

# East of Scotland Cricket Association SGM

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025, 7pm at Grange Cricket Club

## SGM Minutes

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### 1. Welcome, roll call and apologies

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The Chair of the General Committee (the “Chair”) opened the meeting and welcomed all the clubs present.

Apologies in advance were submitted by Dunnikier and Peebles County.

23 clubs were noted as being present as set out in Appendix 1. One additional club joined the meeting at the start of the motions section of the meeting.

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### 2. ESCA general committee proposals

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The proposals made by the ESCA Committee were considered in turn.

- a. That Bill Polson be appointed as an Honorary Vice President.

Mr Polson’s significant contribution to ESCA, and the wider East of Scotland Cricket community, over many years were warmly acknowledged by the clubs and **the proposal was unanimously approved.**

- b. That Phil Yelland be appointed to the Committee as Development lead. **The proposal was unanimously approved.**

- c. That Jon Turner be appointed as ESCA Honorary Secretary. **The proposal was unanimously approved.**

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### 3. Motions

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#### 3.1 Changes to the ESCA Constitution proposed by the ESCA General Committee

3.1.1 The Chair outlined that there are two administrative changes proposed in relation to the ESCA constitution as circulated to the clubs in advance.

**Clause 11.3 was unanimously voted to be changed to read:** A General Committee meeting can be called by any of President, Vice-President, Honorary Secretary or Honorary Treasurer or any 2 members of the General Committee.

**Clause 11.5 was unanimously voted to be changed to read:** The Chair of the General Committee shall be the President, whom failing the Vice President, whom failing the members present and forming a quorum shall appoint a Chair for the purposes of that meeting. The Chair of Sub-Committees shall be the Lead

3.1.2 The Chair outlined that there was one change to the Constitution that had been approved at a previous meeting however not updated formally and consequently it was felt prudent to formalise the position with a new vote.

**Clause 13.1 was unanimously voted to be changed to read:** The Finances of the Association shall be managed by the Honorary Treasurer. The financial year of the Association shall be from 1 December until 30 November.

### 3.2 Changes to the League Rules proposed by the ESCA General Committee

3.2.1 The Chair outlined that there two changes being recommended in relation to the League Rules, as circulated to the Clubs in advance.

3.2.2 **Rule 7.3 was unanimously voted to be changed to read: Overseas Player** (all Divisions except the Championship) No club may play more than one Overseas Player in any East League match. An Overseas Player is any player not qualifying as a Domestic Player as per 7.4 below.

3.2.3 The Experimental FairPlay scores rule change was introduced by the Chair. Questions were raised around how the panel would make changes without having knowledge of the matches in question and in respect of what the panel composition may be. The Chair confirmed that the panel would be looking for extremes and anomalies in the scoring (for example where there had been an obvious misunderstanding / misinterpretation of the Rule) and that the panel composition was not entirely concluded however would ensure that there was no conflict of interest with either club involved and may also look for support from other regions. It was noted that this was similar to how appeals are handed currently.

**Following discussion it was unanimously voted to have the following paragraph added to the Rule:** Prior to the 20 point sanction being imposed upon a team which is on probation and whose average fairplay score is below 2.4, the Competitions Committee will convene an independent Panel who will consider the fairplay scores given to the team in question and determine if the 20 point sanction should be imposed. The Panel shall have the power to challenge any fairplay scores given against the team in the relevant 9 week period, and change or remove scores it feels are not justified. The Panel may also take in to account the number of matches that have been played in the relevant 9 week period and consider whether it is fair to impose the sanction if there have only been a limited number of games played. These are the only criteria which the Panel is entitled to consider when coming to its decision in respect of whether the sanction shall be applied. If after considering the scores, the average fairplay score is below 2.4 and in the Panel's view sufficient games have been played for a meaningful average score to be given, the Panel must apply the 20 point sanction. The Panel shall provide brief written reasons for their decision. The decision of the Panel may be appealed by the team sanctioned in line with the usual appeal procedure.

