

1. Eligibility Policy

- 1.1 The BCFEC will decide 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.
- 1.2 The BCFEC has the sole authority to judge whether or not a club complies with the conditions as identified under article 1.1.
 - See also: The BCF's Eligibility Conditions Para 7. New Clubs: 7.1 through to 7.10.
- 1.3 The eligibility conditions are described in a separate document named "League Committee BCF - Eligibility Conditions".
 - New clubs should read: Para 7. New Clubs: 7.1 through to 7.10.

2. Player Registration & Identification Policy

- 2.1 Only players properly registered with the BCF LC and BCF Office by the club they are playing for are allowed to participate in BCF organized games.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.4 A registration application has to be received at the BCF League Chairman at least 2 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.
 - For a Saturday game, the player must be registered in the centralised BCF application by Thursday midnight. For a Sunday game, the registration process must be completed before Friday midnight. In case the centralized BCF application is not available then via email/phone, the BCF League chairman must be informed of the registration 2 days prior to the start of the game.
- 2.5 A player shall not be considered registered before the club Chairman or League Representative has received a confirmation of his registration from the BCF League Chairman.
 - If in doubt about any registration, contact the League Chairman for confirmation that the player can play or not.
- 2.6 Every player participating in any BCF competition games must have his photo uploaded in the centralised BCF application. This helps in identifying the player.
- 2.7 In exceptional circumstances, the League Chairman 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.

- 2.8 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 or any photo identity card 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 League Chairman to be used to identify him at the venue. This document should be requested in writing/email 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 cannot 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 BCF LC no later than 18:00 on the third (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). One way to check if the players is valid is for the scorers to check when entering the players in CricHQ.
- 2.9 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 is deemed to have lost the match and the team shall receive a €100 fine. Bonus points (if any) earned by the team will not be given. The opponent in case have lost the match will be given points equivalent of a win without bonus points. When the opponent has won the match, then they will get points equivalent to the greater of a win including the bonus points (if any) or 22.5 points. For any further registration offence, in addition to losing the points as described above, the team shall receive a €100 fine. A fine is to be paid within 10 (Belgian) business days upon receipt of the ruling. It is the responsibility of a club to check that every player they register is not a member of any other club.
- 2.10 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. The BCF Season & Fixtures Policy

- 3.1 The BCF outdoor season schedule is from the 1 April through to 30 September.
- ✓ BCF games cannot be played outside of these dates.
- 3.2 No changes in agreed dates and starting hours are allowed for BCF Competition fixtures after April 1st. After April 1st, fixtures must be played on these dates.
- 3.3 There will be no changes to the schedule. Except in exceptional circumstances. The League Committee will meet and agree if there were exceptional circumstances or not
- 3.4 In case of natural calamities or an act of God the fixture will not be rescheduled and the game will be considered as abandoned. Equal points will be given to both the teams e.g. 12.5 points.

4. Starting Time and Delays

- 4.1 Fixtures should start at the time agreed and published in the fixture list of the Belgian Cricket League.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 A team delaying the start of the fixture by failing to have enough players present at the scheduled start time plus 10 minutes, shall be penalised 5 points.
- 4.4 For each 30 minutes (first block = scheduled start time plus 30 minutes) a team is unable to start the fixture because of late arrival; an additional 5 points are deducted.

5. Transfer Policy

- 5.1 A player can only play competition cricket for one club during the year.
- 5.2 The official transfer period is fixed between January 1st and March 31st of every calendar year.
- 5.3 The player must inform the club chairman of his old club of his intention to move to a new club.
- 5.4 Any player can change clubs during this transfer period. A written transfer request or email should be sent to the League Chairman, 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 League Chairman shall agree to the change of clubs.
- 5.5 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. Under such cases, the player will not be allowed to play for the new club.
- 5.6 In case the player described in the previous point, would still want to play for the new club there will be a “cool off period” of one complete year, in which he is not allowed to participate in BCF organised games for the new club. The player will still be allowed to play for their old club.
- 5.7 No transfers may be made outside the prescribed transfer period.

6. Second Team Policy

- 6.1 Clubs that would like to enter a second team in either the BCF league or the T/20 competition must have a minimum of 25 eligible players registered no later than one week before the start of the season.
- 6.2 In case a club participates in the BCF League Competition with more than one team, then BCF LC nominates four “starred players” (based on the previous year statistics) before the start of the competition year.
- 6.3 When the star player moves from one club to another he will be considered as star player in the new club. In the old club there will be one less star player.

