

DURHAM CRICKET FOUNDATION

JUNIOR SEASON 2026



**HANDBOOK
CONSTITUTION**

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Durham Cricket Foundation Junior League Constitution

1. Name

The organisation will be known as the 'Durham Cricket Foundation 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 The League will be divided into five geographical areas, they will be identified as North East, Central, South East, South West and Tyneside.
- 2.2 Membership and composition of each sector will be monitored annually by the DCF Junior League Executive Committee with any changes to Divisional membership being subject to approval at the AGM.
- 2.3 Clubs entering **North Yorkshire Area Cricket Council League**, or Northumberland Cricket Board Junior Cricket League can apply to become an associate member of Durham Cricket Foundation Junior Cricket League, and if accepted must pay the league affiliation fee.
- 2.4 As a general rule, associate member clubs will be unable to field an 'A' team in Durham Cricket Foundation Junior Cricket League.
- 2.5 All clubs must pay an affiliation fee of £150 covering ECB, Durham Cricket Foundation and League Membership Fees, irrespective of the number of teams they wish to field.

3. Regionalisation

- 3.1 The Durham Cricket Foundation 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, East Rainton, Eppleton, Hetton Lyons, Kimblesworth, Littletown, Philadelphia, Sacriston, Sunderland and Washington.

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

South East: Blackhall, Castle Eden, Dawdon, Easington, Horden, Murton, Peterlee, Ryhope, Seaham Harbour, Seaham Park, Silksworth and South Hetton.
(Hartlepool to play as an associate member)

South West: Bearpark and Langley Park, Bishop Auckland, Brandon, Crook, Esh Winning, Etherley, Evenwood, Hunwick, Mainsforth, Middleton in Teesdale, Raby Castle, Shildon Railway, Spennymoor, Tudhoe, Ushaw Moor, Willington.
(Barnard Castle to play as an associate member)

Tyneside: Annfield Plain, Beamish & East Stanley, Blaydon, Burnhope, Burnopfield, Consett, Greenside, Lanchester, Leadgate, Lintz, Ryton, Shotley Bridge, Swalwell, Tantobie and Whickham.
(Cramlington and South Northumberland to play as an associate member)

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 Foundation through their parent clubs.
- 4.2 To promote and encourage interest, sportsmanship, participation, and competition in junior cricket.
- 4.3 The League will be open to all, irrespective of gender, disability, race, ethnic origin, colour, social status, or sexual orientation.
- 4.4 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) DCF Club Development Officers.
 - c) the DCF Cricket Development Director (or their 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 Chair 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 by no later than 28th 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. Divisional Coordinators
 - Central
 - North East
 - South East
 - South West
 - Tyneside
 - b) elect two member club representatives.
 - c) set the annual membership fee.
 - d) receive the Executive Committee's review of Divisional membership.
 - e) receive any reports deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee.
 - f) decide upon any proposed changes to the League Constitution.
- 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 if 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 Coordinator 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 Coordinator.
 - 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 five Divisional Coordinators.
- 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 Foundation 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 always responsible for ensuring that play is conducted within the Spirit of Cricket together with the laws of cricket.
- 8.3 Players and Team Officials must, always 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

General

- 9.1 The Durham Cricket Foundation 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 The appointed wicket keeper will not be allowed to change his position, except in the case of injury.

Length of match and arrangements

- 9.4 Unless otherwise stated in competition rules, each Under 12, Under 13, Under 14, Under 15, Under 17 and Under 19 matches 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 Under 11 age group each match shall comprise one innings per side with each innings lasting 16 overs. A minimum of 12 overs per side must be bowled to reach a result. For the Under 9 age group matches will consist of 12 overs per side for performance league and Harry Hubber competition.
- 9.5 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.
- 9.6 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 9 or Under 11 matches.*
- 9.7 When a match is abandoned before 12 overs have been completed in the second innings of an Under 12, Under 13, Under 14, Under 15, Under 17 or Under 19 game, or where both teams have not had the opportunity to bat for the same number of overs (minimum 12) in an Under 9 and Under 11 game, then Rule 9.25 shall apply as if the game had not commenced.

