

# ESCA Rules & Constitution Review 2024

## Summary of Changes



Rev 1 – 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024

### RULES

| Clause/Section Change                  | Previous Wording   | New Wording  |
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| <b>General Header &amp; Throughout</b> | References to 2023 and 2024.   | Change to 2024 and 2025 respectively.  |
| <b>3.1</b>                             | <i>2 teams shall be promoted from each Division (except the top Division) to the Division above.</i>   | <i>A minimum of 2 teams shall be promoted from each Division (except the top Division) to the Division above.</i>  |
| <b>Section 7</b>                       | As 2023.   | <p>New clause added as 7.2, with following clauses renumbered:</p> <p><i>7.2 No player may transfer to another East League club during the season without explicit confirmation from the releasing club to the Competitions Committee through the Divisional Representative of the Division in which the 'new' club's 1<sup>st</sup> XI plays. Any Club playing a player who has transferred without the above permission will forfeit the game(s) in which the player plays.</i></p> <p>Reason: Several players transferred clubs within the East Leagues in 2023 without the permission of the releasing club. This new rule is intended to tighten the process.</p> |
| <b>7.5.3 (formerly 7.4.3)</b>          | <i>On a Saturday when all a club's teams are scheduled to play, a player who normally plays for a higher team may drop down one team, but not two. The divisional rep should be informed about such 'dropped' players by 12noon on the Friday prior to the match. This</i> | <p>Additional sentence added to end of rule:</p> <p><i>However no more than two players may drop down at the same time even if the above criteria are met. If any club wishes to drop</i></p>  |

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|                               | <i>will negate suspicion if the match for the higher team is later cancelled.</i>  | <p><i>more than two players, permission should be requested from the Divisional Representative.</i></p> <p>Reason: Current rule does not specify how many players can drop down and could be open to abuse.</p>   |
| <b>7.5.4 (formerly 7.4.4)</b> | <i>On a weekend when one (or more) of a club's teams is scheduled to play on a Sunday, a player who normally plays for a higher team may drop down one team, but not two. No player may however drop down more than three divisions (including EPL) without the permission of the Competitions Committee, unless all of the club's teams are playing on the Sunday. The divisional rep should be informed about such 'dropped' players by 12noon on the Friday prior to the match. This will negate suspicion if the match for the higher team is later cancelled.</i> | <p>Additional sentence added to end of rule:</p> <p><i>However no more than two players may drop down at the same time even if the above criteria are met. If any club wishes to drop more than two players, permission should be requested from the Divisional Representative.</i></p> <p>Reason: Current rule does not specify how many players can drop down and could be open to abuse.</p> |
| <b>7.5.7 (formerly 7.4.7)</b> | <i>"Normally" shall be defined by the Competitions Committee/Divisional Rep. in the light of each case.</i>  | <p>Replace previous wording with:</p> <p><i>"Normally" means that once a player has participated in 4 completed or abandoned matches, more than 50% of these are for the higher team.</i></p> <p>Reason: Need to clearly define what is meant by "normally" and not left to the discretion of the Divisional Representative.</p>  |
| <b>11.4 &amp; 11.5</b>        | As 2023  | Experimental rules from 2023 with respect to rain affected matches and adjusted finish times, and alternate game shortening arrangements now included as 11.4 and 11.5. Previous 11.4 and 11.5 renumbered as 11.6 and 11.7.   |
| <b>11.7 (formerly 11.5)</b>   | <i>In the event that a game is agreed to be abandoned between the captains, both captains shall sign the home team scorebook to record the decision. No formal complaint will be allowed to be</i>   | Additional sentences added to end of rule:  |

