



Introduction

This document will provide Cricket Clubs and their members with details of three current initiatives that Cricket Scotland propose to implement in the coming months:

1. Governance Review consultation and Special General Meeting.
2. A new national registration system for all participants – SCRS.
3. A new disciplinary framework and processes.

Background

Cricket Scotland is the governing body for cricket in Scotland (SGB). As such it has responsibility, among other things to:

- Control and regulate the environment of the sport.
- Administer the practice and participation of the sport.
- Develop the sport across all levels.
- Influence members within the sport.

To be able to deliver the functions of a recognised governing body, it should:

- Prepare and implement a vision and strategy for the sport and explain how it will be implemented nationally, regionally and locally.
- Promote the sport.
- Manage the rules and regulations of the sport.
- Implement a governance framework for the sport.
- Administer officials.
- Encourage and grow participation.
- Develop coaches, players, officials and participants.
- Organise and host competitions.

It is widely recognised within our sport that Cricket Scotland in recent years became overly focused on the Men's international set-up, and on the organisation's goal to acquire full member status of the ICC. The governing body fulfilled other functions of its role with varying degrees of commitment, but it has certainly not been a governing body for the whole sport for quite some considerable time.

Cricket Scotland has recognised that this imbalance is unhealthy for the sport and has started to reset its operations to ensure all aspects of the sport are supported and developed to the benefit of all.

What are the responsibilities of Cricket Scotland?

Cricket in Scotland can be divided into three main areas of responsibility for Cricket Scotland: Development; Clubs and Regions; and Performance.

Development

The Development Team supports growth and player development in clubs by offering programmes like All Stars Cricket for 5-8 year olds, Dynamos Cricket for 8-11 year olds and MCC Foundation HUBs for 12-16 year olds.

Supported by the Development Team, over 30 clubs in Scotland now offer female-only playing opportunities from social/entry level (The Wee Bash and CricHIIT) to regional Challenger Leagues, the Beyond Boundaries Women's T20 Scottish Cup and the Women's Premier League.

Six cricket clubs hold Disability Champion Club status, with three more to be added in 2023. The number of Super 1's Disability Cricket HUBs continues to grow, with 140 participants participating in cricket activities in 9 HUBs across Scotland. Table cricket is an adapted version of cricket, played on a table tennis table and specially designed to give young people with a disability in an Additional Support for Learning setting, the chance to play and compete in the sport we all love. For the young volunteers involved in coaching and umpiring, table cricket helps to develop self-confidence, leadership skills and enhances their future employment prospects.

The Cricket Scotland Wicketz HUBs, in partnership with The Lord's Taverners, use cricket as a way to improve lives by offering free year-round cricket sessions and lifestyle workshops for young people in areas with higher levels of deprivation. Since 2017, our HUBs in Govanhill, Pollokshields, Springburn, Liberton and Craigroyston have given 500 girls and boys access to free cricket sessions, with opportunities to progress to local clubs. Our partnership with Chance to Shine has given 5,000 girls and boys in a taste of cricket in almost 80 schools across Aberdeen City and Shire and Edinburgh, with opportunities to join local clubs or free Chance to Shine Street Cricket sessions.

The Schools Week of Cricket, held in Perth in June every year, is a flagship event where schools battle for the primary and secondary schools' cups.

Club volunteers and coaches receive free PVG and safeguarding compliance support from Cricket Scotland. A range of courses and workshops are available for the clubs' workforce to support Coach Education and Development in clubs and in the pathways.

Clubs and Regions

We recognise that domestic club cricket is the heartbeat of our game. Re-connecting with all our stakeholders is a fundamental goal within the proposals to rebuild and develop Cricket Scotland.

In 2021 Cricket Scotland invested in the digital scoring platform CS Live, providing clubs throughout the country the ability to live-score matches which can be followed online or through the CS Live app. This platform has now been adopted by all five regional associations and we will continue to support clubs with this digital platform and the streaming service via FrogBox for those clubs wishing to further promote their teams.

National adult and youth cup competitions and the Women's Premier League are administered by Cricket Scotland, and supported by the Competitions Management Group.

Cricket Scotland pays expenses to umpires officiating in the top leagues in Scotland during the season, part of a major investment in CSMOA activities. The governing body

also provides endorsements for recruitment of overseas professionals by clubs. On behalf of the Home Office, Cricket Scotland annually reviews and scans relevant data and criteria, to ensure transparent screening of candidates before processing.

Performance

Our performance athletes are Scottish cricket's ambassadors on the international stage. The Men's National Team have competed at the two most recent T20 World Cups, and lifted the CWCL2 trophy in February, while the U19 Women's squad took part in the inaugural ICC U19 Women's World Cup. Cricket Scotland announced in November that it would offer professional contracts to women internationalists for the first time.

The development of future men's and women's Scotland players is paramount to the long-term health of the game. Cricket Scotland supports five pathway international teams between U15 and U19 age levels, which have traditionally been fed from players within regional training hubs.

