

# **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY RULES AND PROCEDURES**

Player eligibility categories and criteria are defined and overseen by a sub-committee created by the Management Committee, known as the Player Eligibility Sub Committee (“PESC”).

## **1. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY CATEGORIES**

- All player age groups are based on the age of the player at midnight on the 31<sup>st</sup> August in the year prior to that TVCL Season.
- All Player categories are to be determined as at 1<sup>st</sup> May of that TVCL Season.

### **Category 1:**

A person, who is 13 years of age or over who either holds:

- a United Kingdom (or Republic of Ireland) passport or birth certificate, Or
- an EU, EEA or Switzerland passport, with settled or pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

### **Category 1B:**

Any person who is 11 or 12 years of age.

Any Category 1B players will only be deemed eligible to play once the Member Club has submitted a copy of the completed “ECB Parental Consent and Waiver Form” (available on the TVCL website) **and** approval has been provided by the PESC. The registration of a Category 1B player shall be valid solely for that TVCL Season for which the player has been registered and none other.

### **Category 1C:**

A person who does not qualify for Category 1, but who has been resident in England and Wales for a minimum of 210 days collectively between the 1<sup>st</sup> April in the preceding year up to 31<sup>st</sup> March of the current year. However, only provided that they:

- must not have played cricket as a local/domestic player in any ICC Full Member Country (except England) in the 12-month period up to and including 31<sup>st</sup> March of the current year

AND

- have the required VISA to allow participation in Amateur Sport.

Any Category 1C players will only be deemed eligible to play once the Member Club has submitted a copy of the completed “Overseas Player Registration Form” **and** approval has been provided by the PESC.

The registration of a Category 1C player shall be valid solely for that TVCL Season for which the player has been registered and none other.

### **Category 2: Contracted Players**

A person who qualifies to play for England Men (under the current ECB Rules) and who has a contract with a First-Class County Cricket Club of any one of the following types: -

- a current full playing contract
- a summer contract
- a development (scholarship) contract, but not an Academy contract (16-19 years)

A person with any of the above Men’s contracts - who does not qualified for England Men - can only be considered eligible for registration under Category 3.

### **Category 2E: Home Grown Exemption**

To be considered as “Home Grown” the person must meet both of the following conditions:

- they were a bona-fide member of that Member Club for the two UK seasons immediately prior to the award of a contract. AND
- they played in at least 12 matches for that Member Club over the preceding two UK seasons.

If there are exceptional reasons why the above criteria are not met, then a Member Club may submit a written request for Home Grown status to be granted. The PESC and Management Committee will review, and their decision will be final.

### **Category 3: Overseas Player**

Any person aged 17 or over who does not qualify under any other listed Category.

Any Category 3 players will only be deemed eligible to play once the Member Club has submitted a copy of the completed “Overseas Player Registration Form” **and** approval has been provided by the PESC. The registration of a Category 3 player shall be valid solely for that TVCL Season for which the player has been registered and none other.

Registration of Category 3 players can only occur once the player is actually in the UK and able to play. Category 3 registrations will not be accepted where the players’ first eligible match is scheduled only to be after 31<sup>st</sup> July of that TVCL Season.

### **Category 3E: Overseas Youth**

A person aged 13 to 16 inclusively who does not qualify under any other listed Category.

- **First-Class Cricketer Restriction (Category +P):**

Any Category player who has played First Class Cricket\* prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> May in the current year, and since the 1<sup>st</sup> May in the preceding year. They shall not be eligible to play in TVCL Matches below Divisions 2, without the prior written permission of the PESC.

\*For the purpose of clarification, the Management Committee defines that a player is deemed to have played First-Class Cricket if they have represented a first-class county *or franchise* in England or Wales or similar organisation in any other country at adult level to play any format of cricket. Women’s domestic or international competitions shall not be included.

