



# HUDDERSFIELD

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## CRICKET LEAGUE

### Rule Additions and Amendments Proposals for Season 2023

#### CLUB PROPOSALS

##### **ITEM 1:**

*Attending meetings electronically or in person.*

##### **Add New Rule L3.5.5**

**Club Comment:** *Club Representatives may either attend meetings in person or request attendance by electronic means at AGM, SGM or Council Meetings. Electronic method used, to be determined by Executive Committee.*

*With travelling costs rising at alarming rates travelling to meetings should be avoided where possible and new methods of meeting participation should be introduced*

**Executive Comment:** *The Executive are not in favour of this proposal because we do not see such a format as workable in practice. Electronic meetings of approximately 50 persons almost always results in a one way 'webinar' type format, which is unsatisfactory given the purpose of Council meetings that often include questions and discussion. Furthermore, a mixed format with some council members present in person and others electronically via video conference is the most challenging format for successful meetings.*

*We do however, recognise issues such as travel, and will look at relocating to a more central venue for 2023. We also propose to remove the July Council meeting from the calendar, which was traditionally used for collecting the second ball order of the season*

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##### **ITEM 2:**

*Fine for conceding a League game.*

##### **Rule L7.5.2**

**Delete** £50 in line 1.

**Insert** £100

Note: This would apply to Sykes Cup; Oddfellows Cup; Paddock Shield and Earnshaw Cup plus T20 games  
Rules: TT2 5.1 & TS2.2.5.1

**Club Comment:** *None*

**Executive Comment:** *The Executive are not in favour of this increase in the fine. We feel that £100 is excessive, given that in addition to a fine Clubs are also deducted points for not being able to field a side. We feel that this is enough punishment. Please read these comments together with comments regarding ITEM 3 below.*

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##### **ITEM 3:**

*Compensation to opponents for conceding a League game.*

##### **Rule L7.5.3**

**Delete** £50 in line 2.

**Insert** £100

Note: This would apply to Sykes Cup; Oddfellows Cup; Paddock Shield and Earnshaw Cup plus T20 games  
Rules: TT2 5.2 & TS2.2.5.2

**Club Comment:** *None*

**Executive Comment:** *The Executive are in favour of this increase in compensation to the home club should a League game be conceded.*

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#### **ITEM 4:**

*The toss and practice:*

##### **Rule L8.7.2**

Replace current rule with:

The captains shall toss for choice of innings 30 minutes before the start of play and practice will be allowed till 5 minutes prior to start of play.

Note: This to apply to all competitions except T20 competition.

**Club Comment:** None

**Executive Comment:** *The Executive are not in favour of this proposal, and urge the coin toss remain as per MCC Law – not earlier than 30 minutes and not later than 15 minutes before the start of play. We also feel that practicing on the field up to 5 minutes before play would cause all number of practical problems.*

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#### **ITEM 5:**

*Removing 50p admin fee for new registrations.*

##### **Rule L5.3.4**

**Delete the Rule**

**Club Comment:** *At Holmfirth we strive to improve efficiency and reduce administration time, one way to do this is to remove the 50p charge for a player registered after 31<sup>st</sup> March. At such a low value the administration of paying this levy outweighs the costs/benefits and hence we believe the 50p charge should be removed.*

Further Comment, but not a rule change: *If finances at the executive are tight then add £2 or so (the average club charge) to the season's fee to cover this.*

**Executive Comment:** *The Executive are in favour of the removal of this administration fee for registering players after 31<sup>st</sup> March.*

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#### **ITEM 6:**

*Fines paid once a year with fees.*

##### **Rule L4.1.2**

**Delete:** The word "subscriptions"

**Insert:** "subscriptions and fines from the previous season"

**Club Comment:** *Paying all fees and fines at the same time, once a year.*

*At Holmfirth we strive to improve efficiency and reduce administration time, one way to do this is to reduce the number of invoices having to be paid across the season, paying any fines along with the registration fee will reduce club and executive admin.*

**Executive Comment:** *The Executive do not support this proposal. We believe that not only could the payment of fines once a year lead to possible cash flow problems, it reduces the impact of the reason behind the fine which is designed to be a deterrent.*