### 3.3 Changes to the League Rules proposed by the ESCA Competitions Sub-Committee

3.3.1 The Chair outlined the rationale for the proposed changes to Rules 6.2 and 6.4 in relation to acknowledging that there are clubs which do not have ownership of their grounds and which, in good faith, cannot control the playing surface. In the following discussion a concern in relation to whether this would compromise the existing Championship rules was raised and it was confirmed that the existing rules remained and that the Competitions Committee already have discretion in this regard.

**Rule 6.2 was unanimously voted to be changed to read:** Clubs playing in the Championship and First Division of the East League must recognise their responsibilities for producing a satisfactory playing surface as well as ensuring that their grounds and facilities are up to an appropriate standard as shall be determined by the Competitions Committee in its sole discretion. However, it is recognised that for clubs who rely on a third party (e.g. Local Authority or School) to prepare facilities, this may be outwith their control.

**Rule 6.4 was unanimously voted to be changed to read:** The home club in any fixture shall be responsible for the provision of a pitch (and notification of the venue to opponents not less than 48 hours before the fixture), regulation stumps and bails, for the proper marking of the pitch and boundary, and for a scoreboard (Rule 17.9). Each team shall otherwise provide its own equipment, including a ball of a type approved by the General Committee. Each team shall bowl with its own ball. However, it is

recognised that for clubs who rely on a third party (e.g. Local Authority or School) to prepare facilities, this may be outwith their control.

- 3.3.2 Rule 7.5.3 was proposed for amendment by the ESCA Competitions Sub-Committee in advance of the meeting however it was noted that there was an error in the drafting. It was agreed that revised wording would be recirculated to the clubs by email for reconsideration.
- 3.3.3 The Chair updated the Clubs that Cricket Scotland are currently updating their guidance in relation to 'Match Directives for Young Players'. These feature in Appendix A to the League Rules. The advice from Cricket Scotland is that in the interim period until they have formalised their recommendations in this regard revised wording is utilised. **Appendix A to the Rules was unanimously approved for revision with the full text attached at Appendix 2.**
- 3.3.4 Mr Pollock of Grange CC outlined the proposed changes to the 'Overseas Amateur' rules at Appendix C1 (d) of the Rules. Mr Pollock explained that these updated the Rules to make them reflective of more modern home office rules. **Appendix C1 (d) of the rules was unanimously approved for revision with the full text attached at Appendix 3.**
- 3.3.5 Mr Pollock outlined the proposed changes to the paragraphs below:
- a. Appendix C4 paragraph 2
  - b. Appendix C4 paragraph 6
  - c. Appendix C4 'paragraph before the examples'
  - d. Sub-appendix C3 'last para'; and
  - e. Sub-appendix C3 Calculation (D)

**All of the proposed changes were unanimously approved and amended to read as follows:**

- f. Appendix C4 paragraph 2 - **Slow Play** – In matches with appointed umpires, the fielding side shall be in a position to bowl the first ball of the final over of the innings by the scheduled or re-scheduled cessation time for the innings. Where this requirement is not met, and from the start of the next over after the cessation time has been reached (and for the remainder of the innings) no more than 4 fielders shall be permitted outside the Fielding Restriction area (Rule C5 c)). Based on an allowance of 4 minutes per over, the bowler's end umpire shall inform the captain of the fielding side, the batters and the other umpire of the scheduled cessation time for the innings prior to the start of the innings, and of any re-scheduled cessation time following any subsequent interruption to play; and any time allowances as and when they arise. Teams are also reminded of Laws 41.9 and 41.10. These Laws cover Time Wasting by either the fielding side or the batters and include the awarding of Penalty Runs and a bowler being potentially suspended.
- g. Appendix C4 paragraph 6 – 'In matches when playing time has been lost before the start of the second ...' [the rest of the paragraph remaining unchanged]
- h. Appendix C4 'paragraph before the examples' - Should time be lost after the start of the 2nd innings, then, so long as the scheduled cessation time (7.40pm or 8.10pm), has been reached, then the result, assuming that 20 overs have been completed, will be decided by the ELC method as defined in Appendix B. Time allowances in the second innings e.g. for injury, lost ball, slow play, may result in a re-scheduled later cessation time. Similarly, if it is agreed to abandon the match, then the result, assuming that 20 overs have been completed in the second innings, will also be decided by the ELC method as defined in Appendix B.
- i. Sub-appendix C3 'last para' - Should time be lost after the start of the 2nd innings, then, so long as the scheduled cessation time (7.40pm or 8.10pm), has been reached, then the result, assuming that 20 overs have been completed, will be decided by the ELC method as defined in

