

CONSTITUTION OF THE ESSEX LEAGUE

1. TITLE

1.1 The Association shall be called 'The Essex League' (hereinafter referred to as 'The League').

1.2 A President and Honorary Life Vice-Presidents may be elected at the League's Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting. Nomination for Honorary Life Vice Presidents is to be first approved by the Executive Committee and nominated to the League at its Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting.

2. INTENTION

2.1. The purpose of the League shall be to organise cricket on a competitive basis for the Members of the League.

3. COMPOSITION

3.1 The League shall have two categories of members – Full Members and Associate Members. Unless otherwise stipulated, the number of Full Member Clubs shall be forty and shall comprise the Clubs who are members of the League at the date of adoption of this Constitution and any Clubs subsequently elected under Rule 8.1 below. In addition, the Executive Committee may admit Associate Member Clubs under Rule 8.1 below.

3.2 The League shall consist of such number of Clubs as the Full Member Clubs shall from time to time stipulate at the Annual General Meeting or any Special General Meeting.

3.3 To qualify for election to the League a club must have a ground considered for cricket purposes to be within the County of Essex or the London Boroughs of Havering, Waltham Forest, Redbridge, Newham or Barking & Dagenham and to meet such other criteria as the Executive Committee shall from time to time determine.

3.4 All Full and Associate Member clubs shall be required to affiliate to the England & Wales Cricket Board via Essex Cricket in the Community. Membership shall be open to all, irrespective of age, gender, disability, race, ethnic origin, creed, colour, social status and sexual orientation.

4. ADMINISTRATION

4.1 The affairs of the League shall be governed by a Management Committee made up of one representative from each Full and Associate Member Club of the League and presided over by the Chairman of the Executive Committee elected each year at the Annual General Meeting. The Management Committee shall, among its other duties, be responsible for ensuring that the purpose and spirit of the League be adhered to. It shall be empowered to take whatever action it considers fit to do this.

4.2 The Executive Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting to carry out the routine business of the League and the enforcement of this Constitution and the Organisation and Playing Conditions in accordance with the power given to it in Organisation and Playing Condition Generic Rule A.22. The Executive Committee shall consist of a Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Fixture Secretary, a representative of the Essex Women's League Committee, a staff representative of Essex Cricket in the Community and up to 7 other members from Full Member clubs. A Vice Chairman will be appointed from within and by the members of the Executive Committee.



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4.3 The Executive Committee shall have the power to:

- i. Appoint such sub-committees as may be deemed necessary from time to time and delegate to each sub-committee any power deemed necessary. The Chairman of any sub-committee shall be a member of the Executive Committee.
- ii. Co-opt from any Full Member Club (whether to fill any vacancy in their number or for any other reason) such co-opted to serve until the Annual General Meeting following the co-option.
- iii. Referee all disputes, including all disciplinary matters and any queries or disputes concerning the Organisation and Playing Conditions.

5. MEETINGS

5.1 The Annual General Meeting of the League shall take place on a Sunday in November to be determined by the Executive Committee. The Honorary Secretary shall give fourteen days' notice of the meeting by e-mail to the Full and Associate Member Clubs, this notice to be accompanied by an agenda of all business to be transacted. The meeting may be attended by any current member of a Full and Associate Member Club, but the voting shall be as defined in Rule 6 below. The meeting shall transact the annual business of the League and consider items submitted, in writing, to the Honorary Secretary, not later than 30 days prior to the date of the meeting. A quorum at such meetings shall be the representatives of not less than three-quarters of the Full Member Clubs.

5.2 A Special General Meeting may be summoned at any time by the Executive Committee or on application to the Honorary Secretary in writing or by e-mail. The application must bear the signatures of the Secretaries or Chairmen of not less than six Full Member Clubs of the League and shall state clearly the motion(s) which it is required shall form the purpose of the Special General Meeting. This shall take place within thirty days of the receipt of the application and shall discuss only the motion(s) which form the contents of the application. Notice of this meeting and a quorum shall be as defined in Rule 5.1 above

5.3 The Management Committee shall meet in the Spring on a Sunday in April and Autumn on a Sunday in October, and at other times as necessary. Notice of meetings and a quorum shall be as defined in Rule 5.1 above.

5.4 The Executive Committee shall meet at regular intervals, at a suitable frequency to ensure the efficient administration of the League's affairs and at least seven days' notice shall be given. A quorum shall be the simple majority of the members of the Executive Committee.

6. VOTING

6.1 At the Annual General Meeting, at a Special General Meeting, and on the Management Committee the voting shall be on the basis of one vote per Full Member Club. Associate Member Clubs may attend such meetings but may only vote on matters affecting the Organisation and Playing Conditions in so far as they relate to the 1st XI Divisions.

6.2 In the event of a tied vote, the Chairman or his nominated Deputy, who shall not otherwise vote, shall have the casting vote.

6.3 Changes to the Organisation and Playing Conditions shall be determined by a simple majority of those Full Members present and voting. A two thirds majority of Full Members present and voting is required for changes to this Constitution.



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6.4 At the Annual General Meeting, at a Special General Meeting and on the Management Committee any club abstaining from voting shall not be counted when calculating a majority for passing a resolution.

7. THE FORMAT OF THE LEAGUE

7.1 Unless otherwise provided by the Organisation and Playing Conditions, each game shall be played according to the laws of cricket as issued by M.C.C.

