



## LEAGUE MANAGEMENT RULES

(Updated April 2022)

1	<p><b>Title</b></p> <p>1.1 The combination of clubs will be called ‘ECB YORKSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE NORTH’ which may be preceded by a sponsor’s name if appropriate and will be hereinafter referred to as ‘The League’.</p>
2	<p><b>Management</b></p> <p>2.1 All aspects of the YPLN will be the ultimate responsibility of the Yorkshire Premier Leagues’ Management Board (YPLMB).</p> <p>2.2 The League will be administered by a Management Board which will comprise the following Executive Officers: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, General Manager, Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Disciplinary Chairman, Results Secretary, Fixture Secretary, Grounds &amp; Facilities Chairman, Registration Secretary, League Welfare Officer, YCB Director, YPLMB Representative. Non-Executive Officers will include: Annual Dinner Secretary, Umpires’ Panel Chairman, Representative Teams Manager, Rules Secretary, Honorary Solicitor, Honorary Auditor, Assistant Secretaries and Divisional Representatives (co-opted as necessary).</p> <p>2.3 All Executive Officers will be elected annually at the AGM. The positions of Chairman and Secretary must be approved by the YPLMB. Nominations for the other Executive Officers should be submitted to the Secretary by October 1<sup>st</sup> each year. Non-Executive Officers will be appointed by the Management Board who will also have the power to co-opt Assistant Secretaries and appoint Sub-Committees as necessary.</p> <p>2.4 In order for a meeting of the Management Board to be quorate a minimum of four members must be present.</p>
3	<p><b>Member Clubs</b></p> <p>3.1 Member clubs (or teams) will be elected by a simple majority. Membership will be in respect of the club’s first team. Clubs will only be eligible for membership if their ground fully meets the criteria laid down in respect of Grounds &amp; Facilities. There will be no limit to the number of teams from an individual club but third and subsequent teams will only be eligible for membership from a club whose second ground fully meets these criteria. Clubs with teams in one or more of the other ECB Premier Leagues will not be eligible for membership.</p> <p>3.2 The YPLMB will have the right to terminate the membership of club from the ECB Premier League where, in their opinion, the general conduct and administration of the club concerned is unsatisfactory or where the club has brought the League into serious disrepute or the club has failed to meet the League’s mandatory ground and facilities or Clubmark criteria. Fourteen days’ notice of any such proceedings must be provided to the secretary of the club concerned, which will have the right of appeal to the YPLMB within this period.</p> <p>3.3 The Management Board will consider the position of those clubs which fail to meet the minimum required standards in respect of Facilities, Ground Marks, Disciplinary Record and Administrative standards and will notify any club of the requirement to seek re-election no later than 30th September. Such clubs will be required to submit a written application no later than 7th October which will contain a ‘Plan of Action’ designed at addressing the failure leading to the re-election situation. Failure to apply within the fixed time scale will be interpreted as resignation from the League by default.</p>

