

FORMAT OF THE LEAGUE

1. FORMAT

- 1.1) The TVCL shall consist of 1 Division in Level 1 and further subsequent Levels consisting of two separate Divisions (A & B). The lowest Level may consist of only a single Division.
- 1.2) Each Division shall consist of a maximum of 10 Teams, playing every other Team in the same Division on a home and away basis. A TVCL Season will therefore normally consist of 18 TVCL Matches. However the lowest Level may have more or less Teams.
- 1.3) If there is only a single Division at the lowest Level the Teams may only play each other once. The format at the lowest Level will be determined at the discretion of the Management Committee and dependent on the number of Teams at that Level.
- 1.4) Teams will be awarded points based on their Team performance during the TVCL Season. The Teams will be ranked in order of the most points gained to the least, to determine the final Division Table and Team position.
- 1.5) In the event that a TVCL Match is unable to be played owing to restrictions imposed because of foot and mouth disease for example, no points shall be awarded to either Team. The final Division Table and Team position, for a Division where such a fixture cancellation occurs, shall be determined on an "Average Points per Match" basis (i.e. by dividing the total number of points gained by a Team by the number of League Matches played not affected by restrictions).
- 1.6) In the event of two or more Teams finishing with an equal number of points in any Division (or at any Level) then in order to ascertain respective finishing positions in their respective Divisions and for the purposes of promotion or relegation from their respective Level, the position shall be determined in the order given as follows:

The Team(s) with the:

- A) least Penalty Points shall be placed higher.
- B) most wins shall be placed higher.
- C) most 25 point wins shall be placed higher.
- D) most ties shall be placed higher.
- E) least defeats shall be placed higher.
- F) most batting points shall be placed higher.
- G) the Team that finished in a higher position in its respective Division in the previous TVCL Season shall be placed higher.

Note: a Cancelled (Forfeit) result, whilst it may achieve the same points equivalent to a win, is not deemed a 'Win' for the purposes of A) or B) above.

2. PROMOTION & RELEGATION

- 2.1) The Division 1 Champions shall be promoted to the Home Counties Premier Cricket League "HCPCL" (Division 2) provided that they:
 - A) are a Member Club 1st XI, and
 - B) wish to accept such promotion, and
 - C) meet all the necessary HCPCL criteria to allow such promotion.
- 2.2) If the Division 1 Champions are not promoted for any reason then the Team finishing in 2nd place shall be promoted provided that they meet the criteria listed in 2.1 above. Normally, if neither of the Teams finishing in 1st or 2nd place meet the criteria listed in 2.1 above, then no Member Club will be promoted to the HCPCL.

2.3) Promotion and Relegation from Division 1 shall normally be as follows:

Prom to HCPCL	Rel from HCPCL	Prom from Level 2*	Rel to Level 2	No of Teams Division 1	No of Teams Level 2
1	0	3	2	10	20
1	1	2	2	10	20
1	2	2	3	10	20
0	0	2	2	10	20
0	1	2	3	10	20

**Provided that the Teams qualifying for promotion from Level 2 of TVCL meet all the criteria required in Section 3 – Grading & Standards*

2.4) Promotion and Relegation from Divisions 2A and 2B (Level 2) and replicated for all the other levels shall normally be as follows:

Prom to Division 1	Rel from Division 1	Prom from Level 3*	Rel to Level 3	No of Teams Per Level
3	2	5	4	20
2	2	4	4	20
2	3	4	5	20

**Provided that the teams qualifying for promotion meet all the criteria required in Section 3 – Grading & Standards.*

2.5) Where the promoted and relegated teams will play in the following season shall be determined as described below, unless varied at the sole discretion of the Management Committee:

- A) the Teams that finish 1st in Divisions 2A and 2B shall be promoted to Division 1.
- B) the Teams that finish 1st and 2nd in Divisions A at all other Levels shall be promoted to Division B at the next higher Level and the Teams that finish 1st and 2nd in Divisions B at all other Levels shall be promoted to Division A at the next higher Level.
- C) In the event of an odd number of Teams being promoted from Level 2 and below, the Team to be promoted shall be the Team that finishes immediately below the automatic promotion places with the most points (refer to Clause 1.6 if there are Teams with equal points).
- D) If there is a single Division at the lowest Level the Teams that finish 1st and 3rd shall be promoted to Division A at the next higher Level and the Teams that finish 2nd and 4th shall be promoted to Division B at the next higher Level.
- E) the Teams that finish in 9th and 10th places in Division 1 shall be relegated to Divisions 2A and 2B. At the end of even numbered seasons the 10th placed Team shall be relegated to Division 2A and the 9th placed Team to Division 2B; at the end of odd numbered seasons the 10th placed Team shall be relegated to Division 2B and the 9th placed Team shall be relegated to Division 2A.
- F) the Teams that finish in 9th and 10th places in all other Divisions A shall be relegated to Division A at the next lower Level and the Teams that finish in 9th and 10th places in all Divisions B shall be relegated to Division B at the next lower Level.
- G) In the event of three Teams being relegated from Division 1 the Team that finishes 8th shall be relegated to Level 2 and take the place of the team with worst record that finishes 8th at Level 2.
- H) In the event of an odd number of Teams being relegated from Level 2 and below, the Team to be relegated shall be the Team that finishes immediately above the automatic relegation places with the least points (refer to Clause 1.6 if there are Teams with equal points).

