

Playing Rules for NE Championship & Divisions One & Two

Adopted at Annual General Meeting Jan 2020

with changes made at AGM in Jan 2020 shown in red

with previous changes made by online EGM on 20th March 2019 shown in blue

and further changes made at AGM in January 2022 shown in orange

1. Administration of League

- 1.1 The League shall be administered by the Management Committee of the Strathmore & Perthshire Cricket Union, in accordance with the League Rules and within the terms of the Constitution.
- 1.2 Matches shall be played under the MCC Laws of Cricket and under such rules and regulations as may be approved by the AGM of the Union.
- 1.3 The ball used in all League matches shall be a ball approved by the SPCU Committee.
- 1.4 All matches played under the auspices of the Union will be conducted in accordance with the **CS Disciplinary Code of Conduct as adopted by the SPCU**.
- 1.5 All players, officials and umpires agree by participation in the SPCU League & Competitions to comply and adhere to the Laws of Cricket (2017 Code - **2nd Edition 2019**) and The Preamble – The Spirit of Cricket as otherwise provided for in SPCU Playing Rules and with the following exceptions: -
 - 1.5a Laws 18.5 (Deliberate Short Runs),
24.4 (Player Returning Without Permission),
26.2 (Practice on the Outfield),
28.2 (Fielding the Ball) &
41 (Unfair Play)

In respect of the award of “penalty runs” - shall only apply where an umpire appointed by CSMOA is standing.
For the avoidance of doubt, “Penalty Runs” may continue to be applied under Law 28.3.2 (Ball Striking a Fielding Helmet on the Ground).
 - 1.5b Law 42 (Players Conduct). Shall only apply where an umpire appointed by CSMOA is standing.

2. Composition of League

- 2.1 The League shall be divided into Divisions. The Management Committee shall determine annually the number of Divisions and the number of teams within each Division. The Strathmore and Perthshire Union Committee will adopt a flexible approach to its league structure.
- 2.2 No two teams from the same club shall compete in the **same division except in the lowest division**.
- 2.3 The SPCU North East Championship is a feeder league for the CSL Eastern Premiership. Any Feeder League club wishing to obtain membership of the CSL Eastern Premiership by participating in the end of season play-offs (or by any other means) must comply with the CSL EPL Rule 4 (Regional Leagues).
- 2.4 **Matches in the North East Championship and Divisions 1 and 2 shall only be played on Saturdays unless agreed otherwise by the SPCU.**

3. Promotion and Relegation

3.1 The Strathmore and Perthshire Union Committee will adopt a flexible approach to its league structure and will have the right to determine the number of teams to be relegated and promoted.

3.2 At the end of each season, promotion and relegation will normally take place as follows: -

The teams finishing first and second in Division 1 and in Division 2 shall have the right to be considered for promotion to the Division above, if they so wish, subject always to the provisions of rules 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4 being met.

Relegation from, and further promotion to each Division shall be decided by the Committee at the conclusion of each season subject always to the provisions of the rules in section 2 being met.

4. Non-Fulfilment of Fixtures

4.1 Any team failing to fulfil three of its fixtures during the season will be deemed to have failed to meet its obligations to the League and shall be automatically deducted 10 points for each game and must immediately make a presentation to the SPCU Committee detailing the reasons for failing to fulfil the fixtures.

4.2 Any team failing to fulfil four or more of its fixtures during the season will be automatically relegated to the Division below.

4.3 Any team in the lowest Division of the Union failing to fulfil six or more of its fixtures during the season shall require to apply for re-admission to the Union at the next Annual General Meeting of the Union along with any other team seeking admission to the Union. Where appropriate, those teams seeking admission or readmission to the Union shall participate in a ballot for the vacant place or places and such vacant place or places shall be allocated to the team or teams securing the highest number of votes in the ballot. Prior to the ballot, the Management Committee shall indicate how many places in the League competition are available.

