

Derbyshire Junior Cricket League Proposal

This document is to serve as the proposal from the DCF for a Derbyshire Junior League to be created for the start of the 2025 season. It is to be read in conjunction with the Derbyshire Junior Cricket League Constitution.

Proposal Background

Derbyshire has 104 clubs, 76 of which had junior sections playing league cricket in 2024. For a number of years the 6 affiliated leagues have run successful junior leagues in Derbyshire. In the past few seasons the DCF has received enquiries and observations from those involved in recreational cricket in Derbyshire regarding the current offers and sustainability of the current league structure. We are aware of challenges that exist with the administration of the leagues with the majority being largely supported by 1 or 2 very committed volunteers. If these people could not continue to fulfil their roles, then replacing them would be difficult and could leave leagues without the administrative support to function properly.

There are more cricket offers available now, including the growth of the girls game, which need consideration and space within a fixture calendar to allow growth and provide children and young adults with the opportunities to play age-group cricket. This proposal hopes to provide space for these offers whilst also acknowledging that clubs have other offers that require calendar space including senior/open age training, womens cricket, All Stars and Dynamos.

The traditional league structure has also changed in recent years with clubs moving away from their geographical league for various reasons, including playing nights, perceived playing-standards and travel. This has amplified over the last few years and put added pressure on league administrators.

The proposal

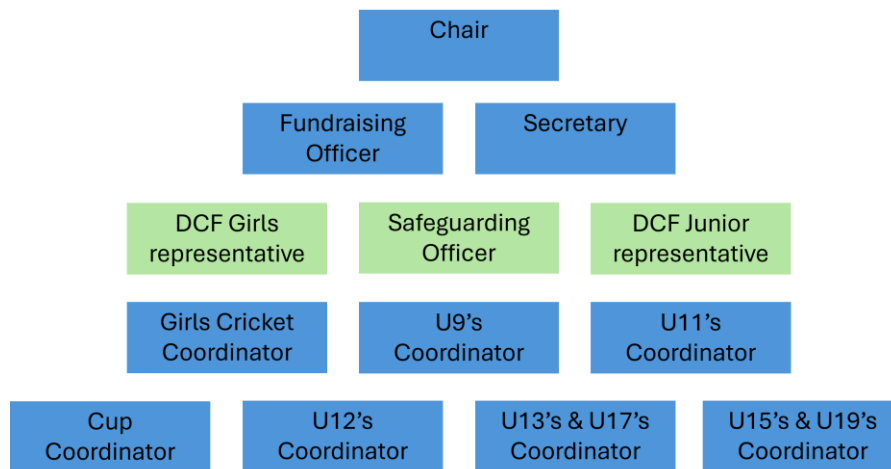
- Consolidate the current junior structure in Derbyshire at U9-U19 into one overall Derbyshire Junior League, which would continue to provide regionalised competition/divisions without being constrained by traditional league boundaries.
- Provide a sustainable model for junior league cricket in the county by spreading the workload amongst a management committee, with greater support from the DCF, rather than 1 or 2 key volunteers. The governance of the organisation will ensure that succession planning for key roles is a key consideration throughout the organisation.

- Provide a dedicated league offer for girls, as well as an offer for mixed cricket. A county-wide or regional approach will enable us to support the growth of girls cricket in a way that the current separate league structure is unlikely to be able to do.
- Provide a single league structure which has the flexibility and scale to support a comprehensive competitive playing offer, including county competitions, demand different formats, such as indoor cricket, and provides a platform for local representative cricket that can complement the County Age Group Talent Pathway.
- The league will be its own constituted body run by a volunteer management committee.
- The DCF will assist the league in applying best-practice, whilst reducing volunteer workload, by providing support which will include:
 - Providing the league Safeguarding Officer
 - Case management of disciplinary matters – including compliance with the ECB General Conduct Regulations and Anti-Discrimination Code.
 - Financial Administrative support
 - Social Media & Marketing
 - Support with the transition to the new league and Management Committee Structure.
 - Ongoing support for the Management Committee.
- Subject to sufficient support from existing junior leagues and clubs, it is proposed to transition to this new structure in time for the 2025 summer season. The proposal could still be progressed if some leagues elect not to join the new structure, but clearly a critical mass of clubs will be required to make the structure viable and achieve the anticipated benefits.