Appendix B. Time allowances in the second innings e.g. for injury, lost ball, slow play, may result in a re-scheduled later cessation time. Similarly, if it is agreed to abandon the match, then the result, assuming that 20 overs have been completed in the second innings, will also be decided by the ELC method as defined in Appendix B.

- j. Sub-appendix C3 Calculation (D) - Extra time available (15 minutes) from reduced interval if tea taken early during delay.

### **3.4 Changes to the League Rules proposed by the ESCA Competitions Sub-Committee**

#### **3.4.1 Rule 10.1 amendment – proposed by Marchmont CC and seconded by Royal High Corstorphine CC.**

The Chair invited Marchmont CC to outline the proposed rule change which had been previously circulated to the clubs. The proposal was designed to recognise that the Division 1 leagues operate to 45 overs and without neutral umpires can become very long matches and would benefit from an earlier start time. There was a full discussion with issues raised by a number of clubs in relation to players with work / travel commitments being able to attend earlier, the access to facilities for clubs reliant on school pitch availability being difficult to deliver earlier than 1pm, and youth player availability. It was also noted that clubs are able to currently agree between themselves if earlier start times can be accommodated.

Upon voting there were 6 clubs in favour of the proposed motion and 18 clubs against the motion. **Accordingly the motion was rejected.**

#### **3.4.2 Rule 10.4 and 10.6 amendments - proposed by Marchmont CC and seconded by Royal High Corstorphine CC.**

The Chair invited Marchmont CC to outline the proposed rule change which had been previously circulated to the clubs. The proposal was designed to provide tighter timescales for the teams to be available to start the matches, following poor experiences in the previous season where teams were late and it was considered unreasonable. There was a full discussion in which the issue was recognised by the clubs and the concern being raised was met with an appreciate that it is a reasonable issue to raise. A number of clubs raised concerns with the proposals particular in relation to delays outwith the control of the clubs themselves (for example road traffic incidents), as well as recognising the geographical scale of the ESCA region which means that delays can happen. It was noted that this particular rule was extremely rarely used in practice and it was also acknowledged that may of the 'non Edinburgh local' clubs were not present at the meeting and that this change would affect them disproportionately. There was an overall feeling that the rules could usefully be tightened in this regard however as proposed the changes were too severe.

Upon voting – in respect of Rule 10.4 there were 13 clubs in favour of the proposed motion and 11 clubs against the motion. **Accordingly the motion was rejected.**

Upon voting – in respect of Rule 10.6 there were 14 clubs in favour of the proposed motion and 10 clubs against the motion. **Accordingly the motion was rejected.**

#### **3.4.3 Rule 10.4 and 10.6 - During the debate at section 3.4.2 above a revised motion was proposed for Rules 10.4 and 10.6. The following as proposed by [ ] and seconded by Marchmont CC.**

That Rule 10.4 be changed to read - If a team does not have 7 players ready to start at the defined start time, then that team shall automatically lose the toss; and

That Rule 10.6 to be changed to read - If a team does not have 7 players ready to start (9 players in the Championship and Division 1) by 45 minutes after the defined start time, a win shall be awarded to the other team.