5. Fixtures

5.1 The Competitions Sub-Committee shall arrange fixtures for each Division and shall notify clubs of such fixtures as soon as practicable each year. No alteration to these fixtures shall be made other than with the prior agreement of both clubs concerned and notification in writing to, and consent given by the Competitions Sub-Committee. Fixtures in each Division, other than the lowest, will usually be arranged on the basis of each team playing one another twice during the season, one at home and the other away unless there are exceptional circumstances, e.g. pandemic, unusual number of teams etc.

5.2 Clubs may re-arrange scheduled fixtures by obtaining the consent of their opponents and the Competitions Sub-Committee.

No re-arrangements may take place where a match has been cancelled or abandoned due to bad weather on the scheduled date, or where the rescheduled date is after the last scheduled weekend of the Union season.

5.3 All NE Championship fixtures must be completed on or before the published date of the last set of Eastern Premiership fixtures except where the teams involved cannot be promoted. All other league fixtures must be completed on or before September 19th in any year.

5.4 Where any fixture is postponed due to the involvement of either club in the final of a Cricket Scotland Senior Competition or the finals day of a Cricket Scotland Junior Competition, the clubs involved may rearrange the fixture. If no suitable date can be agreed, the match will be declared null and void.

5.5 In the lowest division, clubs may apply to play their home fixtures on a Sunday should there be an issue with ground availability. In this circumstance, team selection must reflect the fact that the match should have been played on a Saturday. This means that no player can play in more than one match in a weekend in the NEC, Division 1 or Division 2.

6. Trophies and Prizes

- 6.1 The Management Committee may award trophies or other prizes for team or individual performance in any Division of the Union. No trophy or prize for individual performance may be awarded to a paid or overseas player.

7. Playing Conditions

- 7.1 Clubs participating in the Union shall take steps to maintain or improve the standard of their grounds in keeping with the North East Championship's status as a feeder league to the CSL Eastern Premier League.
- 7.2 Clubs playing in the North East Championship of the Union must recognise their responsibilities for producing a satisfactory playing surface as well as ensuring that their grounds and facilities are up to an appropriate standard as shall be determined by the Competitions Sub-Committee in its sole discretion. North East Championship clubs should ensure that they have facilities to protect the wicket from inclement weather, i.e. Covers.
- 7.3 The home club in any fixture shall be responsible for the provision of a pitch (and notification of the venue to opponents not less than 48 hours before the fixture), regulation stumps and bails and for the proper marking of the pitch and boundary. Each team shall otherwise provide its own equipment, including a ball of a type approved by the Management Committee. Each team shall bowl with its own ball. Although preference should be given to natural turf pitches where possible, an artificial pitch may be used in any Division provided the away side are notified 48 hours before the fixture. If notification is not provided 48 hours in advance, an artificial pitch may still be used with the agreement of both teams.
- 7.4 In the event of bad weather the home team is responsible for informing the away team as soon as possible that no play is likely to be possible. The away team has the right to travel (unless an independent groundsman or appointed umpire declares the pitch unplayable), and the home team must then take steps to facilitate the playing of a game. Clubs should bear in mind that shortened games can take place under Rule 11.3 if the weather improves.

8. Youth Policy

- 8.1 It is a further requirement of membership of the Union that all clubs should be committed to providing opportunities for young players to play the game of cricket.
- 8.2 From season 2017 onwards, all clubs participating in the top tier league of the SPCU (currently NE Championship) must have in place a Junior Development Program and, at a minimum, provide active regular coaching for juniors throughout the club.

9. Players

9.1 Interpretation

For the purposes of this rule, the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings:

- (a) An "amateur" player is any player who is not a paid player.
- (b) "Local Player" shall mean a player who is normally resident in the European Economic Area ("EEA"), and who has been so resident for at least 183 days before any match, but who is not a Scottish Qualified Player.
- (c) "Overseas" shall mean outside the UK.
- (d) "Overseas Amateur" is a player who is less than 23 years of age on 31 August of any season in which he/she plays in the League. This category provides an opportunity for young players to come to Scotland from outside the UK to develop their cricket. An Overseas Amateur must not have played first class cricket or List A cricket in the 24 months preceding any match. Each club may register one Overseas Amateur. However, a second Overseas Amateur may be registered if a club has no registered Paid Player provided that at least one of the two Overseas Amateurs possesses a UK Level 2 coaching certificate (or an acceptable overseas equivalent). Where the original Overseas Amateur is unable to play for exceptional reasons acceptable to the Committee, the registration of a substitute Overseas Amateur may be approved by the Committee.

