

## **1. Eligibility Policy**

- 1) The BCFEC decides every year on the financial and administrative conditions under which the clubs can participate in the BCF Competitions. If these conditions are not explicitly specified for the year concerned, then the conditions in effect the year before will remain valid until decided otherwise.
- 2) The BCFEC has the sole authority to judge whether or not a club complies with the conditions as identified under article 1.1.
- 3) The eligibility conditions are described in a separate document named “League Committee BCF - Eligibility Conditions”.

## **2. Player Registration & Identification Policy**

- 1) Only players properly registered with the BCFA by the club they are playing for are allowed to participate in games organised by the BCF LC.
- 2) The registration as mentioned in article 2.1 consists of the players’ family name, first name, nationality, gender, address, nationality, ID card number and date of birth.
- 3) A player shall not be considered registered before the club has received a confirmation of his registration from the BCF.
- 4) A registration application has to be received at the BCFA at least 8 days prior to the start of the game he/she would like to participate in. The registration date and time on the application or on the email or the postmark on the letter shall serve as reference.
- 5) In exceptional circumstances, the LC may agree to waive the strict application of the registration deadline in article 4 provided the club’s request is made in writing and duly motivated.
- 6) Each player participating in any BCF competition games must be able to provide proof of his identity by presenting an identity card or residence card issued by a country of the European Union or an international passport at the venue if requested to do so. In the exceptional event that a player does not possess any official photo identification document, he may request a special document from the LC be used to identify him at the venue. This document should be requested in writing at least 7 working days prior to the venue. A query on the identity of a player can be made by the captain of the opposing team at any time between the handover of the player nomination sheet and the toss. In case a player can not produce his proof of identity document on the spot, a note will be logged on the score sheet and he must send a copy of this document to the BCFA no later than 18:00 on the first (Belgian) business day after the game. The responsibility of the umpire(s) is limited to correctly logging the challenge on the score sheet while the decision (and associated risk) to nominate a player that was challenged remains with the captain. In case a team wants to challenge a player after the toss (or even after completion of the game, the procedures for an administrative complaint should be followed).
- 7) If a club fails to nominate a player according to the rules as described above in this article, the team playing a non-registered player for the first time of the current competition year shall receive a €100 fine and, in addition, a suspended sanction of losing all the points obtained

from the game concerned. For any further registration offence, the team shall again receive a €100 fine and shall lose all points for the game concerned and, if applicable based on prior rulings, any suspended sanction will take effect. A fine is to be paid within 10 (Belgian) business days upon receipt of the ruling.

- 8) If the LC is convinced that there was a genuine attempt to abuse the player registration or identification process, it can exceptionally decide on a deduction of the league points from the first offence.

### 3. **Transfer Policy**

- 1) A player can only play competition cricket for one club during the year.
- 2) The official transfer period is fixed between January 1<sup>st</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup> of every calendar year.
- 3) The player must inform the club chairman of his old club of his intention to move to a new club.
- 4) Any player can change clubs during this transfer period. A written transfer request or email should be sent to the LC, the chairman of the club the player is leaving and the club chairman of the new club. The chairman of the club he is leaving should let the LC know that there are no problems with the player asking for a transfer. When both clubs have agreed to the transfer the LC shall agree to the change of clubs.
- 5) If the former club has any valid objections against the transfer request, then this objection shall be dealt with using the procedures in place to deal with an administrative complaint.
- 6) No transfers may be made outside the prescribed transfer period.

