

# Kent Sunday Development League

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## Constitution

### 1. TITLE

The League will be called "The Kent Sunday Development League". Hereafter referred to as the competition, but can incorporate the name of sponsors within the title, should members so decide.

### 2. MEMBERSHIP

The competition shall consist of not less than 8 clubs, hereafter called members. Any expansion of the competition membership will be subject to formal application from clubs and approval at the AGM.

Any team wishing to resign from the league – must do so in writing to the Secretary of the league prior to the date of the AGM.

Any Club failing to advise the Executive Committee of their intentions for the following season (by the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> October), will automatically be resigned from the league with immediate effect, and with no right to appeal

### 3. AIMS

To promote Sunday League cricket within a North/West Kent & South East London, ideally within a traveling time of approximately 30 minutes. With the teams selecting an agreed number of U21 and / or U18 players, with a view to giving them a responsible role within the team to encourage player development.

### 4. OFFICERS

The Officers of the competition will be:

Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Fixture Secretary, Welfare Officer & Website Administrator

All appointments will be subject to re-election each year at the AGM.

### 5. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The executive committee will consist of the officers of the competition. Each officer shall be entitled to one vote at each executive committee meeting. The Chairman will not vote, but will be entitled to any necessary casting vote.

### 6. MEETINGS

Executive committee meetings will be held at the discretion of the committee. An Annual General Meeting will be held before 30th November every year, at which all member clubs shall have one vote.

Any Club failing to attend the Annual General Meeting will be subject to a fine. This will either be a monetary value or a point's deduction, subject to ratification of the Member Clubs and Executive Committee in due course.

### 7. FINANCES

The finances of the competition will be under the control of the executive committee.

## **8. SUBSCRIPTIONS**

The annual subscription shall be decided at the Annual General Meeting.

## **9. PLAYING CONDITIONS**

The competition and games will be determined by the published playing conditions. These can be amended at the AGM.

## **10. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS**

The Kent Sunday Development league disciplinary process is underpinned by a voluntary code of conduct. The principles and practices of the code are outlined below.

In the event of any player, club official or any member off the field of play is reported for bad behavior, a written report shall be submitted to the league secretary. The report must arrive no later than two days following the incident. The executive committee will consider the matter and have power to impose a ban of any number of matches considered appropriate to the incident.

Any suspension imposed by the Executive Committee shall be over and above the suspension already in place by the virtue of the Voluntary Code of Conduct.

If a player is suspended for a period greater than six matches, not including any suspension imposed under the terms of the Voluntary Code of Conduct, that player or the Club, shall have a right of appeal against the suspension but only insofar as it relates to that part of the suspension which is greater than six matches, excluding any suspension imposed under the terms of the Voluntary Code of Conduct.

# Kent Sunday Development League

## Voluntary Code of Conduct

As a Member Club of the Kent Sunday Cricket League you have agreed to abide by this Voluntary Code of Conduct and in so doing you have accepted that there is no right of appeal against any sanction contained within this Voluntary Code of Conduct. It is the Clubs that impose the suspension under the VCC, rather than the League.

Every player registered to play in the League explicitly acknowledges by virtue of their registration the constitution of the League and in particular the powers of the League in relation to conduct and breaches of the rules, including the procedures specified and undertakes to be bound by them including the powers of suspension without recourse to appeal unless such appeal is so specified.

1. Any player reported by an umpire for bad behaviour shall be suspended by his Club for the next TWO League matches played.
2. Any player reported by an umpire for bad behaviour for a second time in any one season shall be suspended by his Club for the next FOUR League matches played.
3. Suspensions will be carried over to the following season if applicable.
4. Any player suspended by his Club or by the League for whatever reason shall not be selected to play in Kent League representative matches in the season or seasons in which the suspension applies.
5. Any player reported by an umpire for bad behaviour on THREE occasions in any one season shall be asked to leave the Club.
6. Any player to whom paragraph 5 above applies shall NOT be invited to join any other club participating in the Kent Sunday Development League at any time in the future.
7. Where the same player has been reported by an umpire on the second occasion in any one season his Club shall be fined the sum of £30.00. Thereafter for a third reporting of that player the Club shall be fined a further sum of £30.00.
8. If any individual Club has three players reported by an umpire within any given season that Club shall be fined the sum of £50.00. For every additional player reported within the season the Club shall be fined a further sum of £20.00 for each additional player reported.

### NOTES

1. Whereas the Code of Conduct deals with bad behaviour reported by an umpire, the responsibility for upholding standards of behaviour at all times lies squarely with the Clubs and in particular the captain of each team on the day.
2. It should be stressed that nothing in this Code of Conduct should be taken to restrict or discourage clubs from more stringent action against offenders if the Club considers it to be appropriate.
3. All Clubs must take a firm stand to uphold high standards of behaviour whether or not an incident is reported by an umpire and to ensure that any appropriate action is taken. Each member Club is expected to have in place a disciplinary procedure within its own rules.