Assistance by clubs:-

- (i) Clubs must **not** provide financial assistance towards air fares.
 - (ii) Clubs may help an Overseas Amateur by providing accommodation with a member. The club may also help in identifying suitable rented accommodation. The club shall **not** contribute financially to either of the above.
 - (iii) Clubs may help in obtaining part or full time employment for an Overseas Amateur. Work directly relating to the cricket club or paid by the cricket club shall **not** be permitted.
 - (iv) Clubs must, within the approved registration form, disclose full details relating to arrangements and payment for accommodation, airfares and employment. The Committee may request further information before considering the registration for approval.
- (e) A "Paid Player" is a player who receives any of the following as a fee for playing, or as an inducement to play, or to facilitate their playing cricket:-
- (i) Payment in cash or in kind;
 - (ii) Accommodation whether free, subsidised, or otherwise assisted;
 - (iii) Employment, whether full-time or part-time;
 - (iv) Payment in whole or in part of fares to the United Kingdom from that player's place of abode.
- (f) "Scottish Qualified Player" must be born in Scotland or holds a UK passport and has a parent who was born in Scotland or has been resident in Scotland for at least 183 days in each of the previous four calendar years.

9.2 Players permitted to play

- (a) No player may play in the SPCU for more than one club in either the NE Championship, Division One, Division 2, the CS T20 Cup, the 3 Counties Cup and the 2 Counties Cup in any one cricket season without first obtaining the permission to do so from the Competitions Sub-Committee. Such permission will only be given where the player's previous club has provided a written statement confirming that it has no objection to the change of club. If during the season, a member Club intimates that it will not be able to fulfil its remaining SPCU fixtures, players who have played for that Club will be free to join other Clubs within the SPCU without restriction, but only once the Competitions Committee specifically confirms this on the SPCU website. It should be noted that the player may not play in the Cup competitions if the player has already done so with their original club.
- (b) No club may play more than one Paid Player and one Overseas Amateur or, if no Paid Player, then no club may play more than two Overseas Amateurs, one of whom must comply with the requirements set out in Rule 8.3 (d).

9.3 Further Provisions about Paid Players

- (a) For the purposes of these rules: (i) the payment of reasonable travelling expenses is permitted without any player being deemed a 'paid player'; and (ii) a physical education teacher or a coach whose work is solely educational and who is not paid directly or indirectly for playing cricket for a member club is not a Paid Player.
- (b) There shall be no residency requirements for the one permitted Paid Player, but if sourced from out with the UK, then the UK Border Agency regulations must be satisfied.
- (c) Any payment made to a player by Cricket Scotland or to a player contracted by Cricket Scotland for playing in a match organized by Cricket Scotland will not render that player as a Paid Player for the purposes of his participation in the League.
- (d) A Paid Player must possess a minimum of a UKCC Level 2 coaching certificate (or an acceptable Overseas equivalent).
- (e) Any Paid Player can only be registered by the mid-point of the season, i.e. the end of June. Where a Paid Player is unable to play for whatever reason, e.g. injury, national call-up or termination of contract, the registration of a substitute or replacement Paid Player may be approved by the Competitions Committee.

