Saracens Hertfordshire Development League

The following contains details of the proposed Development League for 2021. It is hoped that this competition will form part of the junior pathway into senior cricket. The whole concept of this League is to try to keep non-CAG, (County-Age-Group), players in the game and to help stimulate their interest in playing senior cricket, albeit in a less competitive environment at first.

This said, it is very important that junior cricketers play the game under a safe and protected environment and for this reason, no-one born after midnight on 31st August 2008 is eligible to play in SHPCL 2021 – that is they must be at least U13, (or above), in the summer of 2021.

All clubs must recognise that they have a duty of care towards all young players who are representing the club. This duty of care also extends to Leagues that allow the participation of young players in adult teams in their League.

The duty of care should be interpreted in two ways:

- Not to place a young player in a position that involves an unreasonable risk to that young player, taking account of the circumstances of the match and the relative skills of the player.

- Not to create a situation that places members of the opposing side in a position whereby they cannot play cricket as they would normally do against adult players – this said, team captains must remember at all times the reasons for this format – it is not about winning, it is about keeping less-skilled youngsters in the game.

In line with ECB code, the following specific requirements apply to all under-age players in adult matches:

All young players who have not reached their 18th birthday must wear a helmet with a faceguard when batting and when standing up to the stumps when keeping wicket. Parental consent not to wear a helmet is not acceptable under any circumstances. A young player acting as a runner must also wear a helmet.

Any player in the Under 13 age group must have explicit written consent from a parent or guardian before registering to play in this Development League. Clubs must ensure that their player registration procedures ensure that consent is obtained. The guidance related to changing and showering, (see 'Safe Hands' – Cricket's Policy for Safeguarding Children), must be adhered to.

Development League Rules 2021

The "Spirit of Cricket" and indeed of the competition itself, must always prevail. Any Club which fails to observe this spirit could be removed from the competition. All MCC laws and ECB regulations and directives apply.

1. Duration

1.1   Matches shall be 30/35 overs per side, (by mutual agreement), with these overs being bowled in two hours maximum.

1.2   Allowing for a 30 minute break between innings, all matches shall start at either 1.00pm or 1:30 and finish by 5:30pm or 6:00pm by mutual agreement between the Clubs. **It is NOT required that home teams provide teas in 2021, though hot/cold drinks should be available during games.**

1.3   Per 1.2 above, Clubs may mutually agree to alter the start/finish time of a match; however, all games must be completed within four hours playing time. If there is not mutual agreement as to the start time, then matches will start at 1pm.

2. Interference by Weather

2.1   In the event of the first innings being curtailed because of inclement weather, or any other reason, a match of shorter duration, (to be agreed by both captains), according to the time available should be played. If the captains cannot agree the umpires will arbitrate. In this event the minimum number of overs in the first innings will be 16.

2.2   In the event of the weather intervening in the second innings, 16 overs must be bowled to constitute a match.

2.3   In calculating overs lost to the weather, one over shall be lost to each side for every 7 minutes lost, or one over for each three minutes lost for the side batting second.

2.4   In the event the side batting second receives less than their allotted 30 overs but at least 16 completed overs, then the winner will be decided by the average run rate per over, *(x 10%)*.

3. Player Restrictions

3.1 Each team shall have a maximum of four adult players over the age of 18. The other seven players must be between U13 and U18 as of 1st September 2020.

3.2 CAG, (County), players of any age shall NOT be eligible to play in these games. Area and District players are eligible to play.

3.3 Adult batsmen must retire when they have scored thirty runs. Subject to 3.5 below, they may return when all other members of the team have batted but must retire again upon passing fifty runs in total, (for both their innings), and will NOT be allowed back to bat a third time.

3.4 No two adult batsmen shall bat together unless all under-age players have been dismissed.

3.5 Should an under-age player be dismissed for less than 5 runs, then he/she shall be allowed to bat again once everyone else has batted, and shall bat before a previously retired adult batsman.

3.6 No bowler shall bowl more than six overs per innings. In a reduced overs match bowling limitation shall be reduced accordingly at the rate of five bowlers being used per innings

3.7 No more than two adults can bowl in one innings. Nor can they bowl from either end at the same time. In other words, an adult must bowl in tandem with an under-age player.

3.8 No under-age player may field within 11 metres in front of any batsman.

4. Match Balls

4.1 One new Readers County Match **PINK/RED** ball to be provided by the home side for the whole match.

5. Result

5.1 The team which scores the higher number of runs shall be deemed the winner.

5.2 The winners in matches where weather intervenes in the second innings, and a minimum of 16 overs have been completed, shall be determined by the side with the faster run rate per completed over, *(multiplied by 10%)*.

5.3 If a run rate calculation is required, for a side batting first, and that team is "bowled out" prior to the completion of its allotted overs, then, (for run rate purposes), they will be deemed to have received the maximum number of overs available to them

6. Result reporting

6.1 All results, (including cancelled or abandoned matches), shall be reported by the HOME team using the SHPCL app.

7. League Format and Points

7.1 Each side will be allocated a regionally located pool, (dependent upon the number of entries received), and will likely play each other once.

7.2 Points shall be awarded as follows:

Win (including Win through default)	5 points
Tie (scores level, wickets down irrelevant)	3 points
Loss	1 point
Cancelled due to ground conditions	1 point per side
Failure to raise a side/concession	Minus 1 point

7.3 Divisional league positions shall be determined as follows -
Firstly, by most points, if equal
Secondly, by most wins, if equal,
Thirdly, by team with highest run per over rate per matches played

7.4 Again, depending upon the number of Clubs entering the tournament, assuming we can get four regionally based pools, there will be a semi-final and final.

8. Umpires & Scorers

8.1 Each side will normally provide an adult umpire

8.2 If only one adult umpire then he/she may stand at the bowlers end throughout the innings.

8.3 Scorers should keep a record of runs and wickets at the end of each over.

9. Facilities

9.1 Each club will attempt to provide acceptable playing conditions, taking account of child welfare at all times.

9.2 Good artificial wickets can be used by mutual consent.

10. Fixtures

10.1   Entries into the competition should be received from all Clubs by February 28th, 2021.

10.2   Fixture lists will be provided by the committee.

10.2   Re-arrangements can be made with the agreement of both clubs to a day that is suitable to both clubs.

10.3   All fixtures/re-arrangements shall be completed by 18th April 2021, thus enabling correct fixture dates to be published on the League website.

11. Welfare

11.1   Each Team must have in attendance, for the duration of the match, an adult (other than an Umpire or Scorer) who is suitably Enhanced CRB checked

Committee: Tony Johnson, Richard Burling, Ian Watkins and George White