

# **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY RULES AND PROCEDURES**

Player eligibility categories and criteria are defined and overseen by a sub-committee created by the Management Committee, known as the Player Eligibility Sub Committee (“PESC”).

## **1. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY CATEGORIES**

- All player age groups are based on the age of the player at midnight on the 31<sup>st</sup> August in the year prior to that TVCL Season.
- All Player categories are to be determined as at 1<sup>st</sup> May of that TVCL Season.

**Category 1:** Any person holding a United Kingdom (or European Union) passport or birth certificate, provided that they are 13 years of age or over.

**Category 2:** Any person who has been a continuous member of the same Member Club which they are representing, including if from a club merging with that Member Club, for a minimum of 4 prior and consecutive seasons playing in Open Age League Cricket.

**Category 3:** Any person who have had two years continuous residence (as defined by the Management Committee\*) in the European Union in the past four years (such four years to have ended on the 1<sup>st</sup> May of the current year).

\*For the purpose of clarification the Management Committee defines 2 years continuous residence in the European Union in the last 4 years to be exactly this, with the exception that genuine family/business visits (excluding the playing of cricket) and vacations up to a total of 100 calendar days per annum, commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> May, are allowed.

**Category 4:** Any person who are 13 to 17 years of age inclusively, who do not hold a United Kingdom (or European Union) passport or birth certificate, but have been resident in the UK since before the 1<sup>st</sup> January of the current year.

**Category 4E:** Any person who in the prior season has been eligible to play as a Category 4 player, who upon reaching the age of 18 does not qualify under Categories' 1, 2 or 3.

**Category 5:** Any person who are 11 or 12 years of age, holding a United Kingdom (or European Union) passport or birth certificate, or who have been resident in the UK since before the 1<sup>st</sup> January prior to the start of that season.

Any Category 5 players will only be deemed eligible to play once the Member Club has submitted a copy of the completed “ECB Parental Consent and Waiver Form” (available on the TVCL website) **and** approval has been provided by the PESC. The registration of a Category 5 player shall be valid solely for that TVCL Season which the player has been registered and none other.

**Category 6:** Any person aged 11 or over who does not qualify under any previous listed Category.

Any Category 6 players will only be deemed eligible to play once the Member Club has submitted a copy of the completed “Overseas Player Registration Form”, and if applicable an “ECB Parental Consent and Waiver Form” (both available on the TVCL website) **and** approval has been provided by the PESC. The registration of a Category 6 player shall be valid solely for that TVCL Season for which the player has been registered and none other.

### **First Class Cricketer Exception (Category X+P):**

Any Category player who has played First Class Cricket\* prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> May in the current year, and since the 1<sup>st</sup> May in the preceding year. They shall not be eligible to play in TVCL Matches below Divisions 2A and 2B, without the prior written permission of the PESC.

\*For the purpose of clarification the Management Committee defines that a player is deemed to have played First Class Cricket if they have represented a first class county *or franchise* in England or Wales or similar organisation in any other country at adult level to play any form of cricket. Women’s domestic or international competitions shall not be included.

### **Parental Consent for 11 and 12 year olds**

To play in TVCL Matches all 11 and 12 year old players will need prior written explicit parental consent to play, as this recognises the need for parents or guardians to be aware of the significance of allowing their young child to participate in Open Age Competitive Cricket rather than purely junior cricket. The ECB Parental Consent and Waiver Form on which such consent **must** be written is available on the TVCL website.

Last minute acquisition of unapproved 11 and 12 year old players to make up numbers in a TVCL Match is not allowed – see Section 2.3

#### **A) Eligibility Criteria**

Players, both boys and girls, who are selected in a County U12 squad in spring for a summer squad or in another squad deemed by ECB Performance Managers to be of a standard above 'District level' for that season are eligible to play Open Age Cricket. Providing they are at least 11 years old, and in School Year 7 on the 1<sup>st</sup> September in the year preceding the season.

District and Member Club Players who are not in a County or Area squads must wait until they reach the Under 13 age group, 12 years old, Year 8 on 1<sup>st</sup> September in the year preceding year the season.