- **Parental Consent for 11 and 12 year olds (Category 1B)**

To play in TVCL Matches **all** 11 and 12 year old players will need prior written explicit parental consent to play, as this recognises the need for parents or guardians to be aware of the significance of allowing their young child to participate in Open Age Competitive Cricket rather than purely junior cricket. The ECB Parental Consent and Waiver Form on which such consent **must** be written is available on the TVCL website.

Last minute acquisition of unapproved 11 and 12 year old players to make up numbers in a TVCL Match is not allowed – see Section 2.3

## **A) Eligibility Criteria**

Players, both boys and girls, who are selected in a County U12 squad in spring for a summer squad or in another squad deemed by ECB Performance Managers to be of a standard above 'District level' for that season are eligible to play Open Age Cricket. Providing they are at least 11 years old, and in School Year 7 on the 1<sup>st</sup> September in the year preceding the season.

District and Member Club Players who are not in a County or Area squads must wait until they reach the Under 13 age group, 12 years old, Year 8 on 1<sup>st</sup> September in the year preceding year the season.

## **B) Duty of Care**

It is strongly recommended that a parent, guardian or other responsible adult is present whenever a 11 or 12 year old player takes part in TVCL Matches. This could include the captain or other identified adult player taking responsibility for the young player.

In allowing these players to play in TVCL Matches it is essential that Member Clubs recognise the 'Duty of Care' obligations towards these young players. These obligations should be interpreted in two ways:

- 1) Not to place a young player in a position that involves unreasonable risk to that young player, taking account of the circumstances of the match and the relative skills of the player, and:
- 2) Not to create a situation that places members of the opposing side in a position whereby they cannot play cricket as they would normally do against adult players.

In addition, the "ECB Guidelines for Junior Players in Open Age Group Cricket" notes the need for clubs and leagues to recognise the positive experience that young players should have in Open Age Group Cricket and thus clubs should provide an opportunity for players to show their talents in an appropriate way. Children who are just used as fielders will not fully experience the game.

## **2. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY RULES**

All players will qualify to be eligible to play in a TVCL Match as one of either of the Player Eligibility Categories listed in Clause 1.

It is the responsibility of the Member Club to ensure that all its players are bona fide members and are eligible to play in the TVCL and it is incumbent upon the Member Club to make all necessary enquiries to ensure that this is so.

- 2.1) No First-Class Cricketers will be eligible to play in TVCL Matches below Divisions 2A and 2B, without the prior registration and subsequent written permission of the PESC.
- 2.2) No players will qualify to be eligible to play if not 11 years old as of midnight on the 31<sup>st</sup> August in the year prior to that TVCL Season.
- 2.3) Any Category 1B players shall not be eligible to play in any TVCL Match until they have been both registered and approved by the PESC.
- 2.4) Any Category 3 players shall not be eligible to play in any TVCL Match until they have been both registered and approved by the PESC.
- 2.5) A player shall be eligible to play for only one Member Club, the first they play for in any one TVCL Season. Matches played in both TVCL and HCPCL competitions by that player in that season are to

be considered. However, a player may transfer to another Member Club mid-season provided that the related conditions are met as defined in Clause 4 & 5 below.

Member Clubs must send any completed registration requests to the PESC Chair by latest 5pm on the Friday prior to the TVCL Match for any approval by the PESC to be issued.

### **3. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY MATCH RULES**

Each numbered clause under this heading is an independent rule from each other, even if may occur at the same time, and each need to be followed.

- 3.1) Member Clubs may select any number of Category 1 or 3E players per TVCL Match, but the following restrictions apply to Category 2, 2E and 3.

Category 1 (All)	No Restriction
Category 2	Maximum 1 Player per Team
Category 2E	Maximum 2 Players per Team (inclusive of any Cat2)
Category 3	Maximum 1 Player per Team
Category 3E	No Restriction

- 3.2) Member Clubs are expected at all times to select their Teams in strength order, with their best players starting from their 1st XI downwards.

