

PROPOSED 2025-26 RULES

Proposed Updates to 2024-25 Rules

The existing rules are in need of a bit of an overhaul to clarify terminology and to bring them up to date. The following updates are proposed by Jan Bridge and Lyn Brown.

See Attached Marked-Up Document

Proposed minor amendments are shown in **red**. If there are objections to any of these please raise them as the rule changes are being considered during the meeting.

Some proposed rule changes (rules 3 & 4, 5.5, 6.2, 7.3, 8.4 & 9) require more detailed consideration and agreement. These are highlighted in **green** in the attached document and specific info is included below.

There were no objections to the proposed minor amendments shown on the marked-up doc.

Rules 3 & 4

The Executive Committee is supposed to be the league officials. General decisions are voted on at meetings by a group comprising the League Officials and one member of each team. However, this has got lost in various past updates of the rules.

Proposal: Rules 3 & 4 to be rewritten to clarify the above calling the wider group the 'General Committee'.

2024-25 Rules 3 & 4	Proposed 2025-26 Rules 3 & 4
<p>3 Executive Committee</p> <p>3.1 The business of the League shall be conducted by an Executive Committee consisting of the President, Past Presidents, Vice Presidents (who shall be non-voting) and the Officers of the League, who shall be elected at each AGM, together with one elected representative from each team, eleven to form a quorum. In the absence of an elected representative another member may attend.</p> <p>3.2 The Officers of the League are the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Tournament Secretary, Match Secretary, two Reps. to the County, Website Manager, Presentation Night Organiser and Development Officer.</p> <p>3.3 The Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint any Sub-Committee for specific purposes and to define their duties. The Chairman, Secretary and Match Secretary shall ex-officio be members of such sub-committees. These will include the Tournament Committee and Disputes Committee, both of whose membership will be agreed at the Fixture Meeting.</p> <p>4 Meetings</p> <p>4.1 The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held in the month of May each year, when the annual accounts shall be submitted and General Business transacted.</p> <p>4.2 An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be called at the discretion of the Executive Committee or on the requisition of not less than one fifth of the Clubs in membership, each requisition to be sent in writing, to the League Secretary and signed by the Clubs concerned.</p> <p>4.3 A copy of the Agenda shall be forwarded to each Club Secretary not less than seven days prior to the date of the AGM or EGM.</p> <p>4.4 Alterations and additions to the League rules shall only be made at an AGM or EGM if 21 days notice in writing is given to the Secretary. The proposed alterations shall be included in the Agenda and circulated to Club Secretaries not less than 7 days prior to the date of the meeting.</p> <p>4.5 Each team representative together with the Officers of the League shall be entitled to vote at the AGM or EGM. In the event of a vote being tied the Chairman shall have the casting vote.</p> <p>4.6 The season's fixtures shall be arranged at a special Fixture Meeting to be called for that purpose.</p> <p>4.7 Any Club not represented at the League Fixture Meeting will, at the discretion of the Officers of the League, be debarred from participating in the League for the ensuing season.</p>	<p>3 Committees & Sub-Committees</p> <p>3.1 The management of the league shall be undertaken by the Executive Committee consisting of the League Officials namely the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Match Secretary, Treasurer, a Rep to the County, Website Manager and Development Officer.</p> <p>3.2 The general business of the league shall be agreed at meetings of the General Committee which consists of the Executive Committee together with one representative from each team, eleven to form a quorum.</p> <p>3.3 The Executive Committee shall appoint any sub-committee required for specific purposes and define their duties. The Chairman, Secretary and Match Secretary shall ex-officio be members of such sub-committees including the Disputes committee.</p> <p>4 Meetings</p> <p>4.1 The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held in May/June each year, when the annual accounts shall be submitted and the League Officials elected.</p> <p>4.2 The General Committee shall meet no less than twice a year (at the AGM and at least one other meeting).</p> <p>4.3 An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be called at the discretion of the Executive Committee or on the requisition of not less than one fifth of the Clubs in membership, each requisition to be sent in writing, to the League Secretary and signed by the Clubs concerned.</p> <p>4.4 Alterations and additions to the League rules shall only be made at an AGM or EGM.</p> <p>4.5 A copy of the agenda, including any proposed alterations to the rules, shall be forwarded to each Club Secretary not less than seven days prior to the date of the AGM or EGM.</p> <p>4.6 Although all league members are welcome to attend, only members of the General Committee (league officials plus each team representative) shall be entitled to vote at the AGM or EGM. In the event of a vote being tied the Chairman shall have the casting vote.</p> <p>4.7 The season's fixtures shall be arranged at the Fixture Meeting.</p> <p>4.8 Any Club not represented at the Fixture Meeting will, at the discretion of the Executive Committee be debarred from participating in the League for the ensuing season.</p>

Any objections? **No objections**

Rule 5.5

The current rule for the men's and ladies league includes 2 promotions and 2 relegations which seems a bit excessive if the divisions have only a few teams.

Proposal: a sentence to be added to rule 5.5 as follows:

...unless there are 6 or fewer teams in the divisions in which case the only 1 team will be promoted/relegated instead of 2.

Amended to: ***... unless there are 6 or fewer teams in the divisions in which case the decision as to whether only 1 team will be promoted/relegated instead of 2 will be made at the fixture meeting.***

Rule 6.2

Current Rule: These lists may be amended at any time up to 1st March of that season.

Proposal: Change date to *31 January*

Vote: 8 for - 6 against **Proposal Passed**

Rule 7.3

Proposal: to clarify this rule add:

No players can play in more than one match, within the Chester & District League or any other league, on the same night.