The Next Steps for Cricket Scotland

Governance Review

A Governance Review of the sport has been conducted by Harper MacLeod LLP and was published on March 21. It proposes changes to the governance structures within cricket in Scotland that would provide greater clarity about where responsibilities lie, and ensure that there is clear accountability for everyone in the sport.

The Governance Review sets out recommendations for simplifying the board structure of Cricket Scotland, which would see the adoption of one Board of directors to oversee the running of cricket in Scotland, with a series of Board Sub-Committees operating beneath it.

A number of key aspects of these proposed changes will be put out to consultation with the regions and clubs (who are the voting members of Cricket Scotland) in the coming months before the proposals are firmed up and put to a Special General Meeting to be ratified by the membership.

Further details of this consultation process will be released in due course.

Scottish Cricket Registration System

The implementation of a new Scottish Cricket Registration System (SCRS) for all participants in cricket in Scotland is long overdue. The Governance Review highlights the many issues that the lack of such a system within domestic cricket creates; it also provides examples of the positive measures and funding that can stem from such a system being implemented immediately.

Adopting a registration system will enable a number of important activities and reporting mechanisms for the sport:

- It will give Cricket Scotland the ability for the first time to collect data to better understand who is playing the game in this country.
- It will enable consistent disciplinary rules and sanctions to be applied across all five regions.
- It will facilitate the reporting required for **sportscotland** and the ICC.

- It will ensure clubs are visibly compliant from a governance and safeguarding perspective.
- It will enable Cricket Scotland to communicate directly with everyone involved in the sport in Scotland.
- It will help Cricket Scotland to develop its commercial programme to help clubs and players reduce the costs of participation in the sport.
- It will ensure every individual playing organised club cricket under the auspices of the national governing body, as well as coaches, umpires, scorers, ground staff and various club volunteers, receives a unique ID number.
- All participants will adhere to the revised Cricket Scotland Code of Conduct and UK Anti-Doping regulations.

On the back of this, Cricket Scotland will be able to offer improved and enhanced services to support areas such as health and safety; safeguarding; child protection; regional leagues; discipline; equality, diversity, and inclusion; insurance schemes, and other important areas to ensure the sport is run as efficiently and effectively as possible.

The SCRS is an absolute 'must' to ensure Cricket Scotland can administer the sport effectively, and be regarded as a governing body that is fit for purpose. It will enable the sport to be compliant, and provide the bedrock for everyone to enjoy a safe and inclusive environment in which to enjoy the sport.

With these factors in mind, Cricket Scotland needs the support of the Scottish cricketing community to embrace SCRS as soon as possible, and it is our ambition to have every player and club registered on SCRS by the end of the 2023 season.

Cricket Scotland have chosen to partner with membership management software company Just Go, who already operate with numerous Scottish governing bodies, in the creation of this system.

Benefits to Regional and Club Administrators from SCRS

The registration system is designed to provide maximum opportunity to administrators.

Once individuals sign up to SCRS – a process that should take less than five minutes – their unique ID number integrates them into an 'intranet' linking them to their club and region, as well as directly engaging them with Cricket Scotland. This allows:

- Enhanced communication and interaction between all parties within Scottish cricket, at all levels.
- Gathering of membership data, including anonymous EDI data, which can be collected by an appointed club administrator, regional administrators and Cricket Scotland.
- Automatically creating a base level of compliance and governance, which cricket in Scotland has consistently lacked.
- Simplifying day-to-day business of cricket club administration by improving engagement between players, coaches and volunteers.

Cricket Scotland has pre-paid for 30 clubs to use the system and is committed to paying the annual fee for clubs that wish to adopt SCRS for the 2023 season. By the start of the 2024 season, it is planned that the CS Live platform will be integrated into SCRS.

Regions and clubs can use SCRS in a variety of ways:

- Posting regional and club notices.
- Opportunity for some (especially smaller) clubs to effectively replace websites so potentially saving on hosting fees and maintenance and development costs.
- Marketing and managing internal events such as club nights or coaching courses.
- Uploading accreditations and PVG certificates, with annual prompting for refreshing.
- Closer integration with Cricket Scotland with increased awareness around ticketing and merchandise offers.
- Optional payment systems.
- An optional discount benefit voucher scheme, offering the chance for individuals to save on major brands, groceries, experiences and much more (additional £4.00).

For players, coaches, and the many volunteers associated with clubs and regions across the country, SCRS will put 'everything in the one place', bringing the Scottish cricketing community closer together.

From the start of the 2024 season, it is planned that all team sheets with player photos and unique IDs will be available for all league and cup fixtures in Scotland – another important step to ensuring the safety of all participants in the sport.

Looking ahead – SCRS in 2024

Cricket Scotland is one of the only sporting governing bodies in this country to not charge an individual subscription fee from its playing population. Whilst external sponsorship and government funding are vital income streams that allow the game to flourish, cricket currently fails to generate sufficient revenue from within the domestic game to cover the costs of running it. Individual subscription payments to the SGB in other Scottish sports range from £5 to £65 per annum.