- 6.4 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.
- 6.5 If during the competition year it becomes apparent that the “starred players” cannot be considered the best players of a team, then the LC has the right to change the list of these “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.
- 6.6 If a star player leaves the country or has a long-term injury or will not be playing during the season for other reasons such as work, the club must inform the LC. In case LC finds out that this information was deliberately not shared there will be a fine of up to 100 EUR.
- 6.7 In any second team game, no more than **2 starred players are allowed**, as long as these individuals do not participate in more than 50% of second team games.
- 6.8 A club must take into account the number of games a star player has played for the second team. **A star player can be a captain of the second team but he is also allowed only for 50% of the games.**
- 6.9 **Playing a second team game with more than 2 starred players or a star player representing more than 50% of his allowed quota** will result in the team losing the game and forfeit of all league points obtained in that game irrespective of the team winning/losing the game.
- The LC must be informed via e-mail or phone by the Club 2 days prior to the second team fixture when this policy is going to be violated. This is done to provide a chance to play cricket and avoid the travel cost and efforts of umpires and opponent.
 - When LC is not informed the team in addition to losing all the points earned in the game will get a fine of 100 EUR.
- 6.10 A second team will be given the championship title but for promotion they need to demonstrate their case for having two teams in the same league to BCF LC and BCF EC. Promotion will be reviewed by the BCF LC & BCF EC to see if they genuinely have two teams.
- 6.11 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). The Club must identify 11 star players (based on the previous year statistics) who will be allowed to only play for the first team. These 11 star players will not be allowed to play for the second team under any circumstances. The player list must be sent across the League Committee before March 15th of the calendar year. See also: League Committee – BCF Eligibility Conditions: Para 7, sub-para 7.
- 6.12 A second team playing in a division other than the lowest must always be a genuine second team League Committee–General Rules & Administration (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.

7. Third Team Policy

- 7.1 Clubs that would like to enter a third team in the BCF league must have a minimum of 38 eligible players registered no later than one week before the start of the season. No third team can play in the BCF T20 Competition.
- Must have at least 38 eligible players.
 - Must apply to the League Chairman, who in turn will forward the request to the BCFEC.
 - If accepted by the BCFEC: The first team players can only play for the first team.
- 7.2 In case a club participates in the BCF League Competition with more than two teams, then the BCF LC nominates six “starred players” (based on the previous year statistics) before the start of the competition year.
- 7.3 When the star player moves from one club to another he will be considered as star player in the new club. In the old club there will be one less star player.
- 7.4 The star player policy is not applicable for the BCF T20 Competition. 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.
- 7.5 If during the competition year it becomes apparent that the “starred players” cannot be considered the best players of a team, then the LC has the right to change the list of these “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.
- 7.6 If a star player leaves the country or has a long-term injury or will not be playing during the season for other reasons such as work, the club must inform the LC. In case LC finds out that this information was deliberately not shared there will be a fine of up to 100 EUR.
- 7.7 *No starred players are allowed* in the third team.
- 7.8 Playing a **starred player in any third team game** will result in the team losing the game and forfeit of all league points obtained in that game irrespective of the team winning/losing the game.
- In addition to losing all the points earned in the game will get a fine of 100 EUR.
- 7.9 The third team will be given the championship title but will not be allowed to play in the same division as their first or second team.
- 7.10 A third team playing in a division other than the lowest must always be a genuine second team League Committee – General Rules & Administration (as defined in article 5.4). 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 third team will be relegated to the lowest division at the end of the competition year.

8. **Minimum Age Policy**

- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 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 18th birthday or until revoked by a parent or legal guardian.

9. **Fixture Forfeit Policy**

- 9.1 If a club forfeits a fixture, the fixture concerned will be awarded to the opposition and the club forfeiting shall receive a first warning.
- 9.2 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 offense by that team in addition to the deduction of points, the club forfeiting shall receive a fine of 100 EUR.
 - In case of the third offence by that team during the competition year, the team will be deducted points equivalent to a win (20 points), shall receive a fine of €100 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 any subsequent offense 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.
- 9.3 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.
- 9.4 In all cases other than the “Cancelled/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 and 50% of bonus points (22.5 points).
- 9.5 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.

10. **Home Team Responsibility Policy**

- 10.1 The home team is the team that is mentioned first in the nomination of the fixture.
- 10.2 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.
- 10.3 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).
- 10.4 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 must give rental cost for the ground and can ask the opposition to make the tea, they will then reimburse the opposition for the cost of the teas. (food and drink).
- 10.5 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.
- 10.6 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 it will not be rescheduled/postponed and the game will be considered as 'a draw'. Points equivalent to a draw will be given to both teams.
- 10.7 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 BCF Office should also be informed.
- 10.8 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 8.4, the fixture shall be awarded to the visiting team.
 - In case the home team fails to meet the requirements mentioned in article 8.2, the home team will be deducted 20% of the maximum points attainable in a fixture.

11. Fixture Rearrangement Policy

- 11.1 The fixture under no circumstances will be rearranged. See Para 12:
- 11.2 Only under exceptional conditions has the LC authority to do the rearrangement if deemed necessary.
- 11.3 When no fault of the teams involved then the fixture is deemed as abandoned. Points equivalent of 12.5 will be given to both the teams. This includes all matches which are abandoned due to natural calamities (like washed out due to rain, bad light conditions etc.,) or an act of God.
- 11.4 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.