*(Note: it is understood that legitimate selection variations can occur between adjacent teams, so the PESC are primarily concerned with any potential breaches where players are inappropriately selected downwards into a non-adjacent lower Team, however during the last four TVCL Matches any breach of the spirit of this rule between adjacent Teams shall be relevant.)*

- 3.3) Any player, once they have played 10 or more TVCL (or HCPCL) Matches for their 1st XI in the same TVCL Season, (a "First XI Player") they will NOT be deemed eligible to subsequently play for that Member Clubs' 2nd XI (or lower Teams), without specific prior approval from the PESC.

- 3.4) Member Clubs may NOT strengthen any of its Teams, in the last four TVCL Matches of the TVCL Season in any Division, by either selecting:

- A) More than **TWO** pre-approved "First XI Players" (per rule 3.3) in their 2nd XI.  
None are permitted in the 3rd XI or lower Team.  
(“First XI Players” who have been approved are exempt from condition B below).
- B) Prior to their selection, any player who has not previously represented that Team (inclusive of lower Teams) in a minimum of **TWO** Matches in that TVCL Season.

However, any player that has only played in **THREE** (or less) Matches in total during that TVCL Season is not subject to this restriction.

NOTE: Should a player Transfer during the TVCL Season, their appearances for their former Member Club are to be included by their new Member Club within the calculations above.

If you are in any doubt as to the application of these Player Eligibility Rules, please ensure to validate with the PESC prior to your team selection.

- 3.5) Any player shall not be eligible to play for the same Member Club in more than one TVCL (or HCPCL) Match on the same day, other than as a substitute fielder.

The “same day” shall mean for these procedures the “same Round of Fixtures”. Example a player is not eligible to play on a Saturday and then again on the Sunday, for a match reschedule from the same Saturday. Any breach of this rule will be subject to the penalty in Clause 6.1 B.

*(A player may umpire or score in a TVCL Match other than the one in which they have already played, subject to the agreement of both Captains of the subsequent TVCL Match in which they are seeking to officiate in.)*

- 3.6) Any player suspended by their Member Club, any league or any cricketing governing body shall not be eligible to play, umpire or score in any TVCL Matches until such suspension is duly served and all fines (if any) have been paid.

#### **4. INTER CLUB TRANSFER**

- 4.1) An Inter Club Player Transfer Form (available on the TVCL website) is required to be completed should any player wish to move between TVCL Member Clubs at **ALL** times.

The completed Transfer Form shall be submitted to PESC via the TVCL website to ensure the player’s record is migrated for the match reporting requirements of the new Member Club.

A player from a Member Club may only transfer to another Member Club and be eligible to play for their new club in a TVCL Match only once **ALL** the following conditions have been met and the PESC has confirmed their approval and commencement date of eligibility to both Member Clubs.

- A) Fifteen calendar days shall have passed in that TVCL Season, since the player participated in their last TVCL Match for their current Member Club, before the player is eligible to play for the new Member Club;
  - B) No Transfers will be accepted after the End of July for that TVCL Season (*should the player have played in the TVCL or HCPCL during that season*);
  - C) A player may only Transfer once, during a TVCL Season;
  - D) The PESC has received the completed transfer form by the player, and also completed by both Member Clubs involved; and
  - E) Confirmation has been received that the transferring player has discharged all financial and other obligations to their former club(s) and/or league(s).
- 4.2) The above procedure need not apply to any Player who has not played for a Member Club in the TVCL (or HCPCL or lower league) in the current and in either of the previous two completed Seasons. Instead, they can be treated for the purposes of Clause 5 as a ‘New Player’, and although not subject to a mandatory completion of a Transfer Form, the Player/New Club shall still be responsible for any incorrect information provided to the TVCL.
- 4.3) Should a Transfer be approved within the HCPCL meaning that player has played for another TVCL Member Club during that season, then that transfer shall also have effect in the TVCL competition, as no player is to represent two TVCL Member Clubs at the same time.