*We also believe that in this electronic age prompt payment is not such an onerous task.*

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#### **ITEM 7:**

*Allow squad numbers and names on shirts.*

##### **Delete Rule L8.23.1.8**

**Club Comment:** *Allow squad numbers/Names neatly presented on playing shirts. Rule 8.23.1.8 is out of date. The ECB allow all levels of cricket, including the Test team to have squad numbers and names on their playing attire, as long as it is neat and tidy, we should not rule it as "specifically prohibited".*

**Executive Comment:** *The Executive support this proposal, and would extend this to also include sweaters. Should the proposal be successful we would recommend that clubs do their best to ensure that all players in teams conform to a uniform standard of presentation.*

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#### **ITEM 8**

*July meeting to allow rule changes*

##### **INSERT Rule L3.3.4 (or equivalent into Rule L3.4)**

Rule L3.3.4 to read "The July Council meeting has the status of an SGM, to allow rules to be presented as per rule L12.2/3"

**Club Comment:** *Give the July Council meeting from 2023 the status of an SGM. (A meeting where rules can be amended).*

*If an important rule needs to be changed, you have to wait a year to change it. Covid has shown us that some flexibility is needed in the rule change process mid-season. The number of overs played in 2021 was very scatter gun and having a July SGM (even if on-line) could have meant a smoother process. We do not expect many rule changes to be submitted so many July meetings may be the same as they are today but at least it gives clubs and the executive a chance to change things formally in July. Given it is mid-season each rule change should be date stamped for when it should start.*

**Executive Comment:** *The Executive does not support the proposal, which could potentially lead to a change of playing conditions mid-season. If there are any in-season concerns from clubs they are able to canvass the Executive or with support from fellow members call an SGM at any time, using Rule L3.3. We are also looking to streamline the number of Council meetings in 2023 in light of concerns with excessive travel, and it will be proposed that the July meeting be removed from the calendar – see Item 1.*

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#### **ITEM 9:**

*Second Teams to be optional.*

**Rule L4.5** *A new section would be required to state that second teams are optional and not mandatory Could be included under RuleL4.5.*

**Club Comment:** *Second Teams to be made optional. Some clubs struggle to raise two teams and they should not be constantly fined due to these circumstances, it also puts players at risk such as juniors not ready for senior cricket could be asked to play or players that are not competent enough, just to avoid the fine. Teams conceding at the last minute put the home team at a financial disadvantage and it is frustrating to not play the match. Any second team can re-join the league in the lowest division a minimum of 24 months later if their application is accepted by the executive.*

*Half a decade ago or so, Holmfirth struggled to field a second team each week , we had juniors playing that were not quite ready and their fathers too who had never played before , a 13 year old and a 72 year old on the pitch at the same time and even then taking 7 players was common for us, it was a huge stress for the club and one we could have done without for a couple of years, today we have a thriving junior section and a full second team each week hence the ability to return after the hard times.*

**Executive Comment:** *The Executive is not in favour of this proposal and feel that if a club cannot field a 2<sup>nd</sup>XI then their long-term future may well be in doubt, and to promote the fact that we are happy for a club to only field one senior team is not something we would like to encourage. Nevertheless, the Executive will, on a case-by-case basis do everything possible to support clubs who find themselves in difficulty.*

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#### **ITEM 10:**

*Sykes Cup Round one on a Saturday*

##### **Rule L7.2**

**Add** to "The league season shall begin on the third Saturday in April".

"The Sykes Cup and Paddock Shield shall commence on the second Saturday of April".

