

# **FORMAT OF THE LEAGUE**

## **1. FORMAT**

- 1.1) The TVCL shall consist of 1 Division at the top of the Championship Structure and further subsequent Divisions below consisting of two separate (Division A & B). The Divisions at the bottom, where two is not practical, may consist of either a single or up to a maximum of four (Division A, B, C & D) as solely directed by the Management Committee to cater for changes in the number Member Club Teams.
- 1.2) Each individual Division shall consist of a maximum of 10 Teams, playing every other Team in the same Division on a home and away basis. A TVCL Season will therefore normally consist of 18 TVCL Matches. However, the Divisions at the bottom may have more or less than 10 Teams.
- 1.3) If there is only a single Division at the bottom the Teams may only play each other once. The format in the lowest Divisions will be determined at the discretion of the Management Committee and dependent on the number of Teams that Season.
- 1.4) Teams will be awarded points based on their Team performance during the TVCL Season. The Teams will be ranked in order of the most points gained to the least, to determine the final Division Table and Team position.
- 1.5) In the event that a TVCL Match is unable to be played owing to restrictions imposed because of foot and mouth disease for example, no points shall be awarded to either Team. The final Division Table and Team position, for a Division where such a fixture cancellation occurs, shall be determined on an "Average Points per Match" basis (i.e., by dividing the total number of points gained by a Team by the number of League Matches played not affected by restrictions).
- 1.6) In the event of two or more Teams finishing with an equal number of points in any Division (or across Divisions) then in order to ascertain respective finishing positions in their respective Division and for the purposes of promotion or relegation from their respective Divisions, the position shall be determined in the order given as follows:

The Team(s) with the:

- A) least Penalty Points shall be placed higher.
- B) most wins shall be placed higher.
- C) most 25-point wins shall be placed higher.
- D) most ties shall be placed higher.
- E) least defeats shall be placed higher.
- F) most batting points shall be placed higher.
- G) the Team that finished in a higher position in its respective Division in the previous TVCL Season shall be placed higher.

*Note: A Cancelled (Forfeit) result, whilst it may achieve the same points equivalent to a win, is not deemed a 'Win' for the purposes of B) or C) above.*

## 2. PROMOTION & RELEGATION

2.1) The Division 1 Champion shall be promoted to the HCPCL (Division 2) provided that they:

- A) are a Member Club 1<sup>st</sup> XI; and
- B) wish to accept such promotion; and
- C) meet all the necessary HCPCL criteria to allow such promotion.

2.2) If the Division 1 Champion is not promoted for any reason, then the Team finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place shall be promoted provided that they meet the criteria listed in 2.1 above. Normally, if neither of the Teams finishing in 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> place meet the criteria listed in 2.1 above, then no Member Club will be promoted to the HCPCL.

2.3) Promotion and Relegation from Division 1 shall normally be as follows:

Prom to HCPCL	Rel from HCPCL	Prom from Divisions 2*	Rel to Divisions 2	No of Teams Division 1	No of Teams Divisions 2
1	0	3	2	10	20
1	1	2	2	10	20
1	2	2	3	10	20
0	0	2	2	10	20
0	1	2	3	10	20

*\*Provided that the Teams qualifying for promotion from Divisions 2 of TVCL meet all the criteria required in Section 4 – Grading & Standards*

2.4) Promotion and Relegation from Divisions 2A and 2B and replicated for all the other Divisions shall normally be as follows:

Prom to Division 1	Rel from Division 1	Prom from Divisions 3*	Rel to Divisions 3	No of Teams Per Divisions
3	2	5	4	20
2	2	4	4	20
2	3	4	5	20

*\*Provided that the teams qualifying for promotion meet all the criteria required in Section 4 – Grading & Standards.*

2.5) Further to Clauses 2.3 and 2.4, and subject to Grading & Standards, promotion and relegation will normally be applied as described below, subject to the Management Committee advising of any special conditions ahead of the new League Season (such as an Expansion of the League):

### Promotion:

- A) the Teams that finish 1st in Division 2A and 2B are due to be automatically promoted to Division 1.
- B) the Teams that finish 1st and 2nd in both Division A and B from Divisions 3 and below, are due to be automatically promoted to the next higher Divisions.

- C) In the lowest Divisions, if there is more than two separate Divisions, then the Team that finishes 1st shall be due to be automatically promoted. Whereas if there is only a single Division, then the Teams that finish in the Top 4 places could be promoted.
- D) In the event of an extra Team being promoted from Divisions 2 & below, the Team to be promoted shall be the Team in either Division A or B that finishes immediately below the automatic promotion places with the most points (refer to Clause 1.6 if there are Teams with equal points).

Relegation:

- E) The Teams that finish in 9th & 10th place in all Divisions (except the lowest) are due to be automatically relegated to the next lower Level.
- F) In the event of three Teams being relegated from Division 1 the Team that finishes 8th shall also be relegated to Divisions 2.
- G) In the event of an odd number of Teams being relegated from Divisions 2 and below, the Team to be relegated shall be the Team in either Division A or B in the position above the even number of relegation places with the least points. (Refer to Clause 1.6 if there are Teams with equal points).