	3.4	Teams moving into the League from official feeder leagues may join following the end of their current season. Clubs wishing to join from 'non-feeder' leagues will follow the procedure laid down by the YPLMB, and will be considered at the first available AGM.
	3.5	The Management Board will allocate new teams to an appropriate Division one year in advance and promotion and relegation within the lower Divisions will be adjusted accordingly.
	3.6	The acceptance of a new club will be on a two-year probationary basis and subject to an end-of-season assessment. Failure to meet the League's requirements may result in membership of the League being cancelled.
	3.7	Clubs wishing to resign from the ECB Premier League should give notice in writing to the secretary by 30 <sup>th</sup> June and must fulfil all fixtures and financial obligations for the following season. Failure to comply with this requirement will render the club to a £1000 penalty. This requirement does not apply to teams being relegated.
	3.8	All clubs must keep fully up to date on an ongoing basis the contact details of all Officers, Captains, and general club details on their Play-Cricket site.
	3.9	The League and its member clubs will operate the following: Whilst respecting player qualification regulations, membership will be open to all irrespective of age, gender, disability, race, ethnic origin, colour, social status and sexual orientation.
<b>4</b>	<b>Annual General Meeting</b>	
	4.1	The Annual General Meeting will be held no later than December each year. The League Secretary will notify all clubs of the AGM, giving 28 days' notice.
	4.2	Attendance at the Annual General Meeting is voluntary, voting is mandatory.
	4.3	The business of the Annual General Meeting will be determined by the Management Board who may propose changes to either League Rules or playing conditions. Any club may propose changes to League Rules or playing conditions, but proposals for changes to playing conditions for the ECB Premier Division can only come from current ECB Premier Division clubs. Any club wishing to submit proposals for the Annual General Meeting should submit them to the secretary by 30 <sup>th</sup> September each year. The Management Board will be empowered to make changes to rules covering the administration of the League.
	4.4	Voting Procedure:
	4.4.1	All clubs must vote in advance by e-mail submission in a process as directed by the secretary or appointed deputy.
	4.4.2	All clubs are entitled to one vote per club on every resolution or matter coming before the meeting except for; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• those relating to the ECB Premier League playing conditions which will be voted on only by clubs who will have a team in the ECB Premier League in the following season</li> <li>• those relating to playing conditions at other Levels of the League where the proposing club has proposed that they are voted on only by clubs who will have teams playing at those Levels in the following season.</li> </ul>
	4.4.3	Executive Officers as listed in Rule 2.1 will have full voting rights except for proposed changes to the ECB Premier League playing conditions. Any person holding more than one position will only have one vote.
	4.4.4	Any club failing to cast a vote will suffer a penalty as specified in the 'Schedule of Administrative and Other Penalties'.
	4.4.5	All matters voted upon will be decided by a simple majority with the Chairman having a casting vote in the event there not being a majority.
	4.5	Any decision made at the Annual General Meeting will be binding.
<b>5</b>	<b>Other Meetings</b>	
	5.1	The secretary or appointed deputy will convene meetings at such times as is deemed necessary or within seven days of the receipt of a request from any 50% of member clubs. Three clear days' notice of all meetings will be given to clubs by the League secretary or appointed deputy.
	5.2	Attendance at any meeting that is designated as an 'Extraordinary General Meeting' is voluntary, voting is mandatory.

	5.3	The voting procedure at an Extraordinary General Meeting will be as for an Annual General Meeting.
	5.4	A Pre-Season Meeting (or a series of regional meetings) will be held each year when attendance is mandatory.
	5.5	Any club failing to attend a Pre-Season General Meeting will suffer a penalty, as specified in the 'Schedule of Administrative and Other Penalties.
<b>6</b>	<b>Finance</b>	
	6.1	Each team will pay an annual subscription of an amount as agreed at the Annual General Meeting plus relevant YCB Affiliation fees. This amount must be paid to the Treasurer within 14 days of the date of issue of the invoice. Any club failing to make payment by the stipulated date will suffer a penalty.
	6.2	Clubs with teams in the Championship and First Divisions covered by the Umpires' Panel are required to pay a further amount in respect of their expenses. This amount must be forwarded to the Treasurer within 14 days of the date of issue of the invoice. Any club failing to make payment by the stipulated date will suffer a penalty.
	6.3	The payment of League fees by a club indicates the acceptance by the club of the authority of the Management Board and represents the club's commitment to abide by the League Rules and the League Disciplinary Rules and Procedures.
	6.4	The financial year will run from 1 <sup>st</sup> October to 30 <sup>th</sup> September each year.
	6.5	The treasurer will distribute an agreed portion of ECB funding to clubs which have teams in the ECB Premier Division each season as agreed by the Management Board. Such funds will be withheld where a club has failed to take the actions required of them, for example, failure to submit reports, or to use the correct player registration process.
	6.6	A club ceasing to be a member of the League for any reason will at once forfeit automatic rights to any distributions from the League's assets. Relegated teams will receive ECB funding only for the most recent season, if applicable.
<b>7</b>	<b>Merit Table</b>	
	7.1	Clubs will be assessed and marked with regard to facilities, ground marks, submission of results, scorecards, captain's reports, and sportsmanship marks where applicable.
	7.2	Any team which suffers a total of 250 or more merit table points deduction will be required to seek re-election.
	7.3	Clubs are required to ensure that the marking of grounds and umpires (where appropriate) is undertaken by a responsible person using the appropriate guidelines.
	7.4	<p>The League will be empowered to require any club/team to seek re-election if such club/team is considered to be unable to function at the appropriate level, and to make an appropriate recommendation to the AGM. In arriving at its recommendation, the Management Board will consider every aspect of the club/team's performance in relation to grounds and facilities, administration, discipline, playing strength, sustainability and any other relevant aspect. The League will assess clubs during the season and will then work in partnership with those clubs who are considered to be below standard with the aim of raising their profile to an acceptable level. In the event of any club remaining below standard, the League will identify such clubs at the Annual General Meeting and seek the backing of the member clubs for their recommendations which may include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. One year's probation subject to improvements being made in specified areas.</li> <li>ii. One year's notice of termination of membership of the League.</li> <li>iii. Immediate termination of membership</li> </ol>

