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Devon Women’s Cricket League Administration

1. OBLIGATIONS TO DEVON WOMEN’S CRICKET LEAGUE AND DEVON CRICKET BOARD
2. All member clubs will be subject to the regulations of the Constitution and by joining the DWCL will be deemed to have accepted these together with the Playing Regulations and Rules.
3. Clubs will also have agreed to affiliate to the DCB and the Devon Association of Cricket Officials (DACO). Furthermore, clubs will support and uphold the ECB ‘Code of Conduct’, the ‘Spirit of Cricket’ - as laid down in the Laws of Cricket - and follow ECB ‘Directives and Guidelines’ including the ‘Safe Hands Policy’. All clubs agree to abide by the DWCL ‘Disciplinary Regulations and Procedures’.
4. All member clubs must appoint a representative with an active email address to receive and communicate with the DWCL.
5. All clubs must complete an annual ‘affirmation’ of details to be held in the Club Directory of the DCB website. The Devon Cricket League (men’s league) representative will receive an email in December or January from the DCB Administrator with instructions and login details allowing the club access to the website where they must amend the details, including those for the women’s section, which are held or confirm that the existing details are correct. The deadline for completion of the annual ‘affirmation’ process is 28th February.
6. All clubs must maintain, and update, the details of the officials on their play-cricket.com website.
7. When a member club makes any subsequent change affecting its officials, captains or other data relevant to the smooth running of the DWCL, it must notify the Secretary within 14 days from the date of such a change.
8. It is obligatory for each member club to have a voting representative present at all General Meetings. Clubs not attending a meeting will be fined (see Appendix entitled ‘Fines and Penalties’).
9. Member clubs have 21 days from the date of notification to respond to all DWCL correspondence unless otherwise indicated.
10. Failure to comply with DWCL directives, deadlines or to attend meetings will incur a fine to be determined by the DWCL executive committee. The level of fines will be reviewed annually and published.
11. **DATA PROTECTION STATEMENT**

The DWCL gathers contact details of member clubs’ officials through the annual ‘affirmation process’, which is undertaken on its behalf by the Devon Cricket Board, and by the DWCL itself at the annual fixtures meeting. The contact details taken from this are needed in order for the DWCL to communicate with its member clubs, through their officials, and are published in an annual League Handbook.

Information regarding member clubs’ players is retained through play-cricket.com in order to facilitate eligibility to play and enable an appropriate method through which player transfers can be undertaken. The DWCL may also disclose individual player information to the DCB and the ECB.

By completing the ‘affirmation process’, and the club player registration through play-cricket.com, club officials and players agree to the DWCL, its officers and committee members, using such data for the stated purposes above. No other information will be disclosed to a third party without the express authority of a club official or player.

Club officials and players, have the right to cancel the DWCL authority to hold data on them at any time. However, this will make it impossible for the DWCL to communicate with that Club official or player. The DWCL will destroy all information held on a Club official or player, if they cease to be a member of that club, after a 12-month period has elapsed.

The DWCL takes the security of personal information seriously. The DWCL uses security technology, including firewalls, to safeguard information and has procedures in place to ensure that all systems and databases are protected against unauthorized disclosure, use, loss and damage.

3. THE MERGER OR SEPARATION OF MEMBER CLUBS

Where two member clubs with 1st XIs in different divisions merge, the reformed club’s 1st XI will be placed in the division of the highest placed former 1st XI for the coming season unless requested otherwise.

 Any 2nd XI or lower (subsequent) XIs will be placed in the most appropriate division so as to ensure that only one side plays in a division.

Should a club with three or more teams in the DWCL wish to split into two separate entities the executive committee will convene to discuss where the demerged team(s) will play.

4. TROPHIES AND AWARDS

Winners of Championship (Divisional) Trophies, the Player of the Year (adjudicated by the executive committee, based upon nominations from opposition teams) will be responsible for their safe custody and their return to the DWCL Secretary on or before the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

 Failure by a club or player to return the trophy in good condition by the due date will result in a fine (see Appendix entitled ‘Fines and Penalties’).

5. SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING SEASON

1. Each member club shall pay an annual subscription prior to the start of the season, within 4 weeks of receiving an invoice; the rates for subscriptions shall be agreed at the AGM.

6. TEA FEES

There is no obligation to provide teas.

7. DEVON WOMEN‘S COUNTY CRICKET CLUB

Member clubs will not refuse permission to any of their players to assist the Devon Women’s County Cricket Club (DWCCC) when required.

**8. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chairman | Elected annually at AGM |
| Vice-Chairman | Elected annually at AGM |
| DWCL Secretary | Elected annually at AGM |  |
| Treasurer | Elected annually at AGM | Responsible for managing the League finances and maintaining the accounts |
| Discipline Officer | Elected annually at AGM | Responsible for the discipline process used by DWCL |
| Welfare Officer | Elected annually at AGM |  |
| Media Officer | Elected annually at AGM | Responsible for the up-keep of the DWCL facebook page, page on the DCB website (in conjunction with the DCB) and news/front page of the DWCL play cricket site. |
| DACO Representative | Appointed by DACO | Responsible for advising the executive committee on matters relating to umpiring. Feedback to DACO |

**Devon Women’s Cricket League (DWCL) Playing Regulations**

1. **STRUCTURE OF THE DWCL CRICKET LEAGUE**

The League is structured as an ‘All Through League’. Each division has a minimum of five teams, unless otherwise determined by the DWCL.

1. Promotion and relegation will be based on one team promoted and one team relegated.
2. No two or more teams from the same club will be permitted to play in the same division: indeed it is ALWAYS the case that a club’s 1st XI will be in a higher division than the club’s 2nd XI, and it is ALWAYS the case that a club’s 2nd XI will be in a higher division and so on.

1. **THE CHAMPION TEAM**

The team gaining the greatest number of points at the end of the season shall be the champion team of each division.

* 1. Equality
		1. Champion team: Should two or more teams have equal points, the winner shall be the team with the highest number of outright wins. Should equality still prevail, the team with the fewest defeats shall be placed the higher. Should equality still prevail, the teams concerned shall be joint champions.
		2. A team’s position within a division: Should two or more teams have equal points, the higher placed shall be the team with the highest number of wins. Should equality still prevail, the team with the fewest defeats shall be placed the higher. Should equality still prevail, the team with the most batting points shall be placed the higher. Should equality still prevail, the team with the most bowling points shall be placed the higher.
1. **FIXTURES**
	1. The Season

The fixtures shall be arranged by the member clubs at the annual fixture meeting. Matches shall commence from the 2nd Sunday in April and continue to be played until the 2nd Sunday in September.

* 1. Rearrangement of Fixtures

Re-arrangements are allowed but a new date must be set within 2 weeks of the cancelled fixture and the new date must fall within the season as outlined in 3a. The League Secretary must be informed of the new date and ground as soon as it is arranged.

* 1. Cancellation of Fixtures – Procedure

No fixture shall, on account of weather or ground conditions, be cancelled before 9:30 on the day of the match. Cancellation shall only be made by the ground authority informing the captain or, in their absence, a club official, who must immediately advise the captain of the away side of the decision to cancel the fixture due to conditions.

1. The away side shall have the option to travel and inspect the ground. If this option is taken, the home side must attend the on-site decision, which is likely to be made by the ground authority/umpires on the day.
2. An exception to this is where 3rd party grounds are being used.
3. Should the above take place and the match be cancelled, the away side shall be fully responsible for all the independent umpires’ costs, all to be paid in full on the day.
4. **INABILITY TO FULFIL A FIXTURE**
	1. Should any team be unable to fulfil a fixture where a suitable ground is available, it shall forfeit the match and be awarded 0 points, 20 points being awarded to the opposing team. Such team shall also have 10 points deducted from its total to date.
	2. Should a particular team be unable to fulfil a fixture, where a suitable ground is available, on more than three occasions in one season that team will have all its points removed. Whilst it may continue to play in that season, it will no longer be able to gain points. Furthermore, any points accrued by other teams against this team will also be removed. However, for statistical purposes, individual records will be retained.
	3. If the away team cancels the fixture on the same day they will be fully responsible for paying any independent umpires’ costs.
	4. In other than exceptional circumstances, no club may fail to fulfil a higher XI fixture whilst fulfilling a lower XI fixture on the same day. The penalty for failure to observe this part of the rule is the loss of all points from the team cancelling and any lower team fixtures fulfilled on that day, in addition to penalties (detailed above) applied to the team failing to fulfil its fixture.
5. **LEAGUE GROUNDS**

League grounds will be monitored and facilities inspected by officials of the DWCL as required.

