PROPOSED CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION 2024

Background

 We no longer use the post as a method of official communication with clubs as electronic mail has taken over, and, as clubs may not in some cases update their administrators on the website we need a short addition to the constitution to, confirm that posting of such notices on the website is ‘good service’ on clubs. We therefore propose to add a new sub-clause ‘h)’ to clause 8 of the constitution. We will of course still send such notices by email to the club administrators as listed on the club directories on the website.

‘g) Posting notices of all General Meetings, of the Captains’ meeting and all other official communications to clubs under the constitution and match rules, on the news page of the league’s website shall be good service on all member clubs’.

 **2.**

Background

Now that regionalisation has been extended up to division 7, we need to clarify that the winners of divisions 7-9 inclusive shall be decided on aggregate points and not average points as provided for in clause15 h) of the constitution. So, a small amendment to clause 15 h) is required as follows.

Add the words ’10 and 11’ after the word ‘divisions’ in the first line of the sub-clause.

 **3.**

Background

Under 13 c) i. Of the constitution we have for many years sought to prevent clubs from selecting players from higher sides in the last 5 games of the season to try to prevent ‘manipulation’ of results at the business end of the season. This has increasingly led to Paul Blackwell, who is our registration officer’ being asked by clubs to verify their selections. This has taken up more and more of his time and we are suggesting that clause 13 c) i is removed and replaced by the following.

 A Player who has played for a Team in the Premier, Championship, Div 1, and Div 2 a) and b), for more than 10 games before the end of the 13th game of that playing season, shall not be eligible to play in a Division below 2 b), for the remainder of the season, except by express permission of the Registration Committee. Applications must be made in writing, detailing the exceptional circumstances, at least 3 days before the match is due to take place.

 **4.**

Background

We are moving over to registration of all players (not just in the Premier and Championship divisions as is presently the case) on our Play-Cricket site as well as our main website. This will require a short amendment to the Constitution to make that mandatory. So, in clause 13 of the Constitution-Registration- the following definition shall appear at the front of the clause.

‘Any reference in this clause and throughout the Constitution to ‘registration’ of players shall mean registration on the main League website (hertsleague.co.uk) **and** registration on the Herts League Play-Cricket website (hertfordshirecl.play-cricket.com)’regardless of whether they play in the Premier and Championship divisions or in the rest of the league.

 **5.**

Background.

The ECB part-fund all Premier Divisions in England and Wales through grants from Sport England. Sport England now require all leagues and other organisations receiving such funding to comply with their code of governance. In addition, we are also required to adhere to the Anti-discrimination and EDI codes published from time to time by the ECB. We, therefore, need to incorporate these requirements into our constitution and the following new clause 18 seeks to do that.

**18. ECB and Sport England Compliance.**

The League will comply with the Sport England Code of Governance (Tier 1) and the ECB Anti-Discrimination and EDI codes from time to time published by such bodies. Copies of which can be viewed using the direct link from the league website.

 **6.**

Background.

Last season we had some difficulties over the registration of asylum seekers in that our overseas registration process was not fit for purpose when it came to people landing on these shores without documentation. We were awaiting confirmation from the ECB as to their policy on such matters, but no real guidance has been forthcoming. Save to say that their advice is that all under 18 arrivals be treated as CAT 1. regardless of whether they have been here for more than 210 days prior to 31 March in the season in question. So, rather than changing our registration categories under 13.d) of the constitution we propose adding the following explanatory note prior to the words ‘Category 1’ at the top of page 30 in the 2023 main handbook.

**NOTE** Any asylum seeker that a club wishes to register under Category 1 or Category 3 as defined below must first have the written permission of his or her Home Office case worker which case worker must confirm the date of arrival on these shores and their date of birth. If the asylum seeker is under 18 years of age on 31 August in the year preceding the season in question, he or she shall be deemed Category 1 in any division below the Championship Division. Otherwise, the same criteria shall be applied to establish whether the asylum seeker is Category 1 or Category 3 and the same restrictions will apply regarding the number of Category 3 players in each team. A more simplified registration form will be produced regarding Category 3 registrations for asylum seekers.

 **7.**

Background

Dunstable CC supported by the requisite number of clubs under 11 b) of the constitution have asked that the Premier and Championship clubs be asked to vote on the following motion at the AGM.

The provision of teas and lunches for players and officials in the Premier and Championship divisions shall not be compulsory and if clubs do choose to provide the same their visitors shall not be obliged to pay for them.

**Further points to note which will not be put to the vote at the meeting.**

**A** Background

The ECB, under its revamped Safeguarding regime will require all vice captains to have valid

Cricket -specific DBS clearance to play in our league. This will not be voted on at the AGM but the penalties chart on page 67 of the main league handbook for 2023 shall have ‘and Vice-captain ‘added to the penalty in the 16th box on the chart. We recognise that some clubs will not have an official vice-captain for their teams in which case we will accept a nominated player with DBS clearance.

**B** Background

The decision to bring divisions 7,8 and 9 into the regional structure has had unforeseen consequences for promotion and relegation to and from the regional structure and the main league which now begins with division 6 B). This only came to light when considering the structure for 2024 which was finalised after the date when the AGM preamble was sent out to clubs. The problem centres around the split of divisions 7,8 and 9 into East and West, the split of divisions 10 and 11 into East, West, North, South and Central and the method of promotion and relegation current in the main structure-namely that the divisional winner climbs two divisions and the runners up only one with the same applying to relegation. As clubs have not had sufficient time to consider our new proposals, which we intend to finalise at our committee meeting in early March, we propose that we will hold a short EGM immediately before the Captains’ meeting at the end of April where clubs will be asked to vote on our proposals. These will be sent out to clubs in early March so that they will have enough time to debate within their clubs and make an informed decision at the EGM. As a consequence, the ‘Promotions and Relegation ‘charts in 15 c) of the constitution will not appear in the printed version of the main handbook but will be in the on-line version on the website.