## Voluntary Code of Conduct - Guidance Notes

These guidance notes outline the principles behind the Voluntary Code of Conduct (VCC), and the procedures for implementation thereof. It should be stressed that they are simply that - guidance notes - and failure by any umpires to comply with anything herein shall NOT invalidate the contents and effect of any subsequent Umpires' report.

Whereas the Code of Conduct deals with bad behaviour reported by an Umpire, the responsibility for upholding standards of behaviour at all times lies squarely with the Clubs, and in particular with the Captain of each team on the day. Note The Spirit of Cricket, which is now incorporated in the Laws.

All Clubs must take a firm stand to uphold high standards of behaviour whether or not an incident is reported by an Umpire, and to ensure that any appropriate action is taken. Each member Club is expected to have in place a disciplinary procedure within its own rules.

The Voluntary Code of Conduct provides the strongest possible backing to umpires, as Clubs undertake to suspend any player reported by an umpire without a hearing, and without recourse to appeal. Its legitimacy stems from a unanimous vote of Clubs at the AGM each year, by which all Clubs agree to abide by it.

However, everyone hopes that it will not simply be a mechanism for dealing with the consequences of unacceptable behaviour, but that it will also provide a useful tool to umpires to assist in defusing potentially explosive situations. Should the temperature start to rise sharply, an umpire may find it helpful and effective to have a quiet word with the captain and inform him that, if a player or players continue to overstep the mark, he would then feel obliged to report them under the VCC.

If a captain has perhaps forgotten his obligation under the Laws and the Spirit of Cricket, the risk of players being suspended under the VCC might nevertheless prove salutary. Nevertheless, umpires should feel in no way constrained from reporting a player should they deem their behaviour to be unacceptable. It should be noted that anyone undertaking the umpires responsibility for even a short period of the game has the right to raise a report. Nobody standing as an umpire should be subject to abuse or players questioning decisions.

In the event that an umpire does feel the need to report a player a form can be obtained either from your Club Secretary, or from [Jon Taylor] the League Secretary. This form should be used to report any instance of alleged misconduct by any player, club official or any other person off the field of play.

It must be sent to the League Secretary, whose address is on the form, within 48 hours of the event taking place. Before they leave the ground on the day of the incident, the umpire raising the reports must inform his fellow umpire; if there is one; the captain of the offending player or an official of that club that a report is being sent to the League. He should also inform the opposition captain.

In fact, good practice would suggest that a discussion takes place with the umpiring colleague in order to ensure that a fair report be submitted.

In any event the umpires should provide salient details to an official of the offending Club by 9.00 p.m. on the Sunday of the weekend that the reportable incident takes place.

It is important that this information is conveyed wherever possible, as the notification to the Club of a report is the factor that "triggers" the suspension under the VCC, rather than receipt of the report by the League Secretary. This is because it is the Clubs that impose the suspension under the VCC, rather than the League.

Given that selection committees invariably meet on a Monday or Tuesday evening, and that every Club would prefer not to have players reported and suspended, notifying the relevant parties on the day is highly desirable to avoid additional selection difficulties and maintain optimum goodwill between Clubs and umpires.

The Management Committee stresses that, whilst everyone would prefer player behaviour to be of an impeccable standard, we rely upon our umpires to ensure that acceptable standards are upheld. The VCC provides uniquely strong backing for their judgment.

# Rules & Playing Conditions

## Playing Conditions

- 1)  
The normal laws of cricket (as defined by the MCC) shall apply.
- 2)  
The competition is to run for 40 overs each side, in which no bowler is allowed more than 8 overs.  
If the match is curtailed or shortened due to adverse conditions, then the match will take either of the following formats;
  - 30 overs each side – no bowler allowed to bowl more than 6 overs.
  - 25 overs each side – no bowler allowed to bowl more than 5 overs.
  - 20 overs each side – no bowler allowed to bowl more than 4 overs.A minimum of 20 overs per side constitutes a game.
- 3)  
The competition is based on the side scoring most runs will win the game.
- 4)  
Each side must include the following development players:  
  
Each side to include six players under the age of 21, of which, a minimum of four shall be under the age of 18.  
  