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|                    | <p><i>lodged under rule 15.2. If the two captains do not agree on an abandonment, the home team captain shall notify the divisional rep as such. Notification should be provided in the same timescales as the match return.</i></p>   | <p><i>No formal complaint will be allowed to be lodged under rule 15.2 whether the match abandonment was agreed between the captains or not.</i></p>   |
| <p><b>14.3</b></p> | <p><i>Where member clubs wish to appeal against the penalties arising from sections 14.1 or 14.2 above, they must do so within seven days of the date of the notification of the decision to the ESCA Honorary Secretary. Where member clubs wish to appeal against a decision made by the Competitions Committee, then any such appeal must be received by the ESCA Honorary Secretary within seven days of notification of the Committee's decision. Notification of appeal must include the grounds of appeal with reference to the relevant Rules, and a £100 deposit, which will be returned to the appellant club if the appeal is successful. The appeal will be heard by an Appeals sub Committee.</i></p> | <p><i>Additional sentences added to end of rule: Where member clubs wish to appeal against the penalties arising from sections 14.1 or 14.2 above, they must do so within seven days of the date of the notification of the decision to the ESCA Honorary Secretary. Where member clubs wish to appeal against a decision made by the Competitions Committee, then any such appeal must be received by the ESCA Honorary Secretary within seven days of notification of the Committee's decision. Notification of appeal must include the grounds of appeal with reference to the relevant Rules, and a £100 deposit, which will be returned to the appellant club if the appeal is successful. In the event of an appeal being unsuccessful the appellant club will forfeit the £100 deposit. The appeal will be heard by an independent (non-conflicted) Appeals Sub-Committee, appointed to hear the appeal.</i></p> <p>Reason: To underline that the Appeals sub Committee is totally impartial.</p> |
| <p><b>15.2</b></p> | <p>As 2023.</p>  | <p>New clause added as 15.2, with following clauses renumbered:</p> <p><i>The away team in any East League match must confirm the full match return online within 7 days of the day of the match (within 5 days for the penultimate match of the season (expected to be week 17)), including when a match is cancelled or abandoned. Any requested revision of the points awarded should be submitted to the Divisional Representative within these 7 (or 5) days. If the away club fails to confirm online or make contact with the Divisional Representative, it will be assumed that they have accepted the match return.</i></p>   |

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|                             |  | Reason: To remove claims of inaccurate match details being submitted several weeks after the match. The away team needs to take responsibility to confirm or challenge the details immediately.   |
| <b>15.3 (formerly 15.2)</b> | <i>Any complaint by a club in relation to any match must be submitted to the Discipline Officer within seven days of conclusion of that match using the appropriate form.</i>  | <i>Any complaint being made should be submitted on the relevant form on the Association's website and submitted no sooner than 24 hours and no later than 72 hours of the matter taking place/the complainer becoming aware of it – the latter part is important in terms of potential complaints about the use of social media. It is acknowledged that there may be cases where it is impracticable to submit full details within 72 hours and in this case an initial intimation of a likely complaint should be made with the formal complaint made within 7 days. The complaint submission should be submitted with sign off / approval from at least one office bearer from the club concerned.</i>   |
| <b>Appendix C4</b>          | <i>In matches with appointed umpires, the umpires shall, except for delays caused by exceptional circumstances, deduct 1 point from the bowling team's total for each complete over that is unbowled at the time calculated for the end of the innings, based on an allowance of 4 minutes per over.</i> | Replace existing second paragraph with:<br><i>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.</i> |

