



**GREATER MANCHESTER CRICKET LEAGUE**

# CLUB & LEAGUE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The 2024 season will be the 9th of the Greater Manchester Cricket League and there are currently 88 clubs taking part across the men's, women's, and junior competitions.

2024 SEASON



# Foreword from the Chair

As we continue to develop and grow its timely to review our Memorandum of Understanding between the Clubs and the League. The current MoU was first published in 2019.

The 2023 season saw the League become an accredited ECB Premier League which is of great credit to all involved after several years of hard work from our team, but it also places greater responsibilities on the clubs competing in the League and on our administration team to help each other maintain the standards attained.

In order to improve the way we deal with such a large number of Clubs with such a wide range of abilities, wide range of ground shapes, sizes and standards and vastly differing levels of organisation and management structures we now want to refresh and set down what we, the Board, will do to help Clubs prosper and develop and in return set down what we expect from our member Clubs annually to enable the Club and the League to progress and improve the whole competition.

As you know, the scale of the league brings its challenges and whilst we aim to avoid problems arising, they do happen. We accept that we cannot prevent and solve all issues immediately, but we are getting there thanks to our growing volunteer team across Board Directors, the recently formed Executive and our Club Liaison Officers all supporting the significant work being undertaken by the hard-working volunteers at our member Clubs.

It is key that club leaders maintain their club and official's contact list and then ensure their committees or management boards, captains and players are fully aware of the requirements of being a member of the Greater Manchester Cricket League and, on the other side of the coin, the League is aware of its responsibilities and commitment to its member Clubs for the improvement of league cricket in Greater Manchester.

I commend this agreement to you, our Club leaders, and look forward to your response and give thanks to those across the league who have worked so hard to put this document together.

**Martin Kay**

[chair@GtrMcrCricket.co.uk](mailto:chair@GtrMcrCricket.co.uk)

January 2024

## GMCL NUMBERS

The 2024 season will be the 9th of the Greater Manchester Cricket League and the number of clubs at senior and junior level across the league continues to grow and currently stands at 88 different clubs in the men's, women's, and junior competitions.

In 2023 there were  
151 Saturday teams,  
82 Sunday teams,  
77 GMCL20 teams,  
13 women's teams,  
137 teams playing in  
our knockout cups and  
412 junior teams.



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# Philosophy

We want to ensure the League and all our Clubs are as strong as they can be as we, the Board, strive to provide the best service we can, so we are setting our standards accordingly.

## Participants

We are committed to increasing the number of participants at Junior and Senior level and to reduce the number of players that drop out of the game by offering a wider range of competitions to suit all ages, gender and ability and give more opportunities to all players to win competitions.

## Facilities

We want to ensure that those in and immediately below our Premier League can meet the facility standards needed for them to be an ECB Premier League club and we will set more detailed standards for facilities throughout the league tiers.

We know that not everyone can meet the highest standards immediately so we will continue to have different grades and expectations of facilities for all our teams and look to raise expectations year on year. We will be supportive of each Club and their officials as they work towards meeting standards.

## Promotion opportunity

We will provide the promotion route for teams who are successful on the field, but we will make sure that those Clubs that are progressing are aware of the standards required of them to climb the league and play at a higher level.

## Inclusion of all clubs

At the lowest levels of our structure, we will work with teams that do not have their own ground, a situation that provides different challenges for their club management and the league, but we will continue to support their full participation in the league.

## Discipline

Whilst we may set different standards in some areas for the different levels of the competition, we will apply the disciplinary rules consistently from top to bottom and we will also seek the same commitment and adherence to the relevant rules from every Club's management team.

## PLAY FAIR

Tough but fair cricket is key to the best competition and so we will also continue to be strong in the application of our disciplinary regulations and expect the same from our member clubs.

Stronger, disciplined cricket will also attract the best umpires, but the club and league partnership is vital to achieve improvement.



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Congratulations to all those who took part in our inaugural Women's Softball Competition in 2023 and to those in the Finals Day where Winton Ladies were the trophy winners.


Congratulations to Roe Green CC, first time GMCL champions in 2023.