Age groups are decided by the player's age on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> September in the year prior to the start of the season.
- 5)  
6 players (which include the wicket keeper and the bowler) should remain within fielding circle at all times.
- 6)  
Team cards to be filled in and handed to the umpires at the toss.
- 7)  
Teams are to provide their own umpire and scorer for all matches.  
It is expected that the Umpire is a non-playing umpire.
- 8)  
A team will automatically forfeit the toss if they don't have a non-playing umpire to stand in that match. The umpire(s) must be present at the time of the toss.
- 9)  
Each game shall be governed by the umpires and played "in the spirit of the game". Players are not to question or abuse the umpires in any way. If this rule is not met the umpires have the authority to report the particular player involved to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will take appropriate action, which may be a warning, or a suspended/immediate ban on playing in the competition. By competing in the league, clubs automatically accept the final decision of the Executive Committee on these matters.
- 10)  
Two new balls shall be used for each game. One shall be used at the start of each innings. Each team will provide one new ball per match.  
All balls used - must be the agreed league balls.
- 11)  
Stumps as specified by the Executive Committee need to be used in all games.
- 12)  
A fielding circle (measuring 30-yards in radius from the middle stump), must be marked by fielding discs for all matches.

## **Points Scoring**

4 points shall be awarded for a win.

2 points shall be awarded in a tied match (scores level).

2 points shall be awarded in a cancelled match.

In the event of a team conceding (and not fulfilling the fixture) they will receive –2 points. The opposition will be deemed winners, and receive 4 points.

In the event of a team conceding (and fulfilling the fixture) they will receive 0 points. The opposition will be deemed winners, and receive 4 points.

## **Results**

The result needs to be loaded onto [www.playcricket.com](http://www.playcricket.com) after the completion of the match.

Home team is responsible for this.

Summary result shall be completed no later than mid-day on the Tuesday following the match.

The full scorecard shall be loaded by 8pm on the Thursday following the match.

## **League Champions**

1)

The team finishing the season with most points – will be deemed League Champions of that Division. In the event of two or more teams finishing level on points – then the results between the teams will be the deciding factor.

2)

Winners of each division will be presented with a Trophy at the AGM. These must be returned to the Executive Committee before the end of the forthcoming season.

3)

Winners of Division 1 will be invited to play the Winners of the Surrey League Competition. This will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of September. Details will be provided by the league nearer the time.

## **League Structure**

1)

This will be organised by the Executive Committee.

2)

Teams winning lower divisions will be expected to be promoted into a higher division.

Teams finishing bottom of a higher division are likely to be relegated into a lower division.

3)

There could be a case of Promoting/Relegating more than one team. This is likely to fill vacancies in a higher division, or vice-versa. The Executive Committee will have the final say in any such movement of teams within the structure.

## **Eligibility of Players**

- 1)  
Players must be a fully paid up member of the participating clubs.
- 2)  
There should be no professional contracted players over the age of 20.
- 3)  
No Overseas players are allowed to play in this league. The definition of overseas player is as Category 3 as per Kent League Cricket rules.
- 4)  
If a Player has played 3 or more games for a Clubs 'A' team – he will not be allowed to play for that Clubs 'B' team in the same season. Any player who by definition is U18 or younger – are deemed to be exempt from this rule.
- 5)  
A player is only allowed to play for one Club in the same season.

## **Fixtures**

- 1)  
These will be agreed and organised by the Fixture Secretary. Fixtures will be published in early December, once the structure has been agreed at the AGM.

The majority of fixtures shall be played in June, July and August. Exceptions can be made were applicable. The Fixture Secretary will try to arrange fixtures so as to avoid the early rounds of the Club Cricket Conference Competition, the National Club Knockout Trophy, National Village Knockout Trophy and the Kent League Twenty 20 Finals Day.

In the event of bad weather, fixtures will not be rearranged. The result will be deemed to be a No result – 2 points each.

Once fixtures have been produced, matches can't be rearranged without the agreement of both Clubs involved and the Executive Committee of the League. This applies to exceptional circumstances only.

- 2)  
Matches will commence at 1.30pm. The only exception to this, are matches being played in September, and these will commence at 1.00pm.

## **Conceded Fixtures**

- 1)  
If a club concedes a fixture then the following actions will apply;
  - 1<sup>st</sup> offence - £50 fine suspended
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> offence - £100 fine will be enforced by the Executive Committee

- 2)  
In additional to the above, any team conceding a fixture after the deadline of Thursday 9am can be liable for reasonable expenses incurred by their opposition. All claims will be directed to the Executive Committee.

The penalties for conceded fixtures will be enforced by the Executive Committee for the forthcoming season. There are no exceptions to the current ruling.

## **Disputes**

In the event of any disputes – the Executive Committee will make the final decision, based on any evidence available.

## **Fees**

- 1)  
The Club fee of £40 is to be paid for entering into the League. This applies to each Club, irrespective of the number of Teams they have in the league.
- 2)  
The league will provide cricket balls at the agreed cost.  
The Executive Committee prior to the start of the season will advise the cost of the balls.
- 3)  
The Club fee and Cricket Ball Invoice will be sent to all clubs in March. All invoices must be settled prior to the start of the season.  
Cricket Balls will be available for collection in April. The Management Committee will advise of the collection details in due course.