

**HCL – WTU and GCR related Team Points Deduction System**

A new scheme that can deduct League Division Points from a Team will apply to HCL Premiership and Championship Teams and games from 2024. At least for the time being Cup matches are not included in this system.

The scheme is aimed at deterring/punishing a Team, whilst leaving the existing ECB General Conduct Regulations (GCR’s) Levels 1 – 4 disciplinary processes that deal with individual player discipline unaltered. This new Points Deduction Scheme will add teeth to the ECB’s Who’s The Umpire (WTU) Fair Play scoring system that was introduced in 2023 and adds consequences, for a team, on top of the already well established sanctions, for an individual player, of an ECB/GCR L1 – 4 offence.

The objective of this scheme is to deter rather than punish, and it is hoped that the threat of losing Team League points will help to achieve that.

The system does not require Umpires to do anything different than they have already been doing in 2023.

The consequences for a team are automatic.

The benefit of this system is that League Team points are deducted based on an accumulation of Penalties but not as a result of a single incident, or the actions of an individual player (except in serious cases), or the decisions of an individual Umpire.

It is essential that from 2024 Umpires mark each fixture via the WTU Fair Play scoring system. This was only 80% done in 2023.

Umpires will be guided to use WTU Fair Play scores to deal with lower level poor conduct/behaviour (especially that is persistent) which is not serious enough to justify an ECB/GCR L1 – 4 Disciplinary Incident Report to be submitted.

**Initially a Team accumulates Penalties in two ways:**

1. **From low Who’s The Umpire Scores**

For any WTU Fair Play score of 11 – 8 (out of 20) the team will be issued with 1 Team Penalty

For any WTU Fair Play score of 7 - 0 (out of 20) the team will be issued with 3 Team Penalties

Note: these thresholds have been chosen because a score of 11 or lower must mathematically include at least one score of ‘2’, and a score of 7 or lower must include at least one score of ‘1’.

1. **Connected to Disciplinary Sanctions issued to individual cricketers**

In addition to Disciplinary Sanctions issued against individual players by HCL’s Disciplinary

Sub-Committee such sanctions will also attract the following Team Penalties:

Reminded of Responsibilities 0 Team Penalty

Formal Warning 1 Team Penalty

Suspended Sanction 2 Team Penalties

L1 Sanction 3 Team Penalties (normally a 1 week ban)

L2 Sanction 6 Team Penalties (normally a 2 week ban)

L3 Sanction 9 Team Penalties (normally a 6 week ban or>)

L4 Sanction 12 Team Penalties (normally at least a 10 week ban or>)

**Team Penalties Points Deduction Tariff**

The principles underpinning this Team Points Deduction Tariff are:

* A L2 sanction against a player potentially costs his team 6 league points – the equivalent of a one match win
* A very poor WTU score of 7 or below – which likely includes 1’s and 2’ potentially costs the team 3 league points – the equivalent of half of the value of a one match win
* Bigger and smaller effects flow from scores or sanctions that are more or less severe than the above two benchmarks

**Accumulated Penalties**

The initial generating of ‘Penalties’ enables the Tariff to combine the effects of L1 - 4 Disciplinary Sanctions and low WTU Fair Play scores.

Penalties awarded against a Team as a result of low WTU Fair Play scores (1. above) and the issuing of ECB GCR Disciplinary Sanctions (2. above) are added together as they are generated to create an accumulated total amount of Penalties. The accumulated total amount of Penalties is then converted, in accordance with the below Tariff, into a number of Division League Points which are then deducted from each Team’s Points total displayed in HCL’s League Table for the Premiership and Championship.

Teams do not immediately suffer points deductions until they have accumulated 4 or more Penalties. This is intended to provide Teams with a small ‘warning period’ that places them on notice that further transgressions will result in Team Points being deducted.

 **Team League Points Deduction Tariff**

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| --- | --- |
| **Accumulated Penalties** | **No of Team League Points deducted** |
| 1 Penalty | 0 Points |
| 2 Penalties | 0 Points |
| 3 Penalties | 0 Points |
| 4 Penalties | 1 Point |
| 5 Penalties | 2 Points |
| 6 Penalties | 3 Points |
| 7 Penalties | 4 Points |
| 8 Penalties | 5 Points |
| 9 Penalties | 6 Points |
| 10 Penalties | 6 Points |
| 11 Penalties | 6 Points |
| 12 Penalties | 8 Points |
| 13 Penalties | 8 Points |
| 14 Penalties | 8 Points |
| 15 Penalties | 10 Points |
| 16 Penalties | 10 Points |
| 17 Penalties | 10 Points |
| 18 Penalties | 12 Points |
| 19 Penalties | 12 Points |
| 20 Penalties | 12 Points |
| 21 Penalties | 14 Points |
| 22 Penalties | 14 Points |
| 23 Penalties | 14 Points |
| 24 Penalties | 16 Points |
| 25 Penalties | 16 Points |
| 26 Penalties | 16 Points |
| 27 Penalties | 18 Points |
| 28 Penalties | 18Points |
| 29 Penalties | 18 Points |
| 30 Penalties | 20 Points |
| 31 Penalties | 20 Points |
| 32 Penalties | 20 Points |
| 33 Penalties | 22 Points |
| 34 Penalties | 22 Points |
| 35 Penalties | 22 Points |
| 36 Penalties | 24 Points |

Hopefully nothing beyond this point will ever be needed

**Administration**

Any Penalties and resulting Team Points deducted from a Team are effective only within the season when they are collected. They are all wiped clean and start afresh the following year.

HCL will inform the relevant Club Secretary via email after the weekend that their team has, as a result of a low WTU Fair play score, received a Penalty. Penalties flowing from player Disciplinary cases will be confirmed in the case Outcome Letter.

League Division tables will be updated straight away once a Team has incurred a League Division points deduction.

**Summary**

This new scheme is being introduced for 2024 via HCL’s experimental rule route (L12.6).

Three similar rule changes were submitted by Clubs who have been consulted in the development of the above experimental rule and agreed to withdraw their proposal in favour of this one. These submissions indicate, at some level, an appetite and willingness amongst Clubs to further strengthen the response to poor discipline and conduct.