# The agreement

To ensure the League and all its Stakeholder Clubs achieve the highest standards possible:


## The GMCL Board will .....


-  provide a league competition for all levels of ability, giving opportunity for every club to raise their standards on and off the field of play, to rise up the structure.
-  provide a range of league and cup competitions to give every team a fair chance of winning a trophy every season by competing against similar standard teams.
-  seek to expand its number of volunteers with a focus on women and girls and those from the South Asian community.
-  continue and develop our promotion of the game in a equitable way and develop policies and procedures to ensure the best practice.
-  set regulations for player eligibility, game rules and disciplinary rules and enforce those regulations equally, fairly and appropriately across the whole competition irrespective of the standard of competition.
-  set standards for ground improvements across the whole structure and advise Clubs of where they stand and what is expected of them in the short and medium term.
-  continue to work on fixture list generation to reduce the number of clashes in league / cup leading to rearrangements to maximise ground use on Sundays.
-  strive for maximum participation at junior level by providing a range of competitions over the whole season.
-  strive for further growth in the women and girl's game, increasing team numbers and competitions available following the successful first season.
-  support those Clubs and their players wanting to play every game, every week by setting heavier punishments for those Clubs whose activities or behaviours impact on their fellow member Clubs such as fielding ineligible players, forfeiting games, or calling off games unnecessarily.
-  publish Senior League fixtures no later than the 31<sup>st</sup> December for the coming season.
-  publish Junior League fixtures no later than the 7<sup>th</sup> April with the first junior fixture on or around the 21<sup>st</sup> April.
-  via the GMCL Umpires Association, strive to increase Umpire numbers to provide panel Umpires for as many matches as is possible depending upon the number and quality of Umpires available.
-  publish regular income and expenditure accounts to all clubs

 set safeguarding as a high priority and support clubs to ensure good practice.

 operate our governance arrangements in accordance with the Sport England model


## **and .....**


 improve the way we deliver information and news, through improved technical solutions


 improve the promotional activity of the Board for League and Clubs


 improve the way we facilitate club to club communication including more face to face meetings.


## **in return we ask that Clubs .....**


 inform the League no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of November of the Senior teams they are entering into the Saturday and Sunday competitions for the season ahead.


 inform the League no later than the 31<sup>st</sup> of January of initial entries into each Junior age group and to provide a firm commitment by the 31<sup>st</sup> of March for the season ahead.


 only register teams for which they have sufficient players for the whole season and provide a guarantee that they will complete the fixture calendar for the season with every team registered and provide a guarantee that they will not forfeit any matches except in exceptional circumstances.

 ensure that all their players are fully aware of the disciplinary regulations and that they work with the league to reduce the number of incidents.


 ensure that all players and officials are aware of their responsibilities and to act in a way that is equitable to all.


 be the first part of the procedure when dealing with disciplinary reports.

 ensure that all their players play the game as it was intended to be played with respect for the competition, its officials and your opponents at all times.

 ensure all Club officials and team captains undertake Diversity and Equality training prior to the season.

 seek to achieve Clubmark accreditation or keep a valid accreditation up to date.

 provide a Club Umpire in accordance with League rules when required and to ensure that all Club Umpires standing in Junior or Senior games have a valid DBS.

 ensure that all players in all matches, are correctly registered to play in the competition.







## and for clubs to .....

-  set their own stretching targets for their ground improvement that can be achieved year on year.
-  ensure players and officials are aware of the Leagues Disciplinary Code and to act at all times in a manner that is reflective of the games principles.
-  ensure all those involved in the game view and act upon the Anti-Discrimination training video available from the ECB <https://antidiscriminationrecreationalgame.ecb.co.uk/>
-  set targets for medium and long term developments at their clubs.
-  set targets for increased junior participation at their club
-  keep up to date with league news via our website
-  look out for requests for information and provide accurate and complete responses on time.
-  to pay invoices (LCB fees/balls/handbooks/presentation tickets) within the reasonable time requested on the invoice.
-  lodge a copy of their named cricket professionals contract with the League no later than three days prior to the start of the season.

## Clubs competing in the Premier Divisions

There are additional standards set by the ECB for the members of our ECB Premier Divisions and these clubs are required

-  to achieve and maintain Clubmark accreditation
-  to have 3 junior hardball teams at under 15, under 13 and under 11. This can be a mixture of age groups.
-  to achieve the ground and facilities standards for our highest level
-  to report injuries occurring in GMCL matches using “play cricket” to support the ECB policies for injuries.

# Agreement Approved

In signing this document, the club confirms their agreement to uphold the requirements and intentions of this MoU for the purpose of improving the League and their Clubs.

**CLUB NAME:** .....

## Lead Official responsible for complying with the Memorandum of Understanding

Print Name: ..... Signature .....

Email: ..... Tel No: .....

## Lead Official 2

Print Name: ..... Signature .....

## Lead Official 3

Print Name: ..... Signature .....

## Club Captain on behalf of the Club's players

Print Name: ..... Signature .....

## Club Junior Contact

Print Name: ..... Signature .....

## Child Welfare Officer

Print Name: ..... Signature .....

Please print this final sheet for signatures and then scan / photo and mail to

[club-director@GtrMcrCricket.co.uk](mailto:club-director@GtrMcrCricket.co.uk)

In the Subject line please enter 2024 Agreement – "Your Club" Name

*GDPR: The personal details given above will only be stored and used by the GMCL Club Director for administering MoU work until the next MoU is signed.*