**CONSTITUTION OF MARCHES CRICKET LEAGUE**

This document consists of the Constitution proper and Appendices covering Playing Regulations, Disciplinary Procedures, Tariff of Fines, Knockout Cup Competition and Sunday League.

**1. NAME**

 The League will be known as ‘The Marches Cricket League’ thereafter referred to as ‘The League’.

**2. OBJECTIVES**

a) To foster and improve the standards of club cricket;

b) To recognise and uphold the Laws of Cricket (except as amended by the Playing Regulations appended hereto);

c) To set and maintain the highest standards of club cricket and to take whatever action is considered necessary to protect the interests and promote the welfare of all member Clubs within the League;

d) To admit Clubs from the feeder league(s) and to act as a feeder league subject to the appropriate criteria for movement between leagues being met;

e) To maintain an accurate Register of Member Clubs and Officials;

1. To render full support to the England and Wales Cricket Board, Herefordshire Cricket Ltd and to appoint delegate(s) to Herefordshire Cricket Ltd.
2. To ensure a duty of care to all members of the League by adopting and implementing the ECB 'Safe Hands - Welfare of Young People in Cricket' Policy and any future versions of the Policy
3. **MEMBERSHIP**

The criteria for Membership of the League will be determined in the Playing Regulations, appended to this document. Where this Constitution refers to ‘Members’, this is defined as Full Members of the League. Membership is conferred on a Club, and a Club entering more than one team only has one vote.

Clubs with only a team or teams entered in the League not meeting criteria set for Full Membership, but admitted to the League to play in non-criteria Division(s) (as defined in the Playing Regulations), will be granted voting Member status.

All Clubs playing in the League must affiliate to the Herefordshire Cricket Ltd by paying the appropriate fees.

Any Clubs wishing to join the League must satisfy any liabilities to their existing league and the Executive Committee have the right to contact the existing league to ensure there are no outstanding debts or outstanding disciplinary matters, and must report such to the AGM.

**4. MANAGEMENT**

 The management of the League will be vested in an Executive Committee appointed by the Members of the League at the Annual General Meeting. The role and powers of the Executive Committee in managing the League are defined in this Constitution.

4.1 **MEMBERS COMMITTEE**

4.1.1 **Membership**

Meetings of all Member Clubs (the ‘Members Committee’) shall consist of the elected Officers of the League plus one appointed representative from each Full Member Club.

A Representative of the Herefordshire Branch of the Association of Cricket Officials (Umpires and Scorers) shall be entitled to attend meetings of the Members Committee but shall not have voting powers, nor shall other attendees invited by the Executive Committee, which may include The Groundsmans Association and Herefordshire Cricket Ltd.

4.1.2 **Frequency and Scope**

The Members Committee shall meet preseason to review the actions of the Executive Committee, to deal with any business referred to them by the Executive Committee and to deal with any matters reserved specifically to them under this Constitution.

4.1.3 **Attendance**

Each Full Member Club is required to send a representative, **who must be the Chairman or an elected Officer of the Club**, to each Members Committee meeting. For non-attendance at Members Committee meetings, the Executive Committee shall fine and deduct points as set out in a tariff of fines as set out by Appendix 3.

 This rule applies to the completion of each season. Any points fines accrued in the close season shall be deducted in the following season

4.1.4 **Voting**

 Only Full Members are entitled to vote at Members Meetings. Motions can only be carried by a two-thirds majority of those present and eligible to vote. Full Members who abstain from the vote shall not have their votes counted as part of the total votes cast, therefore the motion can be carried by a two thirds majority of the votes actually cast.

4.2 **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

4.2.1 The Executive Committee shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting. Any one member, members or the whole Executive Committee may only be removed from office by the calling of an Extraordinary General Meeting, unless removed due to non-attendance (see below) or through disciplinary procedures (see Appendix 2 - Disciplinary Procedures).

The Executive Committee shall consist of Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Fixture Secretary and eight other members elected by the Member Clubs. No Club may have more than one member on the Executive Committee. The Chair shall be recognised as the League representative with Herefordshire Cricket Ltd.

Nomination of Executive Committee members shall be made by notice in

writing to the Secretary signed by the Chairman or Secretary of the

nominating Club at least 6 weeks prior to the general meeting or by the Executive Committee. The Committee member so nominated and elected by a majority vote of those clubs present at a general meeting shall remain in office for a period of 12 months unless s/he shall resign by notice in writing to the Secretary or the nominating Club withdraws its support in writing by notice to the Secretary signed by the Chairman or Secretary of the Club.