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|                         |   | Reason: This brings the Championship in line with the Eastern Premier League, the Scottish Cup and the Masterton Trophy thereby given a level of consistency for players and umpires.  |
| <b>Appendix D2</b>      | b) The guest player must have written permission (including electronic communication) from their own club and the Divisional Representative of the team for which the guest is playing must be informed prior to the start of the match. The guest must be registered by that team in the normal way (with "(G)" appended to the player surname). | <p><i>b) The guest player must have written permission (including electronic communication) from their own club and the Divisional Representative of the team for which the guest is playing must be informed prior to the start of the match. The guest must be registered by that team in the normal way with "(G)" appended to the player surname <b>or by using the Player Transfer function in Results Vault.</b></i></p> <p>Reason: To remind clubs of the alternative method of registering the guest player.</p>   |
| <b>Appendix D2</b>      | -   | <p>Add new Paragraph (d):</p> <p><i>d) The Guest Player must play in the lowest team in the host club.</i></p> <p>Reason: To make the rule more explicit.</p>  |
| <b>Appendix E</b>       | <i>APPENDIX E: COVID Rules Appendix for 2023</i>  | <i>APPENDIX E: COVID Rules Appendix for 2023 removed</i>   |
| <b>Appendix E - NEW</b> | -   | <p>Experimental rule for 2024, for all divisions:</p> <p><i>Any team whose fair play score is below 2.4 at the half way point of the 2024 season, will be formally advised by ESCA that they are on probation. Any team that is on probation, which has a fair play score for the second half of the 2024 season below 2.4 will be subject to a 20 point deduction at the end of the season. Please note that the scores for the first half of the season are not included in the scores for the second half of the season. Each half of the season is dealt with separately. Any team that suffers a points deduction at the end of the 2024 season will also be deemed to be on probation at the start of the 2025 season.</i></p> |

*Any team which was not on probation at the half way point of the season, but which has a fair play score below 2.4 for the second half of the 2024 season, will be on probation at the beginning of the 2025 season. Any team, which is on probation at the start of the 2025 season, which has a fair play score for the first half of the 2025 season below 2.4 will be subject to a 20 point deduction at the half way point of the 2025 season. That team will also be deemed to be on probation for the second half of the 2025 season. Any team which was not on probation at the start of the 2025 season, but which has a fair play score below 2.4 for the first half of the 2025 season will be on probation for the second half of the 2025 season. Any team that is on probation, which has a fair play score for the second half of the 2025 season below 2.4, will be subject to a 20 point deduction at the end of the season. That team will also be deemed to be on probation at the start of the 2026 season.*

*Fair play scores should be entered by each team for all matches for the first half of season before the Saturday of week 10. Scores should be entered for the second half of the season no later than 7 days after the Saturday of week 18. The scores should not be entered on the day of the match to allow for a cooling down period. Scores can be entered for uncompleted games, or marked as not applicable if insufficient play has taken place for a score to be reasonably given. Cancelled matches should be marked as not applicable.*

*The scores will continue to remain confidential, but scores of 5, 2 or 1 will require a detailed explanation. ESCA will review and, if necessary, challenge scores that appear to be unjustified or lack sufficient explanation. The Competitions Committee may delete a fair play score and replace it with another score if they consider the score given to be unjustified or lacking sufficient explanation. Any*

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|                                |          | <p><i>team which fails to enter fair play scores for all games completed in each half of the season, will be subject to a points deduction of up to 5 points for each half of the season. The severity of the points deduction will be determined by the number of scores not entered.</i></p> <p><i>For the avoidance of doubt, the first half of the season is weeks 1 to 9 and the second half of the season is weeks 10 to 18.</i></p> <p><i>Any team which suffers a points deduction, either as a result of low fair play scores or for failing to enter fair play scores, may appeal to the Competitions Committee in the usual manner, using the normal procedure. There is no right of appeal for a team being put on probation.</i></p>             |
| <p><b>Appendix E - NEW</b></p> | <p>-</p> | <p>Experimental rule for 2024, for all divisions:</p> <p><i>All teams must notify the Divisional Rep for the league they play in as to whether they intend to provide tea to away sides during the course of the season. This must be done at least 7 days before the first match of the East League Season.</i></p> <p><i>It is acknowledged that clubs may need to change their default position during the season or may choose to do so with respect to 'reciprocal tea' arrangements. In this instance, the home club must advise the away side and Divisional Rep of a change in their default position a minimum of 3 days before the match taking place, to allow the away side time to advise their players and make alternate arrangements.</i></p> |
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