#### **B) Duty of Care**

It is strongly recommended that a parent, guardian or other responsible adult is present whenever a 11 or 12 year old player takes part in TVCL Matches. This could include the captain or other identified adult player taking responsibility for the young player.

In allowing these players to play in TVCL Matches it is essential that Member Clubs recognise the 'Duty of Care' obligations towards these young players. These obligations should be interpreted in two ways:

- 1) Not to place a young player in a position that involves unreasonable risk to that young player, taking account of the circumstances of the match and the relative skills of the player:
- 2) Not to create a situation that places members of the opposing side in a position whereby they cannot play cricket as they would normally do against adult players:

In addition "ECB Guidelines for Junior Players in Open Age Group Cricket" notes the need for clubs and leagues to recognise the positive experience that young players should have in Open Age Group Cricket and thus clubs should provide an opportunity for players to show their talents in an appropriate way. Children who are just used as fielders will not fully experience the game.

## **2. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY RULES**

All players will qualify to be eligible to play in a TVCL Match as one of either of the Player Eligibility Categories listed in Section 1.

It is the responsibility of the Member Club to ensure that all its players are bona fide members and are eligible to play in the TVCL and it is incumbent upon the Member Club to make all necessary enquiries to ensure that this is so.

- 2.1) No First Class Cricketers will be eligible to play in TVCL Matches below Divisions 2A and 2B, without the prior registration and subsequent written permission of the PESC.
- 2.2) No players will qualify to be eligible to play if not 11 years old as of midnight on the 31<sup>st</sup> August in the year prior to that TVCL Season.
- 2.3) Any Category 5 players shall not be eligible to play in any TVCL Match until they have been both registered and approved by the PESC.

- 2.4) Any Category 6 players shall not be eligible to play in any TVCL Match until they have been both registered and approved by the PESC. Registration of Category 6 players can only occur once the player is actually in the UK and able to play. Category 6 registrations will not be accepted where the players' first eligible match is scheduled only to be after 31<sup>st</sup> July of that TVCL Season.
- 2.5) A player shall be eligible to play for only one Member Club, the first they play for in any one TVCL Season. Matches played in both TVCL and HCPCL competitions by that player in that season are to be considered. However a player may transfer to another Member Club mid-season provided that the related conditions are met as defined in Sections 4 & 5 below.

Member Clubs must send any completed registration requests to the PESC Chairman by latest 5pm on the Friday prior to the TVCL Match for any approval by the PESC to be issued.

### **3. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY MATCH RULES**

- 3.1) Member Clubs may include only one prior approved Category 6 player per TVCL Match. There are no such limits on other player categories.
- 3.2) Member Clubs are expected at all times to select their Teams in strength order, with their best players starting from their 1st XI downwards.
- 3.3) Any player, once they have played 10 or more TVCL (or HCPCL) Matches for their 1st XI in the same TVCL Season, (a "First XI Player") will NOT be deemed eligible to subsequently play for that Member Clubs' 2nd XI (or lower Teams), without specific prior approval from the PESC.
- 3.4) Member Clubs may NOT strengthen any of its Teams, in the last four TVCL Matches of the TVCL Season in any Division, by either selecting:
  - a) More than two players who have each played more than eight times in any higher Division in that TVCL Season.
  - b) Any player who has played in the HCPCL, in a Team other than their 2<sup>nd</sup> XI.

With the exception that a player, prior to their selection, who has already represented that Team (inclusive of Teams in lower Divisions) on a total of five or more occasions in that TVCL Season, shall not be subject to either restriction.

*\*For clarification higher Divisions include any ECB Premier League structures as well as higher Divisions in the TVCL.*

- 3.5) Any player shall not be eligible to play for the same Member Club in more than one TVCL (or HCPCL) Match on the same day, other than as a substitute fielder.

*(A player may umpire or score in a TVCL Match other than the one in which they have already played, subject to the agreement of both Captains of the subsequent TVCL Match in which they are seeking to officiate in.)*

- 3.6) Any player suspended by their Member Club, any league or any cricketing governing body shall not be eligible to play, umpire or score in any TVCL Matches until such suspension is duly served and all fines (if any) have been paid.

#### **4. INTER CLUB TRANSFER**

- 4.1) An Inter Club Player Transfer Form (available on the TVCL website) is required to be completed should any player wish to move between TVCL Member Clubs at **ALL** times.