### 4. **Second Team Policy**

- 1) In case a club participates in the BCF League Competitions with more than one team, then it should nominate **three** “starred players” (considered the best), from the list of registered players before the start of the competition year. Clubs are expected to nominate their 3 best players as “starred players”. ***A National Team Player<sup>1</sup> and the First Team Captain will by default be identified as “starred players”. When there are more than 3 National Team Players in a Club all will be identified as “starred players”.***
- 2) **The star player policy is not applicable for the BCF T20 Competition. The second team in the BCF T20 Competition is treated as a separate team. Hence, a player is allowed to play only for one team in a BCF T20 Cup. Any violation of this article will result in the team losing the game and forfeit of all league points obtained in that game.**
- 3) If during the competition year it becomes apparent that the “starred players” can not be considered the 3 best players of a team, then the LC has the right to change the list of these 3 “starred players”. The LC will inform the club in case such a change is needed in writing or email. Such a change shall not be made in the 48 hours running up to a league game for the club concerned.
- 4) In any second team game, no more than **2 starred players**, as long as these individuals do not

<sup>1</sup> A Player who represents Belgium in the Senior National Team.

participate in more than 50% of second team games. Any violation of this article (which can be found precisely at the end of the competition year) will result in the team losing the game and forfeit of all league points obtained in that game. The second team captain when identified as a star player is given an exemption as he plays for all the games.

- 5) **Playing a second team game with more than 2 starred players** will result in the team losing the game and forfeit of all league points obtained in that game. **When the second team captain is identified as a star player then only one more star player is allowed to represent in a second team game.**
- 6) **A second team can only be promoted to a higher division if it has followed the rules and regulations described above.**
- 7) In case a first and second team of the same club compete in the same division, they should schedule and complete their direct encounter early in the competition year to ensure fairness (covering home and away fixtures if applicable). See also: League Committee – BCF Eligibility Conditions: Para 7, sub-para 7.
- 8) A second team playing in a division other than the lowest must always be a genuine second team (as defined in article 4.4). If a team breaches this requirement, then the game concerned will be awarded to the opposition and the team will be stripped of all bonus points obtained from that game. Additionally, the second team will be relegated to the lowest division at the end of the competition year.

## **5. Minimum Age Policy**

- 1) No club is permitted to play a player in a Senior League fixture who is, at the day of the game, under the age of 15 years.
- 2) For any player under the age of 18 years on the day of the fixture to be authorised to play in a Senior League fixture, a written and signed declaration of a parent or legal guardian of the player is required allowing the player to take part in an adult competitive cricket fixture. This declaration must be provided to the BCFA before the registration can be completed. This declaration is valid until their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday or until revoked by a parent or legal guardian.

## **6. Fixtures Policy**

- 1) No changes in agreed dates and starting hours are allowed for BCF Competition fixtures after April 1<sup>st</sup>. After April 1<sup>st</sup>, fixtures must be played on these dates unless rearranged under exceptional conditions by the League Committee.
- 2) After April 1<sup>st</sup>, Fixtures cannot be rescheduled under any circumstances by the Clubs concerned except by the League Committee under exceptional conditions.

## **7. Starting Time and Delays**

- 1) Fixtures should start at the time agreed and published in the fixture list of the Belgian Cricket League.
- 2) A team that is not in a position to complete the toss 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the fixture shall lose the toss by default.
- 3) A team delaying the start of the fixture by failing to have enough players present at the **scheduled start time + 10 minutes**, shall lose 10% of the maximum points attainable in a fixture.
- 4) For each 30 minutes **(first block = scheduled start time + 30 minutes)** a team is unable to start the fixture because of late arrival, an additional 10% of the maximum attainable points in a fixture will be deducted.
- 5) In case the start of a league fixture gets delayed more than 120 minutes (T20 Cup – 60 minutes), the fixture will be considered as forfeited by the team holding up the start and article 8 will be applied.
- 6) In exceptional circumstance, the LC can decide to not implement the punishment.

## **8) Fixture Forfeit Policy**

- 1) If a club forfeits a fixture, the fixture concerned will be awarded to the opposition and the club forfeiting shall receive a €100 fine.
- 2) For teams forfeiting fixtures, the following shall apply:
  - In case of a first offence by that team during the current competition year, the team will be deducted points equivalent to a win (20 points).
  - In case of a second offence by that team during the competition year, **the team will be deducted points equivalent to a win (20 points)** and the team will be relegated one division and shall start the next competition year with a deficit of points equivalent to a win **(20 points)**.