* 1. Artificial Pitches

The use of artificial wickets is not permitted except under exceptional circumstances: Upon application to the DWCL a club 1st XI or 2nd XI may be granted dispensation to use an artificial pitch if their home ground is unavailable on any particular Sunday and no alternative grass pitch is available.

1. **CLOTHING and ATTIRE**

The DWCL requires clubs to maintain standards across all League competitions. White and coloured team kits are permitted; however, it is preferred that they are a different colour to the league ball.

1. **LEAGUE MATCH**

Any reference to a ‘League Match’ with regard to Rules and Regulations, applies to all types of matches played under the auspices of DWCL. This includes:

• Sunday League matches

• T20 Competitions

• Indoor League

• Soft-ball League matches

• Friendly matches organised by the DWCL

1. **PLAYERS – ELIGIBILITY & REGISTRATION**

Players must be eligible to play in Open Age cricket as defined by the MCC Laws of Cricket and ECB directives. A team should consist of minimum of 8 players.

* 1. Procedure
		1. All players must be registered to be eligible to play in any DWCL division. Registration of all players will take place in accordance with guidelines issued by the DWCL.
		2. Registration of players applies to ALL teams.
1. **REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS**

It is a club’s responsibility to register all their players via playcricket.com prior to the start of each season in order for them to be eligible for the first match of that season.

* 1. After this first match, a player can be registered at any point prior to the match in which they wish to play.
	2. Once registered with a club, a player remains registered until transferred via play-cricket.com, or the holding club notifies the League Secretary, via play-cricket.com, that the player’s registration is to be cancelled. During the playing season, the only method of player movement from one member club to another is by player transfer (Playing Regulation 10 refers).
	3. Any substitute (as defined by the Laws of Cricket) used in a League or Cup match need not be a registered player.
	4. Club Responsibility when Registering Players

A club, when relying upon a player registration continuing from the previous season, is responsible for:

1. Checking that the player’s name is on the club’s Play-Cricket database, as approved by the League Secretary.
2. Ensuring that a Player is not registered with any other club, e.g. that the player was officially transferred to their club in the previous season.
3. Ensuring that the deadline dates as set out in Playing Regulation 9 are adhered to. Failure to respond in time will result in unregistered players and their ineligibility to play in the first match of the season.
4. **PLAYERS – TRANSFER**

Application for Transfer

* 1. Once a player is registered on devonwomenslge.play-cricket.com she cannot register with another DWCL member club until a transfer request is made and accepted by the holding club and the League Secretary via play-cricket.com.
	2. No previously registered or unregistered player, irrespective of whether they played in the previous or current season, can switch between DWCL member clubs or any club affiliated to the ECB without notifying the player’s previous club of their intent.
	3. Transfer requests can be made any time prior to the start of the match in which the player wishes to play.
	4. Once a player has transferred from their original club, they may not transfer back to the original club within the same season.
1. **YOUNG PLAYERS**
	1. Limitations applying to Young Fast Bowlers, Young Players in the Field and the Wearing of Helmets by Young Players shall be imposed in all divisions in accordance with the current ECB Directives and Safety Guidance.
	2. All young players are subject to the restrictions on playing adult cricket as may be promulgated from time to time by the ECB. These restrictions are normally shown on the ECB website. It is the responsibility of the Clubs to comply with these guidelines.
	3. All captains shall be familiar with these Guidelines and shall be responsible for their implementation. Umpires shall be required to monitor compliance.
2. **MATCH RESULTS**

In all divisions, the match results including full scorecards, are to be entered onto play-cricket.com by noon on the Tuesday following the match being played by the Home team. The Away team then has until noon on Thursday to make any amendments to spelling and the like and/or to confirm the result. The League Secretary will check the entries and points claimed before “locking” the scorecard. When uploading the Scorecard, it should include all players’ names (including first names), whether they have batted or not. Cancelled or Abandoned matches should be entered in the same way. The key to success in this process is to have the Members Database on your play-cricket.com website correct and up-to-date.

1. Any breach of this regulation will attract a point(s) penalty:

For the first offence 1 point will be deducted. For a second offence 2 points will be deducted whilst a third offence will incur a 3 point deduction. In the event of any subsequent offence occurring during the same season, 5 points will be deducted each time. Errant clubs will be notified of each offence in the most expedient manner.

1. If the Home team is unable to load the scorecard they should contact the League Secretary for assistance, prior to noon on the Tuesday following the match.
2. **MATCH REPORTS**
3. Team Captains: Where Independent Umpires are appointed by DACO, both Captains must fully complete their “Umpire Performance Feedback” forms on ‘Who’s The Umpire’ (WTU) by no later than noon on the Wednesday following the match. If either Captain fails to comply, then their team will be deducted 2 points for the first offence. For the second offence 3 points will be deducted whilst a third and each subsequent offence will incur a 5 point penalty.

The “Umpire Performance Feedback” form provides helpful information for the development and performance of Umpires. Care and consideration in compiling these reports are requested: it is the responsibility of the team Captain to complete these forms.

1. Umpires: Where Independent Umpires are appointed by DACO, both Umpires must together complete the “Match Feedback Form” form for the DWCL on WTU, by no later than noon on the first Wednesday following the match taking place. In matches where only one Independent Umpire is appointed, it is their responsibility to ensure all forms are correctly completed. Failure to comply will result in a £10 fine.

**APPENDIX**

**Fines and Penalties**

The League Committee believe that the overriding principle ought to be that, wherever possible, a points penalty should be attributed to breaches of Playing Regulations or Rules, whilst a financial penalty is appropriate where clubs are in breach of either the Constitution or Administration.

**League Administration**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Article | Description | Level of Fine/Deposit or Point Penalty |
| 1. Obligations to DWCL and DCB | Clubs must have a representative at all General meetings. | A breach of this article will result in a £10 fine |
| 4. Trophies | Trophies must be returned in good condition to the DWCL Secretary prior to the AGM  | A breach of this article will result in a £10 fine |

**Playing Regulations**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Playing Regulation | Description | Level of Fine or Penalty |
| 12. Match Results (paras a & b) | All divisions – the match result must be entered onto play cricket by noon on the Tuesday following the match | 1-point penalty for a first offence; 2-point penalty for a second offence; 3-point penalty for a third offence, 5-point penalty for subsequent offences. |
| 13. Match Reports (para a) | Captains to complete Umpire’s performance feedback form | 2-point penalty for a first offence; 3-point penalty for second offence; 5-point penalty for subsequent offences.  |
| 13. Match Reports (para b) | Umpires to complete Match Feedback Form | £10 fine for failure to comply |

**DWCL League Playing Rules**

1. **GENERAL**
	1. All teams will be scheduled to play each other on a home and away basis. All matches shall be of limited overs, one innings duration per team.
	2. It is recommended that each team shall supply one non-playing Scorer**.**
	3. Independent umpires shall be appointed by DACO for all matches. The umpires fees are to be shared 50/50 by both sides, with the away side paying the home team their portion of the fees on the day of the match. The home side are then responsible for paying the appointed umpires the agreed fee (as determined prior to the start of the season) at the end of the match.
2. **CONDUCT OF MATCHES**
	1. Matches shall be conducted in accordance with the current MCC Laws of Cricket except for matters specifically provided within the Playing Rules that follow:
		1. Wide Ball – Umpires are instructed to apply a consistent interpretation concerning this Law in order to prevent negative bowling wide of the wicket.
		2. To assist the Umpires in calling Wides, creases will now include 17” lines being marked in either blue or red at both ends of the pitch as a **guide** to the Umpires and players – leg side wides = any ball not hit passing to the leg of the leg stump & to the leg of the batsman and to the leg of the legside red/blue lines, offside wide = any ball passing outside the offside red/blue lines; see diagram

1. **DECLARATIONS**

MCC Laws of Cricket – Law 15 (Declarations & Forfeiture) will not apply. In other words, the Captain of the batting side may not declare the innings closed at any time during the match.

