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**Southampton Evening Cricket  
League  
Integral Hire Limited**



**INTEGRAL HIRE LTD**

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**Founded 1931**

**RULE BOOK**

**RULES OF THE  
SOUTHAMPTON  
EVENING CRICKET LEAGUE**

**REVISED APRIL 2017**

[www.secl-online.co.uk](http://www.secl-online.co.uk)

Club officers are advised to fully study the Rules as no excuse will be accepted for any failure to abide by them.

## **1 Constitution**

The League shall be called the Southampton Evening Cricket League.

In the event of any sponsorship, the name of such a sponsor may be included at the discretion of the committee.

The term Member used in these rules shall denote a club elected to membership of the League.

## **2 Objectives**

To provide cricket in, or near to the Southampton city boundary; all matches to be played on public grounds where possible.

To promote and protect the interest of cricket.

To co-operate and assist other organisations deemed to have similar objectives as the League.

Consideration of any other means conducive to the realisation of the objective of the League.

## **3 Officers and Management Committee**

The officers of the League shall be the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Results Secretary, Fixtures Secretary, Registration Secretary, Indoor League Secretary and other Officers as required.

The League shall be governed by a Management Committee, hereafter called the Committee, consisting of the appointed Officers of the League, duly elected at the Annual General Meeting.

The Committee shall meet at least four times per year and will be responsible for the government of the League within the constitution and within the League rules; and will act within the League authority in any matter not provided for in the rules.

It may appoint Sub-Committees and an Emergency Committee with power to act in exceptional circumstances. It has the power to co-opt and to fill vacancies arising on the Committee between Annual General Meetings, and to deal with all matters not contained within the rules of the League.

Retiring Officers shall be eligible for re-election without nomination. All other candidates for election shall be nominated in writing by two members, to the League Secretary not later than 31<sup>st</sup> December in each year.

Names of all those nominated shall be circulated with the notice of the AGM. In the event of there being nominations in accordance with the foregoing of any office, nominations may be received at the AGM.

No business shall be conducted by the Committee without a quorum of at least 50% members being present at the AGM.

#### **4 Membership and fees**

The League shall admit to membership any bona-fide club whose entry is approved by the Committee.

The League agrees to extend to such clubs the rights and privileges, such as are prescribed in these rules, and the member club binds itself to meet such responsibilities as the League prescribes in accordance with the provisions of these rules.

Applications for membership shall be sent to the League Secretary, accompanied by a registration fee as advised at the time of seeking membership.

The Committee has power to expel any member from the League; to be effective, the motion for expulsion must be supported by 50% of the Committee present at the Committee meeting.

Clubs who send in applications later than the closing date will not be automatically accepted into the League; they will be considered with any other new applications received for the coming season.

An existing Member failing to make payment of their annual subscription by 30<sup>th</sup> November will not automatically be eligible to enter the League for the following season.

Clubs who have outstanding fines from previous seasons will not, under any circumstances, be accepted back into the League until these fines are paid in full.

Outstanding monetary commitments will ultimately remain the responsibility of the individual club members, who will be liable to a proportion of the amount outstanding.

The Committee shall keep the subscriptions, and will notify Members annually of the rates due for the coming season, along with the rate of pitch fees payable to the League for each game.

Pitch fees must be paid by both teams playing in a particular game, and should be included with the Result Sheet sent to the Results Secretary, in accordance with Rule 15.

Any Member using its own pitch for a home match must still pay the standard pitch fee to the League, as required; any subsequent reimbursement will be as agreed with and detailed by the Committee.

## **5 Resignations**

A club, by prior notice in writing to the League Secretary, may resign at any time, but any resignation or withdrawal by a Member, after the AGM but before the fixtures have been completed for the year, will incur a fine of £20.00 plus any expenses incurred (including pitch fees where applicable).

## **6 Complaints and Appeals**

A Member or registered player has the right of appeal against any decision made against the Member or player by the Committee. Any such appeal must be lodged within 14 days of the notification, accompanied by a fee of £10.00.

Any Member or player wishing to lodge a complaint regarding the playing of a fixture by another Member or player, or other material circumstances, must do so in writing to the League Secretary by the Monday following the day of the incident. The complaint must be accompanied by a fee of £10.00 which will be returned if, after investigation, the Committee considers the complaint justifiable.

Failure to respond in writing within 14 days, when required to do so by League correspondence specific to complaints or appeals, will result in a fine of up to £10.00.

All fines and administration fees as per the rules must be paid to the League Treasurer within 14 days of the date of notice.