*Note: The number of Teams subject to relegation in any one Season is variable dependant on various factors, not least interaction with the HCPCL as shown in the Clause 2.3 and additionally the BCMB per Clause 3.7, and any removal of Teams by Member Clubs.*

- 2.6) As above, if a Team qualifies for promotion but fails to meet the criteria required for promotion for any reason or does not wish to be promoted, then the highest placed Team that would otherwise have been relegated shall not be relegated.
- 2.7) No two Teams of the same Member Club shall play in the same individual Division, but they may play in the same Divisions (A & B).
- 2.8) However, there may be occasions when these rules are not possible to be applied and in such event the Management Committee, or its delegated Sub-Committee, shall have the power to make the appropriate adjustments. The Management Committee may make appropriate adjustments to move Teams between Divisions A & B for the purposes of regionalisation only to limit travel distances where possible.
- 2.9) In the event of any dispute or query regarding the Divisional Structure of the TVCL the decision of the Management Committee shall be final.

**3. FEEDER LINK WITH THE BCMB**

- 3.1) The champion (or runner-up) of the Berkshire, Chilterns & Mid Bucks League ("BCMB") shall be eligible for an invitation into the TVCL for the next season.
- 3.2) For any BCMB 1st XI to be eligible for promotion to the TVCL they must meet the gradings and standards set out by the TVCL. The Management Committee's decision on the eligibility of BCMB Clubs to join the TVCL will be final and not subject to appeal.

- 3.3) Should their champion be deemed eligible, they shall be invited to join for the following season. They have the option to decline the invitation.
- 3.4) Should the champion not be eligible or decline the invitation, provided that their runner-up is deemed eligible the invitation will be extended to them.
- 3.5) If neither champion or runner-up are eligible or accept the invitation, no other team will be promoted. The lack of promotion will not impact any BCMB XI's that may be due for relegation.
- 3.6) The BCMB 1st XI accepted into the TVCL shall be deemed as an Associate Member and subject to the rules and regulations of the TVCL. Their team shall be placed into Divisions 4 of the TVCL.
- 3.7) With reference to the table in Clause 2.4, if no BCMB Team is due for relegation from Divisions 4 in any season, but there is an eligible invitation, then the number of Teams relegated from Divisions 4 & below shall be increased by 1. Conversely, if no BCMB XI is due to enter, but there is a relegation, the number of promotions from Divisions 5 & below shall be increased by 1 accordingly.
- 3.8) Once a BCMB 1st XI has entered the TVCL championship they will be subject to the promotion and relegation rules within the TVCL championship. Only should they be due to be relegated from Divisions 4, would they then return to the BCMB.

#### **4. GRADING & STANDARDS**

- 4.1) The grading of all Member Clubs facilities is deemed necessary to maintain the status of the TVCL. Such grading is overseen by the Grading and Standards Sub Committee ("GSSC").
- 4.2) Venues of all Member Clubs shall be inspected by the GSSC with regard to its facilities and playing surface, and shall be rated in accordance with the published standards for the Divisions their Teams play in and will be relevant for any promotion to a higher Divisions.
- 4.3) Panel Umpires and Captains will provide marks on the pitch and outfield, which the GSSC shall use to consider their own assessments, and any areas for recommendations.
- 4.4) Member Clubs having been assessed by the GSSC, who are found to not meet the required standards of their current Division, shall be given two calendar years (extended to a 30<sup>th</sup> September deadline) to meet the required standard. Where improvements needed to meet the required standards is linked to a substantial change to building facilities, they shall be given three calendar years (extended to the 30<sup>th</sup> September deadline). Any Member Club not reaching the required standard by the deadline shall appear before the GSSC to explain their reasons for failing to do so, and in such case the GSSC can recommend to the Management Committee for the Team(s) to be relegated to the Divisions matching the standard of the facility.
- 4.5) The detailed list of specific Gradings & Standards required for the Divisions of the TVCL, shall be published on the TVCL Website as endorsed by the Management Committee.
- 4.6) Any assessment required of those Member Clubs seeking promotion, should be concluded within 28 calendar days of the conclusion of the TVCL Season.

- 4.7) Following the assessment by GSSC, they shall inform the Member Club should any items be below standard or missing. The Member Club will be given until the 31<sup>st</sup> October deadline to resolve any issues, otherwise that Team shall not be considered for Promotion.
- 4.8) The GSSC shall report their decision to the Management Committee. Should the Member Club have failed the assessment for Promotion, the TVCL Secretary shall inform them of the result within seven calendar days of the meeting of the Management Committee, giving details of the result of the assessment.
- 4.9) A Member Club shall have the right of appeal against the result of the assessment by GSSC within 7 calendar days (see the Appeal Procedure in the Disciplinary, Complaints and Appeals Procedures).