1. **FITNESS OF GROUND, WEATHER & LIGHT**

If at any time the appointed Umpires (or Umpires and Captains together if independently appointed Umpires are not available) agree that the conditions of ground, weather or light or any other circumstances are dangerous or unreasonable, they shall immediately suspend play, or not allow play to start or to recommence: MCC Law 2.7 (Fitness for Play).

1. **NORMAL HOURS OF PLAY**
2. Scheduled start time 13:30. However, with the agreement of both teams and the umpires, the match may start earlier (it is suggested that the earliest start time should be 13:00) or as late as 14:00.
3. If either side is not ready to take the ‘toss’ 15 minutes before the scheduled start time of the match, the non-offending side can claim the ‘toss’. Furthermore, a side not ready to start at the scheduled start time shall lose one over of its innings for every 3½ minutes they are late.
4. **NORMAL DURATION OF THE MATCH**
	1. Normal match duration will be 70 overs, with each team batting for a maximum of 35 overs. Both sides will have an innings of the same duration if the first innings is delayed or interrupted. In interrupted matches, Run Rate will be used to provide a run target for the side batting second.
	2. No match will be less than 30 overs duration. The side batting second shall have allocated, and complete unless they win or are all out, a minimum of 15 overs to constitute a match.
5. **POINTS**
	1. For the side scoring the most runs – 10 points.
	2. Batting Points: 40 runs – 1 point, 80 runs – 2 points, 120 runs – 3 points, 160 runs – 4 points, 200 runs – 5 points.
	3. Bowling Points: 2 wkts – 1 point, 4 wkts – 2 points, 6 wkts – 3 points, 8 wkts – 4 points, 10 wkts – 5 points.
	4. Side batting second and winning: for every two wickets in hand, provided the total of batting points awarded does not exceed 5 – 1 point.
	5. The losing team batting second and achieving 75% of the target score – 2 points
	6. Cancelled Match (no play at all): each team will receive 6 points.
	7. Abandoned Match (play commenced): each team will receive 6 points plus any bonus points accrued during the match.
	8. No Result Match (when no result can be achieved by Run Rate or the scores are level): each team will receive 6 points plus any bonus points accrued in the match. This will be defined as a Tied game as in Rule 18f.
	9. The maximum points available per match is 20.
6. **DELAYS OR INTERRUPTIONS TO PLAY**
	1. **First Innings.** If during the first innings circumstances delay or interrupt play to the extent of 7 minutes or more, two overs shall be deducted from the match total for every completed 7 minutes delay, *e.g. Umpires decide 28 minutes delay due to weather (7 x 4 = 28), thus 8 overs are deducted from the match total (70 – 8 = 62), and this reduction will impact on bowling limitations.*
	2. The first innings will define the number of overs the side batting second will have at the start of their innings.
	3. **Second Innings**. If during the second innings circumstances delay or interrupt play to the extent of 3½ minutes or more, one over shall be deducted from the second innings total for every 3½ minutes delay. However, a minimum of 15 overs must be allocated in order for a match to be constituted*, e.g. second innings starts with a planned duration of 35 overs but is interrupted for 28 minutes (3½ x 8 = 28) thus 8 overs are deducted from the innings total (35 – 8 = 27) and this reduction will impact on bowling limitations. However, if in this example play is interrupted for 77 minutes (3½ x 22 = 77) thus 22 overs are deducted from the innings total (35 – 22 = 13) and therefore a match cannot be constituted.*
	4. No match shall commence after 16:00 or second innings start after 17:00.
7. **INTERVALS**
	1. Tea interval – duration 30 minutes, normally taken between innings. Should the first innings finish before 3.30pm the umpires and captains can agree to have a late tea after the second innings.
	2. Drinks interval - will normally be after 17 overs have been bowled or after 12 and 24 overs, as agreed between the Captains and Umpires before the commencement of the match and/or innings.
8. **ALLOWABLE TIME/OVER RATE**
	1. An innings of 35 overs is expected to be completed within a period of 140 minutes: this is based upon one or two drinks intervals (MCC Law 11.8.1) and a minimum expected over rate of 17 overs per hour.
	2. All teams are expected to be in position to bowl the first ball of the last over within 140 minutes.
9. **RUN RATE METHOD**
	1. ‘Run Rate’ will be used to provide the target to be achieved by the side batting second in reduced matches. On completion of the first innings, the Run Rate achieved is to be calculated and agreed between the Umpires and Scorers, and conveyed to both Captains. Run Rate is to be calculated to 2 decimal places.
	2. At the start of the second innings, the batting side will know the Run Rate and therefore the target to be achieved (Run Rate x overs to be bowled (answer rounded up or, if answer a whole number, + 1) = Target Score).
	3. Run Rate is always calculated on the assumption that the side batting first batted for their full allocation of overs, unless the overs allocated have been reduced in an interrupted first innings.
	4. If no result can be achieved by Run Rate, then the match will be “No Result” and 6 points will be awarded to each team, plus any bonus points accrued in the match.

***Example 1:*** *Side batting first scores 147 in 35 overs. Run Rate is thus 147/35 = 4.2 runs per over. Therefore, the side batting second need to score either* ***148*** *or, if overs are reduced to say 30, they will need 30 x 4.2 = 126 + 1 =* ***127*** *to win. If the side batting second only has 20 overs, then they must score 20 x 4.2 = 84 + 1 =* ***85*** *to win.*

***Example 2:*** *Side batting first scores 182 in 35 overs. Run Rate is thus 182/35 = 5.2 runs per over. The side batting second suffers three interruptions during their planned 35 over innings as follows: Play stops after 10 overs, score 40 for 0 wickets with 25 overs still to play. Play recommences after a break equivalent to 3 overs, reducing the number of overs still to play to 22. At this stage, the side batting second know that their target is 115**to win: 32 overs x 5.2 = 166.4 rounded up = 167 or 166 + 1 =* *167 to win.*

*The play is again interrupted after a further 6 overs, score 80 for 1 and a further 7 overs are lost. When play recommences, the side batting second know that they have batted for 16 overs and have 9 to come, thus they need a total of 25 x 5.2 = 130 + 1 =* ***131*** *to win.*

*Finally, their innings is interrupted a third and final time and eventually the game is called off with their score at 110 for 6 wickets after having 21 overs and 3 balls bowled to them. The side batting second therefore needed to have scored in their 21 overs and 3 balls = 129 balls: 129 x 5.2/6 to convert first innings Run Rate per over to per ball = 111.8 round up = 112 or 111 + 1 =* ***112****. They have not and lose the match on Run Rate.*

1. **BOWLERS AND FIELDERS**
	1. A minimum of 5 bowlers will be required. No bowler may bowl more than 7 overs in a 35 over innings.
	2. Where circumstances reduce the overall number of overs in the match, no bowler may bowl more than 20% of the revised allocated overs (unless this has already been exceeded before the interruption). Where the total number of overs is not divisible by five, one additional over shall be allowed to the maximum number per bowler necessary to make up the balance.

***Example:*** *In a match reduced to 22 overs, two bowlers bowl 5 overs and three bowlers bowl 4 overs.*

* 1. In the event of a bowler being unable to complete an over then that over may be completed by another player, but the parts thereof of the over will count as whole overs against the original bowler and his replacement.
	2. PowerPlay:

During the following, Division-specific, periods there will be a maximum of 8 balls per over. NB: should the 8th ball be a No Ball eligible for a subsequent Free Hit; the Free Hit shall be the 1st ball of the next over. (The first 10 overs and the last 5 overs will consist of the usual 6 fair deliveries per over.)