Any objections? **No objections**

Rule 8.4

If only the home team captain submits a score sheet the Match Secretary does not get the visiting team's information about Reserves.

Proposal: change Rule 8.4 back to:

Both the home and the visiting team captains shall forward a copy of the completed score sheet to the Match Secretary.

Any objections? **No objections**

Rule 9

Proposal: Rule 9 to be rewritten to simplify the language.

2024-25 Rule 9

- 9 Fixture Rearrangements**
- 9.1 Matches may be rearranged due to unavailability of the hall or inclement weather which is likely to affect the majority of players travelling to and from a fixture. This is provided that both clubs involved are in agreement and the Match Secretary has authorised the rearrangement and considers the application for rearrangement to be legitimate. Details of the rearranged date must be notified to the Match Secretary within two weeks.
- 9.2 In addition the Match Secretary may, in exceptional circumstances, authorise the rearrangement of a match for reasons not covered in 9.1 provided both Clubs involved are in agreement and the Match Secretary considers the application for rearrangement to be legitimate. Application for such rearrangements must reach the Match Secretary not less than 48 hours before the match was due to be played and his/her decision shall be final in all cases. Details of the rearranged date must be notified to the Match Secretary within two weeks. The Match Secretary will prioritise rearrangements for single team clubs and last teams of multi-team clubs
- 9.3 Any match which is rearranged without the Match Secretary's permission will be considered void. Teams unable to fulfil a fixture on the scheduled date or on an agreed rearranged date will have two points deducted. In the event that a mixed team cannot play on the rearranged date with a full team, then the minimum requirement to fulfil this fixture will be 2 men and 2 ladies.
- 9.4 If a fixture is postponed by the away team, and a new date is agreed by both clubs and the home team has to hire the hall specifically to play the rearranged fixture, which is subsequently cancelled by the away team for a second time, any cost that the home team has incurred in trying to complete the fixture is to be paid in full by the away team.
- 9.5 Rearranged matches should be played by 31st March; only in exceptional circumstances, and with the agreement of the Match Secretary, should rearranged fixtures be scheduled for April in which case they must be completed two weeks prior to the League Presentation Evening.

2025-26 Proposed Rule 9

- 9 Fixture Rearrangements**
- 9.1 Matches should only be rearranged due to unavailability of the hall or inclement weather which is likely to affect the majority of players travelling to and from a fixture. This is provided that the Match Secretary has first authorised the rearrangement and that both clubs involved are in agreement.
- 9.2 However, in exceptional circumstances, the rearrangement of a match for reasons not covered in 9.1 may be authorised provided that the Match Secretary considers the application for rearrangement to be legitimate and both clubs involved are in agreement.
- 9.3 Details of the rearranged date must be notified to the Match Secretary within two weeks.
- 9.4 Any match which is rearranged without the Match Secretary's permission will be considered void (i.e. the result will be recorded as 0:0).
- 9.5 Rearranged matches must be completed two weeks prior to the League Presentation Evening.
- 9.6 If a fixture is legitimately rearranged at the request of the away team, and a new date is agreed by both clubs and the home team has to hire the hall specifically to play the rearranged fixture, which is subsequently not fulfilled by the away team, any cost that the home team has incurred in trying to complete the fixture is to be paid in full by the away team.

Any objections? **No Objections**

Proposed Additional New Rules

The following 3 rules have been proposed by League Match Secretary, Lyn Brown.

SECTION 6 TEAM REGISTRATION

CURRENT RULE:

6.6 *No members of a higher team may play for a lower team unless registered seven days before the match. A player remains registered in his/her present position until the new registration date takes effect which is seven days. A Club must at all times have the correct number of bone fide players registered in all teams. A player is no longer considered a bona fide team member if he/she misses four consecutive matches without the permission of the Match Secretary.*

PROPOSED AMENDMENT (new text in red):

6.6 *No members of a higher team may play for a lower team unless registered seven days before the match. A player remains registered in his/her present position until the new registration date takes effect which is seven days. A Club must at all times have the correct number of bone fide players registered in all teams. A player is no longer considered a bona fide team member if he/she misses four consecutive matches without the permission of the Match Secretary. **Players are limited to playing up consecutively a maximum of four times for a higher team during a season.***

Agreed to change to:

Players are limited to the number of times they can play up for a higher team during a season. The number of times will be decided at the fixture meeting.

REASON:

To create a limit to the amount of times one player can play up so that they are not regularly playing up as well as for their own nominated team.

* * *

NEW 6.7 *For clubs with more than one mixed, mens and/or ladies team, reserves eligible for higher ranked teams only, due to their strength, should be identified as such on the Club Registration Form.*

REASON:

Some clubs already helpfully do this and it would further help to ensure all multi-team clubs follow the same format to ensure that strong reserves are playing in the appropriate team(s) only.

Proposal agreed

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SECTION 7

MATCHES

NEW 7.4 *Matches may not be conceded without the permission of the Executive Committee (via the Match Secretary) and could incur a points penalty.*

REASON:

All matches should be attempted to be played and concessions should not be the easy option, in particular towards the end of the season when some matches may seem a “dead rubber” for the teams involved. A 16-0 ‘walkover’ for a team could have a knock-on effect, potentially impacting on other teams and could affect promotions and relegations. There are also cost implications for the home team if the away team concede a match.

Proposal Agreed

The Chairman, Louise Nesbitt has also proposed the following:

Existing RULE 3.2 (amended Rule 3.1)

Proposed addition:

These posts shall be held for a maximum of five years. Another officer must hold this position before a member can be re-elected.

Proposal rejected

But it was noted that any league official can step down whenever they wish to do so.