9.4 Further Provisions about Overseas Amateurs

- (a) No club may field a player in any match in the League unless that player has been resident in the UK for at least the 183 days immediately prior to the match in which he is to play unless that player otherwise satisfies the criteria for being an Overseas Amateur (see Cricket Scotland Guidelines).
- (b) Consideration may be given by the Committee to waive some (or all) of the requirements for an Overseas Amateur in suitable cases where the player has moved to Scotland through work or study or other acceptable reason. The Committee may also waive some (or all) of the requirements for an Overseas Amateur where the club is able to **clearly** demonstrate that the player has a past association with the club and/or the primary reason for being here is unrelated to cricket. Such a person can only be registered by the mid-point of the season, i.e. the end of June.
- (c) Sub-paragraph (a) shall not apply to a Scottish Qualified Player who is normally resident in Scotland but who has spent the winter months overseas.
- (d) Consideration may be given by the Committee to waive the requirements of sub-paragraph (a) in relation to a Local Player in suitable circumstances.

9.5 Paid Players reverting to Amateur status

- (a) No player who has been a Paid Player as the prime source of his income at any time in a calendar year may play as an amateur for the team of any club in any Division of the League within the same calendar year.
- (b) No player, other than a Scottish Qualified Player or a player of any other ICC Associate or Affiliate nation within the EEA, may play as an amateur for the team of any club in any Division of the League if he has been a Paid Player at any time in the three calendar years preceding that year.
- (c) The provisions of sub-paragraph (b) may be waived if the permission of the Committee is obtained prior to such player participating in any League match. Such permission will, however, only be granted in special circumstances.

9.6 Further provisions for players

- (a) For the last 3 League games in the season, any player who has appeared for an EPL side in more than 60% of that club's league matches already played during the current season shall be ineligible to play for a team in a lesser league without prior permission being granted by the SPCU Committee. Cognisance of promotion & relegation will be taken when considering dispensation requests. In the event that a player who has exceeded the percentage threshold is selected for a club's 2nd XI, if the club can demonstrate that the selection has been made on purely playing ability, then the player will be granted dispensation to play.
- (b) No player who is also registered for a different CSL club to the team playing in the SPCU will be eligible to play in any North East Championship match.
- (c) Any players under the age of 21 years age old on September 1st of the preceding season, provided they have not played in the CSL Eastern or Western Premier League, may play for any side within SPCU Division 1 and 2. They may however only play for their parent club in Cup Competitions. Any Child Protection and playing restrictions, under which such arrangements are made, are for the relevant clubs to agree and the SPCU can accept no legal responsibility for them. Any club inviting Junior Players from a parent club must adhere to the current Cricket Scotland Child Protection Policy. Players' statistics will only count in the Averages of matches played for the parent club.

9.7 Registration of Players

The Player Registration system to be used by all SPCU clubs will be that as prescribed by the Management Committee.

10. Expenses

- 10.1 A club shall be entitled to pay expenses to any player to defray the cost to that player of travelling to any League match or to a rendezvous point prior to travelling to any League match without that player being deemed to be a paid player, provided the expenses so paid do not exceed a rate per mile of necessary travel at such rate as may be fixed by the Management Committee and intimated to clubs from time to time, or the equivalent rail or bus fare. Any club which pays expenses to any player as aforesaid shall maintain a record of all expenses so paid and shall allow access to any person appointed by the Management Committee to such record and to any other books of account maintained by the club.

11. Start and Finish Times

- 11.1a All Union matches shall normally commence at 1.00 p.m. and shall be completed on the day of commencement. If play is not in progress, due to inclement weather, at 8.30 p.m. there shall be no further play in the match. If play is suspended due to inclement weather after 8.30 p.m. there shall be no further play.
- 11.1b Matches may start at 12.00 noon provided the start time is agreed by both sides prior to the date of the fixture. If play is not in progress, due to inclement weather, at 7.30 p.m. there shall be no further play in the match. If play is suspended due to inclement weather after 7.30 p.m. there shall be no further play.
- 11.2 Matches may continue beyond 7:30pm (Noon start) or 8:30pm (1pm start) where conditions allow.
- 11.3a The Home team shall ensure that a representative is present, on the ground where the match is to take place, at least 30 minutes before the agreed start time.
- 11.3b Matches will start at the agreed scheduled time, (weather permitting), no matter how many players are available. Any unreasonable delay in the commencement of a match must be reported to the Competitions Committee. The Competitions Committee will have the power to impose a fine, deduction of points or award the match to the opponents.
- 11.3c If a team does not have a player present at the toss, 15 minutes prior to the agreed start time, then that team shall automatically lose the toss.