- In case of a third offence by that team during the current competition year, **all of their fixtures in the BCF competition are declared as forfeits**, the team shall be considered as not having participated in the BCF competition and therefore shall be considered as a new club the following competition year.
- 3) In case a team forfeits three or more fixtures during the current competition year, all the fixtures played by that team during the current competition year will be declared as “no-result” whatever the results of those fixtures. **In case of “No-Result” games each team is credited 0 points.**
- 4) **In all cases other than the “No-Result” case, the team which gets the forfeit (the opponent of the fixture which is forfeited by the team) are credited points equivalent to a win (20 points).**
- 5) **A Team which walks off before the game is finished will be considered as forfeiting the game. All the rules pertaining to Forfeit described above are applicable.**

## 9) Home Team Responsibility Policy

- 1) The home team is the team that is mentioned first in the nomination of the fixture.
- 2) The home team has the obligation to provide (regardless whether they have their own ground or rent one):
  - A ground with a satisfactory wicket and outfield.
  - A minimum of three sets of stumps and bails according to the laws of cricket.
  - The necessary tools for marking the boundary according to the laws of cricket and, if applicable, according to the BCF’s Playing Conditions and fixture format.
- 3) The necessary tools for marking the fielding circles according to the BCF’s Playing Conditions and fixture format and:
  - Properly marked creases.
  - Sawdust.
  - A table and minimum two chairs for the dedicated scorers.
  - A hardcopy of all documentation covering the BCF competitions (e.g. playing formats, rules and regulations, ...).
- 4) The “home team” (mentioned first on the schedule) is expected to provide a “tea” in line with the traditions in cricket. There should be enough food and drinks to cover the needs of the officials and the players.
  - If the home team does not have a ground and the game is played at the opposition’s venue. The home team can ask the opposition to make the tea, they will then reimburse the opposition for the cost of the teas. (food and drink)
- 5) The LC is authorised to make a ruling on the acceptability or unacceptability of a club’s ground for league fixtures. In the case a ground is deemed unacceptable, the home team must look for another ground to play its home fixtures at.
- 6) If the home ground is declared unfit or unplayable due to bad weather, or unpredictably unavailable up to 24 hours before the start of the fixture, then the **fixture is declared as draw and each team will get points equivalent for a draw.**
- 7) The home team is responsible to inform whoever is concerned in the fixture in question as soon as it is clear the ground is unfit for play. Failure to do so can result in the home team having to

pay all expenses incurred by the visiting team and any officials involved in the fixture. The BCFA should also be informed.

- 8) The following punishments will apply in case the home team fails to its responsibility:
- In case the home team is not able to provide an acceptable home ground and/or it is clear that the home team did not do the needful to find a possible solution as documented in article 9.6, the fixture shall be awarded to the visiting team.
  - In case the home team fails to meet the requirements mentioned in article 9.2, the home team will be deducted 20% of the maximum points attainable in a fixture.

## **10) Fixture Rearrangement Policy**

- 1) The fixture under no circumstances will be rearranged.
- 2) Only under exceptional conditions LC has the authority to do the rearrangement if deemed necessary.
- 3) **When no fault of the teams involved then both teams will receive points equivalent to a draw. This includes all matches which are abandoned due to natural calamities (like washed out due to rain, bad light conditions etc.)**
- 4) When one team doesn't agree on any date & venue proposed by the other, then the team which doesn't agree is considered as forfeiting the game.

## **11) National Team Conflict Policy**

- 1) If two or more players are not available to play for their team because they are selected for an activity of the Senior Belgian National Team, the club concerned has the right to postpone the fixture concerned.
- 2) Providing it is done two weeks before the game is due to be played. In case of the game being played outside of Belgium two weeks before the departure date of the national team.