4.2.2 The Executive Committee shall decide the number of sub-committees that it shall appoint, but must include Disciplinary and Ground Criteria.

4.2.3 The Executive Committee may co-opt members as appropriate but such members will not be entitled to vote at an Executive Meeting. In the event of an Executive office becoming vacant between Annual General Meetings, the Executive Committee shall call an Extraordinary General Meeting to fill the vacancy, unless the vacancy occurs less than 2 months before the Annual General Meeting.

4.2.4 Any elected Officer of the League or any member of the Executive Committee who fails to attend three consecutive meetings without good cause will be deemed to have vacated their post and the vacancy will be filled according to Paragraph 4 c) (i) or (iii) above.

4.2.5 At a meeting of the Executive Committee a quorum shall be five. At a

meeting of a Sub-Committee a quorum shall be three.

4.2.6 The Executive Committee shall be empowered to;

a) deal with any matter except those specifically reserved for Annual or Extraordinary General Meetings;

b) to determine and enforce the Playing Regulations and/or deal with any breaches thereof;

c) To deal with any matter not provided for under the Constitution.

d) Any disciplinary matter that arises within the League to be dealt with by the Disciplinary Committee.

The Executive Committee decision will be final, subject to the Appeals Procedure set out in this Constitution.

The Chairman will have the casting vote at all times.

**5. FINANCE**

5.1 **Financial Year**

The financial year shall end on 31st October.

5.2 **Subscriptions**

The Annual General Meeting shall set subscriptions. All League and Affiliation fees must be paid by 31st May, Otherwise a 50% increase in the amount owing will be imposed as a fine. Should a Club have any outstanding fees or fines by 1st October, then that Club shall be deemed as not a member of the League and shall have all rights as Members withdrawn. Any applications for re-election by such a Club will be considered by the Executive Committee, and if approved by them, put forward to the Annual General Meeting.

5.3 **Presentation and Auditing of Accounts**

The annual accounts must be presented to the Members at the Annual General Meeting. An auditor appointed at the previous Annual General Meeting should audit the League accounts prior to the Annual General Meeting. Two signatories for cheques will be required from Chairman, Treasurer or Secretary.

5.4 **Winding-up**

 In the event of the winding-up of the League, all assets will be distributed equally amongst Members.

**6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

a) The Annual General Meeting shall be held before 31st December each year and at least three months’ notice shall be given to each Member, such notice to specify the time, date and venue of the meeting.

b) Written particulars of proposals, notices of motion and nominations for office must be in the hands of the Secretary at least six weeks prior to the date of the meeting, properly proposed and seconded by separate Member Clubs. Nominations for office may also be made by Officers or by the Executive Committee.

c) The agenda, together with a copy of any proposals, notices of motion and nominations will be sent to Clubs at least 14 days prior to the meeting.

d) All Full Member Clubs shall be entitled to one vote. All motions can only be carried by a two-thirds majority of those who cast a vote, abstentions will not be counted as part of the total vote.

e) The following business shall normally be transacted at an AGM:-

(i) Apologies for absence.

(ii) Adoption of previous year’s minutes.

(iii) Chairman’s Report.

(iv) Treasurer’s Report.

(v) Administrators Report.

(vi) Notices of motion and other proposals (to include election of new Members,and to agree the tariff of fines for the season)

(vii) Election of President

(viii) Election of Officers to the Executive Committee: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Fixture Secretary and four other Executive Committee Members.

(ix) Annual subscriptions, fees and Officer’s honoraria. Election of an Auditor

(x) Any other business as may be allowed by the Chairman.

The Annual General Meeting shall have the power to appoint Honorary Members, Honorary Life Members and Honorary Vice Presidents.

**7. EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING**

 An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called, as required by any part of this Constitution, and in particular if any matters normally considered at the Annual General Meeting need to be considered in the interim

The Executive Committee may call an Extraordinary General Meeting or a Member may call an Extraordinary General Meeting by proposing such to the Secretary, in writing, together with a seconding letter from one other Member. The proposal must also state the reason for calling the Meeting, citing the appropriate part of this Constitution. The Extraordinary General Meeting must take place no more than 6 weeks after receipt of the request by the Secretary.

**8**. **AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION**

 This Constitution may be altered, abrogated or added to at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting by a two-thirds majority of the representatives who actually cast their vote, abstentions will not be counted as part of the total.

 The Executive Committee shall have power to determine any question that may arise on the construction of this Constitution.