Failure to pay as per the rules will render the Member liable to an increase in the amount due, to be determined by the Committee.

## **7 Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting will be held in March or April of each year at a place and time decided by the Committee.

Failure of a Member to be represented and signed in at the AGM will result in a fine of £25.00 and the deduction of 10 penalty points from the Member's league total (as calculated in Rule 24) for the season taking place in the same calendar year. This sanction will **not** be open to appeal by Members as otherwise permitted by Rule 6.

Notice of the AGM, together with proposed alterations to the rules, will be circulated to clubs at least 14 days prior to the AGM.

Proposed alterations to the rules and other proposals will, where necessary, be considered at the AGM, subject to a written notice by a Member and the proposal (seconded by another Member) being received by the League Secretary by 31<sup>st</sup> December preceding the AGM.

The proposer and seconder must be present at the AGM. No proposal to change, delete from or add to the Constitution or the Rules will be deemed carried unless it receives a majority of the votes cast.

No business shall be conducted without a quorum of at least 60% of Members being represented, save that in the case of an adjournment because of the absence of a quorum the business may be conducted at an adjourned meeting by the Members present.

Each Member may have more than one representative at the meeting, but only one may vote. Voting will be by a show of cards or hands, or at the discretion of the Chairman, a ballot shall be taken.

## **8 Extraordinary General Meeting**

An EGM may be called at the discretion of the Committee, or on receipt by the League Secretary of a request signed by at least 60% of Members.

Notice of the EGM and its Agenda shall be circulated to all Members two weeks prior to the EGM. No proposal will be deemed carried unless it receives 60% of the majority of the votes cast.

## **9 Accounts**

A bank account shall be kept in the name of the League at a bank approved by the Committee, into which all monies received on behalf of the League shall be paid by the Treasurer, or other officials responsible.

Accounts for payment will be certified by the League Treasurer and/or Secretary, and cheques therefore will be signed by any two of the following Officers; Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer

The accounts of the League shall be kept by the Treasurer; said accounts shall be audited annually by the Auditor appointed by the Committee.

For the purposes of audit, the accounts shall be closed on 31<sup>st</sup> December of each year.

## **10 Club Information and Correspondence**

Members shall advise the League Secretary of all changes of Club Representative/Secretary, changes of address and telephone contacts and correct post codes.

Failure to advise in writing of any change in a Member club's contact details, resulting in additional administration by the Committee, will result in a fine of £10.00 being levied.

Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 6, failure to respond when required to do so to general League correspondence (e.g. emails from the League Secretary to one or more teams) **within seven days** will result in a fine of £10.00 being levied.

## **11 League Winding Up**

In the event of the League being wound up, a final settlement of accounts will be prepared and audited.

If these accounts reveal a deficit, each Member at the date of winding up, and every Member which ceased membership within the year preceding the date of winding up, shall contribute equally per Member to clear such deficit.

If a surplus is revealed, it shall be given to some other body with objectives similar to those of the League, or if an alternative is necessary, then to some charitable body, preferably connected with cricket.

## 12 **Player registration**

The qualification of a player shall be a bona-fide member of a club and registered on an official registration form.

Players may be registered with one club only. This registration is considered to stand whether or not a registered player actually plays for that club, unless transferred in accordance with Rule 14.

Registration forms must contain the full name and **HOME** address of the player and must be signed by the club secretary and the player. Players under the age of 18 must have parental consent (signed on the registration sheet).

Pre-season bulk registration forms must be in the hands of the **REGISTRATION SECRETARY** at least 14 days prior to the playing of the first League fixture. Failure to do so will result in a fine of up to £20.00.

Up to four players may be signed on the day of a fixture, on the extra registration sheets provided (on the League website), which must be in the hands of the **REGISTRATION SECRETARY** by 6pm on the Monday following the fixture.

**A player must be registered prior to the end of June, and have played in at least three League, Cup or Plate fixtures prior to the end of June, in order to be eligible to play in the semi-final or final of the Cup and Plate competitions during the same outdoor season.**

Forms sent to any other League Officers will not be forwarded for you, and will be considered not to have been received. Registration forms enclosed with Results Sheets will be treated likewise.

Clubs are advised to take a copy of the registration form which will be receipted, provided it is accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

The League takes no responsibility for lost registration documents unless Members can provide a receipted copy as evidence of registration.

## 13 **Ineligible Players**

Clubs playing ineligible players in League matches can be fined up to a maximum of £20.00 for each player, and have all points gained in the match deducted. The match will count as played for the offending side.

The opposition will receive all points gained if winning the match, and shall maintain their average points in losing.