* Division 1: over 15 – over 25
* Division 2: over 10 – over 25
* Division 3: over 10 – over 30
1. **NO BALL PENALTY**
	1. The penalty for a No Ball is 1 run.
	2. A fast short pitched delivery passing over a striker’s head height standing upright at the popping crease shall be called a No Ball, but without a Free Hit penalty.
	3. All other deliveries following a No Ball shall be a Free Hit for whichever batsman is facing it. If the delivery of a Free Hit is not a legitimate delivery (any kind of No ball or a Wide Ball) the next delivery will become a Free Hit for whichever batsman is facing it. For any Free Hit, the striker can be dismissed only under the circumstances that apply for 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 or the No Ball was the result of a field restriction breach, in which case the field may be changed to the extent of correcting the breach. However, in all circumstances, any fielder within 15 yards of the striker may retreat to a position on the same line no more than 15 yards from the striker.
	4. The Umpire will signal a Free Hit, after the normal No Ball signal, by extending one arm straight upwards and moving it in a circular motion.
2. **MATCH BALLS**
	1. Each side shall provide one new match ball, both balls to be lodged with the Umpires before the commencement of the match.
	2. The side fielding second MUST use the second new ball.
	3. The ball used must be the current 5oz pink league ball as supplied by the DWCL.
	4. A minimum of two spare balls in suitable condition shall be handed to the Umpires prior to the commencement of the match.
3. **BOWLING OF FAST SHORT PITCHED BALLS**

MCC Law 41.6.1 shall be replaced by the following:

1. A bowler shall be limited to one fast short pitched delivery per over.
2. A fast short pitched delivery is defined as a ball which passes, or would have passed, above the shoulder height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease. This rule shall apply even if the striker may have made contact with the ball with his person or equipment.
3. The Umpire at the bowler’s end shall advise the bowler and the batsman on strike when each fast short pitch delivery has been bowled.
4. Should the bowler deliver a fast short pitched ball which does, or would have, passed **above the striker’s head height** if he was standing upright at the popping crease, then this would be called a No Ball
5. In the event of the bowler bowling, more than one fast short pitched delivery in an over, the Umpire at the bowler’s end shall call and signal No Ball on each occasion. A different signal shall be used by the Umpire, who calls and signals No ball and also taps the top of his head with his other hand. The Umpire, in accordance with MCC Law 41.6.3, shall caution the bowler and issue a first and final warning. Then inform his colleague, the Captain of the fielding team and the batsman at the wicket what has occurred. This caution shall apply throughout the innings.
6. Should there be another instance of the bowler being No Balled in the innings for bowling more than one fast short pitched delivery in an over, the Umpire will direct the fielding Captain to remove the bowler from bowling forthwith. If this is during an over another player will need to complete the over. The suspended bowler will not be allowed to bowl again during the innings. The Umpires will inform the batsman at the wicket and the batting Captain when possible.
7. At the end of the match, the Umpires will report the matter to the Club Executive and the Governing body of the League who shall take what actions as is considered appropriate against the Captain and the bowler concerned.
8. **BOWLING OF HIGH NO BALLS (BEAMERS)**

MCC Law 41.7 shall apply as follows:

* 1. Any delivery, which passes or would have passed, without pitching, above waist height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease, is unfair. Whenever such a delivery is bowled, the umpire shall call and signal No ball.
	2. The bowling of a delivery as defined in above is also dangerous if the bowler’s end umpire considers that there is a risk of injury to the striker. In making that judgement the umpire shall disregard any protective equipment worn by the striker and be mindful of the speed, height and direction of the delivery, the skill of the striker and the repeated nature of such deliveries.
	3. If the umpire considers a non-pitching delivery, or a series of non-pitching deliveries, to be dangerous, when the ball is dead, the umpire shall repeat the No ball signal to the scorers and then caution the bowler, indicating that this is a first and final warning. The umpire shall also inform the other umpire, the captain of the fielding side and the batsmen of what has occurred. This caution shall apply to that bowler throughout the innings.
	4. Should there be any further dangerous such delivery by the same bowler in that innings, the umpire shall call and signal No ball, when the ball is dead, direct the captain of the fielding side to suspend the bowler immediately from bowling, inform the other umpire for the reason for this action. The bowler thus suspended shall not be allowed to bowl again in that innings. If applicable, the over shall be completed by another bowler, who shall neither have bowled any part of the previous over, nor be allowed to bowl any part of the next over. Additionally, the umpire shall report the occurrence to the batsmen and, as soon as practicable, to the captain of the batting side.
	5. The umpires together shall report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to the Executive of the offending side and to any Governing Body responsible for the match, who shall take such action as is considered appropriate against the captain, any other individuals concerned and, if appropriate, the team.
1. **RESULT**
	1. A result can only be achieved if both teams have had the opportunity of batting for at least 15 overs unless the team batting second has scored more runs than its opponents.
	2. If, due to conditions, play has been suspended and the number of overs re-calculated, minimum 15 overs, then a revised target score should be set for the number of overs the team batting second will have the opportunity of facing. The revised target is calculated by Run Rate. A par score will be set for the second innings and, as long as this is exceeded, the team batting second are the winners; if it is equal then it is a Tied game.
	3. If a match is Abandoned before it has been played to a conclusion and the team batting second has received a minimum of 15 overs, the result should be decided via the Run Rate method as determined and agreed by the Captains, Scorers and Umpires.
	4. If, after the restart of play, it is discovered that the wrong Run Rate target has been set, the faulty target shall stand.
	5. If the score of the team batting second surpasses the Target Score at any time prior to the conclusion of its innings, then the match shall be won by the team batting second but, if bowled out earlier, the match shall be won by the team batting first.
	6. A match shall be Tied if the scores are equal at the end or the side batting second finishes its innings 1 short of the Target Score as set the Run Rate method.
	7. Once a match has been completed and the result confirmed by the Umpires with the Scorers, under the MCC Law 16.10 the result cannot be changed.

Devon Women’s Cricket League
Introduction to the Disciplinary Regulations

The DWCL has always been committed to maintaining the highest standards of behaviour and conduct – the great game of cricket relies upon everyone playing their part to make every match a success. To this end we are adopting the same disciplinary regulations that are used by the Devon Cricket League (DCL) as follows.

These regulations rely upon clubs and captains taking responsibility for ensuring that cricket is played in an appropriate manner and for taking any necessary action. The MCC Laws of Cricket and the Spirit of Cricket provide more than adequate guidance.

In simple terms, these Disciplinary Regulations have four levels of seriousness, from Level 1 – the least serious, to Level 4 – the most serious. The Regulations include the appropriate penalty for each level.

**In the DWCL, everyone should be aware that a suspension of 2 matches equates to a suspension of not playing any cricket matches for TWO weeks.** During that suspension period, the individual or team or club is suspended from the playing of any cricket within Devon and any cricket elsewhere that comes under the auspices of the ECB.

**Level 1 and Level 2:** Clubs will be requested by the DWCL to take the appropriate action for any Level 1 and Level 2 offences that have been reported by the Umpires.

Clubs will be advised of the minimum action to be taken and will be requested to inform the DWCL when they have taken such action. Of course, Clubs can always apply additional or stronger penalties in regard to breaches of the Code of Conduct.

**Level 3 and Level 4:** In the case of Level 3 or 4 offences that have been reported by the Umpires, the Discipline Officer will convene a three person Disciplinary Panel.

The MCC Laws of Cricket and the DWCL Playing Regulations lay down when Umpires are required to raise reports. Umpires – whether independently appointed or not, members of DACO or not – are requested not to shirk this important duty.

Once a report has been received by the DWCL, the DWCL Discipline Officer will decide what then follows.

The DWCL Discipline Officer and Secretary can always be asked for advice and guidance.

Discipline “Flow” Diagram

**Event Action By**

A Level Breach First and Final Warning Umpires

Repeat Level Breach Report to be written Umpires

 Inform Club official(s) Umpires

 Inform Secretary DWCL Umpires

*(This to be done within 24 hours of the end of the match by phone/text/email)*

 Forward Report to Secretary DWCL Umpires

*(This to be done within 72 hours of the end of the match by mail/email)*

**Receipt of Report** Forward to Discipline Officer & DWCL Secretary

 to the Club

Discipline Officer Reviews Report and recommends Discipline Officer

 action to be taken and forwards onto

 Secretary DWCL

Secretary DWCL Forwards action to be taken by the Club DWCL Secretary

Club Reviews action and decides and then

 informs Secretary DWCL of decision

 (i.e. action taken etc.) Club Secretary

Result Action taken displayed on DCB Ltd

 website DWCL Secretary

*In simple terms: A breach occurs, the Umpires decide to report, they inform the Captain and Player, and at the end of the match they inform the Club Official. The Umpires inform the DWCL Secretary a report is on its way. The Umpires write the report, both sign it and forward to the DWCL Secretary. The DWCL Secretary sends the report to the Discipline Officer and the Secretary of the Club. The Discipline Officer reviews the report and decides on any further action (Club to deal with [and what the Discipline Officer recommends as a penalty], hearing to be convened or no further action). The Discipline Officer’s decision is conveyed via the DWCL Secretary to the Club. For Level 1 and Level 2 breaches, it is expected that the Club will administer the Discipline Officer’s penalty recommendation (or a more severe penalty). Having done so, the Club should report the action they have taken to the DWCL Secretary so that the Discipline Officer can be informed and the DCB Ltd website updated.*

Devon Women’s Cricket League
ECB Disciplinary Regulations

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APPENDIX 1 – BREACHES OF DISCIPLINE

**1. AIMS AND JURISDICTION**

**1.1** The England & Wales Cricket Board (***ECB***) is committed to maintaining the highest standards of behaviour and conduct in the game of cricket. The Devon Women’s Cricket League (the ***League***), which operate within the jurisdiction of the ECB, share this commitment and take it very seriously.