Upon voting – in respect of these motions there were 18 clubs in favour of the proposed motion and 6 clubs against the motion. **Accordingly the motion was carried.**

3.4.4 Rule 15.2 amendment – proposed by Royal High Corstorphine CC and seconded by Kelso CC.

The Chair invited Royal High Corstorphine CC to outline the proposed rule change which had been previously circulated to the clubs. The spirit of the change is to address a situation which has occurred previously where, towards the end of the season, an anomaly in relation to a clubs points was identified and there was no mechanism to adjust the position. There was a full discussion with concerns being raised in relation to the uncertainty that such a proposal may lead to with clubs not being able to be certain of their points position, and that of other clubs until towards the end of the season. It was acknowledged that the bonus points visibility is challenging however at the current time there is nothing further that can be done in this regard. Mr Allan noted that the Competitions Committee had been given sight of this proposal and were unsupportive of it given the potential uncertainty that it would create. It was also noted by one club that there had been a situation where they had an issue with points logging and through liaising with the Competitions Committee this had been resolved easily.

Upon voting – in respect of these motions there was 1 clubs in favour of the proposed motion and 23 clubs against the motion. **Accordingly the motion was rejected.**

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**4. AOCB**

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4.1 The Chair asked if there were any matters that any club wished to raise under AOCB. There were no matters raised.

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**5. Meeting close**

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5.1 The meeting closed at 7.46pm.

## Appendix 1 – Clubs present / represented in the meeting

Club
Bass Rock
Boroughmuir
Carlton
Drummond Trinity
Dunbar
Edinburgh South
Gala
Grange
Haddington
Holy Cross
Kelso
Kirk Brae
Linlithgow
Livingston
Marchmont
Murrayfield DAFS
Old Contemptibles
Penicuik
RHC
Selkirk
St Boswells
Tranent & Preston Village
Watsonians

Note – one additional club joined the meeting after the start of the meeting and unfortunately it was not noted which one this was

## Appendix 2 – Approved revised wording for Rules Appendix A

### APPENDIX A : MATCH DIRECTIVES FOR YOUNG PLAYERS

Age groups are based on the age of the player at midnight on 31 August in the year preceding the current season. Captains, Team Managers and Umpires are asked to ensure that these Directives are followed at all times.

#### Fast Bowling Match Directives

Age	Max. overs per spell	Max. overs per day
Up to 13	5 overs per spell	10 overs per day
U14, U15	6 overs per spell	12 overs per day
U16, U17, U18, U19	7 overs per spell	18 overs per day

For the purpose of these Directives a fast bowler should be defined as a bowler to whom a wicket keeper in the same age group would in normal circumstances stand back to take the ball.

Having completed a spell, the bowler cannot bowl again, from either end, until the equivalent of overs to the length of their spell have been bowled from the same end. A bowler can change ends without ending their current spell provided that they bowl the next over that they legally can from the other end. If this does not happen, their spell is deemed to be concluded.

If play is interrupted for any reason, for less than 40 minutes any spell in progress at the time of the interruption can be continued after the interruption up to the maximum number of overs per spell for the appropriate age group. If the spell is not continued after the interruption the bowler cannot bowl again, from either end, until the equivalent number of overs to the length of their spell before the interruption have been bowled from the same end. If the interruption is of 40 minutes or more, whether scheduled or not, the bowler can commence a new spell immediately.

In matches of 20 overs per team, the provisions requiring an equivalent number of overs from the same end to have elapsed before a subsequent spell can commence shall not apply (i.e. where a maximum of 4 overs per bowler is allowed these may be bowled at any time in the innings irrespective of the number of spells bowled).

Once a bowler covered by these Directives has bowled in a match they cannot exceed the maximum number of overs per day for their age group even if they subsequently bowl spin. They can exceed the maximum overs per spell if bowling spin, but cannot then revert to bowling fast until an equivalent number of overs to the length of their spell have been bowled from the same end. If they bowl spin without exceeding the maximum number of overs in a spell the maximum will apply as soon as they revert to bowling fast. The limits on overs in a day will continue to apply across more than one game if a player plays in multiple games on the same day.