Clubs playing ineligible players in Cup/Plate matches can be fined up to a maximum of £20.00 for each player, and will be expelled from the Competition. Should the offending team have won the game in which the ineligible player took part, then their opponents (the losing team) will be reinstated to the competition, provided that the next round of the competition has not yet taken place.

Repeated offences will result in players and officials of the offending Member being called before the Committee and dealt with as the Committee feels necessary.

Clubs will be notified by the Registration Secretary as soon as possible once the offence is known.

## 14 Player Transfer

A player may transfer from one club to another.

Transfers requests, signed by the secretaries of both clubs involved, should be made in writing to the Registration Secretary, together with a transfer fee of £5.00.

Secretaries should not consent to a player's transfer until the player's financial and other obligations to their existing club have been discharged.

Failure of the player to fulfil financial obligations to their existing club will result in said person not being eligible to play for any other Member until the amount has been paid. The player's existing club must confirm (in writing) to the Committee that all of the transferring player's obligations and liabilities have been properly settled.

## 15 Results and Result Sheets

Result Sheets must be completed in black ink if they are to be faxed or scanned, as blue ink does not fax very well. All sections of the Result Sheet must be completed clearly and in neat block capital letters (to enable accurate reconciliation of results and registration checks).

Results must be submitted on Result Sheets issued by the League.

Fully-completed Result Sheets (including name/initials for all players in the batting order, whether or not they batted) **MUST** be sent by each club to the **RESULTS SECRETARY** (and match fee payment to the Treasurer, if those officials are different people) to be received by post, fax or email no later than 6pm on the Monday following the match.

**FAILURE TO COMPLY WILL RESULT IN A FINE OF £5.00 and (in relation to League fixtures) a deduction of ONE LEAGUE POINT in the first instance. Subsequent failures of this nature during the same season will attract the same with an additional point deduction per subsequent offence (e.g. £5 + two-point deduction for the second instance, £5 + three-point deduction for the three instance).**

**Both** teams need to submit a Result Sheet after a League match, with both sheets to be signed by both teams.

Result sheets are required for all fixtures, whether played or not. e.g. due to rain. Where a match has not been played, a result sheet must be sent stating the reasons for the match not being played.

In addition to the above, each team is required to text the basic result details to the Results Secretary on the evening of the match. The text should include, in the following order:

[Your team – runs and wickets score – number of points earned]

[Opposing team – runs and wickets score – number of points earned]

E.g.

Team A – 109-6 – 19pts

Team B – 88 all out – 6pts

Please also include any notable batting or bowling performance, so that these can be both published and notified to Hampshire Cricket (in the case that Hampshire Cricket operates a reward scheme for player achievements in affiliate leagues).

## 16 Unplayed Fixtures

In the event of a match not being played due to a club not being present by the cut-off time to fulfil a fixture, that club will be fined up to a maximum of £20.00 **plus the full pitch fee**. If a League fixture, the match will count as played for the offending team with zero points awarded.

Once the League and Cup fixture list has been published by the League, clubs are **not permitted** to rearrange fixtures at their own discretion and for any reason, even if both clubs involved in a fixture agree between themselves to do so. All League and Cup fixtures must be played in accordance with the dates, times and locations published or otherwise notified by the Committee to Member clubs. Any fixture played outside such times, dates and locations will count as a fixture played for both teams, but with both teams scoring zero points (i.e. the scoring provisions of Rule 24 will be ignored). In addition, any pitch fees which become due as a result of deliberately playing outside the League fixture calendar will remain payable by the team(s) responsible.

In the event of a pitch deemed to be unfit for play by the Umpires or Captains, a result sheet and report of the circumstances should be sent to the Results Secretary, as per Rule 15.

A League match not started due to inclement weather will neither count as a played fixture nor be replayed.

If inclement weather intervenes during the lead-up to a game that is being played on Council pitches (now run by Active Nation), it is imperative that **only** one representative from each team calls the **Active Nation offices (02380 790 970 or 0300 020 0135)**, and **only** after 4pm. The Active Nation officers will ask for each team's names to match against the SECL fixture list. The Committee considers it reasonable that each team's contact should then pass on the status of the match to their fellow team members.

In the event of widespread inclement weather prior to a match, the Committee may take steps to inform teams if fixtures are called off early. Teams should not rely on this happening in every case.

Where multiple players from a team call the above number to ascertain pitch condition, thereby causing disruption to Active Nation's service, a fine of not less than £10 will be levied by the Committee, with further sanctions (e.g. points deductions) for repeat offenders.