Membership

- A club must be affiliated to the DCF in order to participate in the activities of the league.
- All clubs affiliated to the DCF shall be entitled to enter teams in any event organised by the league on payment of the appropriate fees, provided that the particular club and or team meets the rules of the applicable competition into which entry is sought.
- The Management Committee will be entitled to accept applications from cross-border clubs at its sole discretion having in mind the aims and objectives of the league. These clubs will need to affiliate to the DCF in order to participate in the league.
- Within the new structure clubs will still have membership status and voting rights at the AGM and EGM on format rules and in ratifying the appointment of Management Committee Members..

Management Committee Structure



Appointed roles 

DCF Representatives 

- Committee members will serve terms, as outlined in the constitution, to allow continuity each year but with a focus on succession planning.
- The DCF will assist in establishing the composition of the management committee during the launch of the new league. The composition of the committee will depend on those volunteers willing to serve on the committee. Representatives of those leagues joining the new league will be invited to be involved, and the DCF will seek to facilitate a process that enables continuity, where appropriate, and will also endeavour, where possible, to maintain a mix of representation on the committee from the leagues joining the new structure
- In the first instance, expressions of interest in management committee roles will be sought from members of the committees of those existing junior leagues joining the new league. The DCF will facilitate an appropriate appointment process, seeking to match the expressions of interest and experience of existing role-holders with available roles. All proposed appointments will be subject to ratification by members of the league. Any vacant positions will be advertised and open to applications. Appointments will be proposed by the management committee and subject to ratification by members of the league.
- On an ongoing basis the Management Committee will assume responsibility for the appointment process. All vacancies will be advertised and appointments will be subject to ratification by members. This ratification process could be conducted within an AGM/EGM, or through an electronic ballot process, where appropriate.

- The DCF positions on the Management Committee will be held by the member of DCF staff in the relevant roles with responsibility for Safeguarding, Girl's cricket, and Junior cricket. They will be non-voting members of the management committee.

Financial Administration

- It is proposed that the DCF support the league, and reduce volunteer workload, by providing a service to the league which includes financial administrative support, and potentially removes the need for a league treasurer. The role of league treasurer could be very time consuming for a volunteer with management of the league bank account, and processing invoices, payments and ball orders across a large league structure.
- The DCF would provide the league with access to a secure DCF bank account, which would be ringfenced and restricted for use solely for the purpose of the league, and it's members. As a charity the DCF are well practiced in protecting restricted funding, which can only be used for specific purposes.
- The league accounts will be independently reviewed and audited by the accountants auditing the DCF accounts.
- The DCF will produce annual accounts for the league at the AGM along with financial updates at Management Committee meetings.

Playing formats

The below playing formats correspond to the ECB junior format recommendations from 2018

	5 to 8	U9's	U11's	U12's	U13's	U15's	U17's	U19's
Formats	All Stars	Dynamos						
		Soft ball	Soft ball		Hard Ball Pairs			
			Hard ball	Hard Ball Pairs	Hard ball	Hard ball	Hard ball	Hard ball
Players		6	8	8	10 or 11	11	11	11
Wicket		15yds	17yds	18yds	19yds	22yds	22yds	22yds
Overs		6	16	16	20	20	20	20
Max Boundary		30m	35m/40m	45m	50m	55m	60m	60m

Playing days

The below playing days are being proposed based on the DCF recommended age group days from 2018.

Within the structure we have identified a specific day of the week for girls cricket to take place to provide clear opportunities to play without competing for ground space and team selection against other junior teams.

Day of Week	Cricket Offers		
Monday	U13's pairs	U13's standard	U17's
Tuesday	Girls Cricket Offers		
Wednesday	U12's pairs		
Thursday	U15's	U19's	
Friday	U9's		
Saturday			
Sunday	U11's softball	U11's Hardball	

Safeguarding, Discipline, and Anti-Discrimination

The DCF will support the league by providing an advisory service in areas such as Safeguarding, Discipline and Anti-Discrimination through DCF/ECB resources and staff members. It will support the league in implementing best-practice policies and procedures, including adoption of a new league-wide code of conduct.

Communications & Social media

The DCF will create new social media pages for the league and provide regular support to these pages via the DCF Media and Marketing Officer.

Indoor Cricket

The league will develop an indoor playing and training offer during the winter months to encourage more players to keep playing the game

Representative Cricket

The league structure will provide an opportunity to reintroduce local representative cricket which compliments the County Age Group Talent Pathway, and provides associated training and playing opportunities. The proposed structure for this offer will be developed following the approval of the new league, and would be the subject of further consultation.

Timeline

The below timeline outlines the remaining steps if the league is to be formed.

- Leagues have EGM's to vote on the proposal

If leagues and their members vote in favour then;

- League Committee Appointed
- League launches to clubs
- Entries taken
- League Launches 2025

Junior League Timeline