**Club Comment:** *The season should start one week earlier and that first week of the season should stage the first round of the Sykes Cup/Paddock shield and held on the Saturday.*

*The first week of the Sykes Cup is currently held on a Sunday and some teams do not take it seriously and/or concede due to the double header, this would put more credibility into the cup and help attract a sponsor. The Cup needs a rethink as it is currently not a priority for any club outside the top division.*

**Executive Comment:** *The Executive do not support this proposal, which will effectively bring the start of the season forward by one week, and bring with it an increased risk of inclement weather/clubs not being ready to start the season. We see no reason not to use a Sunday for Cup Round 1.*

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#### **ITEM 11:**

*Single umpires to be paid double*

##### **Rule L10.5.1.3**

**Delete** "1½ times"

**Insert** "Double"

**Club Comment:** *Single umpires should be paid double fees not 1.5 times. Each club budgets to pay for two umpires, given umpire numbers it is likely that a single appointment is more likely in the future, hence the single umpire should be rewarded for the extra duties and paid the same as both umpires.*

*In a match at Rastrick, only a single umpire turned up, it was very hot and by the end of the game he was exhausted and was certainly worth double pay for that game, if not more.*

**Executive Comment:** *The Executive are in favour of this proposal.*

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**ITEM 12:**

*Electronic on-line scoring to be mandatory.*

**Add Rule L4.6.14**

Electronic scoring with on line Wi-Fi or data connectivity to Play Cricket Scorer or Play Cricket Scorer Pro to be used by clubs at all games.

**Club Comment:** *The majority of the leagues use play cricket to broadcast results, live, increasing the enjoyment of club members at a match, there is nothing more frustrating to look at results and they not be broadcast live. It should be used by all or no one and the former is certainly the better option.*

**Executive Comment:** *The Executive are in favour of this proposal, but note that some clubs will need to make changes to their scoring arrangements.*

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**ITEM 13:**

*Marking of Umpires.*

**Add Rule L10.8**

All members of the Umpires' Association who officiate in Premiership and Championship games should be marked by the captains of the participating clubs as per the process of the ECB Premier Leagues.

**Club Comment:** *None*

**Executive Comment:** *The Executive are in favour of this proposal.*

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**ITEM 14:**

*Submission of Rule proposals.*

**Rule L12.3**

**Delete:** 31<sup>st</sup> August.

**Insert:** 5 days after the final scheduled league game of the season.

**Club Comment:** *Sometimes a club needs to know what division they are playing in the following year to decide if a rule should be proposed or not. Currently the rule change system ends in August preventing this. Clubs also forget about rule changes as well due to the season commitments.*

**Executive Comment:** *The Executive see no reason why the date for submission for rule proposals should not be extended to give clubs more time to formulate any rule changes, and are in favour of this proposal.*

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**ITEM 15:**

*Change to Duckworth/Lewis.*

**Rule L8.18.1.3**

**Add to the rule:** In the event that the side batting first is all out prior to commencement of their final over, there will be additional Waiver Time on the basis of 3 minutes for every full over remaining in the 1st innings at that time.

**Club Comment:** *At the moment there is the potential for teams to be disadvantaged if they have bowled a team out and their chase is delayed or interrupted as the time gained from not bowling the overs is then lost, so a first innings finishing after 25 overs at 2.30 followed by two hours and 6-minute rain break would result in the game being abandoned as 32 overs would have been lost from the chase and the innings cannot start with fewer than 20 overs remaining. So, the game would be abandoned at 5.06 (having had a 30-minute tea break) whereas had they not bowled a side out they would have another 90 minutes available to them to complete the game.*

**Executive Comment:** *The Executive support this proposal which, if necessary, gives additional time to complete the game. Please note that a team declaring its innings closed before the completion of its allotted overs, shall be deemed to be all out, and in these circumstances additional waiver time will apply, but not the allocation of unused overs.*

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**ITEM 16:**

*Opting out of the Sykes Cup Competition.*

**Rule C1.3.1**

**Add to current Rule:** Clubs shall be permitted to opt out of the competition as long as they provide written notice to the Administration Secretary by 31<sup>st</sup> October.

**Club Comment:** We have for a few seasons really struggled to get teams out for Sundays when both teams have cup fixtures. Sadly, a lot of players have too many other / family commitments to be able to play both Saturdays and Sundays.

We therefore tender the following rule change proposal to avoid the situation where we are forced into fines for conceded fixtures.

**Executive Comment:** The Executive believe that the top 32 clubs who qualify for inclusion in the League's most prestigious cup competition should not be allowed to opt out. As such the Executive are against this proposal.