A match started but not completed due to inclement weather will not count as a played fixture, **but the pitch fee remains payable** (unless otherwise notified by the Committee).

## 17 Umpires and Scorers

Each Member in a League match or cup fixture must provide an Umpire and a Scorer, unless otherwise notified by the Committee prior to the fixture.

In the event of an Umpire and/or Scorer not being present, the match will be played under arrangements to be made and agreed by the Captains and the result will count.

## 18 Rules of Play

Clubs must be aware of all Rules of play, and may not make arrangements which are not in accordance with the Rules.

All matches will be of one innings per team, and played under the MCC Laws of Cricket ([2000 Code 6<sup>th</sup> Edition – 2015](#) – ‘the Laws’) unless specified elsewhere in these Rules.

Taking note of the ECB's [Safety Guidance on the Wearing of Cricket Helmets by Young Players](#), all players under the age of 18 years must wear a helmet while batting or standing up to keep wicket, and captains should note the minimum recommended fielding distances for U18 players of differing ages.

## 19 The Match Ball

The ball will be provided (together with any replacement) by the home club and must be acceptable to both captains.

The match ball will be used throughout the match unless a replacement becomes necessary.

A ball of colour other than conventional red can be used in an attempt to aid visibility, **but only if agreed by both captains before the start of the match.**

## 20 The Score Board

The score board must be kept up to date at all times by the batting side and shall include the usual information and overs.

## 21 Innings, bowling and batting

An innings will be of 16 overs' duration. There shall be no declaration of an innings.

In a particular innings, two bowlers may bowl a maximum of **four** overs. All other bowlers used may only bowl a maximum of **three** overs.

In the event of a bowler starting but being unable to complete an over, another eligible bowler will bowl the remainder of the over before 'over' is called. This over will count as a completed over for both bowlers.

Any delivery where **all** of the ball passes to the leg-side of both (a) the striking batsman, and (b) the leg-stump of the striker's wicket, shall be called Wide. In this instance, the umpire does not have the discretion normally allowed under Law 25 (Wide ball) - all such deliveries must be called wide.

Exception: this rule does not apply where the batsman changes their stance from right- to left-handed, or vice versa, at any time after the instant the bowler has entered their delivery stride. When this happens, the normal interpretation of Law 25 (Wide ball) shall apply.

The interpretation of no-balls shall be those conditions specified in the Laws (Law 24 and others), and not local or competition-specific playing conditions unless otherwise notified.

**Specifically, no-balls for full-pitch deliveries should be differentiated on the pace of the delivery (above waist height for medium-paced and quicker deliveries, but above shoulder height for slow/spin bowling); for deliveries bouncing multiple times, a delivery must bounce more than twice to be called no-ball. Both are in accordance with the Laws.**

## 22 Match timings

Games will start at 18:30 hours.

Games may not start after 19:00 hours if delayed by inclement weather.

## 23 Winning Team

The team scoring the greater number of runs will be deemed the winners.

League matches: if scores are equal at the end of the game, then the result will be a tie, regardless of wickets taken.

Cup and Plate competitions only: if scores are equal at the end of the game, then the winners will be the team having lost fewer wickets in their innings. In the event that runs and wickets are equal, the result will be decided via a bowl-off (in traditional 'penalty shootout' format):

- Both teams will select five different players
- The captains will toss a coin; the winner chooses whether their team bowls the first or second delivery in each pair, or which end of the wicket is to be used for the whole bowl-off. Once the winner has made their choice, the loser of the toss will decide order or end (whichever choice the winner did not make)

- Each selected player will bowl one unopposed (i.e. no facing batsman) delivery, with success deemed to be a 'bowled' dismissal as in normal play (i.e. the bails must be dislodged)
- No-balls (for whatever reason, including obvious throws) and wides are **not** rebowled
- During each delivery, a member of the opposition team will stand as umpire at the bowler's end for the purpose of calling front- or back-foot no-balls
- The teams will bowl alternate deliveries (i.e. Team A bowls the first ball, Team B the second, Team A the third and so on)
- If both teams have the same number of successful deliveries after both set of five selected players have all bowled, then the bowl-off reverts to sudden death. The five bowlers selected already cannot bowl again until all players on their team have bowled a delivery during the sudden-death knockout
- The team with the most successful deliveries in the first five, or that wins the sudden-death knockout, is deemed to be the winner of the Cup/Plate tie
- A wicketkeeper or backstop may be used, but is not mandatory and cannot stand within normal stumping distance of the wicket. Once the ball has either hit the stumps, or passed by the stumps without hitting them, it is considered dead

## 24 Points – League fixtures

The winning team will receive 10 points, plus bonus points gained.

