

Process for Placing WEPL Teams in the WCCL following the Restructure at the End of the 2015 Season.

Version 1

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1 Introduction

1.1 Introduction

It has been agreed that following the 2015 season, cricket in Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire will be restructured. This restructure will reduce WEPL from containing a 1st XI structure consisting of 80 teams, and a parallel 2nd XI structure consisting of 70 teams, to a single combined structure consisting of 70 teams, with the remaining 80 teams being returned to the feeder leagues.

This document details the process which will be used for allocating teams into divisions in the Wiltshire County Cricket League for the 2016 season.

1.2 Agreed Process

The process to be used for placing teams is the subject of a number of outline agreements which have been reached by WEPL, the four feeder leagues, and the County Development Managers of the three counties, as follows:

- WEPL will be retaining four 2nd XI teams to be placed in the new tier 3 of WEPL.
- All promotion and relegation at the end of the 2015 season will be applied before the placing of teams into the 2016 structure is performed.
- All 2nd XI teams from the same tier of WEPL (after promotion/relegation at the end of 2015) who return to their feeder leagues will be placed en bloc within the feeder league structure for 2016.
- All four feeder leagues will use the same process for placing the teams they are receiving from WEPL into their structure in 2016.

2 Process from WEPL

2.1 Introduction

This chapter details the process which WEPL will be using at the end of the 2015 season.

2.2 1st XIs

WEPL's process will place 1st XI teams into the three tiers within WEPL in 2016, based on their finishing position in 2015. This process also produces the list of 1st XI teams which will be returning to the feeder leagues, based on their finishing position in 2015.

2.3 2nd XIs

At the end of the 2015 season, the application of promotion and relegation to the 2nd XI WEPL structure will mean that each tier after promotion and relegation will be as follows:

Tier (after promotion and relegation)	Consists of (based on 2015 finishing position)		
Tier 1	1 st – 8 th in tier 1	1 st – 2 nd in tier 2	
Tier 2	9 th – 10 th in tier 1	3 rd – 8 th in tier 2	1 st in tier 3
Tier 3	9 th - 10 th in tier 2	2 nd – 8 th in tier 3	1 st in tier 4
Tier 4	9 th – 10 th in tier 3	2 nd – 10 th in tier 4	

The top four teams in WEPL 2nd XI Premier 1 will be retained in WEPL for the 2016 season. All other WEPL 2nd XI teams will be returned to the feeder leagues. Their placing in the feeder league will be as per the tier they are in after the above promotion and relegation process has been applied.

3 Placing of Teams in the WCCL

3.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the process which will be used to place teams into divisions in the WCCL for 2016.

3.2 Placing WEPL teams

All teams returning to the WCCL from WEPL will be placed based on their tier, as follows:

- The 10th placed 1st XI in the WEPL Wiltshire division will be placed in division 2.
- All other 1st XI teams will be placed in division 1.
- All 2nd XI teams in tier 1 (after promotion and relegation) will be placed in division 1.
- All 2nd XI teams in tier 2 (after promotion and relegation) will be placed in division 2.
- All 2nd XI teams in tier 3 (after promotion and relegation) will be placed in division 4.
- All 2nd XI teams in tier 4 (after promotion and relegation) will be placed in division 7.

However, if the Wiltshire 2nd XI teams in WEPL have a poor season, it is possible that the relegation from tier 3 to tier 4 will cause the number of teams being received from WEPL 2nd XI tier 4 to be greater than 10. If this is the case, then the teams in excess of 10 will be placed in division 8.

It is not possible for more than 10 teams to be received from tier 1, 2 or 3 of the WEPL 2nd XI structure into the WCCL.

As a rough guide, the strength of these divisions in 2016 compared to 2015 are expected to be as follows:

- 2016 Division 1 should be stronger than 2015 Division 1.
- 2016 Division 2 should be about the same as the bottom half of 2015 Division 1.
- 2016 Division 4 should be about the same as 2015 Division 3.
- 2016 Division 7 should be about the same as the bottom half of 2015 Division 5.

However this is all dependent on the number of teams which return to the WCCL from WEPL. See chapter 4 for the possible make-up of each 2016 division.

3.3 Applying Promotion and Relegation at the End of the 2015 Season

In general, at the end of the 2015 season, the top two teams in every WCCL division (except division 1) will be promoted, and the bottom two teams in every division (except division 7) will be relegated.

If promoting a team would cause them to be in the same division as another team from the same club, this will be allowed at this stage (it will be dealt with later in the process). If a team would normally be denied promotion for any other reason, then they will be denied promotion.