The provisions of (a), (b) and (c) above may be waived by the Competitions Committee if it is satisfied that the offending team made every effort to arrive on time, but was prevented from doing so by circumstances beyond its control.

- 11.4 In all **NEC** matches, no later than the toss, teams must submit to the umpire(s) the official teamsheets, in duplicate. The umpire(s) shall after signature, exchange one copy with the respective teams. Where neutral umpires are not appointed, the captains must exchange full teamsheets which should be used to complete the Match Return.

12. Duration of Matches

- 12.1 Except as detailed in 12.3 below each team competing in a match shall be entitled to bat for 45 overs (North East Championship and Division 1). **In Division 2, a team is entitled to bat for 40 overs.** The declaration of a team's innings is not permitted.
- 12.2 No points shall be awarded in matches which are not completed, and in which the provisions of Rule 14.1(d) do not apply.
- 12.3 Where the start of the match is delayed due to weather or other exceptional circumstances the length of the match may be shortened by 5 overs per side for each 45 minutes or part thereof. Where the weather conditions indicate that the full number of overs may not be completed, the captains may agree to reduce the number of overs to be played by multiples of 5 overs per side. Games may not be reduced unless the weather conditions indicate that this may be necessary to complete the game. All reductions are subject to a minimum length of 20 overs per innings in all the Divisions. No reduction in the scheduled number of overs is permitted after the start of the match.

No of overs scheduled per innings at start	Actual start time to be between
45	1.00pm – 1.15pm #
40	1.16pm – 1.45pm #
35	1.46pm – 2.30pm #
30	2.31pm – 3.15pm #
25	3.16pm - 4.00pm #
20	4.01pm – 4.45pm #

- If the start time is brought forward to noon, deduct 60 mins from this time.

Umpires and Captains are given discretion with regards to the start time of the second innings to ensure where conditions improve that common sense prevails.

13. Bowling Restrictions

13.1 No bowler may bowl more overs than indicated in Appendix C for the length of innings scheduled. The penalty for infringing this rule is the deduction of 5 points from the team's total for the season for each infringement. Wherever possible, umpires and/or scorers should alert captains when it appears likely that this rule may be infringed.

13.2 Captains should be aware of their responsibilities to all their players, and particularly to the directives for young fast bowlers in Appendix B.

13.3 For the avoidance of doubt, any and all deliveries which, after pitching, pass or would have passed above head height of the striker standing upright at the crease, shall be called and signalled no-ball, as mandated in Law 21.10.

13.4 Wides - Judging a Wide

The following rule for the interpretation of a wide ball is to be applied and for which the crease must be marked as illustrated in Appendix E.

Umpires are instructed to strictly apply this Law in order to prevent consistent negative bowling wide of the wicket.

Off-Side Wide – North East Championship

If the ball passes outside the offside wide line as it crosses the bowling crease, then the Bowler's End Umpire will call and signal 'wide'. It does not matter if the batter has moved across to cover the ball. Provided he/she makes no contact with the ball, such a delivery must be called 'wide'.

Off-Side Wide – all other Divisions

If the ball passes outside the offside return crease line as it crosses the bowling crease, then the Bowler's End Umpire will call and signal 'wide'.

Leg-Side Wide – North East Championship

If the ball is bowled down the leg side and behind the body of the striker, and the striker makes no contact with it, then the delivery will be interpreted as a form of negative bowling and the Bowler's End Umpire will call and signal 'wide'.

There are two exceptions to this Rule:

- (i) It is not a wide when the batter moves across to the off stump from his/her original stance and the ball just misses the leg stump. "Just misses" is to be interpreted as the width of a bat (approximately 4 inches).
- (ii) It is not a leg side wide, as defined in (e) (i) above, when the batter plays or attempts to play or aborts playing a reverse sweep or switch hit.

