed)
- (v). In the event of a team conceding any match they will be deducted 15 points. The team they were due to play will be awarded the average winning points achieved in other matches in their Division for that days fixtures. In the event of no other fixtures being completed due to inclement weather or any other reason the default will be 8 points.

12. BOWLING RESTRICTIONS

No Bowler shall bowl more than:

In 50 overs per innings games -12 overs per innings

In 45 overs per innings games - 10 overs per innings

In 40 overs per innings games - 9 overs per innings

OR, in the event of a reduced overs match a bowler may only bowl the number of overs indicated in the table below.

Overs	Maximum Overs Per Bowler	Overs	Maximum Overs Per Bowler
50	12	34	8
49	12	33	8
48	11	32	7
47	11	31	7
46	11	30	7
45	10	29	7
44	10	28	7
43	10	27	6
42	10	26	6
41	10	25	6
40	9	24	6
39	9	23	5
38	9	22	5
37	9	21	5
36	9	20	5
35	8		

In the event of any match interruptions in either innings the number of overs per bowler will be set at the number available at the COMMENCEMENT OF THE MATCH

13. WIDES

Note. Law 2 determines the facts to be considered by an umpire when deciding if a delivery is deemed as a "WIDE".

In addition the following shall also apply:

Leg-Side Wides (in the Premier and 1st Divisions only).

In an attempt to standardise the awarding of leg-side Wides, the NWCL have decided to introduce a standard definition of what constitutes a leg-side wide.

If the ball passes, without touching any part of the striker's person or bat, on the leg side of

the wicket and the leg side of the batsman at his normal stance.

This interpretation is not based on a set linear measurement, and therefore does not penalise batsmen of large or small stature, and does not, in any way, prevent accurate bowlers from adopting a strategy of bowling at, or just outside of, the leg stump.

It will have the effect of ensuring that umpires who currently umpire strictly to the "Laws of Cricket", and those who call anything down the leg-side a wide, adopt a consistent and fair interpretation.

Bear in mind that a striker cannot make a fair ball into a wide by moving away from it but can prevent a ball being called wide by moving towards it. If the striker moves his feet towards the off side of the wicket, away from the line of the ball, it cannot make a ball which might have hit his pads into a wide!

14. PLAYERS

Eligibility

- (i). Players must be bona-fide members of the Member Club and shall play their Saturday league Cricket only for that club in NWCL fixtures. Participation in other Saturday Leagues shall render the player ineligible to play in the NWCL for a period to be specified by the League Management Committee.
- (ii). No person regarded as a regular 1st team player shall play in a 2nd XI fixture on a day when the 1st XI has no scheduled fixture. An exception to this rule will be junior members who were under 18 years of age as at the 1st of September prior to the current season. In the case of any reported dispute over the meaning of 'regular' the Management Committee will adopt the following definition 'A player will not be regarded as a regular in any team unless he has played more than 60% of the current season's matches for that team'.
- (iii). All players must be registered on their member club's Play Cricket website before they are eligible to play in a NWCL fixture.
- (iv). Restrictions on which players can play in 3rd XI matches. Only 1 senior players over the age of 18 years having played in their clubs 1st XI will be permitted to play in Sunday 3rd XI matches. They should be used in a manner that does not have an undue influence on the outcome of the game. Appliance of this will rest solely with the club through the team captain on the day. Clubs should be mindful of the issues of player retention and give due consideration to including players who would otherwise have no game to play. Clubs must always be mindful of their duty of care towards young players. The Spirit of the Game must always be paramount between competing teams and the development of young players given the utmost consideration.
- (v). All players must be registered on the Member Club's Play-Cricket before they are eligible to play in a NWCL fixture.
- (vi). **EXCEPTIONS**
 - (a) Notwithstanding the above, players who are bona-fide members of NWCL clubs whose attendance at educational facilities, or whose full time employment requires them to reside outside of the NWCL area for part of the season shall not be regarded as ineligible if they have played cricket during their residence away from the NWCL area. So long as they return to the NWCL member club immediately on completion of their educational term or on cessation of their employment outside of the NWCL area.
 - (b) Member clubs shall inform the League Secretary of such circumstances at least 5 days prior to such a person participating in NWCL fixtures.
 - (c) Any player to whom Rule 13(iv) (a), as above, is applicable, is bound by Rule 13.