## **12) Exceptional Circumstances Policy**

1. In exceptional circumstances, the LC has the authority to postpone or rearrange fixtures.

## **13) Division, Promotion & Relegation Policy**

- 1) Unless communicated otherwise before the start of the competition year (**or under exceptional conditions during the competition year by the League Committee**), the structure of the league shall be the same as the previous year (i.e. number of divisions and number of teams per division). The League structure is defined in article 2 of document "Belgian Cricket Federation League Rules".
- 2) The two teams that finish at the top of division two and three shall be given the chance to be promoted to the division above them.
  - a. The two teams that finish at the bottom of divisions one & two shall be relegated to the division below them.
- 3) There is no obligation for a team to play in a higher division than the one they played in the year before.
- 4) The following rules are applicable to the 1<sup>st</sup> division:
  - a. The right to play in the 1<sup>st</sup> division shall be offered to the teams that played in the 1<sup>st</sup> division and did not end at the bottom two places the year before.
  - b. A place in the 1<sup>st</sup> division will also be offered to the two teams finishing at the top of the 2<sup>nd</sup>



- division the year before.
- c. If one or two teams in the 1<sup>st</sup> division wish to waive their right to continue playing in the 1<sup>st</sup> division, the right to play in the 1<sup>st</sup> division will be offered to, firstly to the team ending third in the 2<sup>nd</sup> division last year and secondly to the team ending second to last in the 1<sup>st</sup> division the year before.
  - d. If not enough teams accept to play in the 1<sup>st</sup> division, then the 1<sup>st</sup> division will be played with fewer teams than initially planned.
- 5) The following rules are applicable to the 2<sup>nd</sup> division:
- e. The right to play in the 2<sup>nd</sup> division shall be offered to the teams that played in the 2<sup>nd</sup> division and did not end at the bottom two places the year before.
  - f. A place in the 2<sup>nd</sup> division will also be offered to the two teams finishing in the top two in the 3<sup>rd</sup> division the year before.
  - g. If two or more teams in the 2<sup>nd</sup> division wish to waive their right to continue playing in the 2<sup>nd</sup> division, the right to play in the 2<sup>nd</sup> division will be offered to, firstly to the team ending third in the 3<sup>rd</sup> division last year and secondly to the team ending second to last in the 2<sup>nd</sup> division the year before.
  - h. If not enough teams accept to play in the 2<sup>nd</sup> division, then the 2<sup>nd</sup> division will be played with fewer teams than initially planned.
- 6) In future, whenever a major overhaul of the league structure is made, clubs will be allocated positions in the newly constituted divisions based on the rankings of the previous competition year. This will rank the team(s) in promotion place(s) of a lower division higher than the team(s) finishing in relegation place(s) of a higher division.

## **14) Umpiring Policy**

- 1) Umpires for the fixtures of the BCF competitions shall be appointed by BLACU.
- 2) BLACU is an independent organisation within the BCF responsible for the recruitment, education, appointment and evaluation of umpires.
- 3) Each umpire appointed by BLACU is by definition neutral and unbiased and nobody outside BLACU has the right to intervene in any appointment decision for umpires. Any attempts to influence such appointments will be considered as a breach of the Code of Conduct.
- 4) If only 1 BLACU umpire is present for a fixture, he will stand at the bowler's end throughout the complete fixture. He will be entitled to make decisions normally the prerogative of the umpire on the striker's end and may overrule any decisions made by the umpire on the striker's end, provided he has clearly witnessed the event in question.
- 5) In case no umpire has been appointed by BLACU, the captains should first strive to agree on non-playing umpires. In case this is not possible, each team will do their own umpiring. It is the captain's responsibility to appoint only experienced senior players with sufficient knowledge on the MCC Laws and the various Belgian Cricket Federation rules, regulations and playing conditions applicable to the competition. It needs to be taken into account that sending out young and inexperienced players would place them in a position of unfair responsibility.
- 6) Anybody that is asked to act as an umpire during a BCF competition game should not be under the evident influence of alcohol or drug.

- 7) In no case can the absence of an officially appointed BLACU umpire be a valid reason not to play the fixture.
- 8) A Club which represents a team in the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> division will be asked to provide qualified umpires for at least five games (League and T20 Cup Competitions).
- 9) Clubs that do not comply with the article 14.8 are liable to be fined €100 for the competition year.