In these circumstances, the wide lines (see Appendix E) shall apply to both the off side and the leg side.

For the sake of clarity, a ball that passes down the leg side, but in between the striker and the leg stump, shall not be deemed a wide for the purposes of this Rule.

Leg-Side Wide –all other Divisions

Any ball which passes outside the leg side wide line as it crosses the bowling crease, then the Bowler's End Umpire will call and signal 'wide'. It does not matter if the batter has moved across to cover the ball. Provided he/she does not come in to contact with the ball, such a delivery must be called 'wide'.

13.5 Free Hit after No Ball [Applicable in NE Championship only]

The delivery following a no ball shall be a free hit for whichever batter is facing it. If the delivery for the free hit is not a legitimate delivery (any kind of no ball or a wide ball), then the next delivery will become a free hit for whichever batter is facing it.

For any free hit, the striker can be dismissed only under the circumstances that apply to a no ball, even if the delivery for the free hit is called wide.

Field changes are not permitted for free hit deliveries unless there is a change of striker (the provisions of Rule 13/ Appendix D shall apply) or the no ball was due to a fielding breach in which case the field may be changed to the extent of correcting the breach.

The umpires will signal a free hit by (after the normal No Ball signal) extending one arm straight upwards and moving it in a circular motion.

14. Fielding Restrictions see (APPENDIX D)

Throughout an innings at the instant of delivery there shall not be more than 5 fielders on the leg side. This rule shall apply for all Divisions.

From over 1 to over 13 of a normal innings of 45 overs a maximum of 2 fielders can be placed outside an area bounded by two semi-circles centred on each middle stump (each with a radius of 27.45 metres - 30 yards) and joined by a parallel line on each side of the pitch. This rule applies to the North East Championship only. See Appendix C for reduced overs calculation.

All Clubs by participation in SPCU Competitions agree to abide by the ECB Directives for young fielders.

15. Points

15.1 Points known as "result points" and "bonus points" shall be awarded as follows for all Divisions:

15.2 Result Points:

Winning team - 25 points. Each team in a tie - 5 points. Except in the circumstances governed by 14.1 (d), the team scoring the greater number of runs in the match shall be the winners. If the number of runs scored by the teams is equal the result shall be a tie. No account shall be taken of wickets lost.

15.3 Bonus Points:

(a) No bonus points shall be awarded to the team which wins the match. Bonus points are awarded to the losing team, and to each team as appropriate in the event of a tie.

(b) Batting bonus points shall be awarded as per Table 1 or Table 2:

(c) Abandoned Matches

In the event that a match is abandoned, then, provided at least 20 overs of the second innings have been completed, the result will be decided by the Duckworth Lewis Stern method (DLS) as defined in Appendix A and subject to the minimum number of overs being bowled in the second innings as prescribed below. This will also indicate the number of winning/tie/bonus points to be awarded to the teams.

No of overs scheduled per innings at start	Minimum number of overs to be played in second innings
45 or 40	20
35 or 30	15
25 of 20	10

- (d) Bowling bonus points will be awarded at the fall of the 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th and 9th wickets with a further 2 points for taking the 10th wicket.

TABLE 1

Where the game is played and completed as a 45 over game then the batting bonus points will be awarded as per Table 1

No of overs innings scheduled for:	1 st batting point awarded at:	2 nd batting point awarded at:	3 rd batting point awarded at:	4 th batting point awarded at:	5 th batting point awarded at:	6 th batting point awarded at:	7 th batting point awarded at:
45	75	100	125	150	175	200	225

TABLE 2

Where it is agreed that a reduced over game is played and completed then the batting bonus points will be awarded as per Table 2.

No of overs innings game scheduled for:	1 st batting point awarded at:	2 nd batting point awarded at:	3 rd batting point awarded at:	4 th batting point awarded at:	5 th batting point awarded at:	6 th batting point awarded at:	7 th batting point awarded at:
40	50	75	100	125	150	175	200
35	50	70	90	115	135	155	180
30	40	60	80	105	125	145	165
25	40	60	75	95	115	130	150
20	35	55	70	90	110	125	140

If a 45 over game is completed by both sides then the Table 1 will apply.