**1.2** These ECB Premier League Disciplinary Regulations, incorporating the Code of Conduct and Spirit of Cricket (as set out in paragraph 2 below) (***Disciplinary Regulations***), have been adopted by the Leagues and are intended to provide guidance and ensure uniformity in dealing with any alleged breach of the Code of Conduct.

**1.3** The Disciplinary Regulations shall be complied with by all those who participate in the League, including players, clubs, club officials, club members, the Leagues, representatives of the League, umpires and any other person or body who is from time-to-time engaged in cricket-related activities under the auspices of the League (***Participants***). (For the purposes of paragraph 2 below, ‘players’ shall be deemed to include other Participants if the context of an alleged breach of the Code of Conduct so requires).

**1.4** Subject to the mutual recognition provisions (at paragraph 9 below), the League shall be responsible for the enforcement and administration of the Disciplinary Regulations in relation to Participants registered to the League and/or participating in cricket-related activities under its auspices. All Participants, by virtue of their registration with the League (whether directly or via a club) and/or participation in cricket-related activities under the auspices of the League, agree to be bound by the Disciplinary Regulations.

**1.5** All Participants are required to cooperate with the Leagues in regard to discipline. Without prejudice to the generality of this requirement, every club shall take all reasonable steps to ensure the proper conduct of its Participants in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations and shall not act in any way which is prejudicial or detrimental to the interests or reputation of the League(s) or the game of cricket.

**1.6** There is nothing in the Disciplinary Regulations preventing or discouraging clubs from applying additional or stronger penalties in regard to breaches of the Code of Conduct beyond those set out in the Disciplinary Regulations, whether or not penalties may apply under the Disciplinary Regulations. To this end, it is important that clubs have their own code of conduct and disciplinary procedures in place.

**1.7** At all times it is to be remembered that the core aim of the Disciplinary Regulations is to maintain the highest standards of behaviour and conduct in the game of cricket. The procedures detailed in the Disciplinary Regulations are intended to be fair, straightforward and proportionate to the needs of the Leagues and Participants, respecting fundamental principles of natural justice and fairness but recognising that those involved with the procedures will not typically be, and do not need to be, legally qualified. Therefore, as long as the principles of natural justice and fairness are not infringed, minor practical or technical points will not serve to invalidate the procedure or any decisions or findings under the Disciplinary Regulations.

**1.8** In the event that any incident or other matter occurs which is not provided for by the Disciplinary Regulations (whether it relates to conduct, jurisdiction, procedure or penalty), then the Chairman of the League’s Discipline Committee or his nominated deputy (***Discipline Officer***) or the League’s Disciplinary/Appeal Panel may take such action as considered appropriate in the circumstances, taking into account the specific circumstances and the principles of natural justice and fairness.

**1.9** In the event that any alleged breach of the Code of Conduct falls under any other relevant ECB regulations (as may from time-to-time be in force), such as the ECB Safeguarding Complaints and Disciplinary Procedure, or is subject to investigation by the police or other public authority (or analogous body), or is subject to any other legal/regulatory process, the Discipline Officer or the League’s Disciplinary/Appeal Panel may temporarily suspend the procedure under the Disciplinary Regulations.

**2. CODE OF CONDUCT AND SPIRIT OF CRICKET**

**2.1 Code of Conduct**

**2.1.1** Captains are responsible at all times for ensuring that play is conducted within the Spirit of Cricket (as set out in paragraph 2.2) as well as within the Laws.

**2.1.2** Players must at all times accept the umpire’s decision. Players must not show dissent at the umpire’s decision or react in a provocative or disapproving manner towards another player or a spectator.

**2.1.3** Players shall not intimidate assault or attempt to intimidate or assault an umpire, another Participant or a spectator.

**2.1.4** Players shall not use crude and/or abusive language (known as “sledging”), nor make offensive gestures or hand signals, nor deliberately distract an opponent.

**2.1.5** Players shall not use language or gestures that offend, insult, humiliate, intimidate, threaten, disparage or vilify another person on the basis of that person’s (or that person’s perceived) age, disability, race (colour and ethnic background), religion or belief, sex (male or female), sexual orientation or gender reassignment.

**2.1.6** When the two umpires (be they DACO appointed or club umpires) both hear a player or players using foul and/or abusive language, they will inform the captain that they are issuing a Final Warning for his/her team. The next time ANY player uses foul and/or abusive language that can be heard by both umpires the player concerned and the captain will be reported to the League. It should be stressed that even if the foul and/or abusive language was used in frustration and not directed at any player or official this is no excuse. (*The purpose of this section is to enhance the enjoyment and viewing pleasure of spectators, players and officials).*

**2.1.7** Players shall not use or in any way be concerned in the use or distribution of illegal drugs or other criminal activity.

**2.1.8** Participants shall not make any public or media comment which is prejudicial or detrimental to the interests or reputation of other Participants or the game of cricket in general. In this instance, media shall include (but not necessarily be limited to) press, radio, television, external websites, club websites, social networking sites and club match programmes. Nothing in this provision shall prevent any comment which constitutes honest opinion in regard to cricketing matters and which is made in a fair and respectful manner.

**2.1.9** Participants shall not publicly disclose or comment upon any alleged breach of this Code of Conduct.

**2.1.10** Participants shall not act in any manner which is against the Spirit of Cricket, otherwise improper, or prejudicial or detrimental to the interests or reputation of the League(s) or the game of cricket.

**2.2 Spirit of Cricket**

**2.2.1** Cricket is a game that owes much of its unique appeal to the fact that it should be played not only within its Laws, but also within the spirit of the game. Any action which is seen to abuse this spirit causes injury to the game itself. The major responsibility for ensuring the spirit of fair play rests with the captains.

There are two Laws which place the responsibility for a team’s conduct firmly on the captain.

**Responsibility of Captains**

The captains are responsible at all times for ensuring that play is conducted within the Spirit of the Game as well as within the Laws.

**Player’s Conduct**

In the event of any player failing to comply with the instructions of an umpire, criticising his decision by word or action, showing dissent, or generally behaving in a manner which might bring the game into disrepute, the umpire concerned shall in the first place report the matter to the other umpire and to the player’s captain, requesting the latter to take action.

**2.2.2 Fair and Unfair Play**

According to the Laws the umpires are the sole judges of fair and unfair play. The umpires may intervene at any time, and it is the responsibility of the captain to take action where required.

**2.2.3** **The umpires are authorised to intervene in cases of:**

Time wasting

Damaging the pitch

Dangerous or unfair bowling

Tampering with the ball

Any other action that they consider to be unfair

**2.2.4** **The Spirit of Cricket involves RESPECT for:**

Your opponents

Your own captain and team

The role of the umpires

The game’s traditional values

**2.2.5** **It is against the Spirit of Cricket:**

To dispute an umpire’s decision by word, action or gesture

To direct abusive language towards an opponent or umpire

To indulge in cheating or any sharp practice, for instance:

– Appeal knowing the batsman is not out;

– Advance towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing; and

– Seek to distract an opponent either verbally or by harassment with persistent clapping or unnecessary noise under the guise of enthusiasm and motivation of one’s own side.

**2.2.6 Violence**

There is no place for any act of violence on the field of play.

**2.2.7 Players**

Captains and umpires together set the tone for the conduct of a cricket match. Every player is expected to make an important contribution to this.

**2.3** Failure to comply with the provisions of the Code of Conduct may lead to disciplinary action, irrespective of a proven breach being related to a match not under the jurisdiction of the League.