<b>8</b>	<b>Allocation of Teams</b>
	8.1 The League will operate a number of Levels, each with its own playing regulations and criteria.
	8.2 At the end of each season the Management Board will assess the credentials of all teams who have qualified to play at each level in the following season. If, in their opinion, they consider that a team be inadequately equipped to compete at a that level, any such team will be relegated or, if due for promotion, not promoted.
	8.3 Each Division will comprise 12 teams where practical.
	8.4 Where there are 12 teams in a Division, each team will play each other team twice on a home and away basis. In Divisions where there are not 12 teams, clubs will play each other team at least once but may meet opponents on two or three occasions in order to ensure a full and meaningful fixture programme.
	8.5 The League Management can move teams to different divisions at the same level in order to balance divisions
	8.6 Where there is more than one Division at any Level, the Divisions will reflect, where possible, clubs' geographical locations in order to reduce travel.
<b>9</b>	<b>Fixtures</b>
	9.1 All matches will be arranged by the officers of the League, and the fixture list will be maintained.
	9.2 In exceptional circumstances, matches may be played on a ground other than that specified in the fixture list. The alternative ground and facilities must fulfil the criteria set down by the Management Board and the club wishing to re-locate a fixture must obtain permission, at least 7 days in advance, from the secretary or deputy. No venue switch may be implemented without prior approval. The re-location of a match solely due to unfitness of grounds will not normally be permissible.
	9.3 In the Premier, Championship, and First Divisions, matches may only be re-scheduled in exceptional circumstances such as involvement in a national competition or ground unavailability due to a commitment to a county match and with the agreement of the Fixture Secretary. In the Second Division and below matches may be re-scheduled only after agreement has been reached with the Fixture Secretary. The re-scheduled match will be subject to the normal rules relating to cancelled matches and may not be re-arranged due to a weather cancellation. All re-scheduled matches must be completed prior to the last day of the normal League fixture calendar.
	9.4 Clubs must check all fixtures for anomalies when they are issued. Any issues detected must be reported to the Fixture Secretary within 14 days of the date of issue, at the latest. Issues found after this date will have to be resolved by the club(s) concerned.
<b>10</b>	<b>Promotion and Relegation</b>
	10.1 Promotion and relegation will operate throughout the League as follows:
	10.1.1 The bottom two teams in the ECB Premier Division will be relegated to the Championship and be replaced by the top two teams from the Championship.
	10.1.2 The bottom three teams in the Championship will be relegated to Level 3 and be replaced by the top team from each First Division plus the winner of a play-off between the two runners-up.
	10.1.3 The bottom three teams in each First Division will be relegated to Level 4, and be replaced by the top two teams in each Second Division.
	10.1.4 The bottom two teams in each Second Division will be relegated to Level 5 and be replaced by the top two teams in each Third Division.
	10.1.5 The bottom two teams in each Third Division will be relegated to Level 6 and be replaced by the top two teams in each Fourth Division.
	10.1.6 In regions where there is Fifth Division, the bottom two teams in each Fourth Division will be relegated to Level 7 and be replaced by the top two teams in each Fifth Division.
	10.1.7 Promoted York Vale teams will enter the League at Level 6, allocated geographically.
	10.1.8 Promoted Nidderdale League teams will enter into either Galtres or Ebor Second Division.