If a team would normally be forcibly relegated (due to withdrawing, forfeiting 4 matches, or in the top 3 divisions, low pitch marks over 3 seasons), then they will be relegated, even if this causes more than 2 teams to be relegated from a division. Teams who withdraw from the league (before or during the season) shall be treated the same as teams who forfeit 4 or more matches during the season.

Where teams are denied promotion or forcibly relegated, this may cause the number of teams in each of these intermediate divisions to not be 10. This shall not be corrected at this stage.

Following promotion and relegation, the teams in each division shall be ranked in the following order:

Teams denied promotion
Team finishing 3 rd in the division
Team relegated from 9 th place in the division above but not forcibly relegated
Team finishing 4 th in the division
Team promoted from 1 st place in the division below
Team finishing 5 th in the division
Team finishing 6 th in the division
Team relegated from 10 th place in the division above and teams forcibly relegated.
Team finishing 7 th in the division
Team promoted from 2 nd place in the division below
Team finishing 8 th in the division

Where multiple teams fall into the same position (which can only happen for teams denied promotion and teams forcibly relegated), they shall be ordered by their 2015 finishing position.

Once this process of promotion and relegation has been completed, any teams which do not enter the 2016 season shall be removed.

We then have a set of “intermediate divisions”. These shall then be used in the next step of the process.

3.4 Placing Teams into Divisions for 2016

In step 3.2, the teams from WEPL were placed into divisions for 2016. This step now fills the remaining spaces in each division. Division 1 shall be filled first, then division 2, then division 3, etc.

For each 2016 division, while there are spaces remaining, add the highest ranked teams from the intermediate divisions which have not yet been placed. The teams in intermediate division 1 are ranked higher than those in intermediate division 2, etc, and within each intermediate division, teams are ranked as per the table in section 3.3.

If this placing of teams would cause a two teams from the same club to be placed in the same 2016 division, then the lesser of the two teams shall instead be placed in the first available space in a lower 2016 division.

If this placing of teams causes two teams from the same club to be placed in reverse order (e.g. the 3rd XI is placed in a higher division than the 2nd XI from a club), then the two teams from the club shall swap positions.

3.5 Odd Number of Teams in Bottom Division

If the number of teams in the bottom division is not 10, then the following approach shall be used:

- If there are 1-5 teams in the lowest division, add it to the previous division to make a division of 11-15.
- If there are 8 or 9 teams in the lowest division, it will play as a division.
- If there are 6 or 7 teams in the lowest division, add the two lowest ranked teams from the division above, to form a division of 8 and then a division of 8 or 9.

4 Possible Structure in 2016

4.1 Introduction

This chapter shows a possible make-up of the divisions in the WCCL in 2016.

4.2 Assumptions

The chapter assumes the following:

- No teams are denied promotion or forcibly relegated at the end of 2015.
- WEPL returns 4 1st XI teams to the WCCL.
- WEPL returns 1 2nd XI tier 1 team to the WCCL.
- WEPL returns 3 2nd XI tier 2 teams to the WCCL.
- WEPL returns 4 2nd XI tier 3 teams to the WCCL.
- WEPL returns 10 2nd XI tier 4 teams to the WCCL.

4.3 Possible Structure

The following table shows where teams may play in 2016, based on their 2015 finishing positions, and on the assumptions listed above. Note that for the WEPL 2nd XI teams, the tier listed is their tier after promotion and relegation has been applied, as described in section 2.3.

Division	Consists of					Teams
Division 1	3x WEPL 1 st XI	1x WEPL 2 nd tr 1	1 st – 5 th , Div 1	1 st , Div 2		10
Division 2	1x WEPL 1 st XI	3x WEPL 2 nd tr 2	6 th – 9 th , Div 1	2 nd – 3 rd , Div 2		10
Division 3			10 th , Div 1	4 th – 9 th , Div 2	1 st – 3 rd , Div 3	10
Division 4	4x WEPL 2 nd tr 3	1 st , Div 4		10 th , Div 2	4 th – 7 th , Div 3	10
Division 5		2 nd – 7 th , Div 4	1 st , Div 5		8 th – 10 th , Div 3	10
Division 6		8 th – 10 th , Div 4	2 nd – 7 th , Div 5	1 st , Div 6		10
Division 7	10x WEPL 2 nd tr 4					10
Division 8			8 th – 10 th , Div 5	2 nd – 7 th , Div 6	1 st , Div 7	10
Division 9				8 th – 10 th , Div 6	2 nd – 12 th , Div 7	14
Total						94

Note that the actual number of teams to be returned by WEPL can vary greatly depending on the 2015 results, so the above is purely an indicative example of what might happen.