If the game is scheduled as a reduced overs game from the start and is completed, then Table 2 applies.

16. Forfeiture of Points

The Management Committee shall have the power to deduct points as deemed appropriate for non-compliance with the Rules of the League.

16.1 If a club has not paid their subscription by the first Saturday of the League season, 5 points shall be deducted from the total points for each team that club was scheduled to field on that day in the League. If the subscription remains outstanding on the second Saturday of the League season, a further 10 points will be deducted for each team that club was scheduled to field on that day in the League. If any club has not paid their subscription by the third Saturday of the League season, a further 20 points will be deducted for each team that club was scheduled to field on that day in the League.

16.2 In the North East Championship only, a 45 over innings should be completed within 3 hours, based on 4 minutes per over and a 40 over innings within 2 hours and 40 minutes. These times include allowances for the fall of wickets, and drinks intervals, but not for delays due to injury or other exceptional circumstances. In matches controlled by umpires appointed by the CSMOA, the umpires shall deduct 1 point from the bowling team for each complete over that is not bowled after the expiry of the time listed above. All games in the other Divisions should make every attempt to comply with these times however no penalties will be applied.

16.3 The integrity of the divisions is dependent on players of a similar ability playing against each other. Circumstances may arise whereby players from higher level teams within a Club, may wish to, or may have to make up numbers for a team playing at a level, or levels, below their normal standard of play. If this happens it is essential that they do not unduly influence the result of that game. It is the responsibility of the Captain to ensure that the game, and the performances of any player dropping down a level or levels, are within the Spirit of the Game.

If the Spirit of the Game is not observed, then the opposing Captain or a Committee member may raise this as a disciplinary issue.

The Competitions Committee would assess the impact made by any player dropping down a level or levels and, if they considered that this action had a detrimental effect on the game of cricket, they would have the discretion to deduct points (generally awarding a 25 - 0 points result against the offending team), warn or ban the Captain concerned, and advise the Club concerned that the player involved would not be permitted to drop down to that particular level again that season. To avoid any potential dispute, it is recommended that if any player is dropping down a level or levels the Captain involved should contact the opposing Captain prior to the day of the game, and discuss the reasons for the involvement of that player, and try to ensure that the Spirit of the Game is not breached.

This rule will not apply to players qualified to play as U17 cricketers.

16.4 Where a team fails to fulfil a fixture on the original date specified by the SPCU Committee or on a substitute date agreed with the SPCU Committee and their opponents, the team responsible shall be deemed to have forfeited the match and its opponents shall be awarded points as if they had won the match. Where a club cannot fulfil all its fixtures for a given day, the first fixture to be cancelled must be that of its lowest team. Any Club forfeiting a game on the scheduled day of the game will incur an additional 5-point penalty except in exceptional circumstances as determined by the SPCU Committee.

16.5 Where member clubs wish to appeal against any decision made by the Competitions Committee, they must do so within two weeks of date of the match. Where member clubs wish to appeal against a decision made by the SPCU Committee, then any such appeal must be received by the Union Honorary Secretary within two weeks of notification of the Committee's decision. Notification of appeal must include the grounds of appeal, and a £50 deposit, which will be returned to the appellant club if the appeal is successful.

17. Match Administration

17.1 Short Scores

In all matches whether completed or abandoned a short score must be emailed to the Competitions Committee by 9pm on the day of the match to facilitate the press requirements and the updating of the SPCU website.

Cancelled matches should also be notified within the same time frame and method aforementioned.

17.2 Match Return Forms

The Home Team in any Union match is responsible for the submission of the electronic match return form. The form must be completed in full and accurately. Hand written copies will not be accepted. Match return forms must be submitted by 6pm on the Wednesday following the match.

