

A photograph of a cricket match in progress. A batsman in white kit and a blue helmet is in the foreground, swinging his bat to hit a red ball. In the background, a wicket-keeper in white kit stands ready. Spectators are seated on a bench behind the field.

2021 HANDBOOK **CONSTITUTION**

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Durham Cricket Board Junior League Constitution

1. Name

The organisation will be known as the 'Durham Cricket Board Junior League'. At the discretion of the League's Executive Committee the name of any main sponsor of the League, for the time being, may be added to the name during the period of such sponsorship

2. Membership

- 2.1 a) The League will be divided into five geographical areas, they will be identified as North East, Central, South East, South West and Tyneside.
- b) Membership and composition of each sector will be monitored annually by the DCB Junior League Executive Committee with any changes to Divisional membership being subject to approval at the AGM.

3. Regionalisation

3.1 The Durham Cricket Board Junior League will be divided into 5 regional divisions.

3.2 Each season the Coordinator for each division shall provide a divisional fixture framework.

3.3 Clubs forming each Division will be

Central: Burnmoor, Chester le Street, Durham City, Eppleton, Hetton Lyons, Houghton, Kimblesworth, Littletown, Philadelphia, Sacriston, Sunderland, Washington,

South West: Bishop Auckland, Brandon, Crook, Esh Winning, Etherley, Evenwood, Hunwick, Langley Park, Mainsforth, Shildon, Tudhoe, Ushaw Moor, Willington.

North East: Bill Quay, Boldon, Boldon CA, Felling, Gateshead Fell, Hylton, Marsden, South Shields, Wearmouth, Whitburn, Whiteleas and Harton.

South East: Castle Eden, Dawdon, Easington, Horden, Murton, Peterlee, Ryhope, Seaham Harbour, Seaham Park, Silksworth, South Hetton.

Tyneside: Annfield Plain, Beamish & East Stanley, Blaydon, Burnopfield, Consett, Greenside, Lanchester, Leadgate, Lintz, Ryton, Shotley Bridge, Swalwell, Whickham

4. Objectives

- 4.1 The League shall be the organiser of junior cricket within a competitive framework for clubs affiliated to the ECB and members of the Durham Cricket Board through their parent clubs.
- 4.2 To promote and encourage interest, sportsmanship, participation and competition in junior cricket.

The League will be open to all, irrespective of age, gender, disability, race, ethnic origin, colour, social status or sexual orientation.

- 4.3 The League shall develop interests, along with the needs and potential of young people, through consensus and shall seek to increase and widen its membership.

5. Management

- 5.1 Management of the League shall be vested in the League's Executive Committee elected by member clubs.
- 5.2 The League's Executive Committee shall comprise:
 - a) the Elected Officers
 - b) three DCB nominated representatives
 - c) the DCB Cricket Development Director (or his/her nominee)
 - d) one representative each from the Northumberland & Tyneside Cricket League and the North Yorkshire & South Durham Premier Cricket League when any matters relating to the ECB National Junior Competitions are considered.

All members of the Executive Committee shall have full voting rights.

- 5.3 At its first meeting following each Annual General Meeting the Executive Committee shall elect one of its members to be Chairman of the League. That person shall chair meetings of the Executive Committee, the Annual General Meeting and Special General Meetings, and have a casting vote.
- 5.4 The Executive Committee shall have the power to deal with all matters of dispute and issues not provided for in these Rules.

6. Annual and Special General Meetings

- 6.1 The Annual General Meeting shall be held in February of each year and each member club will be entitled to send a representative who shall have full voting rights.
- 6.2 Clubs shall be notified of the Annual General Meeting date, by the Secretary, at least two months prior to that date.

6.3 The Annual General Meeting shall:

a) elect the following officers (known as the 'Elected Officers'):

- i. Secretary
- ii. Treasurer
- iii. Divisional Co-ordinators:
 - Central
 - North East
 - South East
 - South West
 - Tyneside
- iv. Child Welfare Officer
- v. Web/Communications Officer

b) elect two member club representatives

c) elect an Honorary Auditor

d) receive audited accounts for the financial year ending 30th September

e) set the annual membership fee

f) receive the Executive Committee's review of Divisional membership

g) receive any reports deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee

h) decide upon any proposed changes to the League Rules.

6.4 Nominations for elected officers (duly proposed and seconded by member clubs) shall be submitted to the Secretary at least 28 days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting.

6.5 Any proposals to amend the League Rules (duly proposed and seconded by member clubs) shall be submitted to the Secretary at least 28 days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting. The Executive Committee may also submit such amendments. Amendments to the Rules may only be approved if they receive a majority vote of not less than two to one.

6.6 The Annual General Meeting agenda shall be notified to member clubs, by the Secretary, at least 14 days prior to the date of that meeting.