- 2.6) As above, in the event that a Team(s) qualifies for promotion but fails to meet the criteria required for promotion for any reason or does not wish to be promoted, then the highest placed Team that would otherwise be relegated shall not be relegated.
- 2.7) No two Teams of the same Member Club shall play in the same Division, but they may play in the same Level.
- 2.8) However there may be occasions when these rules are not possible to be applied and in such event the Management Committee or its delegated Sub-Committee shall have the power to make the appropriate adjustments. The Management Committee may make appropriate adjustments to move Teams between Divisions A & B (in Levels 4 & below only) for the purposes of regionalisation only to limit travel distances where possible.
- 2.9) In the event of any dispute or query regarding the Divisional Structure of the TVCL the decision of the Management Committee shall be final.

3. FEEDER LINK WITH THE BCMB

- 3.1) The champion (or runner-up) of the Berkshire, Chilterns & Mid Bucks League (“BCMB”) shall be eligible for an invitation into the TVCL for the next season.
- 3.2) For any BCMB 1st XI to be eligible for promotion to the TVCL they must meet the gradings and standards set out by the TVCL. The Management Committee’s decision on the eligibility of BCMB Clubs to join the TVCL will be final and not subject to appeal.
- 3.3) Should their champion be deemed eligible, they shall be invited to join for the following season. They have the option to decline the invitation.
- 3.4) Should the champion not be eligible or decline the invitation, provided that their runner-up is deemed eligible the invitation will be extended to them.
- 3.5) If neither champion or runner-up are eligible or accept the invitation, no other team will be promoted. The lack of promotion will not impact any BCMB XI’s that may be due for relegation.
- 3.6) The BCMB 1st XI accepted into the TVCL shall be deemed as an Associate Member and subject to the rules and regulations of the TVCL. Their team shall be placed into Level 4 of the TVCL structure.
- 3.7) With reference to the table in clause 2.4, if no BCMB Team is due for relegation from Level 4 in any season, but there is an eligible invitation, then the number of Teams relegated from Level 4 & below shall be increased by 1. Conversely, if no BCMB XI is due to enter, but there is a relegation, the number of promotions from Level 5 & below shall be increased by 1 accordingly.
- 3.8) Once a BCMB 1st XI has entered the TVCL championship they will be subject to the promotion and relegation rules within the TVCL championship. Only should they be due to be relegated from Level 4, would they then return to the BCMB.

4. GRADING & STANDARDS

- 4.1) The grading of all Member Clubs facilities is deemed necessary to maintain the status of the TVCL. Such grading is overseen by the Grading and Standards Sub Committee (“GSSC”).
- 4.2) Venues of all Member Clubs shall be inspected by the GSSC with regard to its facilities and playing surface, and shall be rated in accordance with the published standards for the Level their Teams play, and will be relevant for any promotion to a higher Level.
- 4.3) Panel Umpires and Captains will provide marks on the pitch and outfield, which the GSSC shall use to consider their own assessments, and any areas for recommendations.
- 4.4) Member Clubs having been assessed by the GSSC, who are found to not meet the required standards of their current Level, shall be given two calendar years (extended to a 30th September deadline) to meet the required standard. Any Member Club not reaching the required standard by the deadline shall appear before the GSSC to explain their reasons for failing to do so, and in such case the GSSC can recommend to the Management Committee for the Team(s) to be relegated to the Level matching the standard of the facility.
- 4.5) The detailed list of specific Gradings & Standards required for each Level of the TVCL, shall be published on the TVCL Website as endorsed by the Management Committee.
- 4.6) Teams will not be promoted to Level 3 (or above) unless the Member Club has:
 - a) accredited ECB Clubmark status
 - b) full Pitch Covers and Bowler Run-ups (min. 10 metres)
 - c) separate and secure Player Changing Rooms.
 - d) separate, secure and adequate Umpire Changing Facility
 - e) a Scoring Facility with adequate cover in the event of inclement weather
- 4.7) Any assessment required of those Member Clubs seeking promotion, should be concluded within 14 calendar days of the conclusion of the TVCL Season.
- 4.8) Following the assessment by GSSC, they shall inform the Member Club should any items be below standard or missing. The Member Club will be given until the 30th September deadline to resolve any issues, otherwise that Team shall not be considered for Promotion.
- 4.9) The GSSC shall report their decision to the Management Committee. Should the Member Club have failed the assessment for Promotion, the TVCL Secretary shall inform them of the result within seven calendar days of the meeting of the Management Committee, giving details of the result of the assessment.
- 4.10) A Member Club shall have the right of appeal against the result of the assessment by GSSC within 7 calendar days (see the Appeal Procedure in the Disciplinary, Complaints and Appeals Procedures).