15. PROFESSIONAL/OVERSEAS PLAYERS

- (i) Only teams in the Premier and 1st Division may engage an overseas or professional player in any season and no club can engage more than one overseas or professional player in any season.
As an ECB Premier League, the NWCL has adopted the ECB definition to determine who is classified as an overseas player as follows:
 - (a). An overseas player is any player who is not, at the time of playing cricket in the NWCL, qualified to play for England.
 - (b). A cricketer who is not qualified to play for England as at (i) (a) who has been resident in the country for more than 18 consecutive months prior to the date of request for registration can only play as long as he has not been out of the country for more than 35 consecutive days or 70 total days during the 18 month period and any remuneration he receives from playing cricket is not the main source of his income.
- (ii). A professional cricketer is any player who receives either directly or indirectly from the club he is representing, any financial reward or inducement for any cricket related activity, be it playing, coaching, groundsmanship or sponsorship.
- (iii). Any person born outside of the UK regardless as to whether or not that person holds a UK passport shall be regarded as an overseas player unless that person has been permanently resident in the UK from a date prior to 1st January of the season involved and can supply proof that they are engaged in an education course or have permanent part or full-time employment within 30 miles of the

Member Club.

- (iv). No professional or overseas player can have played in first class cricket in the previous three seasons, whether this is the UK season or the home season for the overseas player concerned. The Management Committee's decision on a player's classification shall be final and binding. Note: A player is a first class player if he has played official first class, List A (one day) or 20/20 cricket as defined by the ICC or its member countries in the previous three seasons prior to 1st April of the current year.
- (v). A club may pay reasonable travelling expenses to players if the following criteria are met: That person is in full time education at a facility more than 30 miles from the home ground of the club concerned. That person was registered as a player on the Play Cricket website and played at least 6 matches in the season immediately preceding such an arrangement. Such arrangements are notified to the League Secretary together with such documentary proof as may be reasonably required prior to the person playing in a NWCL match.
- (vi). All non British nationals will need to apply for permission to play under the exceptions category. Applicants must be undergoing a recognised education course OR be in substantive employment from external sources which have led to their arrival in the U.K, OR accompanying a partner who is in the UK for those reasons (and with appropriate visa i.e not visitors visa), and be able to supply documentary evidence from their place of learning/work as applicable. In all cases the applicants must have been residing in this country before 1st January of the current year.
Note
 - Applications for persons holidaying in the UK will not normally be accepted.
 - All applicants are expected to reside permanently whilst in the UK within a 30 mile radius from their chosen Club
- (vii). All professionals and overseas players must be registered with the M.C. before their first NWCL game. No professional or overseas player must be registered or transferred to a club after June 1st of the playing season. No professional/overseas player can have played 1st class cricket in the previous three seasons whether this be the UK's season or in the country of the overseas player's country.
- (viii) It is the responsibility of the club to fully understand and ensure that all directives from the ECB and/or the UK Borders Agency, concerning overseas players, are fully complied with. Any contravention of these directives will render the player ineligible from playing in the NWCL. Any financial loss incurred and any legal action arising will be the club's sole responsibility

16. TRANSFERS

- (i). A player wishing to transfer during the current season between member clubs, or from a club outside of the NWCL, must produce two paper transfer forms. Both forms must be signed by the Secretary (or other official) of the original and gaining club. One Transfer form to be sent to The League Secretary, the other to be retained by the new Member Club.
(The latest form can be downloaded from the NWCL Play Cricket website under the NWCL Documents heading)
- (ii). The player transferring will be eligible to play for the new club, 3 days after the date of signature by the official from previous club provided a copy of the form is lodged with and confirmed by the League Secretary prior to them playing in any NWCL match.
- (iii) Once confirmed by the League Secretary that the Paper Transfer Form is valid, the new member club should then register the Player with their club using the Play Cricket transfer process.
- (iv) No transfer is valid after 1st August in any season.
- (v) Transfers during the closed season, prior to the new season start, are allowed by just following the Play Cricket Process

17. FINAL LEAGUE PLACINGS

- (i). All Leagues will work to a points-based system (See Section 11).
- (ii). Promotion and Relegation between divisions will normally be on the basis on two up and two down.
- (iii). In the event of two or more clubs finishing with the same number of points their League positions will be further determined as follows.
 - (a) By the team with the highest number of average points per completed game.
 - (b) If still level, then in order of priority, by the team with the least number of defeats, by the team with the highest number of wins, by the team with the highest number of away wins, by the team with the best aggregate scoring rate in all completed matches.

18. NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS

- (i). All NWCL fixture results and scorecards will be input and Confirmed before 1600hrs on the day following the game onto the ECB's Play Cricket Website. This is the responsibility of the HOME TEAM in all cases. It will then be the responsibility of the AWAY TEAM to check verify and confirm those entries by 1600 hrs the following day.
- (ii). Teams will be deducted 1 point where an 'unsure' entry is imputed for a player's name, in the

batting or bowling section of the scorecard on the Play Cricket website. The points deduction to be applied by the League Results Secretary, if the inputting of the player's name has not been corrected within 48 hours from the start of the game.

- (iii). Failure to comply with the result or scorecard inputting will also result in a one penalty point deduction for each and every transgression. These will be applied by the League Results Secretary charged with monitoring compliance with player identity and timings of inputs.
- (iv). There is an ECB requirement that Panel Umpires performances are monitored. Umpires' reports must be sent to the Umpires' Secretary within 5 days of the match, failure to comply will result in the Umpires' Secretary notifying the League Results Secretary who will apply a one point penalty for each and every occurrence.
- (v). In any event where a penalty point is deducted from a Team, the Administrator responsible will email the NWCL club contact address giving the reason for the imposition.

19. SPECIAL PLAYING REGULATIONS.

- (i). These Regulations are applicable to all NWCL Matches.
- (ii). Variation to the published MCC Laws of Cricket are permitted in the following circumstances:

- (a) Covering of Pitches.

Covering of pitches during any interruption to play is permitted. Either captain or umpires may request such action. The Home Team is obliged to comply with any such request.

- (b) Fitness Of Conditions For Play

This removes the option for Captains to continue to play in conditions in which both umpires agree are dangerous or likely to be dangerous, in which case play will be immediately suspended. In the event of a match not covered by panel umpires, where a dispute arises between the Captains as to the fitness to commence, continue or resume play the over-riding criteria must be that of safety of the players. As such if either captain refuses to play citing safety of players, play cannot commence. In such circumstances where no agreement can be reached it will be the responsibility of the both CAPTAINS to make a written record detailing the areas in dispute as to why the game could not be played and arrange where-ever possible and as soon as practicable, for an independent assessment to be made of the situation by contacting the Umpires Appointment Secretary, or other official of the League, or member of the North Wales Groundsman's Association whose responsibility it will be to arrange for a panel umpire (or other suitable person) to visit the ground.

In such instances both clubs shall pay £10 each to cover reasonable expenses of the umpire (or other suitable person) concerned. In the event of any such third party arriving at the ground whilst play is still possible, their decision as to fitness and safety will be final. Any team failing to fulfil a fixture in such circumstances will be subject to discipline action.

20. PITCH QUALITY SCHEME.

A Club's League and Division status is conditional on the cricket square of the club having been subjected to either a full ECB PQS Pitch Inspection in the case of any Dangerous Pitch Report, or, a Follow-Up PQS inspection being conducted within the previous 2 seasons. Clubs will be responsible for any costs incurred.

21. PENALTIES FOR BREACHES OF THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS

- (i). Any Member Club or individual player guilty of breaching any Match Rules will be subject to Disciplinary Action brought by the Management Committee.
- (ii). Penalties for such breaches are outlined in the Table of Offences and Penalties.

22. GROUND AND FACILITY CRITERIA

- (i). THE SQUARE

- (a) Should be well maintained and in good condition, being clearly identifiable from the surrounding outfield.
- (b) Should be cut within two days of the start of each match.
- (c) Prior to the commencement of each season, the square must receive the approval of the Leagues Ground Advisory Panel
- (d) Any square not receiving the approval of the League's Ground advisory panel will by arrangement of the Management Committee be inspected by a member of the ECB Ground Advisory Panel.
- (e) Any work requirement or maintenance programmes identified by the ECB Ground Advisory Panel must be implemented in full by the club. Failure to do so will render the club liable to relegation or suspension of membership of the League.
- (f) It is mandatory, and a condition of membership of the NWCL that all member clubs purchase materials for end of season work on their squares, i.e. sterilised loam, seed, fertiliser etc. To this end, the Management Committee will organise a bulk material purchase facility. Any member

club not availing themselves of this scheme will be required to provide proof of purchase of such materials before the A.G.M. Failure to do so may lead to disciplinary action.