10.2	Where teams are equal on points at the end of the season, league table precedence shall be determined by virtue of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. the team gaining most outright victories</li> <li>ii. the team gaining the higher number of points, including bonus points, in the two league matches between the two teams</li> <li>iii. the team gaining the highest total bonus points in the season</li> </ul>
10.3	A club will have the right not to be promoted into the ECB Premier League if they so wish. Any club declining promotion, unable to be promoted due to a more senior team already being in the ECB Premier League, or leaving the League other than due to normal relegation will be replaced by promoting the next highest qualifying club.
10.4	Where a team is due for promotion to the same Level as a higher team from the same club, promotion will not take place unless the teams can be allocated to different Divisions within that Level. In such circumstances the higher placed team due to be relegated in the normal manner will retain its current Divisional status.
10.5	Where a team is due for relegation to the same Level as a lower team from the same club, both teams will, where possible, be allocated to different Divisions within that Level. If that is not possible, the lower team will be relegated to the next Level too and the higher placed team due to be relegated from the Division where the lower team has been relegated from will retain its place in that Division.
10.6	Where the relegation of a team or the prevented promotion of a team results in a club having two teams operating within the bottom Level, the Management Board will agree the best course of action with the club concerned. The object will be to avoid a situation where a club has two teams in the same Division whilst, at the same time, ensuring that each team operates in a viable league environment in order to ensure the team's survival.
10.7	Where a new club has been allocated to a Division other than the bottom Division, the Management Board will decide how promotion and relegation will be affected. Clubs will be informed of the effect not later than the Pre-Season General Meeting.
10.8	Where a team is not promoted due to ground and/or facility issues, the next placed team (down to and including the 4th placed team) meeting the required criteria will be promoted. Should none of the top four teams be in a position to be promoted the Management Board will decide the best way forward.
<b>11</b>	<b>Safeguarding</b>
11.1	Clubs must comply with the ECB Child Protection Policy requirements relating to junior players.
11.2	Each club is required to appoint an approved Club Safeguarding Officer (CSO) who is fully compliant with current ECB requirements, including current DBS clearance, and will ensure that the ECB's requirements are met within the club. Details of CWOs must be kept up to date on the club's Play-Cricket site.
11.3	The League will appoint a Safeguarding Officer (LSO) who will be a member of the Management Board. The LWO will be responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maintaining a Register of Club Welfare Officers.</li> <li>- Arranging training for Club Welfare Officers.</li> <li>- All administrative duties relating to Welfare.</li> <li>- Fulfilling the role of Club Welfare Officer for League Representative matches and other League activities involving juniors.</li> </ul>
11.4	Clubs who host League Representative Matches or Cup Finals must ensure that a CWO is in attendance for the duration of the match.
<b>12</b>	<b>Presentation of Trophies</b>
12.1	When the winning team of each Division has been determined, arrangements for the presentation of trophies will be made by the League and representatives of the clubs concerned.
12.2	Any club or individual winning a League trophy is responsible for its safekeeping and will be required to compensate for any loss or damage. Winners must arrange adequate insurance cover and must have the trophy appropriately engraved. Where a trophy is returned without being properly engraved, the Management Board will make a charge of £25 to cover cost of engraving and associated costs.

	12.3	All trophies, having been suitably engraved, must be returned to the League as and when requested by the secretary in order to be available for presentation to the new winners. Failure to return engraved trophies by the required date will result in a penalty and recovery costs. The Management Board reserves the right to charge clubs for damage sustained to trophies and lack of engraving.
<b>13</b>	<b>Discipline</b>	
	13.1	The General Conduct Regulations of the League will operate in all matches under the jurisdiction of the League and clubs are required to ensure that all players, officials and members act within these rules at all times. This requirement also applies to compliance with the England & Wales Cricket Board's 'Code of Conduct', Spirit of Cricket and Anti-Racism & Race Equality Statements.
	13.2	All clubs must possess an approved set of "Club Disciplinary Rules and Procedures", which must be sent immediately by email to the Disciplinary Officer in the event of a disciplinary issue.
	13.3	In the event of an incident involving one of their members, clubs are required to conduct a Disciplinary Hearing within seven days after receiving notice of the alleged offence from the appointed Disciplinary Officer. Any penalties imposed must be in accordance with the League's Schedule of Disciplinary Penalties.
	13.4	Upon conclusion of the Disciplinary Hearing, the club must immediately advise the League Disciplinary Officer of the decision and of the penalty imposed, and forward a copy of the minutes of the club's disciplinary hearing.
	13.5	The Management Board will invoke a Disciplinary Hearing if they consider the action taken by the club to be inadequate.
	13.6	The Management Board may impose a summary penalty where it is considered such a penalty is both appropriate and adequate.
<b>14</b>	<b>Administration</b>	
	14.1	Club officials are required to perform a number of administrative tasks throughout the course of the year. These primarily involve secretaries, treasurers and captains. Further information can be found in the 'Guidance' section of the League Website under General Information.
	14.2	There are penalties for failing to fulfil administrative tasks and a document outlining these can be found in the 'Disciplinary Documents' section of the League Website under General Information. These penalties will be applied by the appropriate League Official where appropriate and clubs will be notified.
	14.3	Clubs receiving an administrative penalty have the right to appeal. Such an appeal must be submitted to the League Secretary within 7 days of the date of the notice of the penalty along with a non-refundable administration charge of £100. If the appeal involves safeguarding or ineligible players, the administration charge will be higher.
<b>15</b>	<b>Protests</b>	
	15.1	Any club lodging a protest (other than a disciplinary issue) against another club or other issue should send such protest to the secretary or deputy by email within 48 hours of the end of the match where applicable, together with the amount as per the schedule of administrative penalties. The amount required will be an administration charge which is not refundable. Where a protest fails there may also be a further charge to cover expenses.
	15.2	All protests will be considered by a panel put together by the Management Board. Clubs have a right to appeal to a further independent panel appointed by the Management Board. There will be a minimum administration charge of £150 plus expenses for any appeal hearing.
	15.3	In the case of a dispute, representatives of the club, or clubs, concerned will be eligible to attend the hearing but will not be allowed to vote.
	15.4	The Management Board may call on any club to produce their DBS Register, Minute Book, Cash Book or Score Book to prove the bona-fides of any player against whom a protest has been made.