7.2 The Organisation and Playing Conditions of the League shall be as laid out in Appendix A following.

7.3 The League shall comprise the following:

- i. The First XI League consisting of four Divisions known as the Premier Division, First Division, Second Division and Third Division of the First XI League. Promotion and relegation shall apply as referred to in Organisation and Playing Conditions Generic Rules. If, as a result of the admission of multiple Associate Members into 1st XI Division 3 pursuant to Rule 8.1 the Executive Committee may choose to create a 4th Division at a suitable time.
- ii. The Second XI League consisting of four Divisions known as the Premier Division, First Division, Second Division and Third Division of the Second XI League. Promotion and relegation shall apply as referred to in Organisation and Playing Conditions Generic Rules.
- iii. The remaining Divisions will be numbered from Division 9 onwards. Divisions 13 and below will be organised on a regional basis as from time to time arranged by the Executive Committee. Promotion and relegation shall apply as referred to in Organisation and Playing Conditions Generic Rules.

8. ENTRY INTO AND WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ESSEX LEAGUE

8.1

- i. Application for Full Membership of the League shall be made in writing to the Honorary Secretary not later than 15th October. Full Members shall be elected by a two-thirds majority at an Annual General Meeting under Rule 6.3. On election, new Members shall not commence active membership of the League until the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting at which their election took place. The 1st XI and any lower XIs of any club so elected shall be entitled to become part of the League.
- ii. The Executive Committee may by 31st October in any year, to be effective in the following season, admit into the bottom 1st XI Division the 1st XIs of an even number of clubs applying to become Associate Members of the League who have been previously approved by Essex Cricket in the Community, and who meet the criteria laid down by the Executive Committee. The 2nd XI and any lower XIs of any clubs so admitted into Associate Membership shall not become a part of the League. Clubs wishing to be considered for admission as Associate Members must apply by 15th October of the year prior to the year in which they wish to be admitted. On election, associate members must continue to enter their lower XIs in their existing league structures or other Saturday leagues. Associate members must continue to meet the league entry criteria as laid down by the Executive Committee.

8.2 Voluntary withdrawal from the League shall not take effect unless the Honorary Secretary has received written notification by the Club concerned not later than 15th September in the year preceding withdrawal.

8.3 A Club may be expelled from the League. Any proposal for the expulsion of a Member Club (other than pursuant to the Disciplinary Regulations) shall only be dealt with at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting and a two thirds majority of Full Members present and voting is required. In the event that a Member Club is expelled such expulsion shall have immediate effect.



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8.4 Membership of the League signifies acceptance of this constitution and of the League's Playing Conditions.

9. FINANCE

9.1 The Membership fee shall be such amount as shall be determined from time to time by the Executive Committee.

9.2 The membership fee shall be payable by 31st May each year.

9.3 A balance sheet and profit and loss account, duly audited, for the year ended 30 September shall be prepared and sent to Member Clubs as soon as available.

9.4 The League's Account shall be held by a Bank as decided upon by the Executive Committee. Payments made on this account must be authorised by two members of the Executive Committee.

9.5 An auditor shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting to hold office until the conclusion of business at the next following Annual General Meeting. The auditor's terms of reference and responsibility from time to time shall be agreed with the Executive Committee.

9.6 Any financial commitment over £500 by the League must be authorised by the Honorary Treasurer and either the Honorary Chairman or the Honorary Secretary.

10. LEVIES

10.1 Any club not attending a League Management Committee, Special General or Annual General Meeting or any other meeting called by the Executive Committee will incur a fine of £100.

10.2 Any club not paying their annual subscriptions by 31st May will incur a fine of £100.

10.3 Any club not fulfilling a fixture in either the League cup or T20 cup competitions will incur a fine of £100.

10.4 The Executive Committee may require each Member Club to pay a special or extraordinary levy if the same is needed to enable the Executive Committee properly to perform its duties under this Constitution. Should the Executive Committee require such a levy to be imposed all Member Clubs shall be advised of the reasons, at the time.

11. ALTERATION OF THIS CONSTITUTION

11.1 No alteration shall be made to this Constitution or (save as provided in Rule 11.2) to the Organisation and Playing Conditions) except at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting called in accordance with Rule 5.2 above. Notice of the proposed alterations shall be given to the Honorary Secretary not later than 30 days prior to the meeting in question and must be proposed and seconded by two Full Member Clubs. Such a proposed alteration shall be circulated with the notice convening the meeting.

11.2 The Executive Committee may make such amendments to the Organisation and Playing Conditions (including the divisional structure of the league as set out in Rule 7.3) as they may consider appropriate, provided that: -

- i. This rule 11.2 does not apply to the Playing Conditions of the Premier Division
- ii. Any amendments to the Playing Conditions made pursuant to this Rule 11.2 will take effect only for the following season, after which time they may form part of the AGM proposals for the subsequent season and must be ratified by a vote of all Full Member Clubs.



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- iii. The Executive Committee may form a sub-committee (to include representatives of not less than 4 Full Member Clubs from outside the membership of the Executive Committee) to discuss and agree the detailed drafting of any changes to the Playing Conditions made pursuant to this Rule 11.2.

12. CHILD PROTECTION

12.1 The League and its Member Clubs adopts and complies with the ECB Child Welfare Policies ('Safe Hands' and any subsequent amendments or additions to these policies)

13. DISSOLUTION

13.1 The League may be dissolved by a resolution of a General Meeting, the conditions of voting set out in Rule 6 being applicable.

13.2 In the event of a dissolution any surplus funds held to the credit of the League shall be disposed of as determined by the Executive Committee. Should there be insufficient funds at the time of dissolution to meet the liabilities of the League then the deficit shall be met by the Full Member Clubs in such proportions as the General Meeting dissolving the League shall determine.