*Note: should the HCPCL Transfer occur after the End of July deadline per 4.1B, then that Player would no longer be eligible to further participate in the TVCL for the remainder of that Season.*

## **5. NEW PLAYERS OR TRANSFERS FROM NON-TVCL CLUBS**

- 5.1) It is expected that any new players are added to the TVCL Website before they play their first TVCL Match.
- 5.2) All players transferring from non-TVCL clubs must first have discharged all financial and other obligations to their former club(s) and/or league(s). The PESC recommend that Member Clubs complete the Inter Club Player Transfer Form for their own records to obtain confirmation of these points.
- 5.3) PESC does not need to acknowledge new arrivals from other leagues, EXCEPT:
- a) if prior approval is required dependant on the players' category, in which case PESC shall confirm their eligibility via the TVCL Website.
  - b) in the last 4 rounds of the season:
    - i) no new players shall be permitted by transfer from a club outside the TVCL.
    - ii) no players shall be permitted to return (transfer back) to the TVCL from another ECB Premier league, if they transferred out of the TVCL to that ECB Premier league prior to the 31<sup>st</sup> July of that season.

## **6. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY PENALTIES**

- 6.1) The penalties for a Team playing any ineligible players (as defined above) will incur a penalty for each and every TVCL Match that included an ineligible player, as listed below:
- A) The loss of all points gained in the TVCL Match, plus the result will be awarded as a "Win" to the opposition, when a Team:
- Plays more than one Category 3 player in the same TVCL Match.
  - Plays more than one Category 2 player in the same TVCL Match.
  - Plays more than two Category 2E (inclusive of any Category 2) players in the same TVCL Match.
  - Plays a non-approved First-Class Cricketer in a TVCL Match below Divisions 2.
  - Plays a non-approved First XI Player (someone who has represented that Member Clubs 1st XI on 10 or more occasions in that Season), in their 2nd or lower XI's.
  - Breaches the strengthening rule in the last 4 Matches of the TVCL Season.
  - Breaches the rule regarding selecting their Teams in strength order.
  - Plays a suspended player.
- B) The loss of all points gained in the TVCL Match, when a Team:
- Plays a non-approved Category 3 player.
  - Plays a non-approved Category 1C player.
  - Plays an U11 player.
  - Plays a non-approved player subject to a Transfer from another Member Club.
  - Plays the same player in 2 Member Club Teams on the same day. (Penalty applies to the second TVCL Match.)

*Note: the players' individual performance in any TVCL Match will not be considered relevant.*

## **7. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS**

The Management Committee has delegated matters regarding player eligibility to the PESC who shall deal with any question relating to or affecting player eligibility in connection with any TVCL Match and shall have the power to impose such penalties as required.

At its own discretion and at any time prior to two weeks after the last TVCL Match of that TVCL Season, the PESC may perform spot checks and request that Member Clubs shall provide within seven calendar days any documentary evidence requested to confirm a player's category in that TVCL Season.

Any disputes on this subject by Member Clubs or Panel Umpires are to be made in writing using the specific complaints procedure below.

In arriving at any decision, the PESC shall follow the procedures laid down in this section regarding Player Eligibility Complaints and Appeals. The PESC shall not seek approval from the Management Committee regarding its deliberations.

### **7.1 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY COMPLAINTS PROCEDURES**

- A) Any Member Club or Panel Umpire wishing to lodge a complaint regarding the topic of player eligibility must do so by letter signed by, on behalf of a Member Club, by the Club Secretary or their designated deputy, or by the Panel Umpires concerned, addressed to and received by the PESC Chair, or via the TVCL Secretary, within fourteen calendar days of the TVCL Match in which they participated that was related to the complaint.

If regarding Player Transfers, any claim by a club or league(s) that an ex- player owes monies or has outstanding obligations to the club or league(s), must be made in writing with supporting detail and evidence of the claim. The club and or league(s) shall also confirm that all facts have already been presented to the ex- player in writing and that they have failed to pay or make acceptable arrangements to settle outstanding matters within a reasonable time by themselves. The player shall be free to continue to play in TVCL Matches for the Member Club to whom they have transferred until such time as the PESC decides otherwise. Upon review, the PESC shall have the power to ban the player from participating in TVCL Matches until such time as all obligations to the previous club(s) or league(s) have been settled.