6.7 Special General Meetings may be called upon the requisition, in writing, of least 5 member clubs or by the Executive Committee. The requisition must state the business to be transacted at that meeting and no other business may be considered. The League Secretary shall notify clubs at least 28 days prior to the date of a Special General Meeting and shall issue the agenda at least 14 days before that date.

7. Disciplinary Regulations

7.1 The League's Disciplinary Regulations, in respect of individual's actions, in the first instance, place emphasis upon the individual's club to properly discipline their own player and only require the League to become directly involved in the event that the club fails to do that in an appropriate manner.

7.2 A player, coach, or person directly associated with a cricket club will commit a disciplinary offence if he/she acts in breach of the ECB Code of Conduct or Spirit of Cricket on the field of play or if, at any other time, their conduct is prejudicial or detrimental to the interests or reputation of the League or any of its clubs, players or members.

7.3 Any allegation of misconduct on the part of a player, coach or person directly associated with a cricket club shall, in the first instance, be reported to the Divisional Co-ordinator for the Division in which that club plays. If that Co-ordinator is a member of the club then another Divisional Co-ordinator shall follow up that report:

- a) The Divisional Co-ordinator shall refer such a disciplinary report to the individual's club with a request that the club deals with the matter internally and reports back to the Divisional Co-ordinator.
- b) If the Divisional Co-ordinator is satisfied with the action taken by the club then the club will be informed.
- c) If the Divisional Co-ordinator is dissatisfied with the action taken by the club then the club will be asked to review its decision.
- d) If the Divisional Co-ordinator is still dissatisfied with the action taken by the club then the matter shall be referred to a League Disciplinary Panel comprising the four Divisional Co-ordinators.

7.4 In the event of a report being referred to the League's Disciplinary Panel then the Panel shall instigate a formal hearing following which the individual's club will be notified of the Panel's decision.

7.5 If an individual is dissatisfied with the decision of a Disciplinary Panel they may lodge an appeal with the League Secretary, upon deposit of £10. Any such appeal must be in writing and must be received by the League Secretary no later than 7 days after receipt by the club of the initial decision of the Disciplinary Panel.

7.6 The Appeals Panel shall comprise three members of the Executive Committee none of whom were members of the original Disciplinary Panel. They shall consider the matter as a re-hearing and shall have the power to confirm, reduce, increase or cancel any penalty imposed by the Disciplinary Panel. The Appeals Panel decision shall be final and binding on all parties.

7.7 A club will commit a disciplinary offence if it fails to take all reasonable steps to ensure the proper conduct of its officials, players and/or members in all matters for which the club or its Committee is responsible (including in particular, their conduct on the field of play or within club premises) or if it acts in any way to the prejudice or detriment of the League or any of its clubs or any player.

7.8 Any allegation of misconduct by a club shall be reported to the League Secretary who shall refer the matter to a Disciplinary Panel comprising three members of the Executive Committee. The Panel shall instigate a formal hearing following which the individual's club will be notified of the Panel's decision.

7.9 If a club is dissatisfied with the decision of a Disciplinary Panel they may lodge an appeal with the League Secretary, upon deposit of £10. Any such appeal must be in writing and must be received by the League Secretary no later than 7 days after receipt by the club of the initial decision of the Disciplinary Panel.

7.10 The Appeals Panel shall comprise three members of the Executive Committee none of whom were members of the original Disciplinary Panel. They shall consider the matter as a re-hearing and shall have the power to confirm, reduce, increase or cancel any penalty imposed by the Disciplinary Panel. The Appeals Panel decision shall be final and binding on all parties.

7.11 No Disciplinary or Appeals Panel shall include in its membership any Executive Committee member who belongs to a club which has been reported.

8. Code of Conduct

8.1 The Durham Cricket Board Junior League is committed to maintaining the highest standards of behaviour and conduct. This Code of Conduct incorporates the Spirit of Cricket and applies to all matches played under the auspices of the ECB.

8.2 Captains/Coaches are responsible at all times for ensuring that play is conducted within the Spirit of Cricket together with the laws of cricket

8.3 Players and Team Officials must, at all times accept, the umpires decision.

8.4 Players /Coaches must not show dissent at the Umpires decision or react in a provocative or disapproving manner towards the Umpire at any time.

8.5 Member clubs must ensure that all members, playing and non-playing abide by the ECB Code of Conduct, which incorporates the Spirit of Cricket and by the Laws of Cricket

8.6 Member clubs must ensure that a duty of care to all members is adopted and implemented, including the ECB Safe Hands Policy for Safeguarding Children, and any other future versions of the Policy

8.7 Members clubs must ensure a duty of care to all members by adopting and implementing the ECB Cricket Equity Policy and any future versions of that policy

9. Match arrangements (all age groups)

9.1 The Durham Cricket Board Junior League recognises that it has a duty of care for the young people playing within its Leagues. Therefore, it insists that all junior players must comply with the ECB Guidelines issued regarding the wearing of helmets.