(ii). THE PITCH

- (a). Should be clearly distinguishable from the remainder of the square.
- (b). Should be cut and rolled before commencement of play.
- (c). Should not be artificially watered in the 36 hours prior to any match.
- (d). Should be clearly marked in accordance with The Laws of Cricket, 7, 8, 9 & 42 note C.
- (e). Should be appropriate for the number of overs to be completed with true and predictable bounce throughout the match.
- (f). Stumps should be properly matched sets, in good condition with matched bails, shall be pitched by the groundsmen with holes adequately watered to allow easy resetting.
- (g). The pitch should be brushed and remarked between innings if requested by the captain of either side.
- (h). At least one roller should be available to re-roll the pitch between innings if required.
- (i). Any holes, ruts, footmarks on the square caused by previous matches must be levelled, filled and firmed before a subsequent match.

- (j). The Management Committee NWCL will consider applications from clubs to utilise non-turf playing surfaces. Consent will only be given in those cases where the club can provide evidence of a workable plan to develop a turf square within a agreed time frame which in any case will not exceed 4 years. Any club permitted to play on such surfaces shall be barred from promotion until such time they have developed a suitable turf square.

(iii). THE OUTFIELD

- (a). Should be well maintained and free from hazard such as obstructions, ruts and holes. (In the case of public grounds, it should be checked prior to the commencement of play for animal waste)
- (b). Should be adequately drained.
- (c). Should be closely mown with no noticeable loose cuttings.
- (d). A ball running across an outfield should run true.

(iv). THE BOUNDARY

- (a). The boundary shall be clearly marked by rope or, a white line with boundary markers every 20 yards.
- (b). Alternatively if a gutter is used, the edge should be cleanly cut.
- (c). If a picket fence or advertising boards are used as part of a boundary they shall be in good condition.
- (d). No boundary shall be less than 50 yards or more than 90 yards from the nearer middle stump, unless explicit dispensation is or has been given by the League Management Committee.

(v). SIGHTSCREENS (where available)

- (a). The structure and non reflective paint work of sightcreens should be in good condition.
- (b). They should be of adequate and appropriate size for the ground and where ever possible sited outside the field of play. In the event that they cannot be sited outside the natural boundary, a predetermined area must be isolated so as to allow the sightcreens to be moved during play at any stage of a match without causing any alteration to the boundary itself.
- (c). They should be correctly positioned by the home team prior to commencement of play.

(vi). SCORE BOX

- (a). The Score box, its numbers should be of adequate size, and positioned so that they are clearly visible from all of the playing area.
- (b). The Score box should show at least: The score, wickets, overs bowled or remaining and first innings total. It is desirable that further information should be displayed to include: last man's score, current batsmen's totals and side batting (home/away).
- (c). Score box's should be clean and tidy, provide protection from the elements and be reasonably comfortable with table and chairs.
- (d). The number changing system should be easily accessible to the scorers and maintained in good working order.

(vii). DRYING EQUIPMENT

- (a). An adequate supply of sawdust and drying materials should be available to minimise lost playing time due to wet ground conditions.
- (b). Additional drying facilities, brushes, forks, squeegees can also be used.

(viii). ROLLERS

- (a). At least one roller must be available for use during the match.
- (b). Light (5 to 10 cwt) and heavy (minimum 30 cwt) rollers should be available for use on the pitch.
- (ix). GROUND SURROUNDS
 - (a). Entrances to grounds should be clearly signed with the name of the club wherever possible.
 - (b). Seating for spectators should be available wherever possible
 - (c). All practical measures should be taken to prevent loss of play due to lost balls.
 - (c). Every effort should be made to provide adequate car parking for players and officials, roads and access ways should be properly maintained.
 - (e). Consideration should be given to disabled access and viewing requirements.
 - (f). Provide sight screens of a standard acceptable to the M.C.
- (x). PAVILIONS
 - (a). Dressing rooms should be of adequate size, clean, lit and where possible heated. They should be capable of being secured.
 - (b). A separate Umpires changing room should be available of suitable size and suitably furnished.
 - (c). Adequate washing facilities with hot and cold water should be available to players and umpires.
 - (d). Adequate, clean and hygienic toilet facilities should be available for male, female and disabled persons.
 - (e). Kitchens or areas used for the preparation of teas or other meals, foods should be maintained within the standards set by the Local Authorities under Food Hygiene Regulations.
 - (f). A well stocked and maintained FIRST AID BOX must be available and clearly displayed.
- (xi). RISK ASSESSMENTS
 - (a). All member clubs are encouraged to have conducted, by a qualified source, an annual RISK ASSESSMENT as regards their ground and pavilion and to fully comply with any requirements thereof.
 - (b). All member clubs are required to comply with any Health and Safety Regulations and Fire Prevention Regulations that appertain to them under the regulations set out by individual Local Authorities and Emergency Services.

23. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PREMIER AND FIRST DIVISION CLUBS

All clubs playing in the Premier Division must have a second team playing in the NWCL League. Other requirements:

- (i). COVERS
 - (a). Covers must be available to cover the entire pitch and bowlers run ups from rain both during the match and in the days leading up thereto.
 - (b). Home teams should ensure that ground staff, or players, are available to cover the pitch and run ups or the request of the umpires or captains during the course of a match.
 - (c). Wheeled covers are recommended, although flat sheet covers can be used, in which case, the pitch should be pre-covered with a hessian underlay.
- (ii) JUNIOR CRICKET

Teams competing in the Premier Division and Division 1 are required to be ECB Accredited and to run an active Junior Section in compliance with ECB directives and guidelines for junior cricket. Any club failing to maintain Accreditation will be automatically relegated.
- (iii). UMPIRES and SCORERS
 - (a). Provide a competent scorer for every game, other than a player.
 - (b). Provide a list of 3 persons names, addresses and contact telephone numbers and e-mail addresses if applicable, to the Umpires Appointment Secretary, 28 days prior to the start of the season, who when called on to do so will act as a Panel Umpire for which the standard Umpires fee will be payable. It will be the member Club's responsibility for identifying which of their nominated persons will participate if and when they are called upon to do so.
- (iv). FACILITIES
 - (a). Adequate, clean and hygienic showering facilities should be available for players and umpires.
 - (b). A working clock of sufficient size so as to be visible from the playing area should be displayed on the pavilion or Scorebox
 - (c). A bell allowing umpires to indicate the commencement and resumption of play should be available.
 - (d). Their own means of cutting and marking the outfield.
 - (e). One member who has attended a ECB Groundsman Course (Time extension may be granted if availability of a course is an issue)

(v). DEFAULT IN STANDARDS

In the event that any member club does not maintain the minimum standards of their ground's 'Ground and Facility Criteria' the following policy shall be adopted.

- (a). The management committee will write to the club, identifying the failure and whether or not it is classified as a Minor, Intermediate, or, Major Failure.
- (b). The club will have 7 days to respond in writing.
- (c). The club will have 14 days to fully address any issue identified as a Minor Failure.
- (d). In the event of an Intermediate or Major Failure, a meeting will be held within 14 days of the Club's response with nominated representatives of the Management Committee in order to formulate and agree a workable time scaled Action Plan.
- (e). Failure by a member Club to comply with Clause 15(i), 15(ii) and 15(iii) above will lead to the following sanctions to be considered by the Management Committee, in order of severity. One or more sanction may be imposed in any case.
 - (i). Expulsion from the League
 - (ii). Suspension from the League for a determined period of time
 - (iii). Refusal of Promotion
 - (iv). Relegation of team or teams
 - (v). Appropriate fine
 - (vi). Any other action deemed appropriate to the particular issue in question

ANY CHALLENGES TO THE INTENDED MEANING OF THESE RULES AND PLAYING CONDITIONS WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE DELIBERATION PENDING CHANGE AT AN SGM OR AGM

NWCL GUIDE TO PENALTY POINTS

Occurrence	Penalty
Less than 17 overs per hour (Qualified Panel Umpire Officiated Games Only)	1 Penalty Point
Less than 16 overs per hour (Qualified Panel Umpire Officiated Games Only)	2 Penalty Points, any Second occurrence in the same season an automatic First and Final Warning to the Captain
Less than 15 overs per Hour (Qualified Panel Umpire Officiated Games Only)	3 Penalty Points and an automatic First and Final Warning to the Captain
Failure to comply with result input on Play Cricket	1 Penalty Point
Player shown as unsure on play cricket after 48 hours from start of game	1 Penalty Point
Failure to submit Umpires Report Forms for Panel Umpires	1 Penalty Point
Failure to provide a named Umpire	1 Penalty Point
Failure to provide a non-playing competent scorer (Premier and Div. 1 Only)	1 Penalty Point

The Results Secretary on a weekly basis will automatically apply all Penalty Point Deductions.

The basis of deductions will be obtained from the Umpires Reports and Play Cricket Website.

There will be no appeal process for any penalty point deduction.

The Results Secretary will notify any club of any of these deductions so applied by e-mail to NWCL Club e-mail address within 24 hours of any such penalty point application, additionally the umpires will inform the Captains on the day of any slow over rate penalty.