- B) Upon receipt of a complaint the PESC Chair shall:
- 1) Acknowledge receipt of the letter either by email, letter or telephone to the Panel Umpires or the Member Club Secretary making the complaint.
  - 2) Contact the Member Club Secretary against whom the complaint has been made (or the Chair if the Secretary is unavailable), informing them of the complaint.
  - 3) Send a copy of the letter of complaint to the Member Club concerned, together with a request to provide any necessary evidence for consideration of the complaint.
  - 4) Advise the Member Club as to the penalties which would be applied should the complaint made be upheld, or for failure to comply with the request.

- C) All evidence collated by the Member Club must be addressed to the PESC Chair within seven calendar days of the date of first being notified of the complaint. Also, when supplying any evidence, the Member Club will at that time of responding to the complaint have the right to request to attend the hearing.
- D) In the event of a Member Club against whom a complaint has been made failing to comply with the above provision by the eighth calendar day, a £25 fine will be applied. Failure to respond by the fifteenth calendar day will result in a doubling of the fine. A failure to respond by the twenty second calendar day will result in the complaint being upheld and any penalty advised in the original complaint notification being applied with immediate effect without a hearing taking place.
- E) As soon as the evidence requested has been received the PESC shall convene a hearing, to consider the matter and pronounce judgement within seven calendar days. A minimum of three persons of the PESC are required for any such hearing to be quorate. Though not previously requested by the Member Club, where the PESC feels that it is appropriate, the Member Club may still be invited to attend the hearing.
- F) Following the hearing any decision by the PESC shall be communicated in writing to either Member Club or Panel Umpire who raised the complaint, and to the Member Club about whom the complaint was made. Should the complaint be upheld, then any penalties will be documented. In the event that the Member Club has put in a defence to any complaint, any decision of the PESC will be detailed.
- G) The PESC shall have the power to suspend the implementation of any part, or all, of the penalty it imposes for such period and subject to such terms and conditions it deems appropriate.
- H) The decision of the PESC, if no appeal is made against the original decision within the permitted timescales, shall be final and binding, and applied with immediate effect.

## 7.2 **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY APPEALS PROCESS**

- A) The Member Club shall have the right to appeal against a decision of the PESC.
- B) Notice of appeal, setting out the grounds, must be given in writing to the TVCL Secretary within fourteen calendar days of the notification of the said decision, together with a deposit of £250 payable to the TVCL. If the appeal is upheld or the decision varied, part of or all the deposit may at the Management Committee's discretion be refunded.
- C) Upon receiving notice of appeal, any penalty imposed by the original decision shall not take effect pending the hearing of the appeal.
- D) The appeal shall be in the way of a hearing by the Management Committee. Except that the members of the PESC that made the decision which is the subject of the appeal shall only be represented by the PESC Chair or their nominee. The PESC Chair or nominee shall be permitted to take part in the proceedings but shall be required to retire when the Management Committee makes its decision. The Management Committee may also, at its sole discretion, request other parties to attend the hearing and give evidence.
- E) The Member Club shall have the right of attendance and may call witnesses in support provided that the witnesses have made written depositions of their evidence to the PESC that were made as part of the original hearing.



- F) The Management Committee may confirm, vary (which shall include the power to increase or decrease penalties) or reverse the decision. It shall also have the power, where it considers the appeal to be frivolous, vexatious or lacking in merit, to order the deposit to be forfeited.
- G) After the appeal hearing, any decision made by the Management Committee shall be final and binding.

### **7.3 NON-PAYMENT OF FINES**

Any fines levied under these procedures will be payable as per the Discipline, Complaints and Appeals Procedures on Non-Payment of Fines.