Player subscription models are also commonplace amongst other ICC Associate Member nations; in Europe, a number of them raise in excess of £120k each year through a combination of club membership fees, club league entry fees and individual player registration fees. In Scotland, club subscriptions to Cricket Scotland combined currently totals around £15k.

For the 2023 season, registered players signing up to SCRS will not be required to pay any fee.

From the start of the 2024 season, proposed fees – which will **only** apply to registered players of club cricket – will be as follows:

- Adult (18+) - £12
- 12-17 years - £6
- Under 12s - FREE

From the start of the 2024 season, registration on SCRS and payment of the individual registration fee will be a condition of continuing to play competitive club cricket.

The fees proposed would generate an estimated £65,000 – this is income that would be ring-fenced and poured back into the domestic game for the benefit of all. It will ensure that club cricket in Scotland becomes self-sustainable, and creates a financial model for the domestic game that supports it moving forward.

New Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Processes

For the 2023 season, Cricket Scotland will introduce a new Code of Conduct for all participants involved in league cricket, and we will support our regional associations' disciplinary process through a new national disciplinary process for higher level disciplinary issues. This will ensure a consistency of approach to discipline across the regions, and will be managed by the new Cricket Scotland Conduct in Sport Manager.

More information on the new Conduct In Sport framework will be made available at the forthcoming Club briefings and all relevant material will then be published on the Cricket Scotland website.

CONCLUSION

Cricket Scotland acknowledges that our sport is largely run by volunteers, without whom we would have no sport. We want to renew our relationship with the regions and clubs and to support the volunteer workforce in as many ways as we can.

We see all the changes highlighted above as the start of a programme of modernisation and professionalisation for the game that is both necessary and beneficial to everyone involved in the sport of cricket in Scotland.

This is the start of a new approach from the governing body, and we hope everyone will embrace the opportunity to work with us to make cricket the best, most inclusive and most progressive sport in the country.

TESTIMONIALS PRAISING PLAYER REGISTRATION

In 2012 sportscotland signed a deal with JustGo as the preferred registration supplier for Scottish sports; since then, its growth has benefited numerous sports:

Sarah Pryde-Smith
Business Operations Manager, Scottish Bowls

"We were purely paper based pre-2020 - a headache with 840 clubs!"

[Upon implementing Just Go in] 2020, we had 23% of our clubs using the system; in 2021, 85% of our clubs. We are currently going through affiliation just now [for 2023], but it is looking like 98% of our clubs have used the system so far. We will always have a handful of clubs who will be unable to do it online (elderly members, lack of IT equipment, lack of volunteers etc) so we will have some flexibility.

We have profiled clubs over the last couple of years to promote the JustGo system and our journey towards 100% utilising it.

<https://www.bowlsscotland.com/news/2022-affiliation-springhill-bc-club-story>

<https://www.bowlsscotland.com/news/blair-atholl-bc-club-story>

<https://www.bowlsscotland.com/news/ellon-bc-club-story>

<https://www.bowlsscotland.com/news/girvan-bc-club-story>

It's been a huge transition for bowls, but completely worth all the effort!"

Laura Stoddart
Secretary, Glenurquhart Shinty Club

"We at Glenurquhart Shinty Club are sitting at 100% of our memberships paid (the club activates/pays for non-playing coaches and honorary members - 13 in total). All our current 185 (111 youths) active members have navigated the portal, with only a handful needing extra assistance.

The way the payments are going through this year works well for us, with the club's share of the membership fee going straight into the account when members pay. Hopefully the CA are happy with the benefit of the instant payments too.

The parents of our youth players have used the portal to give photographic permissions, which has saved a large amount of time, it's no easy feat trying to gather 100+ photo permissions manually.

We have added a section for medical info to each player profile, thereby the portal holds all the information we require at our fingertips. Having the parental consents and adult helmet waivers uploaded on there too has been great, we can literally find all the CA members 'paperwork' in a click.

This year GUSC are running a summer shinty camp (previous years it was HLH armed with GUSC coaches). Again the portal has dramatically reduced our workload. By creating an event, which took minimal time, I have been able to set the number of spaces each day (there is also a waiting list facility for when days reach their limit), the cost per day and any relevant info, times, location etc.

I sent out the link to our U12 club members, who then log in to their profile, pick the days and pay to book their places - this facility would have been ideal for CA summer development camp. It would have dramatically reduced Ronald, Alison and Deborah's juggling the forms, the platforms of communication, who has paid CA, who has paid their club, what the balances due are - had every club had their members on the portal.

Invites to the camp with a link for a player, who then selects and pays the deposit to book it, (a waiting list for those not quick enough to confirm place) and the balance due can be picked up by each club on the confirmed number they have booked on. The events management tab compiles those booked on/attendance registers - yet more work saved.

I fully hope/expect that the Camanachd Association will be supporting the continued use of the portal over the coming seasons, given that evidence we at Glenurquhart Shinty Club have provided of its success in terms of managing club memberships and our members, with both young and old supporting it.