



Yorkshire Cricket Southern Premier League

www.ycspl.co.uk

Constitution

1. **Title.** The League shall be called the Yorkshire Cricket Southern Premier League (YCSPL), which may be preceded by an agreed sponsor's name.
2. **Aims and objectives.** To work collaboratively with ECB, YCB and the Yorkshire Premier Leagues Management Board (YPLMB) to:
 - i. support and grow the game across South Yorkshire
 - ii. support and encourage take-up of ECB participation initiatives
 - iii. support the development of the ground and facilities standards at all our clubs
 - iv. foster the highest possible playing standards at all levels
 - v. help and support clubs to play at the highest level that they aspire to
3. **Authority.** The YCSPL is owned by its' member clubs and is one of the four constituent Premier Leagues in the Yorkshire Cricket Pyramid. In all matters pertaining to the progression of clubs within the pyramid, the feeder leagues, and the White Rose Yorkshire Championship, it is answerable to the YPLMB. The YCSPL will be solely responsible for all its internal organisational and operational matters, which will be conducted in line with ECB & YCB policies.
4. **Membership.** All clubs who are in South Yorkshire and the surrounding area shall be eligible for membership of the YCSPL. This will include the two former Yorkshire League clubs in North Lincolnshire. All clubs must be primarily affiliated to the Yorkshire (or relevant) Cricket Board. Any club wishing to join the YCSPL should contact the Head of the Senior Section. All transfers of clubs must be conducted in accordance with YCB rules.
5. **Probationary period.** A new club will be required to serve a three-year probation period, during which time membership for the YCSPL may be terminated if the:
 - general conduct and administration of the club is unsatisfactory,
 - club has brought the league into disrepute *or*
 - club fails to comply with league rules and procedures
6. **Organisation.** The YCSPL will be split into two sections – Premier and Senior. The Premier Section will comprise two divisions; the Premier division and the Championship division, each to comprise 12 teams. The Senior Section will be divided into the required number of divisions to accommodate all remaining teams; the aim will be to have 12 teams in each division, but this may need to be varied according to the number of clubs. Promotion and relegation between the divisions will be as laid out in the League administrative rules.
7. **Governance.** The governance of the YCSPL will be the responsibility of a League Executive Board (LEB). The LEB will have responsibility for any issues that are common to the whole league, for setting longer term strategy, and for considering and endorsing any changes to playing conditions proposed by the cricket committees. The chairman of the LEB will consult with the YPLMB on any matter that may have a bearing on:
 - i. the League's Premier League status
 - ii. YCB rules
 - iii. the Yorkshire pyramid structure

8. **Membership of the LEB.** The LEB will comprise a maximum of ten positions in addition to the chairman and including a YCB representative. The specific roles of the LEB members will be detailed in the League administrative rules. The following will apply to all LEB positions, other than the Diversity & Inclusivity (D&I) representative, the Umpires' representative and the YCB representative:
- i. The tenure of board membership will be indefinite, ending when:
 - a member elects to stand down,
 - a member is removed from the LEB for reasons of misconduct, by a majority vote of the other LEB members, *or*
 - a member loses his position following a vote at the AGM
 - ii. In order to ensure that the Premier League status of the league is safeguarded, the constitution of the LEB shall be a minimum of 60/40 split between members who have been nominated by current Premier League clubs (or, as original members, from the former YSPL committee) (60%) and others (disregarding the D&I, umpires and YCB representatives) (40%).
 - iii. Subject to the provisions of 8.ii above, any person may be nominated and seconded for any specific LEB role. Nominations must be made by a proposer and seconder, by 30 September in the year of the AGM. Proposals and nominations must be made either by a club or a member of the LEB.
 - iv. The chairman and one other nominated member of the LEB will represent the League on the YPLMB. Both representatives will be expected to sign up to the YPLMB Code of Conduct for Board members.
 - v. The LEB will elect a vice-chairman from within its members.
 - vi. No LEB members shall hold more than two positions.
9. **Cricket committees.** Responsibility for the administration of the Premier and Senior Sections will be delegated to two cricket committees, one for each section, whose chairmen will be members of the LEB. These will be the:
- i. Premier Section cricket committee – to have responsibility for the rules and playing conditions governing the Premier League and Championship divisions and associated cup competitions, subject to endorsement by the LEB and voting at AGMs as appropriate
 - ii. Senior Section cricket committee – to have responsibility for the day-to-day running, rules and playing conditions governing the Senior Section divisions and associated cup competitions, and for deciding on applications by new clubs to join the league, in accordance with YCB rules; this committee will also include persons responsible for any necessary specific roles, such as Play-Cricket administration, scoring issues, results recording, etc, in the Senior Section
10. **Other roles.** The LEB will be empowered to appoint individuals or sub-committees to take on specific roles that they deem necessary; for example, cup competition organisers, disciplinary manager, functions organiser, PR officer, social media officer, trophy steward, etc.
11. **Inclusion & diversity.** The YCSPL will aim to ensure that its committees reflect the diversity of our clubs. The League will maintain and ensure adherence to an Inclusion & Diversity Policy in line with ECB policies.
12. **Termination of membership.** The LEB will have the right to terminate the membership of any club where they deem that:
- i. despite two formal written warnings, the general conduct and administration of the club concerned is unsatisfactory
 - ii. the club has brought the league into serious disrepute
 - iii. the club has persistently failed to comply with league rules and procedures

A club will have 14 days in which to appeal against such decision to the YPLMB from the date of the decision being notified to them.