**3. BREACHES AND REPORTING**

**3.1** Any Participant in breach of the Code of Conduct shall be liable to penalties in the manner prescribed in the Disciplinary Regulations.

**3.2** A breach of the Code of Conduct will normally be categorised as Level 1, 2, 3 or 4, as set out in the Appendix.

**3.3 Reporting of Breaches by Umpires**

**3.3.1** Subject to paragraph 3.3.3, for a first Level 1 breach of the Code of Conduct in a match, the umpire(s) should warn the player as to his/her future conduct and advise him/her and his/her captain that any repetition in the match will result in a formal report.

**3.3.2** If any player receiving such a warning then commits a further Level 1 breach in the match, the umpire(s) should advise him/her and his/her captain that they will be submitting a formal report.

**3.3.3** Should the umpire(s) consider that the first Level 1 breach is sufficiently serious, they have the authority to decide to submit a formal report without having previously issued any warning. The player and his captain should be advised accordingly.

**3.3.4** In all instances of any perceived Level 2, 3 or 4 breach, the umpire(s) should complete a formal discipline report. *In other words, the umpire(s) should complete a report for a Level 1 breach (First and Final Warning followed by a repetition of the breach = Report), and any Level 2 or Level 3 or Level 4 breach – Note 3.3.3, which provides a discretion to umpires).*

**3.3.5** Any alleged breach of the Code of Conduct subject to a report by an umpire should be notified by telephone by the umpire to the DWCL Secretary within 24 hours of the end of the match. The written report should be sent, preferably by email using the standard discipline form, to the Discipline Officer and be received within 72 hours of the end of the match.

**3.4 Reporting of Breaches by Participants**

**3.4.1** Any allegation of a breach of the Code of Conduct by a Participant made against another Participant which arises from an incident during the course of a match or on the field of play should be reported by a team’s captain to the umpire(s).

**3.4.2** Any allegation of a breach of the Code of Conduct by a Participant made against another Participant which does not arise from an incident during the course of a match or on the field of play should, ideally, be notified to the DWCL Secretary promptly after the incident giving rise to the allegation. Subject to any direction from the DWCL Secretary, a written report should be produced, which should allow the Discipline Officer to understand i) the background to the alleged incident, ii) why a breach of the Code of Conduct is alleged and iii) the Level of breach alleged. Where possible, notifications and reports should be submitted to the DWCL Secretary by a Club Secretary or directly through playcricket.com (or in such other manner as may be directed by the DWCL Secretary).

**3.4.3** The Discipline Officer shall have an overriding discretion to accept or decline reports submitted under paragraph 3.4.2. Save for exceptional circumstances, such reports shall not be accepted relating to any alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct which have been, or could have been, reported by an umpire pursuant to paragraph 3.3.5 (the DWCL Secretary may contact an umpire for his observations/views on allegations/the content of any report) or where there has been undue delay in making a notification or report.

**3.4.4** Any complaints submitted under paragraph 3.4.2 must be made in good faith. The submission of a report which is trivial, vexatious, made for tactical reasons or otherwise improper may itself be treated as a breach of the Code of Conduct under paragraph 2.1.9.

**4. PROCEDURE**

**4.1** The DWCL Secretary shall, as soon as reasonably practicable following receipt of a report, inform the Secretary of the club concerned (or other Participant as appropriate in the circumstances) that a report has been made. See “flow” diagram: The umpires render a report, they inform the club concerned and send the report to the DWCL Secretary. The DWCL Secretary forwards the report to the Discipline Officer and to the Secretary of the club. The Discipline Officer will advise the club, via the DWCL Secretary, of the recommended action that should be taken. The Secretary of the club will notify the Discipline Officer, via the DWCL Secretary, of the action taken by the club (4.2 below). A key factor here is speed and timeliness. The DWCL Secretary is the conduit for all information on the matter.

**4.2** Any Level 1 or Level 2 breach of the Code of Conduct should in the first instance be dealt with by the Participant’s club (in accordance with the guideline penalties detailed at paragraph 6 below), and the Secretary of the club shall notify the DWCL Secretary within 48 hours of any action taken by the club or which it proposes to take.

**4.3** Within 48 hours of receipt of notification from the Secretary of the club as to its action or proposed action, the Discipline Officer shall consider the matter and resolve:

 **i.** To take no further action except to record the complaint and notify the club of his decision; or

 **ii.** To endorse any action taken by the club and confirm that no further action is required; or

 **iii.** To refer the matter for a full disciplinary hearing (***Disciplinary Hearing***).

**Level 3** or **4** complaints will automatically be subject to a Disciplinary Hearing.

**5. DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS**

**5.1** At least seven days’ notice in writing of the Disciplinary Hearing shall be given to the Participant, either directly or via the Secretary of his/her club as appropriate. The notice shall specify the alleged breach(es) of the Code of Conduct and the Level(s) of the alleged breach(es).

**5.2** Where a charge against a player is referred to a Disciplinary Hearing, his/her captain and club may be charged separately under their responsibilities as set out in the Code of Conduct above.

**5.3** In any case which is referred for a Disciplinary Hearing, the Discipline Officer shall convene the Disciplinary Hearing within 14 days of the decision to refer. Any delay may only be granted at the discretion of the Chairman of the Disciplinary Panel (appointed in accordance with paragraph 5.6).

**5.4** The accused Participant shall be entitled:

 – To submit written statements ahead of the Disciplinary Hearing;

 – To attend the Disciplinary Hearing;

 – To state his/her case (in the case of a club, by its secretary or other official); and

 – To be legally represented or supported by a colleague; and

 – To call witnesses.

**5.5** If the Participant is to have representation present at the Disciplinary Hearing then the details of that representation must be given to the DWCL Secretary not less than 48 hours before the date of the hearing.

**5.6** The Disciplinary Hearing shall be conducted by a Disciplinary Panel appointed by the Discipline Officer and shall consist of not less than three persons and not more than five persons drawn from a list approved by the League’s executive committee. The Discipline Officer shall appoint one of the Disciplinary Panel members to act as Chairman of the Disciplinary Panel. None of the Disciplinary Panel should be connected with the Participant or any relevant opponent at the time of the alleged breach, or any Participant who might directly benefit from any disciplinary action.

**5.7** A Participant involved in disciplinary proceedings will be solely responsible for meeting such costs or expenses as it or they may incur, including the cost of any legal or other representation.

**5.8** The standard of proof shall be on the balance of probabilities.

**6. PENALTIES**

**6.1** If at a Disciplinary Hearing a breach of the Code of Conduct is proved, the Disciplinary Panel shall have the power to impose one or more of the following penalties, together with such order as to costs as it deems appropriate:

**In the case of a Player:**

 – To require the player to submit appropriate letter(s) of apology within a specified time;

 – To record a reprimand and to give a warning as to future conduct;

 – To impose a fine, not to exceed £500;

 – To suspend the player for one or more specified matches and/or for a stated period of time.

 – To deduct League points from the player’s team. In the DWCL 2 points minimum; and

 – To expel the player from the League.

As a guideline only the following penalties should be expected in regard to suspensions for matches**:**

*Level 1
1 to 2 matches (team 2 points)*

*Level 2
2 to 3 matches (team 3 points)*

*Level 3
3 to 4 matches (team 5 points)*

*Level 4
A minimum of 5 matches (team 20 points)*

**In the case of a Club:**

– To require the club to submit appropriate letter(s) of apology within a specified time;

– To record a reprimand and to give a warning as to future conduct;

– To impose a fine;

– To deduct League points from the club’s team;

– To expel the club from any competitions of the League; and

– To relegate to any lower division of the League or to a ‘linked’ League.

**In the case of any other Participant:**

– To require the Participant to submit appropriate letter(s) of apology within a specified time;

– To record a reprimand and to give a warning as to future conduct;

– To impose a fine, not to exceed £500;

– To suspend the Participant for one or more specified matches and/or for a stated period of time;

– To deduct League points from the Participant’s team; and

– To expel the Participant from the League.