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#### **ITEM 17:**

*Opting out of the Paddock Shield Competition.*

##### **Rule S1.3.1**

**Add to current Rule:** Clubs shall be permitted to opt out of the competition as long as they provide written notice to the Administration Secretary by 31<sup>st</sup> October.

**Club Comment:** We have for a few seasons really struggled to get teams out for Sundays when both teams have cup fixtures. Sadly, a lot of players have too many other / family commitments to be able to play both Saturdays and Sundays.

We therefore tender the following rule change proposal to avoid the situation where we are forced into fines for conceded fixtures.

**Executive Comment:** As previous Item. This being the most prestigious 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Knockout cup we believe that all clubs who qualify should enter. As such, the Executive are against this proposal.

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#### **ITEM 18:**

*Opting out of the Oddfellows Cup Competition.*

##### **Rule OC1.3**

**Add to current Rule:** Clubs shall be permitted to opt out of the competition as long as they provide written notice to the Administration Secretary by 31<sup>st</sup> January.

**Club Comment:** We have for a few seasons really struggled to get teams out for Sundays when both teams have cup fixtures. Sadly, a lot of players have too many other / family commitments to be able to play both Saturdays and Sundays.

We therefore tender the following rule change proposal to avoid the situation where we are forced into fines for conceded fixtures.

**Executive Comment:** Although this is a subsidiary competition for clubs not qualified for the Sykes Cup or lower ranked clubs eliminated from the Sykes Cup in Round 1, we feel that if clubs are finding it difficult to play two games in a weekend, they should be in a position to prioritise this 1<sup>st</sup> XI Cup competition, and as such do not support this proposal.

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#### **ITEM 19:**

*Opting out of the Earnshaw Cup Competition.*

##### **Rule EC1.3.**

**Add to current Rule:** Clubs shall be permitted to opt out of the competition as long as they provide written notice to the Administration Secretary by 31<sup>st</sup> January.

**Club Comment:** We have for a few seasons really struggled to get teams out for Sundays when both teams have cup fixtures. Sadly, a lot of players have too many other / family commitments to be able to play both Saturdays and Sundays.

We therefore tender the following rule change proposal to avoid the situation where we are forced into fines for conceded fixtures.

**Executive Comment:** Since this is a subsidiary competition to the Paddock Shield, and together with involvement in one of the two 1<sup>st</sup> XI Cup competitions could stretch a club's playing resources, we accept that some clubs may wish to opt out of the competition by 31<sup>st</sup> January. However, it is important to remind clubs that the Earnshaw Cup has been a successful competition that Clubs who have little prospect of winning the Paddock Shield have greatly enjoyed. A run in the Earnshaw Cup has provided flagship experiences for clubs and players, and unique opportunities for young cricketers to be part of something special.

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#### **ITEM 20:**

*Deputy Umpires*

##### **Add to Rule L10**

Any stand-in square leg umpire, in any game (whether substituting for an absent Club Umpire in a 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Competition game, or a Panel Umpire in a 1<sup>st</sup> XI Competition game) must be at least 18 years old.

**Club Comment:** *Putting young cricketers in positions where they may be required to make match determining decisions, or who may come under a lot of pressure, doesn't seem the right thing to do.*

**Executive Comment:** *The Executive fully support this proposal.*

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#### **ITEM 21:**

*Counter attractions on the scheduled Sykes Cup final date*

**Delete Rule C2.7**

**Replace with C2.7**

C2.7.1 Clubs may stage or host any non-cricket event or function on the scheduled day of the final.

C2.7.2 Clubs wishing to hold, or allow to be held, an organised cricket match on its cricket ground on the scheduled day of the final must apply for and be granted permission by the Executive. Any request must be made to the Executive by the date of the August Executive Meeting, and all requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The granting of permission to hold matches, which do not undermine the prestige of the Sykes Cup Final or detract from interest in it, will not be unreasonably refused.