In the event of a tie, both teams will receive 5 points, plus bonus points gained.

### **Bonus Points Batting**

One point shall be awarded on reaching 40 runs, and 1 more point thereafter for each additional 20 runs, to an overall maximum of 5 batting points.

For a team batting second and winning: an additional point for every **two** wickets in hand at the close of play, to an overall maximum of 5 batting points.

### **Bonus Points Bowling**

One point shall be awarded for every two wickets taken: in the event of the batting side having less than 11 players and being all out, the maximum of 5 bowling points shall be awarded.

Teams should also note provisions elsewhere in these Rules for deduction of points from a team's total due to administrative failures.

## 25 Withdrawals

The record of any team withdrawing from the League before completion of its fixtures will be expunged and points won by its opponents will be deducted from their totals, except that if more than half the fixtures for the season are completed and each team has played each other at least once, including rained off games, the first half fixtures' points shall remain.

## 26 League Positions

League positions will be determined by the number of average points gained and completed matches. If equal under average points, precedence will be decided by the following, in order.

- A The team winning more matches
- B The team winning more matches plus ties
- C If equal under the above then the team which has taken most wickets

## 27 Promotion and Relegation

Final League standings will be determined as per Rule 26, following the last round of games in each Division.

Promotion to Divisions One and Two will be the **two** teams finishing top of Divisions Two and Three respectively.

The bottom **two** teams of Divisions One and Two will be relegated into Division Two and Three respectively.

If the League is formed with more than three divisions, then the general provisions of Rule 27 extend to additional divisions, e.g. if Division 4 is part of the League for a particular season, then its top two teams will be promoted to Division 3, and the bottom two teams of Division 3 relegated to Division 4.

Where the teams available to form the League for a given season differs from the teams that finished the previous season, the League may, at its absolute discretion, take reasonable measures to form the required number of Divisions with as even a spread of teams as possible. This may require, in some cases, the above provisions of Rule 27 to be disapplied in order to promote League continuity.

## 28 Trophies and Presentation

The winners of each Division and of the Cup and Plate competitions will be awarded the appropriate trophy, which will be held until 1<sup>st</sup> August the following year. The Committee may award further trophies (for example, player trophies for winners and runners-up, or leading batsman/bowler awards), and Members will be informed accordingly.

Trophies will only be awarded to teams which attend the annual Presentation Evening; no alternative arrangements will be made for teams who do not attend. Winners or runners-up are expected to purchase a minimum number of tickets for the Presentation Evening, at the direction of the Committee (currently four tickets for outdoor teams, and three for indoor teams).

All trophies shall be held and displayed by the League in a trophy cabinet within The Atrium at The Rose Bowl, Hampshire County Cricket Club, or other method of storage nominated by the Committee.

No trophies shall become the property of any Member.

## 29 Conduct

Members are advised that a high standard of conduct in play, attitude and dress is expected at all times and any incident that is reported to the Committee will be investigated. Breaches of standards will not be accepted and will be answerable to the Committee.

## 30 Committee – powers of administration

The Committee reserves the right to implement and interpret the rules as each case warrants, and also may amend fines and administration fees as befits the needs of the League.

## 31 Indoor League (to be played at the Ageas Bowl)

Local rules will be issued by the Indoor League as advised. Constitution, rules and regulations are governed as appropriate by the S.E.C.L. Rules contained herein.

## 32 Cup and Plate competitions

Matches in the President's Cup/Plate Cup will generally be played on Monday evenings. In the event of rain causing the game to be postponed or abandoned, the rescheduled fixture will be played on the following Monday unless otherwise advised by the Committee. In extraordinary circumstances, and in order to complete the competitions, the Committee may require Cup or Plate fixtures to be played on a weekday other than Monday, or at a weekend.

Teams **may not** make arrangements to determine the result of fixtures curtailed by weather or bad light through a method of run rate calculation, e.g. Duckworth-Lewis or similar, unless ratified in advance by the Committee. This will typically require the approval of all teams participating in the competition.

If a side forfeits a Cup tie through not attending at the ground, then the opposition (if present at the ground in line with the match timing requirements of Rule 22) will be deemed the winners. Any side losing a Cup tie through forfeiture will **not** progress to the Plate competition.

For Cup and Plate games only, the length of a bowler's run up is to be limited to 12 yards.

All references to Cup/Plate competitions elsewhere in these Rules are intended to apply equally to both competitions, unless they are competition-specific.