



## YPLN Covid-19 Contingencies

The YPLN season is planned to commence on Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> April, although this will of course be subject to the Government roadmap conditions being met and the ECB announcing that cricket can start.

As last year, clubs need to produce a Covid Risk Assessment and Plan. We do not require evidence that you have done this but you will need to produce it if there is an issue.

### **NOTES – From the ECB Roadmap**

From 29<sup>th</sup> March: outdoor cricket allowed (Max 30 participants), changing rooms and showers closed, toilets may be open, no spectators, no provision of teas

From 12<sup>th</sup> April (Decision 5<sup>th</sup> April): outdoor cricket allowed (Max 30 participants), changing rooms and showers closed, toilets may be open, spectators allowed but must socially distance and must not come into contact with the ball, no provision of teas but outdoor food and beverage areas may be open (rule of 6 or two households rule applies)

From 17<sup>th</sup> May (Decision 12<sup>th</sup> May): as above with the addition that indoor food and beverage areas may be open (rule of 6 or two households rule applies)

From 21<sup>st</sup> June (Decision 14<sup>th</sup> June): Step 4 – details to be announced

### **Contingency Plans**

Given the heavy caveats attached to the dates in the Government's Roadmap we have decided to publish contingency plans to hopefully provide clarity to clubs in terms of the season to come, and what would happen if there was a delay in the start date, or interruptions during the season.

Our strategy is designed to be flexible and adaptable, being based on seeking to secure as much cricket as possible, but doing so informed by the ECB and Government.

### **Contingency 1A**

Should the ECB determine that recreational cricket can start to be played immediately on or after the 29<sup>th</sup> March the League programme would be played as already published i.e. a full season with the opening day's fixtures being played on the 24<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Contingency 1B**

See under other issues – 'Beginning of the season travel restrictions' for the alternative strategy that would possibly be adopted if travel restrictions dictated.

### **Contingency 2**

Should the ECB determine that recreational cricket can only start to be played from the 1<sup>st</sup> May then the fixtures originally scheduled for the weekend of the 24<sup>th</sup> April would be moved to be played on the weekend of the 18<sup>th</sup> September for the Y&DSCL Divisions and a suitable Sunday for the ECB Premier League. The First Division Play-Off would be moved to Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Contingency 3**

Should the ECB determine that recreational cricket can only start to be played from some date in May or early June, then the fixtures originally scheduled for the weekend of the 24<sup>th</sup> April would be moved as per Contingency 2. All fixtures scheduled for May or June prior to the re-start date would be classified as draws.

### **Contingency 4**

Should the ECB determine that recreational cricket can only start to be played from mid-June then the fixtures will be re-drafted so that each team plays every other team in its division just once home or away.

**NB** – it should be noted that in the case of contingency 3 being invoked any league fixtures originally scheduled during the period where fixtures are lost and re-arranged to be played at a date later in the season will not be played – this to ensure uniformity in the way any scheduled fixtures lost are treated.

### **Promotion and Relegation (At least 16 matches per team)**

For 2021 only, because of restrictions placed on the Yorkshire Academy by ECB, they will not be relegated from the ECB Premier League. If they finish in one of the bottom two places then only the other team finishing in the bottom two will be relegated and only one team will be promoted from the Y&DSCL Premier Division. If the Yorkshire Academy finish above the bottom two places then the 'two up, two down' rule will apply.

As per the decision made at the 2019 AGM, the bottom 3 teams will be relegated from the Y&DSCL Premier League to be replaced by the winners of each First Division plus the winner of a play-off between the 2 runners-up (see Playing Condition 18). The bottom 3 teams will be relegated from each of the First Divisions to be replaced by the top 2 teams in each of the Second Divisions.

A top 2 teams up / bottom 2 teams down system will operate in the rest of the league with the exception that 3 teams will be relegated from Division 2 Ebor and Division 3 Ebor to accommodate Fairburn 1<sup>st</sup> XI joining the League in Division 2 Ebor for 2022. Fairburn 2<sup>nd</sup> XI will join Division 4 Ebor.

### **Promotion and Relegation (Less than 16 but more than 10 matches per team)**

The following modified approach will apply:

YPLN – bottom team relegated (or 2<sup>nd</sup> bottom if the Academy finish bottom)

Y&DSCL Prem – top team promoted, bottom 2 teams relegated

Y&DSCL 1<sup>st</sup> Divisions – top team in each division promoted, bottom team in each division plus the loser of a play-off between the two second bottom teams relegated

Y&DSCL 2<sup>nd</sup> Divisions and below – top team promoted, bottom team relegated with the exception that the bottom 2 teams will be relegated from Division 2 Ebor and Division 3 Ebor to accommodate Fairburn 1<sup>st</sup> XI joining the League in Division 2 Ebor for 2022. Fairburn 2<sup>nd</sup> XI will join Division 4 Ebor.

### **Promotion and Relegation (Less than 11 matches per team)**

If it is not possible for every team to have a fixture against every other team in the division, there will be no promotion or relegation.