12. National Team Conflict Policy

- 12.1 If three 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 provided it is done two weeks before the game is due to be played and an alternative date can be found. In case of the game being played outside of Belgium, two weeks before the departure date of the national team.

13) Exceptional Circumstances Policy

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

14) Player Movement Restrictions

- 14.1 During the BCF season a player is not allowed to participate in any other Federation competition.
- 14.2 Whenever a player wants to play for another Federation Competition, he must ask for a "No Objection Certificate" from the BCF League Chairman.
- 14.3 Players leaving the BCF to play for another Federation cannot return to the BCF the same year.
- 14.4 Any BCF player coming from another Federation (during their season) to the BCF, must also submit a "No Objection Certificate" from their club/Federation. The player once returned cannot go back and play in that Federation competition during that season. See point 14.3
 - He also cannot play for that club if he has played in another Federation.
- 14.5 Players will NOT be allowed to participate in any BCF competition in the season even after the completion of the competition in another Federation.
 - i.e. You cannot play for more than one Federation per season.

15) Division, Promotion & Relegation Policy

- 15.1 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”.
- 15.2 The two teams that finish at the top of division 2, division 3, division 4 and division 5, shall be given the chance to be promoted to the division above them.
- The two teams that finish at the bottom of divisions 1, division 2, division 3 and division 4, shall be relegated to the division below them.
- 15.3 There is no obligation for a team to play in a higher division than the one they played in the year before.
- 15.4 The following rules are applicable to the 1st division:
- All teams in Division 1 till Division 3 should have a team in one of the junior leagues.
 - The right to play in the 1st division shall be offered to the Belgium based teams that played in the 1st division and did not end at the bottom two places the year before.
 - A place in the 1st division will also be offered to the two Belgium teams finishing at the top of the 2nd division the year before.
 - If one or two teams in the 1st division wish to waive their right to continue playing in the 1st division, the right to play in the 1st division will be offered to, firstly to the team ending third in the 2nd division last year and secondly to the team ending second to last in the 1st division the year before.
 - If not enough teams accept to play in the 1st division, then the 1st division will be played with fewer teams than initially planned.
- 15.5 The following rules are applicable to the 2nd division:
- The right to play in the 2nd division shall be offered to the teams that played in the 2nd division and did not end at the bottom two places the year before.
 - A place in the 2nd division will also be offered to the two teams finishing in the top two in the 3rd division the year before.
 - If two or more teams in the 2nd division wish to waive their right to continue playing in the 2nd Division, the right to play in the 2nd division will be offered to, firstly to the team ending third in the 3rd division last year and secondly to the team ending second to last in the 2nd division the year before.
 - If not, enough teams accept to play in the 2nd division, then the 2nd division will be played with fewer teams than initially planned.
- 15.6 The rules that are applicable to the 2nd division, will be applicable for 3rd, 4th and 5th Division.
- 15.7 In the 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. New teams will enter the lowest division.

16. Umpiring Policy

- 16.1 Umpires for the fixtures of the BCF competitions shall be appointed by BCF office under the supervision of the League Chairman.
- 16.2 The BCF League Committee is responsible for the recruitment, education, appointment and evaluation of the BCF umpires.
- 16.3 Each umpire appointed by the League Chairman under the supervision of the League Committee is by definition neutral and unbiased and nobody outside the BCF League Committee 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.
- 16.4 If only one BCF umpire is present for a fixture, he/she will stand at the bowler's end throughout the complete fixture. He/she 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/she has clearly witnessed the event in question.
- These appointed umpires are not allowed to bring their mobile phones on the pitch.
 - Umpires have the authority to ask the captain to replace umpires that they do not think are taking the job seriously.
 - These umpires can also be reported to the League Chairman.
- 16.5 In case no umpire has been appointed by the League Chairman, 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.
- 16.6 Anybody that is asked to act as an umpire during a BCF competition game should not be under the evident influence of alcohol or drugs.
- 16.7 In no case can the absence of an officially appointed BCF umpire be a valid reason not to play the fixture.
- 16.8 A Club which represents a team in T20 and League in the BCF competition will be asked to provide at least 8 BCF recognised umpires.
- 16.8.1 A Club which represents a team in T20 and two teams in the BCF league competition will be asked to provide at least 12 BCF recognised umpires.
 - 16.8.2 A Club which represents two teams in T20 and two teams in the BCF league competition will be asked to provide at least 16 BCF recognised umpires.
 - 16.8.3 A Club which represents a team in T20 and three teams in the BCF league competition will be asked to provide at least 16 BCF recognised umpires.
 - 16.8.4 A Club which represents two teams in T20 and three teams in the BCF league competition will be asked to provide at least 20 BCF recognised umpires.
- 16.9 Clubs that do not comply with the paragraph 16.8 to 16.8.4 are liable to be fined €50 per fixture.