**6.2** Panels may take the following factors into account when determining the penalties to be imposed:

– If the accused Participant has pleaded guilty;

– The Participant’s previous disciplinary record;

– The position of the Participant (for example, if a player is a captain);

– The conduct of the Participant subsequent to her being warned and told that she will be reported;

– In any case involving a player, the regularity with which the player plays cricket and at what level(s) of cricket she plays (for example, a fixed period suspension of two weeks is likely to have a more serious impact upon an ECB registered cricketer who plays regularly when compared to a purely recreational player who plays infrequently);

– Whether conduct occurred on or off the field of play. (As a guideline only, conduct occurring off the field of play will typically, save where there are significant aggravating factors, be more appropriately dealt with by the imposition of a fine); and

– Any other mitigating or aggravating factors relevant to the circumstances of the breach.

**6.3** The Disciplinary Panel shall have the power to suspend the operation of any part, or all, of the penalty it imposes for such period and subject to such terms and conditions it deems appropriate.

**6.4** Where applicable, penalties may be carried over to apply in the following season.

**6.5** Decisions of the Disciplinary Panel (a finding that a complaint is proved or not proved or a decision on penalty) shall be by majority vote; where necessary the Disciplinary Panel Chairman shall have a casting vote.

**6.6** In accordance with the Cricket Discipline Commission (***CDC***) Regulations, it is envisaged that in any case where a suspension is lawfully imposed upon an ECB registered cricketer by the Disciplinary Panel such a suspension shall be recognised by the CDC. ECB registered cricketers have a right of appeal to an Appeal Panel of the CDC and, in the event a suspension is imposed upon an ECB registered cricketer by the Disciplinary Panel, the Discipline Officer shall, as soon as practicable, report the matter in writing to i) the ECB Head of Cricket Operations (First Class) and ii) the ECB Head of Non-First Class Cricket.

**7. APPEALS**

**7.1** Where a breach of the Code of Conduct has been proved at a Disciplinary Hearing, a Participant shall have the right of appeal. This right should only be exercised in good faith upon reasonable grounds. Where more than one Participant (e.g. a player and his club) appeals in relation to the same incident, they must do so separately.

**7.2** A notice of appeal setting out the grounds must be given in writing to the Discipline Officer within seven days of the decision of the Disciplinary Panel being communicated to the Participant in writing, together with a deposit. The amount of the deposit shall be £250 for each Club and £100 for each other Participant exercising their right of appeal.

**7.3** If a notice of appeal is given, the penalty shall not take effect pending the hearing of the appeal, which shall take place as soon as is practicable and in any event within 14 days of receipt of notice of the appeal.

**7.4** The appeal shall be by way of a new hearing before an Appeal Panel (***Appeal Hearing***). The Appeal Panel shall be appointed by the Discipline Officer and shall consist of not less than three persons and not more than five persons drawn from a list approved by the League’s executive committee. The Discipline Officer shall appoint one of the Appeal Panel members to act as Chairman of the Appeal Panel. None of the Panel should have been part of the original Disciplinary Panel, be connected with the Participant or any relevant opponent at the time of the alleged breach, or any Participant who might directly benefit from any disciplinary action. The Participant shall have the same rights of attendance and representation, and to call witnesses as they had before the Disciplinary Panel.

**7.5** If the Participant is to have representation present at the hearing then the details of that representation must be given to the Discipline Officer not less than 7 days before the date of the hearing.

**7.6** Non-attendance at the Appeal Hearing by a Participant without good and valid reason for such non-attendance will automatically result in forfeiture of their right of appeal.

**7.7** The Appeals Panel may confirm, vary or reverse the decision of the Disciplinary Panel and it shall have the power to increase the penalty and award costs of the Appeal Hearing and forfeit the whole or part of the deposit (in reaching its decision, the Appeal Panel may have regard to whether the right of appeal was exercised in good faith and upon reasonable grounds). Decisions of the Appeal Panel shall be by majority vote; where necessary, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

**7.8** The decision of the Appeals Panel shall be final and binding.

**8. NON-PAYMENT OF FINES**

**8.1** Any fine levied must be paid to the Treasurer of the League within 28 days of the club being notified of such fine.

**8.2** Any fines still outstanding at the end of that 28 day period shall be increased by 100% of the original fine. At the end of that period the Secretary or Chairman of the offending club shall be notified to the effect that the fine is outstanding and given a reminder that, if after a further period of 14 days from that reminder the fine is still outstanding, a deduction of five points shall be made in regard to the team from which the fine arose (or, if the fine does not arise from a particular team, the club’s first team).

**9. MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF PENALTIES**

**9.1** The League and clubs shall mutually recognise and give full effect to any penalty imposed by the Disciplinary and Appeal Panels of the Leagues (as defined at paragraph 1.1).

**9.2** The League and clubs shall recognise and give effect to penalties imposed pursuant to any disciplinary or relevant regulations of all competitions under the auspices of County Cricket Boards, as defined and listed in the ECB’s Articles of Association from time-to-time, and any other competitions as directed by the ECB from time-to-time (the ***Recognised Competitions***).

**9.3** The League and clubs shall mutually recognise and give full effect to any disciplinary penalty imposed by the following competitions, which shall also be Recognised Competitions:

ECB Premier Leagues

National Club Championship

National Club T20 Competition

U19 T20 Blast

**9.4** For the purposes of this paragraph 9, a Participant may not play in matches under the auspices of the League whilst serving a suspension given by any other of the Leagues or a Recognised Competition. For the avoidance of doubt, in the event any other of the Leagues or a Recognised Competition suspends a player for a consecutive number of matches or for a period of time, that player may not play in any matches under the auspices of the League until that suspension has been served.

**9.5** In order to give effect to the mutual recognition of penalties between the Leagues and Recognised Competitions, the League may report and receive information in regard to penalties imposed upon Participants pursuant to the Disciplinary Regulations to and from the ECB and Recognised Competitions. Information will be shared about the penalties imposed on Participants on a ‘need-to-know’ basis with such Participants and other persons/bodies as are necessary to give effect to the penalty.

**9.6** In addition, in Devon as agreed by the Devon Disciplinary Group, a Participant (player that has been suspended) may not play in any matches in any cricket either in the county or for the Devon Women’s County Cricket Club. This does not stop the participant from practicing or engaging in coaching or assisting cricket to be played.

**10. DATA PROTECTION CONSENT**

Each Participant shall be deemed to have agreed, for the purposes of the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 and otherwise, that their personal data may be processed and disclosed in accordance with, and for the purposes of the implementation of, the Disciplinary Regulations.

**11. CONFIDENTIALITY**

**11.1** All disciplinary proceedings which take place under the Disciplinary Regulations shall be confidential and shall take place in private.

**11.2** The Leagues and the ECB shall have the right to publish any written decision of a Disciplinary Panel or Appeal Panel, including (but not necessarily limited to) publication on their websites, and Participants shall be deemed to have consented to such publication.

**APPENDIX – BREACHES OF DISCIPLINE**

Certain conduct, whether on or off the field of play of play, amounting to a breach of the Laws of Cricket and/or the Spirit of Cricket has been categorised into four levels which are set out below:

**Unacceptable Conduct**

The umpires shall act upon any unacceptable conduct. Four Levels of offence and the corresponding actions by the umpires are identified as Level 1, Level 2, Level 3 and Level 4 offences.

If either umpire considers that the conduct of a player, at any time during the match, is unacceptable, the umpire concerned shall call and signal Dead ball. This call may be delayed until the umpire is satisfied that it will not disadvantage the non-offending side. The umpire concerned shall report the matter to the other umpire and together they shall decide whether misconduct has occurred. If so, they shall determine into which of the Levels the conduct falls, and then apply the related sanctions.

For each Level 1 to 4, if the offence is by a batsman, the umpires shall summon the offending player’s captain to the field. Solely for the purpose of this Law, the batsmen at the wicket may not deputise for their captain.

**Level 1 Offences and Action by Umpires**

Any of the following actions by a player shall constitute a Level 1 offence:

– Wilfully mistreating any part of the cricket ground, equipment or implements used in the match;

– Showing dissent at an umpire’s decision by word or action;

– Using language that, in the circumstances, is obscene, offensive or insulting;

– Making an obscene gesture;

– Appealing excessively;

– Advancing towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing;

– Any other misconduct, the nature of which is, in the opinion of the umpires, equivalent to a Level 1 offence.