The completed Transfer Form shall be submitted to PESC via the TVCL website to ensure the player's record is migrated for the match reporting requirements of the new club.

A player from a Member Club may only transfer to another Member Club and be eligible to play for their new club in a TVCL Match only once **ALL** of the following conditions have been met and the PESC has confirmed their approval and commencement date of eligibility to both Member Clubs.

- A) Thirty calendar days shall have passed in that TVCL Season, since the player participated in their last TVCL Match for their current Member Club, before the player is eligible to play for the new Member Club;
- B) The PESC has received the completed transfer form by the player, and also completed by both Member Clubs involved; and
- C) Confirmation has been received that the transferring player has discharged all financial and other obligations to their former club(s) and/or league(s).
- 4.2) The above procedure need not apply to any Player who has not played for a Member Club in the TVCL (or HCPCL or lower league) in the current or either of the previous two completed Seasons. Instead they can be treated for the purposes of Clause 5 as a 'New Player', and although not subject to a mandatory completion of a Transfer Form, the Player/New Club shall still be responsible for any incorrect information provided to the TVCL.

#### **5. NEW PLAYERS OR TRANSFERS FROM NON-TVCL CLUBS**

It is expected that any new players are added to the TVCL Website before they play their first TVCL Match. PESC do not need to acknowledge new arrivals from other leagues, except if prior approval is required dependant on the players' category, in which case PESC shall confirm their eligibility via the TVCL Website.

All players transferring from non-TVCL clubs must first have discharged all financial and other obligations to their former club(s) and/or league(s). The PESC recommend that Member Clubs complete the Inter Club Player Transfer Form for their own records to obtain confirmation of these points.

#### **6. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY PENALTIES**

- 6.1) The penalties for a Team playing any ineligible players (as defined above) will incur a penalty for each and every TVCL Match that included an ineligible player as listed below:
- A) The loss of all points gained in the TVCL Match, plus the result will be awarded as a "Win" to the opposition, when a Team:
- Plays more than one Category 6 player in the same TVCL Match.
  - Plays a non-approved First Class Cricketer in a TVCL Match below Levels 1 & 2.
  - Plays a non-approved First XI Player (someone who has represented that Member Clubs 1st XI on 10 or more occasions in that Season), in their 2nd or lower XI's.
  - Breaches the strengthening rule in the last 4 Matches of the TVCL Season.
  - Plays a suspended player.

- B) The loss of all points gained in the TVCL Match, when a Team:
- Plays a non-approved Category 6 player.
  - Plays a non-approved Category 5 player.
  - Plays an U11 player.
  - Plays a non-approved player subject to a Transfer from another Member Club.
  - Plays the same player in 2 Member Club Teams on the same day. (Penalty applies to the second TVCL Match.)

*Note: the players' individual performance in any TVCL Match will not be considered relevant.*

## **7. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS**

The Management Committee has delegated matters regarding player eligibility to the PESC who shall deal with any question relating to or affecting player eligibility in connection with any TVCL Match, and shall have the power to impose such penalties as required.

At its own discretion and at any time prior to two weeks after the last TVCL Match of that TVCL Season, the PESC may perform spot checks and request that Member Clubs shall provide within seven calendar days any documentary evidence requested to confirm a player's category in that TVCL Season.

Any disputes on this subject by Member Clubs or Panel Umpires are to be made in writing using the specific complaints procedure below.

In arriving at any decision the PESC shall follow the procedures laid down in this section regarding Player Eligibility Complaints and Appeals. The PESC shall not seek approval from the Management Committee regarding its deliberations.

### **7.1 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY COMPLAINTS PROCEDURES**

- A) Any Member Club or Panel Umpire wishing to lodge a complaint regarding the topic of player eligibility must do so by letter signed by, on behalf of a Member Club, by the Club Secretary or his designated deputy, or by the Panel Umpires concerned, addressed to and received by the PESC Chairman or the TVCL Secretary within fourteen calendar days of the TVCL Match in which they participated that was related to the complaint.