<b>16</b>	<b>Ground Inspections</b>
	16.1 A Ground Inspection Team will visit all grounds whom the Grounds & Facilities Committee feel have dropped below the required criteria, and will be empowered to suspend grounds which are considered to be unfit.
	16.2 During the course of the season further inspections will be made if clubs have received adverse ground marks or unfavourable reports. Clubs will be charged travel expenses for such extra visits.
	16.3 The Grounds & Facilities Chairman will inform the club concerned of any recommendations for improvement and a report will be received from the club within one month regarding the carrying out of such recommendations. If such recommendations are not carried out, the matter will be referred to the AGM for its decision.
16.4 All clubs' facilities will be assessed during the season by League Appointed Assessors and marks will be incorporated into the Merit Table. Clubs will be advised of shortcomings at the end of the season.	
<b>17</b>	<b>Expulsion from and re-admission to the League</b>
	17.1 Expulsion due to serious breaches of League Rules or Disciplinary Rules. The Management Board will have the power to seek the expulsion of any club whom they consider to be guilty of a serious breach of the League Rules or the League Disciplinary Rules. In such a situation an Extraordinary General Meeting will be convened at which clubs will consider the Management Board's recommendation and the club's defence and reach a conclusive decision by a majority vote which will be final and binding on all parties. A club which is expelled from the League under such circumstances will not be permitted to re-apply for re-admission to the League for a period of seven years. In order for the re-admission of a former club to be considered, the Management Board must be fully satisfied that the club will enhance the League and that all chances of a repetition of the original transgressions or shortcomings have been eliminated. Any such club will remain on probation for the same number of years that it has been absent from the League.
	17.2 Re-admission to the League i. Any club or team that fails to be re-elected due to inadequate ground or facilities marks will only be eligible to apply for re-admission when such inadequacies have been suitably rectified. ii. Any team that fails to be re-elected due to being placed in the bottom two in the lowest Division may apply for re-admission at the following Annual General Meeting and, if elected, will regain admission providing there is no infringement of Yorkshire Cricket Board Rules relating to 'Transfer of Clubs'. iii. Any club or team which is excluded from the League under Rule 7.4 may apply for re-admission at the following AGM at which time its application will be treated, on merit, as a 'new applicant'.
	17.3 Freedom to Negotiate Any club or team that fails to be re-elected at an Annual General Meeting will be free to negotiate with any other league and accept immediate membership, providing it has fulfilled all financial and disciplinary commitments to the League.
<b>18</b>	<b>League Dinner</b>
	18.1 All member clubs are required to purchase a minimum of two tickets for the Annual Dinner and Presentation Evening, which will be invoiced at the same time as YCB Affiliation Fees.
	18.2 All clubs are required to return the annual dinner booking form to the Dinner Secretary even if it is a 'nil' return.

<b>19</b>	<b>Live Streaming of matches</b>
	19.1 Clubs who wish to Photograph, Live Stream or Record matches (or parts of matches) must follow the guidance given in the document 'ECB Live Streaming Guidance'.
<b>20</b>	<b>League Action</b>
	20.1 The Management Board will be empowered to adjudicate on any alleged infringement of the League Rules and to inflict penalties in accordance with the Schedule of Administrative and Other Penalties. Such action will be in accordance with the operative procedures, including a 'Right of Appeal', that are currently in effect.
	20.2 The Management Board will be empowered to deal with any matter not determined by the League Rules and to take appropriate action, including the imposition of penalties.
<b>21</b>	<b>Dissolution</b>
	21.1 In the event of the dissolution of the League, the Management Board will become the trustees of the assets of the League and will distribute those assets equally to the member clubs at the time of the dissolution.