#### Safety Guidance on the Wearing of Cricket Helmets and Faceguards

A young player should not be allowed to bat or to stand up to the stumps when keeping wicket without a helmet with a faceguard against a hard ball in matches and in practice. Coaches, teachers, managers and umpires should always ensure that a young player wears a helmet.

Players should regard a helmet with a faceguard as a normal item of protective equipment when batting against a hard ball, together with pads, gloves and, for boys, an abdominal protector (box). The faceguard should be adjusted to ensure that the size of ball being used cannot pass between the peak of the helmet and the top of the faceguard.

There is a British Standard (BS7928:2013) for cricket helmets and it is in the best interests of players to ensure that their helmet and faceguard conforms to this standard. This guidance must be followed by all players up to and including Under 18 age group players. It applies to young players in adult cricket as well as to all junior cricket played with a hard cricket ball.

### **Fielding Regulations**

No young player in the Under 15 age group or younger shall be allowed to field closer than 7.3 metres (8 yards) from the batter's position on the popping crease on a middle stump line, except behind the wicket on the off side, until the batter has played at the ball.

For players in the Under 13 age group and below the distance is 10 metres (11 yards).

These minimum distances apply even if the player is wearing a helmet.

Should a young player in these age groups come within the restricted distance the umpire must stop the game immediately and instruct the fielder to move back.

In addition, any young player in the Under 16 to Under 18 age groups must wear a helmet and, for boys, an abdominal protector (box) when fielding within 7.3 metres (8 yards) from the batter's position on the popping crease on a middle stump line, except behind the wicket on the off side, until the batter has played at the ball. Players should wear appropriate protective equipment whenever they are fielding in a position where they feel at risk.

### Appendix 3 – Approved revised wording for Rules Appendix C1 (d)

**“Overseas Amateur”** is a player who is seeking to come to Scotland but does not qualify as a Scottish Qualified Player, Resident Player or Paid Player as defined above.

Clubs need to have read the Home Office Immigration Rules and determined whether their proposed Overseas Amateur is actually treated as a “Professional Sportsperson” as defined by the Home Office.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-introduction>

- scroll down to find the broad definition of a Professional Sportsperson. If a player meets any of the criteria listed, many types of visa, such as a Standard Visitor Visa, will not permit such a player to play cricket at all in the UK.

Liability for any breach of Home Office legislation lies solely with the player’s club.

All players with a UK passport or an Ancestry Visa can play cricket and work in the UK.

But to be an ESCA Overseas Amateur :

1. An Overseas Amateur must not have played first class cricket or List A cricket in the 24 months preceding any match.
2. Work directly relating to the cricket club or paid by the cricket club shall not be permitted. This includes payment for coaching at the cricket club.
3. Clubs must not provide financial assistance towards air fares nor the cost of accommodation.

Clubs may help an Overseas Amateur by providing accommodation with a member. The club may also help in identifying suitable rented accommodation.

If an Overseas Amateur is entitled to work in the UK, clubs may help in obtaining employment for an Overseas Amateur, subject to the restrictions in 2. above.

Clubs must, within the approved registration form, disclose full details relating to the player’s airfares, accommodation, and any employment. The Committee may request further information before considering the registration for approval.

Each club may register one Overseas Amateur. However, a second Overseas Amateur may be registered if a club has no registered Paid Player provided that at least one of the two Overseas Amateurs possesses a Certificate in Coaching Young People and Adults (or an acceptable overseas equivalent).

Where the original Overseas Amateur is unable to play for exceptional reasons acceptable to the Committee, the registration of a substitute Overseas Amateur may be approved by the Committee.

An Overseas Amateur must be registered and available to play by 30 June. This deadline does not apply to a substitute Overseas Amateur that may be approved as above.