

LEAGUE COMPETITIONS

(F) ADMINISTRATIVE RULES APPLYING TO ALL LEAGUE COMPETITIONS

General

F1. All league competitions shall be administered by the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate, which may delegate to Honorary Section Secretaries such powers in relation thereto as it deems appropriate.

F2. There shall be a Senior League, open to clubs' first elevens, and a Junior League, open to clubs' second, third and lower elevens.

F3. Each League shall be divided into Sections. In the Senior League, the Sections shall be known as the Premier League and Sections 1, 2, 3, etc. In the Junior League they shall be known as Sections 1, 2, 3, etc. The Premier League shall comprise eight teams. Each other Section shall comprise ten teams in the Senior League and eight teams in the Junior League, except that the last Section of each League may comprise more or fewer teams, depending upon the total number of teams competing.

Fixtures

F4. The Domestic Cricket Development Directorate shall determine the method to be employed for arranging fixtures for the following season. Any club not represented at a fixtures meeting convened for this purpose shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £20.

F5. No match shall be played before the penultimate Saturday in April or after the last Saturday or Sunday in September, whichever be the later.

F6. Unless the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate grants special permission to the contrary, every match shall be played on or before the date published in the Fixture Book, but any team wishing to play a match before that date shall first obtain the approval of the Honorary Section Secretary.

F7. Any team failing to fulfil a fixture, except for a reason beyond its control, shall be deemed to have lost the match. In addition, it shall be fined and be liable for any expenses necessarily incurred by its opponents prior to their being notified that the fixture would not be fulfilled. In such circumstances, any more junior team from the same club shall be deemed to have lost any match played on the same day. Where a 1st XI fails to fulfil a fixture, the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate shall determine the adjustment to be made to its and its opponents' aggregate runs and overs for the purposes of calculating net run rate. In the event of a team's second or subsequent failure to fulfil a fixture, the club shall lose a further four league points. However, if a team in Junior League Section 7 or below is unable to fulfil a fixture, the game may be arranged for another date if both clubs agree and inform the Honorary Section Secretary in writing.

F8. No team may aggregate its home and away fixtures against the same opponents as one match played for double points or arrange to play two matches simultaneously or consecutively on the same day, except that two 20-over matches may be played consecutively.

Postponements

F9. Matches may be postponed only where:

- (a) either or both of the teams is scheduled to play a cup match, or has players involved in a Mid-Week league final, on the same date; or
- (b) the Honorary Section Secretary of one of the home club's more senior teams has imposed a rearranged home fixture on the same date; or
- (c) play on the scheduled date has been impossible owing to rain or other unavoidable cause; or
- (d) the fixture is a game in Junior League Section 7 or below and both clubs have informed the Honorary Section Secretary, in writing, that a postponement has been arranged; or
- (e) either or both of the teams are scheduled to play in a Challenge or Junior Cup Final on the preceding day; or
- (f) either or both of the clubs' first elevens are scheduled to play in the final of the Challenge or Junior Cup, the Ulster Cup or Shield, the Irish Senior or National Cup, or the Twenty20 Cup on the same day.

Ground Unplayable

F10. Should a ground be unfit for play owing to rain or other unavoidable cause, the home team shall inform the visiting team and, where umpires have been appointed, the Umpires' Appointments Secretary. This notification shall be made no earlier than 24 hours or later than 2 hours before play is due to start.

F11. Where umpires have been appointed, such a decision not to play may be taken in advance of the due starting time only if both teams agree.

Result Reports

F12. After each match, whether or not play has taken place, the home team shall:

- (a) **as soon as possible**, and no later than midnight on the day of the match, send summarised details of the match for publication on the Union's website;
- (b) **within two days** of the completion or abandonment of a 1st XI match, or **four days** in respect of other matches, send complete details of the match to the person designated in respect of the particular competition.

The Union will advise clubs annually of the level of detail required in each case, the approved format and method(s) of transmission, and the address to which each should be sent. A club failing to fulfil its obligations under this rule shall be fined.

Protests and Appeals

F13. Protests regarding league fixtures shall be submitted to the Honorary Section Secretary concerned within seven days of the completion of the match, a copy being sent to the Match Secretary of the opposing team.

Points

F14. Points shall be awarded as follows: Win - 4 points, Tie - 2 points, No Result – 0 points.

F15. Each Section shall be won by the team with the greatest number of points. Where there is a tie at the top of a section of the Senior League, the trophy shall be awarded to the team with the highest net run rate over the season. In the event of such a tie in the Junior League, the clubs shall share the trophy.

F16. A team that withdraws from league competition, or is expelled from the Union, at any time after its fixtures have been made, shall have any matches played before its withdrawal or expulsion declared void. The team shall be placed at the bottom of its Section and shall, for the following season, be relegated to a Section to be determined by the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate.

Promotion and Relegation

F17. There shall be annual promotion and relegation between the Sections of each League.

F18. Promotion: The team finishing first in Section 1 of the Senior League, the team finishing first in Section 3 of the Senior League, the team finishing first in Section 2 of the Junior League, and the teams finishing first and second in each other Section shall be promoted, provided that the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate is satisfied that the ground, pitch, outfield and pavilion of each are suitable for the higher Section and that the general administration and day-to-day running of each club are satisfactory. If these requirements are not satisfied in respect of any such team but are satisfied by the team finishing in the next lower position, the latter may be promoted.

F19. Relegation: The team finishing bottom of the Premier League, the team finishing bottom of Section 2 of the Senior League, the team finishing bottom of Section 1 of the Junior League, and the teams finishing bottom and second from bottom in each other Section shall be relegated only to the extent that is necessary in order to allow teams in the Section below to be promoted. In addition, any team whose ground and pavilion facilities drop below the required standard shall also be liable to relegation. The Domestic Cricket Development Directorate, on the advice of the Grounds Committee, shall decide to which Section any team shall be relegated and shall make any necessary adjustments in the composition of the Sections.

F20. Promotion and Relegation following a Tie: Where there is a tie at the top or bottom of a Section, the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate shall determine which team shall be promoted or relegated on the following basis:

- (i) in the Senior League, on the basis of the teams' net run rate over the season (or, if they are still tied, the immediately previous season, and so on as necessary); and
- (ii) in the Junior League, on the basis of the teams' records in the immediately previous season (or, if they are still tied, the season before that, and so on as necessary).

F21. For the purposes of F20(i) above, a team's net run rate shall be calculated as follows:

- (i) a team's net run rate is calculated by deducting from the average runs per over scored by that team throughout the competition, the average runs per over scored against that team throughout the competition.
- (ii) in the event of a team being all out in less than its full quota of overs, the calculation of its net run rate shall be based on the full quota of overs to which it would have been entitled, and not on the number of overs in which the team was dismissed.
- (iii) only those matches where results are achieved will count for the purpose of net run rate calculations. Where the second innings is curtailed, but a result is achieved under Duckworth/Lewis/Stern, for net run rate purposes Team 1 will be credited with Team 2's Par Score on curtailment off the same number of overs faced by Team 2. Where a match is concluded, but with Duckworth/Lewis/Stern having been applied at an earlier point in the match, Team 1 will be credited with 1 run less than the final Target Score for Team 2 off the total number of overs allocated to Team 2 to reach the target.