**Club Comment:** *We propose the rewriting of this rule to allow clubs to hold events, including cricket matches, on the scheduled date of the Sykes Final.*

*This year, as in previous years, we have experienced difficulties in hosting cricket matches which do not form a competition organised by the League, such as those organised by the Huddersfield Junior Cricket League and the West Yorkshire Women & Girls Cricket League. By enabling Clubs to host events on this date will allow a further day to be used to accommodate both matches and non-cricket events during a traditionally very busy part of the season. Furthermore, we consider the existing wording unnecessarily prohibitive on the Club from hosting non-cricketing events, such as private functions within our Clubhouse, thereby preventing the opportunities for the Club to pursue commercial opportunities which would have negligible, if any, adverse impact on the League or other clubs.*

*Failing that, we would support an amendment which would require a club to seek permission from the League's Executive to host such an event, and such permission would not be unreasonably withheld.*

**Executive Comment:** *The Executive are in favour of this rewriting of Rule C2.7*

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### **EXECUTIVE PROPOSALS**

#### **ITEM 22:**

*Club Umpire Regulations.*

**Delete Rule L9.3.3 and rewrite as follows:**

All Club Umpires (more than one person can be included) who regularly officiate at matches must hold a current DBS certificate, and be trained to at least ECB ACO Stage1 level. Clubs must register the name/s of all Club Umpires; their DBS Certificate number/s, and ECB reference number/s with the Club Umpires' Coordinator by 1<sup>st</sup> April of each season.

**Executive Comment:** This rule change is intended to help improve the quality of umpiring in divisions 4 - 7 of our League, and to this end the Executive believe it is important that all regular club umpires are not only are in possession of a current DBS certificate, but have also trained at the basic ECB ACO level. This training may be done by attending an organised course at a local venue or simply on line.

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#### **ITEM 23:**

*Umpire involvement for reduced overs game.*

**Rule L8.17:**

If both captains **and umpires** agree that the prevailing weather conditions make it unlikely that the required number of overs allocated to a game would be completed, they may prior to the start of play, agree to reduce the number of overs per side down to a minimum of 20 overs. **Without agreement from all parties the status quo will prevail.** Umpires' expenses will remain unchanged in a reduced overs game.

**Executive Comment:** *To ensure that any reduction of overs is done for the reasons indicated in Rule L8.17, we feel that it is necessary to involve the umpires in the decision-making process.*

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#### **ITEM 24:**

*Use of Duckworth Lewis in exceptional circumstances*

**Rule L8.18.1.1 Rewrite as:**

For all interruptions due to ground and/or weather conditions, **or in the opinion of the umpires, other exceptional circumstances**, the umpires should note the time lost during any suspension period.

**Rule L8.18.1.2**

**Delete:** In a game interrupted by ground and/or weather conditions.....

**Insert:** If such a game, as described in Rule L8.18.1.1, is interrupted.....

**Executive Comment:** *This slight tweak to the DL method is to allow its use when incidents such as serious injury etc may interrupt a game, which according to the current rule would not previously have been used to reduce overs during a game or to achieve a result towards the end of a game.*

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**ITEM 25:**

*Live Streaming and Filming of cricket matches*

**New Rule L8.24:**

L8.24.1 All Clubs that film or live stream cricket matches must inform the Administration Secretary as soon as practically possible. A register of such clubs will be circulated to all Clubs and the Umpires Association, along with the register also being displayed on the League website.

L8.24.2 All live streaming and filming of cricket matches must comply with privacy, data protection and safeguarding laws.

L8.24.3 Signage informing all persons present that filming is taking place must be prominently displayed at the ground.

L8.24.4 Only if Rules L8.24.1 – L8.24.3 are adhered to can filming routinely take place.

L8.24.5 Filming may not take place on any occasion where before the game starts, either an Umpire or a junior player/parent object.

L8.24.6 Film footage must never be used to criticise, ridicule or vilify any participant, or for decision referral or challenge.

L8.24.7 The Executive have the authority to withdraw the automatic right of a club to film matches if they feel that the right to do so is being abused.

L8.24.8 The use of film footage of events that are the subject of a disciplinary case is inadmissible.

**Executive Comment:** *The filming and live streaming of cricket matches can only take place when all relevant laws are adhered to. Clubs also have a clear duty of care towards persons who are filmed and must also respect their privacy.*

*It is essential that our League and all clubs have appropriate policies and protocols in place that deal with these matters and that they are rigorously implemented. This rule change is therefore strongly recommended.*

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