9.2 ECB Fielding and Bowling restrictions will apply in all matches.

9.3 Each U13, U15 & U18 match shall comprise one innings per side with each innings lasting 20 overs (unless a side is bowled out in fewer overs). A minimum of 12 overs per side must be bowled to reach a result. For the U11 age group each match shall comprise one innings per side with each innings lasting 16 overs (unless a side is bowled out in fewer overs). A minimum of 12 overs per side must be bowled to reach a result.

9.4 If, before the toss for innings, both sides agree that exceptional circumstances exist, then the number of overs per side can be fewer than 20 (16 in the case of u11s) (but not less than 12) provided both sides agree on the number of overs to be bowled. The exceptional circumstances permitting fewer than 20 (16) overs per side are inclement weather (including potential bad light) and unforeseen events.

9.5 When, due to inclement weather, a match is abandoned after 12 overs or more have been completed in the second innings then the result shall be determined on run rate – the side with the higher run rate shall be declared the winner. *This rule does NOT apply to Under 11 matches.*

9.6 When a match is abandoned before 12 overs have been completed in the second innings then Rule 9.22 shall apply as if the game had not commenced.

9.7 All points must be played for and teams will not be allowed to forfeit matches. The non-fulfilment of a fixture will be reported to and dealt with, by the League Executive Committee.

9.8 All matches will be played on the time, date and venue appointed in the League handbook, unless prior agreement has been reached by both clubs due to the unavailability of the home ground.

9.9 Each club shall provide their own umpire who must have an up to date CRB/DBS clearance.

9.10 It is strongly recommended that all teams are run by an ECB level 2 qualified coach, with up to date DBS clearance.

9.11 Results (Including team scores) for Under 11, 13 & 18 matches shall be entered by the home club on their play-cricket website within 72 hours of the games completion.

9.12 Results and full scorecards for Under 15 matches shall be entered by the home club on their play-cricket website within 72 hours of the games completion.

9.13 All non-submitted, incomplete or late result (or scorecard) submissions shall incur a fine of £5.00.

9.14 Any club wishing to play 2 teams at a particular age group must ensure they nominate 6 players who are only allowed to play in their 'a' team. All other players will be able to move between the 'a' team and 'b' team. The 6 nominated players must be registered with the Division Coordinator before the season commences.

9.15 Players transferring from one club to another must complete a transfer request. This document must be lodged with the Division Co-ordinator 14 days before the player can take the field for his/her new club

9.16 In the event of a points tie for a League Championship, the winners will be determined by the result of the League fixture between the two teams. In the event that the relevant League fixture was 'rained off', the Championship will be decided by a 'play off'. Venue to be decided by the toss of a coin.

9.17 Girls may play one year below their age group.

9.18 The appointed wicket keeper will not be allowed to change his position, except in the case of injury.

9.19 Allocation of points for Under 11 matches will be:

Win	20 (no bonus points)
Tie	7 (plus bonus points)
Loss	0 (plus bonus points)
Draw	5

Bonus Points: Batting: 1 bonus point each for every 5 runs over the starting 200, at the conclusion of the innings, up to a maximum of 10 points.

9.20 Allocation of points for Under 13, 15 & 18 League & round robin cup matches will be:

Win	20 (no bonus points)
Tie	7 (plus bonus points)
Loss	0 (plus bonus points)

Bonus Points: Bowling: 1 point for every 2 wickets taken (maximum 5)

Retired batsmen are not recorded in wicket count

Bonus Points: Batting: 1 bonus point each on reaching 60, 70, 80, 90 & 100 runs (maximum 5)

9.21 No coaching from the boundary is permitted for the Under 15 and 18 age groups. Excessive coaching from the boundary is not permitted for Under 9, Under 11 and Under 13 age groups.

9.22 If a game cannot commence due to weather, the Divisional Co-ordinator must be informed. One attempt shall be allowed to re-arrange and play the match with both clubs agreeing to provide their own umpires. The fixture must be completed within 21 days of the original date failing which it will be classed as a draw.

To re-arrange the home club must, within 24 hours of the original game, offer the away side two dates within that 21 day period - failure to offer two dates will result in forfeiture of the match, as will failure to accept either of them. The Divisional Coordinator to be informed of a re-arranged date. In exceptional circumstances the date for playing the game may be extended but only with the permission of the Divisional Coordinator.

9.23 The 21 day rule will not apply if the re-arrangement would be after the last scheduled league fixture for the respective age group and region.

9.23 For Cup competitions in the event of a tied match the side losing the least wickets will be declared the winners. If both sides are still equal, the side scoring most runs after 19 overs will be declared the winner. If still equal the side scoring most runs after 18 overs (then 17 and so on) will be declared the winner.

9.24 Clubs shall pay an annual membership fee of £40, irrespective of the number of teams they wish to field.