17.3 Captains Report Forms

Both Clubs in any Union match where umpire(s) are appointed are responsible for the submission of the electronic captain's report form. The form must be completed in full and accurately. Hand written copies will not be accepted. Captains report forms must be submitted by 6pm on the Wednesday following the match.

17.4 Penalties

In the event of a failure to comply with 17.1, 17.2 or 17.3 the Competitions Committee will deduct 5-points for each offence from the total points earned during the season.

Where Clubs repeatedly fail to comply with rule 17 and/or where reports remain outstanding following reminders then this will be referred to the Management Committee who may impose a further penalty.

18. League Placings

18.1 League placings will be determined by expressing the points awarded as a percentage of the results points for a win in all completed matches. In the event that two or more teams shall have an equal percentage at the end of the season, the team having the greatest ratio of matches won to matches played shall be placed above the other teams. In the event that this does not separate the teams, the points gained in the matches between the sides will determine the final placings; failing which the higher overall net run rate as calculated by Cricket Stats will apply.

19. Umpiring and Scoring

19.1 The Union may appoint an umpire or umpires to officiate at any match it deems appropriate. No team may object to Union appointed umpire officiating at any match. Home clubs must contact appointed umpires 48 hours prior to the commencement of the match.

19.2 Where no umpires are appointed under Rule 18.1, each club taking part in a game shall have the right to appoint one umpire. Such umpire shall not be one of the 11 players participating in the game. A team captain should inform his counterpart that his club has appointed an umpire at the earliest opportunity.

19.3 Where only one club chooses to appoint an umpire under Rule 18.2, that umpire shall normally stand at one end of the pitch throughout the match (i.e. at square leg and bowler's end for alternate overs). With the agreement of both captains, a single appointed umpire may stand at the bowler's end for every over in a game.

(a) Where a team offers to provide two non-playing umpires, the agreement of the opposing captain is required.

(b) Where the two captains have agreed an umpiring format for a match, it shall pertain for the whole of the match unless exceptional circumstances create the need for unavoidable change.

19.4 Where only one umpire is appointed by the Union he shall officiate continuously from the bowlers end.

19.5 Where fewer than 2 umpires are appointed under Rules 18.1 and 18.2, the match shall be umpired by players or other convenient people operating in shifts. When umpiring duties are undertaken by participating players, their alternating between the bowlers end and the strikers end shall be at the discretion of the batting teams captain.

19.6 No club shall have a right of objection to any umpire, no matter how they are appointed. All umpires, no matter how they are appointed, are expected to uphold the Laws and Spirit of the game, and make all decisions that are required with strict impartiality.

- 19.7 Wherever possible, each club shall appoint a scorer for each game, who shall not be one of the 11 players participating in the game. If a scorer is not appointed, the club must provide a standard "box-style" scorebook or score sheet.
- 19.8 If fewer than 2 scorers are appointed under Rule 18.6, the score shall be kept by one of the batting side not currently involved in the game. There must be 2 scorers recording the action at all times.
- 19.9 Where umpires are appointed under Rules 18.1 or 18.2, they shall agree the scores at the conclusion of each innings as mandated in Law 3.2. Where no umpires are appointed, the captains shall agree the scores at the conclusion of each innings. Each captain shall have the right to examine each scorebook, and the captains shall jointly resolve any discrepancies within or between the two scorebooks.
- 19.10 A scoreboard, legible from the pitch, must be provided by the home team. The scoreboard shall show, as a minimum, runs scored, wickets fallen, and the number of overs bowled. The scoreboard shall be updated at least at the end of every over.
- 19.11 All clubs are encouraged to support their members in attending training courses and sessions, in order to promote the highest possible standards of umpiring and scoring throughout the Union.

20. Video Evidence

Where video evidence is available it may not be used in any SPCU competition to determine any part of a match. I.e. the result, dismissals, etc. This list is not exhaustive.

21. League Rules

- 21.1 Each Union club shall have a copy of these Rules available at its ground at each League match.
- 21.2 These rules shall be capable of amendment, but only as provided for in the Constitution of the Union.