If regarding Player Transfers, any claim by a club or league(s) that an ex- player owes monies or has outstanding obligations to the club or league(s), must be made in writing with supporting detail and evidence of the claim. The club and or league(s) shall also confirm that all facts have already been presented to the ex- player in writing and that they have failed to pay or make acceptable arrangements to settle outstanding matters within a reasonable time by themselves. The player shall be free to continue to play in TVCL Matches for the Member Club to whom they have transferred until such time as the PESC decides otherwise. Upon review, the PESC shall have the power to ban the player from participating in TVCL Matches until such time as all obligations to the previous club(s) or league(s) have been settled.

- B) Upon receipt of a complaint the PESC or TVCL Secretary shall:
- 1) Acknowledge receipt of the letter either by email, letter or telephone to the Panel Umpires or the Member Club Secretary making the complaint.
  - 2) Contact the Member Club Secretary against whom the complaint has been made (or the Chairman if the Secretary is unavailable), informing them of the complaint.

- 3) Send a copy of the letter of complaint to the Member Club concerned, together with a request to provide any necessary evidence for consideration of the complaint.
  - 4) Advise the Member Club as to the penalties which would be applied should the complaint made be upheld, or for failure to comply with the request.
- C) All evidence collated by the Member Club must be addressed to the PESC Chairman or TVCL Secretary within seven calendar days of the date of first being notified of the complaint. Also when supplying any evidence, the Member Club will at that time of responding to the complaint have the right to request to attend the hearing.
  - D) In the event of a Member Club against whom a complaint has been made failing to comply with the above provision by the eighth calendar day, a £25 fine will be applied. Failure to respond by the fifteenth calendar day will result in a doubling of the fine. A failure to respond by the twenty second calendar day will result in the complaint being upheld and any penalty advised in the original complaint notification being applied with immediate effect without a hearing taking place.
  - E) As soon as the evidence requested has been received the PESC shall convene a hearing, to consider the matter and pronounce judgement within seven calendar days. A minimum of three persons of the PESC are required for any such hearing to be quorate. Though not previously requested by the Member Club, where the PESC feels that it is appropriate, the Member Club may still be invited to attend the hearing.
  - F) Following the hearing any decision by the PESC shall be communicated in writing to either Member Club or Panel Umpire who raised the complaint, and to the Member Club about whom the complaint was made. Should the complaint be upheld, then any penalties will be documented. In the event that the Member Club has put in a defence to any complaint, any decision of the PESC will be detailed.
  - G) The PESC shall have the power to suspend the implementation of any part, or all, of the penalty it imposes for such period and subject to such terms and conditions it deems appropriate.
  - H) The decision of the PESC, if no appeal is made against the original decision within the permitted timescales, shall be final and binding, and applied with immediate effect.

## **7.2 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY APPEALS PROCESS**

- A) The Member Club shall have the right to appeal against a decision of the PESC.
- B) Notice of appeal, setting out the grounds, must be given in writing to the TVCL Secretary within fourteen calendar days of the notification of the said decision, together with a deposit of £250 payable to the TVCL. If the appeal is upheld or the decision varied, part or all of the deposit may at the Management Committee's discretion be refunded.
- C) Upon receiving notice of appeal, any penalty imposed by the original decision shall not take effect pending the hearing of the appeal.
- D) The appeal shall be in the way of a hearing by the Management Committee. Except that the members of the PESC that made the decision which is the subject of the appeal shall only be represented by the PESC Chairman or their nominee. The PESC Chairman or nominee shall be permitted to take part in the proceedings but shall be required to retire when the Management Committee makes its decision. The Management Committee may also, at its sole discretion, request other parties to attend the hearing and give evidence.
- E) The Member Club shall have the right of attendance and may call witnesses in support provided that the witnesses have made written depositions of their evidence to the PESC that were made as part of the original hearing.

- F) The Management Committee may confirm, vary (which shall include the power to increase or decrease penalties) or reverse the decision. It shall also have the power, where it considers the appeal to be frivolous, vexatious or lacking in merit, to order the deposit to be forfeited.
- G) After the appeal hearing, any decision made by the Management Committee shall be final and binding.

### **7.3 NON-PAYMENT OF FINES**

Any fines levied under these procedures will be payable as per the Discipline, Complaints and Appeals Procedures on Non-Payment of Fines.