Fixture Arrangements

- 9.8 All points must be played for, and teams will not be allowed to forfeit matches. The nonfulfillment of a fixture will be reported to and dealt with, by the League Executive Committee. Specifically, a club entering multiple teams in a competition will not be permitted to forfeit a match against one of its own teams (i.e., B team conceding against an A team). In the event of a club being unable to fulfil a fixture between two of its teams the result will be recorded as a draw or re-arranged per Rule 9.25.

9.9 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.

Umpires and Team Management

9.10 Each club shall provide their own umpire who must have an up to date enhanced DBS clearance.

9.11 It is strongly recommended that all teams are run by an ECBCA Foundation Coach, ECBCA Core Coach or equivalent with up to date DBS clearance.

9.12 No coaching from the boundary is permitted for the Under 15, Under 17 and Under 19 age groups. Excessive coaching from the boundary is not permitted for Under 11 and Under 13 age groups.

Results Reporting

9.13 Results for friendly matches shall be entered by the home club on their play-cricket website within 48 hours of the completion of the game.

9.14 Results and full scorecards for all competitive matches shall be entered by the home club on their play-cricket website within 48 hours of the completion of the game.

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

Player Eligibility

9.16 Any club wishing to play 2 or more teams at a particular age group must ensure they nominate players who are only allowed to play in their 'A' team. The following ratios must be adhered to:

Under 9: 4 of 6

Under 11: 6 of 8

Under 13: 7 of 11

Under 15: 7 of 11

All other players will be able to move between the respective teams. The nominated players must be registered with the Division Coordinator before the season commences. No named player in your "A" team ratio can play for the "B" or "C."

9.17 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.

9.18 A player may not play for more than one team in any cup competition.

9.19 A player may only represent another club at junior level if their parent club (parent club is the club they play their adult cricket) does not run a team at their specific age group. For example, an Under 12 or Under 13 age player from club A can play Under 13s at club B if club A does not have an

Under 13 team, but that player could represent club A at Under 15 level. If club A has teams at Under 13 and Under 15 level, then that player may not play for another club, unless it is a season-long loan, meaning they would be ineligible to play junior cricket for their parent club that season.

9.20 An under 12 CAG player (year 7) cannot play down into under 11 cricket.

All under 12 non-CAG girls can continue to play down into under 11 cricket.

All under 14 girls (year 9) both CAG and non-CAG can continue to play down into mixed under 13 cricket.

All under 16 girls (year 11) both CAG and no- CAG can continue to play down into mixed under 15 cricket.

9.21 Any club found to be in breach of player eligibility rules will be deemed to have forfeited the match and any points earned. The non-defaulting team will be awarded the win and associated result points.

Results, League Placings and Points

9.22 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. If 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.

9.23 Allocation of points for all games are stated in competition rules.

9.24 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.

Match Rearrangements

9.25 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 48 hours of the original game, offer the away side two dates within that 21 day period. The away club must accept one of those dates within 48 hours of the offer being received. 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.

9.26 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.

10. Cup Competition Sponsorship

10.1 Clubs are invited to sponsor regional cup competitions. Sponsoring clubs are expected to host cup finals and arrange for neutral umpires. Such umpires may be club volunteers.

10.2 Participating clubs are expected to provide a match-ball of suitable quality for use in finals. Clubs are encouraged to use a new ball, where possible.

10.2 The Durham Cricket Foundation Junior Cricket League will act as sponsor for end of season play-offs for Under 11s and Under 13s as well as for Under 15s and Under 17s Champions Trophy, Under 12 and Under 14 County Cup and Under 19s finals.

10.3 Durham Cricket Foundation Junior Cricket League will provide medals for play-off finals.



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