**NB:** The numbers of matches quoted above relate to divisions of 12 teams and include fixtures which are not concluded because of weather. If, for example, a large number of fixtures are cancelled because of rain, then they will be counted as fixtures and points awarded accordingly as they would in a normal season.

The decision on what promotion and relegation takes place will be determined by the number of fixtures in divisions of 12 and will apply to the whole league. If, for example, 16 matches are played in the divisions where there 12 teams and some teams in divisions with less than 12 teams have only played 15 matches then full promotion and relegation will take place. If necessary, average points per match will be used to determine promotion and relegation.

### **Cup Competitions**

If necessary, the ECB Premier League T20 Blast and the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the Hunters Cup will be re-scheduled and the latest dates for completion of the early rounds of the Readman and Conner competitions will be revised. In exceptional circumstances where it becomes impossible to schedule any or all of these competitions, they will be cancelled.

### **Other Issues**

***Teams dropping out:*** If any club feels that they will not be able to field one of their teams in a league competition at all, this will be understood, and there will be no financial penalties. The League must be notified of this decision by Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at the latest. Their scheduled fixtures will become null and void and they will be automatically relegated, if appropriate.

***Concessions:*** If a game is conceded, League Rules will apply, but the team conceding will not be subject to any financial penalties.

***Covid Cancellations:*** If a team has to withdraw from a fixture because of a Covid outbreak and/or the loss of a significant number of players due to isolation requirements such that they are unable to fulfil their commitments, then any league match affected in this way would be treated as a void game and removed from the fixture list. In any division affected in this way the average points per game will be used as the deciding factor for promotion and relegation rather than total points.

This regulation seeks to ensure the safety of the club and their opponents is the primary concern – with promotion and relegation operating the regulation is there to try and ensure players and clubs make the right decision and are not tempted to take risks with their health and the health of others.

Any club calling a game off for this reason would be required to provide appropriate evidence. If it is subsequently established that the club cancelling the match provided incorrect information in order to gain an advantage then the club would be subject to sanctions under the ECB's Special Measures.

***Beginning of the season travel restrictions:*** The ECB are currently waiting for the Government to make a decision on travel, which they are likely to do after the 22<sup>nd</sup> March, when they decide whether or not we can move to the next Government Roadmap step.

It is for leagues to make their own decisions but the ECB recommend consideration is given to possible travel restrictions at the start of the season. If it was determined that travel restrictions are too onerous to follow the published league fixture list in April (and possibly into May) then in that event consideration will be given to the start of the league programme being delayed with another competition based on geographical criteria established for the period of the restrictions which will allow cricket to be played by the majority.

In such circumstances the league programme would recommence as soon as it was possible to do so with the fixtures originally scheduled for the weekend of 24<sup>th</sup> April moved to be played on the weekend of the 18<sup>th</sup> September. Any other delayed fixtures would be classified as draws.

***Mid-season regional lockdowns or onerous travel restrictions:*** The Government have warned that if circumstances dictate there could be the need to impose local or regional restrictions in the coming months. In the event that local Covid restrictions are applied by the Government at any stage of the summer that prevent some teams from different areas playing against each other, and Covid protocols are

not available to mitigate the restrictions, then consideration *may* be given to the league programme being paused with another competition based on geographical criteria established for the period of the restrictions which will allow cricket to continue to be played by the majority. In such circumstances the league programme would recommence as soon as it was permissible to do so.

***Mid-season full lockdowns:*** In the event of the Government declaring a full national lockdown later in the summer, or what some refer to as a short 'circuit breaker', then if these particular scenarios required recreational sport to be suspended our fixture programmes would have to be halted until such time as the ECB confirmed they could re-start.

Clearly it is impossible to cover every eventuality but, providing it is practical to do so, the league programmes would recommence at the earliest opportunity, and any games 'lost' to the lockdown would not be able to be re-arranged other than if the 18<sup>th</sup> September mentioned elsewhere was still available. In that case it would be utilized by re-arranging the first weekend of 'lost' lockdown fixtures to it.

***Breaches of Covid Regulations:*** ECB are aware that a significant number of reported breaches of Covid regulations last season jeopardised the continued playing of recreational cricket for all concerned. They have published Special Measures for non-compliance and YPLN will not hesitate to apply them if necessary.

### **Clarity**

As in 2020, we would once again want to stress that this strategy is not set in stone, but is designed to be easily adjusted if circumstances dictate or allow – the fact is, none of us truly knows.

You have made it very clear that you appreciated what was put in place for 2020 and we are trying to operate in a similar vein of clarity and transparency. In truth there are more imponderables in 2021 than there were last year - extraordinary circumstances prevail and it is almost impossible to cover every eventuality on this occasion.....although we have tried!

It is important that we closely follow ECB guidance and expert advice, and we will most certainly keep you informed as time passes.

Please continue to keep yourself and everyone safe.