13. **Resignation.** A club wishing to resign from the YCSPL to move to another league must:

- i. give notice to the League chairman by email by 30th June in the season before they wish to move
- ii. follow YCB club transfer rules
- iii. fulfil all fixtures and financial obligations for that season – failure to comply with this requirement will render the club liable to penalty

Any club ceasing to be a member of YCSPL for any reason shall at once forfeit automatic rights to any distributions from the League's assets or ECB monies.

14. **Partner league**

- i. The YCSPL's partner league is the Pontefract & District League (P&DCL). A Memorandum of Understanding will be agreed and signed by representatives of both leagues to provide a framework for the relationship between the two.
- ii. The P&DCL Division One champions will have the automatic right to be promoted to the YCSPL Division 1 if they meet all the criteria required by the Senior Section cricket committee.
- iii. If the champions do not wish to be promoted, their place will be offered to the team that finishes in second place, provided they meet all the relevant criteria. Any former P&DCL team that finishes in the relegation positions of Division 1 will return to P&DCL. Any deviation from this arrangement must be agreed by both the YCSPL and P&DCL.

15. **Clubs with more than one team.** Clubs will be allowed to play a maximum of four teams in the League. No more than one team from any club may play in any division, other than in the bottom division in the league. A team may not be promoted into a division if another team from their club will be in that division in the following season. Where a team from a club is relegated into a division in which that club already has a team in the following season, the team already in the lower division will also be relegated.

16. **Changes to constitution and rules**

- i. Clubs may propose changes to the constitution or playing conditions, which will be debated and voted upon at the AGM. Proposals must be notified to the League chairman no later than 31st August, in order that these can be considered by the LEB, and notice given to clubs for debate and vote at the AGM in accordance with paras 17 and 19 below.
- ii. Any proposals from the LEB for changes to the constitution or playing conditions will be notified to clubs for debate and vote at the AGM in accordance with paras 17 and 19 below.
- iii. The LEB will be empowered to make additions and changes to existing league administrative rules and policies. Clubs may request a change of any administrative rule or policy at any time. Any proposed change may, at the discretion of the LEB, be debated and voted on at the AGM.

17. **Annual General Meeting.** An annual general meeting (AGM) of clubs shall be held by 30th November each year. All clubs must attend the AGM; failure to attend may result in a penalty being imposed. The date of the AGM will be set before the start of the season. After the end of the playing season, clubs will be given formal confirmation of the date of the AGM and given three weeks to make any nominations for positions. A minimum of a further three weeks' notice will then be given to the clubs of the agenda and issues that are to be voted on. Business to be conducted at the AGM shall include:

- i. reports from the Chairman, Treasurer, Competitions Manager, heads of the two Sections and any other LEB member as necessary
- ii. election of LEB and cricket committee members where appropriate
- iii. proposals for changes to the constitution and playing conditions in either the Premier Section or the Senior Section
- iv. other relevant business allowed by the Chairman

18. **Extraordinary General Meetings.** Either the LEB or a two-thirds majority of clubs in membership may call for an extraordinary general meeting (EGM) to discuss and vote on a specific issue at any time. Clubs must be given 21 days' notice of the date of the EGM, of the subject matter, and of any proposal to be voted on at the meeting. Any vote will take place in accordance with para 19 below.
19. **Voting at AGMs/EGMs**
 - i. Any changes to the constitution must be passed by a simple majority and will be subject to ratification by the YPLMB.
 - ii. Changes to playing conditions must be passed by a simple majority of the clubs in membership of the divisions affected by the changes in the following season,
 - iii. Each club will be entitled to one vote in any ballot at the AGM.
 - iv. In the event of voting being tied, the Chairman will have a casting vote.
20. **Finance.** The financial year will run from 1st October to 30th September each year. All monies received will be paid into a bank account in the name of the League. Accounts will be maintained using online banking.
21. **ECB funding.** ECB funding will be distributed to clubs in accordance with ECB directives and LEB policies agreed with ECB and notified to clubs. ECB funding may be withheld where a club has failed to take actions required of them.
22. **Subscriptions.** The LEB will have the power to set a club membership subscription, which will be reviewed annually. YCB subscriptions will be collected with League subscriptions, which will be due by 30th April each year.
23. **Penalties.** The YCSPL may impose penalties for failure to follow league rules or directives. Such penalties may take the form of a formal written warning, fine, suspension (in the case of a player), deduction of league points, or expulsion (see 12 above).
24. **Disputes and complaints.** All disputes and complaints will be dealt with in accordance with the dispute procedure laid down in League administrative rules.
25. **Safeguarding.** The League will maintain and adhere to a Safeguarding Policy, in line with current ECB policy, and ensure that all clubs are aware of safeguarding requirements and that all relevant club officers have the necessary checks and training.
26. **Life members.** The LEB may approve proposals for life membership of the League. Life membership may be awarded to persons who have given outstanding service to the YCSPL, its' predecessors, or its' clubs. Life members will be entitled to attend:
 - League general meetings
 - League presentation functions, without charge
 - cup finals organised by the League, and will be entitled to partake of a tea without charge
27. **Dissolution.** In the event of the dissolution of the league, the YPLMB will become the trustees of the assets of the league and will distribute those assets to the member clubs, on a pro rata basis in accordance with the number of teams from each club competing in the League at the time of the dissolution.