

WDCU Cricket Management Committee

Public Meeting Summary

Meeting Date: 3 June

Competition Administration

The Committee reviewed several competition administration matters, including fixture scheduling and compliance with competition regulations.

A fixture within the McCulloch Cup was determined to have been rearranged outside the competition regulations and was therefore recorded as abandoned, with the competition progressing in accordance with the playing conditions.

An administrative error affecting Western Cup fixtures was also reviewed. The Committee approved revised fixtures to ensure all scheduled matches are completed correctly.

An outstanding league fixture was discussed, with officers tasked with working alongside the clubs involved to ensure the match is played within the required timeframe.

Playing Conditions

The Committee clarified the process for submitting match results and bonus points via PlayHQ.

It was agreed that:

- Home teams must submit scores and bonus points by midnight on the Monday following the fixture.
- Away teams have until the following Friday to report any discrepancies.
- Retrospective amendments will not normally be accepted after the first half of the season.

The Committee also encouraged clubs to retain paper scorebooks alongside electronic scoring as a contingency.

Competition Structure

The Committee received an initial proposal regarding future league structures to help address the ongoing shortage of Saturday ground availability.

The proposal includes consideration of:

- Greater use of Sunday competitions for teams without guaranteed Saturday facilities.
- A return to a pyramid-style promotion and relegation structure.
- Future review of minimum facility standards.

The Committee agreed that a detailed proposal should be prepared for consultation before any decisions are made.

Player Eligibility

The Committee considered a player eligibility enquiry and confirmed that the current eligibility criteria had been applied correctly.

The Committee also agreed to remind clubs of existing regulations relating to player eligibility across Saturday and Sunday competitions and to ensure these are clearly reflected within the updated Playing Conditions.

Playing Equipment

The Committee reviewed an issue relating to playing kit colours and reaffirmed that non-approved kit colours are not permitted within WDCU competitions. It was noted that replacement kit has been ordered and the matter is expected to be resolved.

Conduct and Fair Play

The Committee reviewed a number of conduct matters arising from recent fixtures.

Where complaints could not be independently verified, the Committee reaffirmed its existing approach of reminding clubs of their responsibilities under the Spirit of Cricket while maintaining records to identify recurring patterns of behaviour.

The Committee also agreed to:

- Develop a Fair Play monitoring initiative during the second half of the season.
- Organise a mid-season Captains' Forum to reinforce expectations regarding conduct and sportsmanship.
- Continue monitoring trends in complaints to support future disciplinary decisions.

Umpiring

The Committee discussed the continuing shortage of qualified umpires and recognised this as one of the most significant challenges facing league cricket.

A number of potential solutions were considered, including improved recruitment, development opportunities and possible future requirements for clubs to provide qualified officials where appropriate.

This work will continue through a dedicated sub-group.

Summary of Agreed Actions

The Committee agreed the following actions:

- Notify affected clubs of competition decisions and fixture outcomes.

- Arrange outstanding and corrected fixtures.
- Issue guidance to clubs on score submission deadlines and bonus point procedures.
- Update the Playing Conditions to clarify player eligibility and scoring regulations.
- Continue development of proposals for future league restructuring.
- Organise a mid-season Captains' Forum focused on conduct and fair play.
- Introduce a Fair Play monitoring framework for the remainder of the season.
- Continue monitoring conduct matters and complaint trends.
- Progress work to address the shortage of qualified umpires.
- Investigate opportunities to improve facilities and identify potential future playing grounds.