If such an offence is committed, the following actions shall be implemented as appropriate, according to whether or not it is the first offence at any Level:

– The umpire shall call Time, if necessary;

– Together the umpires shall summon and inform the offending player’s captain that an offence at this Level has occurred;

– If the Level 1 offence is the first offence, at any Level, by that team, the umpire shall issue a first and final warning which shall apply to all members of the team for the remainder of the match;

– Warn the offending player’s captain that any further Level 1 offence by any member of his/her team shall result in the award of 5 Penalty runs to the opposing team;

– If the Level 1 offence follows an offence, at any Level, by that team, the umpire shall award 5 Penalty runs to the opposing team;

– As soon as practicable the umpire shall call Play.

The umpires together shall report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to the Executive of the offending player’s team and to any Governing Body responsible for the match, who shall take such further action as is considered appropriate against the captain, any other individuals concerned and, if appropriate, the team.

**Level 2 Offences and Action by Umpires**

Any of the following actions by a player shall constitute a Level 2 offence:

– Showing serious dissent at an umpire’s decision by word or action;

– Making inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with another player;

– Throwing the ball at a player, umpire or another person in an inappropriate and dangerous manner;

– Using language or gesture to another player, umpire, team official or spectator that, in the circumstances, is obscene or of a seriously insulting nature;

– Any other misconduct, the nature of which is, in the opinion of the umpires, equivalent to a Level 2 offence.

If such an offence is committed, the following actions shall be implemented:

– The umpire shall call Time, if necessary;

– Together the umpires shall summon and inform the offending player’s captain that an offence at this Level has occurred;

– The umpire shall award 5 Penalty runs to the opposing team;

– The umpire shall warn the offending player’s captain that any future Level 1 offence by any member of her team shall result in the award of 5 Penalty runs to the opposing team;

– As soon as practicable the umpire shall call Play.

The umpires together shall report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to the Executive of the offending player’s team and to any Governing Body responsible for the match, who shall take such further action as is considered appropriate against the captain, any other individuals concerned and, if appropriate, the team.

**Level 3 Offences and Action by Umpires**

Either of the following actions by a player shall constitute a Level 3 offence:

– Intimidating an umpire by language or gesture;

– Threatening to assault a player or any other person except an umpire.

If such an offence is committed, the following actions shall be implemented:

– The umpire shall call Time, if necessary;

– Together the umpires shall summon and inform the offending player’s captain that an offence at this Level has occurred;

– The umpires shall direct the captain to remove the offending player immediately from the field of play for a period in accordance with the following:

In a match where the innings are not limited to a number of overs, the player shall be suspended from the field of play for 10 overs.

In a match where the innings are limited to a number of overs, the player shall be suspended for one fifth of the number of overs allocated to the current innings at its commencement. If, in calculating the length of the suspension, a part-over results, it shall be considered as a whole over. Furthermore, any balls remaining in the over in progress at the time of suspension shall not count towards the overs for which the player is suspended.

If the offending player is a fielder, no substitute shall be allowed for him/her. The offending player may return to the field of play after serving the period of suspension and may bowl immediately.

If a bowler is suspended mid-over, then that over must be completed by a different bowler, who shall not have bowled the previous over nor shall she bowl the next over.

If the offending player is a not out batsman, she shall be replaced by another member of her team. The offending player may return to bat after having served the suspension only at the fall of a wicket. If no batsman is available to bat during a batsman’s suspension, the innings is completed. If the offending player does not continue her innings for whatever reason, she is to be recorded as Retired – Not Out.

If the offending player is a dismissed member of the batting side, the period of suspension will not commence until the start of the next innings. Furthermore, in these circumstances, the offending player may not act as a runner during the innings when she was suspended.

Warn the offending player’s captain that any future Level 1 offence shall result in the award of 5 Penalty runs to the opposing team.

Any overs remaining to be served from a suspension shall be carried forward to the next and subsequent innings of the match. A part-over at the end of the innings shall not count towards the overs for which the player is suspended.

As soon as practicable, the umpire shall:

– Award 5 Penalty Runs to the opposing team;

– Signal the Level 3 penalty to the scorers;

– Call Play.

The umpires together shall report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to the Executive of the offending player’s team and to any Governing Body responsible for the match, who shall take such further action as is considered appropriate against the captain, any other individuals concerned and, if appropriate, the team.

**Level 4 Offences and Action by Umpires**

Any of the following actions by a player shall constitute a Level 4 offence:

– Threatening to assault an umpire;

– Making inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with an umpire;

– Physically assaulting a player or any other person;

– Committing any other act of violence.

If such an offence is committed, the following actions shall be implemented:

– The umpire shall call Time, if necessary;

– Together the umpires shall summon and inform the offending player’s captain that an offence at this Level has occurred;

– The umpires shall direct the captain to remove the offending player immediately from the field of play for the remainder of the match and shall apply the following:

If the offending player is a fielder, no substitute shall be allowed for her. She is to be recorded as Retired – Out at the commencement of any subsequent innings in which her team is the batting side.

If a bowler is suspended mid-over, then that over must be completed by a different bowler, who shall not have bowled the previous over nor shall be permitted to bowl the next over.

If the offending player is a batsman she is to be recorded as Retired – Out in the current innings, unless she has been dismissed under any of Laws 32 to 39, and at the commencement of any subsequent innings in which her team is the batting side. If no further batsman is available to bat, the innings is completed.

Warn the offending player’s captain that any future Level 1 offence shall result in the award of 5 Penalty runs to the opposing team.

As soon as practicable, the umpire shall

– Award 5 Penalty Runs to the opposing team;

– Signal the Level 4 penalty to the scorers;

– Call Play.

The umpires together shall report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to the Executive of the offending player’s team and to any Governing Body responsible for the match, who shall take such further action as is considered appropriate against the captain, any other individuals concerned and, if appropriate, the team.

**Captain refusing to remove a Player from the Field**

If a captain refuses to carry out an instruction to remove a player from the field, the umpires shall invoke Law 16.3 (Umpires awarding a match).

If both captains refuse to carry out instructions to remove a player from the field, in respect of the same incident, the umpires shall instruct the players to leave the field. The match is not concluded and there shall be no result.

**Additional points relating to Level 3 and Level 4 Offences:**

If a player, while acting as wicket-keeper, commits a Level 3 or Level 4 offence, substitute fielders shall not apply, meaning that only a nominated player may act as wicket-keeper, even if another fielder becomes injured or ill and is replaced by a substitute.

A nominated player who has a substitute or runner will also suffer the penalty for any Level 3 or Level 4 offence committed by the substitute or runner. However, only the substitute or runner will be reported.

Where any alleged breach falls outside the conduct above, whether on or off the field, the Discipline Officer shall determine the appropriate Level with reference to the following factors:

The level of harm caused (or potentially caused) to the interests or reputation of the League(s) or the game of cricket in general;

Whether any alleged language used or gesture made may offend, insult, humiliate, intimidate, threaten, disparage or vilify another person on the basis of that person’s (or that person’s perceived) age, race, religion, sexual orientation, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin;

Whether it is alleged that any conduct was intended to cause physical harm to another person, or such harm was reasonably foreseeable;

Whether it is alleged that any conduct was intended to cause distress to another person, or such distress was reasonably foreseeable;

Whether it is alleged that any behaviour caused harm to a child, or such harm was reasonably foreseeable;

The level of harm/distress the alleged conduct caused (or may have caused) to another person;

Whether it is alleged that any conduct was criminal or otherwise unlawful; and

Any other factor relevant to the particular circumstances of the alleged conduct.

In determining the appropriate Level, it is again to be remembered that the core aim of the Disciplinary Regulations is to maintain the highest standards of behaviour and conduct in the game of cricket. The Level determined for an alleged breach of the Code of Conduct should be proportionate to achieve that core aim.

**Social Media**

For the avoidance of doubt, any postings online and/or on social media (Twitter, Facebook or similar/equivalent platforms) also fall to be determined in accordance with the factors above. In relation to such cases, it should be noted:

Participants are to be considered responsible for any posting(s) on their social media account(s) which are caught by the factors detailed above (the fact that a posting may have been made by someone else in the Participant’s name will not necessarily prevent disciplinary action being taken);

Disciplinary action may result from repeating comments made on social media by others (e.g. ‘re-tweeting’) which are caught by the factors detailed above; and

The deleting of any inappropriate content, whilst advisable, does not of itself prevent disciplinary action being taken.