



# THE GORDON RIGG BRADFORD PREMIER LEAGUE



## Newsletter 1, 2021

The league's officers have been working on scenarios for 2021 as we wait to see how the Covid-19 pandemic plays out. Our number one aim is a league season for first and second teams with promotion and relegation. This will be prioritised over all other competitions.

Fixtures have been published for a season starting on April 17 and running through to September 11, but we are fully aware that those plans will probably need amending.

For every Saturday the start is delayed we will need two Sunday dates to accommodate the rearrangement of the fixtures as we do not have sufficient umpires on a Sunday to staff a full programme.

We hope that we will be able to build cup competitions around the league fixtures, but we cannot finalise any of our scenarios until we receive the appropriate advice from the Government and the ECB.

Quite clearly, we do not know what restrictions will remain in place when the national lockdown is lifted. The ECB are in dialogue with the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and they will determine what conditions need to be met for the resumption of recreational cricket.

As a league we want to be ready to get play under way once a starting date is established. Clearly, there is still considerable work to be done with league rules and playing regulations needing to be adapted to take account of Covid-19 requirements.

It is important we all prepare for the challenges ahead and we will be issuing a newsletter every Sunday so that we can update you on latest advice, funding initiatives and tasks that need to be undertaken.

We wish to draw your attention to administrative tasks which require prompt attention. These are explained in detail below and it is important you act upon these to ensure your club is ready for the 2021 season.



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### **Safe Hands Management System**

This is being introduced by the ECB and the Management Board wants **ALL** clubs to register when invited to do so as this is going to be standard by which Safeguarding is measured. All Clubmark clubs must register by July 31 or lose their accreditation which will mean they cannot play in the Premier Division in 2022. By registering, all clubs become eligible for £300 of free public liability insurance via the new ECB insurance deal with Howdens.

- Undertakes automated checking of officials DBS and other qualifications in real time
- Phase 1 of roll out started in September and covered Clubmark accredited clubs in South West & Wales
- Phase 2 to commence early in New Year with intention all Clubmark accredited clubs will have access by end April
- **To retain Clubmark accreditation clubs must be compliant on the SHMS by 31st July 2021**
- Any club currently without accreditation requiring it for League status ( ie Division One clubs hoping to be eligible for promotion to the Premier Division) will be able to accredit in 2021 (COVID-19 restrictions permitting)
- Assistance is required from Leagues to remind clubs of requirements to meet deadline

For Clubmark accredited clubs there will be no full re-accreditation or annual health check to complete in 2021, although clubs will have to evidence they are meeting the required safeguarding standards via the new Safe Hands Management System (SHMS).

Clubs will require to be compliant on SHMS on either 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021 or another earlier date if specified by the Yorkshire Cricket Board to retain their accreditation. Clubs who do not currently have access to SHMS will receive access over the next few weeks.

Clubs who are part way through the Clubmark accreditation journey or are looking to regain accreditation status will hopefully be able to complete the process in place for previous seasons.

Because of restrictions in place due to the Covid-19 pandemic site visits are currently suspended, but ECB will regularly review this and announce when this changes.



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We urge all Division One clubs working towards Clubmark to continue and consult with the Yorkshire Cricket Board's Head of Region Steve Archer if they need further help and guidance.

### **DBS Applications**

The following roles in clubs that require ECB vetting are:

- Welfare Officer (Club and League)
- Volunteer Co-ordinator
- Coach (volunteer or paid, assistant or lead)
- Umpire
- Scorer
- Colt/Junior Manager
- Age Group Manager
- Open-Age Team Captain
- Junior Supervisor
- First Aider/Physiotherapist/Medical Support

We would encourage you to check that all of the above personnel have a valid DBS and if necessary, make an application as soon as possible. It's important to start this process early in preparation for the new season and to avoid delays when cricket activities resume.

As a result of the Government's current national lockdown restrictions and advice from the Disclosure and Barring Service, the ECB are continuing with Online ID verifications until further notice. This includes the initiation and verification of DBS applications.

Access is currently restricted to a limited group of Primary and Secondary users at County & ECB Level. Once you have submitted an application you will receive a link to use the Find a Verifier feature. After entering your postcode you will be asked to select 3 verifiers in order of preference. Once a verifier accepts your request you will be notified and advised to contact them to set up a Video ID meeting.



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Links to some video conferencing / call software:

1. Zoom - <https://zoom.us/>
2. Microsoft Teams – <https://teams.microsoft.com/downloads>
3. Skype - <https://www.skype.com/en/>
4. iPhone Facetime - <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT204380>
5. WhatsApp video call - <https://www.whatsapp.com/download>

Important steps for the ID verification meeting:

1. Ensure you have emailed over copies of your 3 ID documents prior to the verification meeting.
2. You will be asked to hold up to the screen the original documents used to compare likeness for any photo ID document.
3. Once the ID Verification has taken place, all emails with ID documents attached will be deleted.
4. If you incur any issues with the application process, then please seek support from [dbs@ecb.co.uk](mailto:dbs@ecb.co.uk)

### **Club contacts and communication**

It is a requirement for all clubs to provide email and telephone details for the following personnel on Play Cricket in the Club Contacts section. These are used solely for league and direct communication of key information from the ECB. They are not displayed publicly or shared with third parties.

We require details for each club's chairman (or president), Secretary, Treasurer, League Representative, Clubmark contact, Club Welfare Officer, Groundsman, 1stXI captain, 2ndXI captain, website administrator.

To assist with this process, which we want you to complete by February 14, we will assist by sending out an email on Tuesday with a spreadsheet showing the officials you currently have listed. The sheet is colour coded showing the omissions in red and the ones needing updating in yellow.

Two Clubmark clubs currently have no officials listed and therefore will not have been receiving the weekly advice from the ECB.



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**All clubs** in Premier Leagues are required by the ECB to keep the About Us section of their Play Cricket websites up to date. In this section, which is on public view, there is the option for club's to hide email and phone details.

Here are the links to the relevant ECB Play Cricket help documents for updating club contacts and the About Us section.

**About Us** <https://play-cricket.ecb.co.uk/hc/en-us/articles/360000697289-Adding-Editing-Hiding-Details-In-A-Club-s-About-Us-Section>

**Club Contacts** <https://play-cricket.ecb.co.uk/hc/en-us/articles/360000961029-Day-To-Day->

**Once your club has completed the required updates please email**

**[registrations@bradfordcl.com](mailto:registrations@bradfordcl.com) to confirm**

If you are unable to complete the task on-line or require assistance, please contact Philip Radcliffe on [registrations@bradfordcl.com](mailto:registrations@bradfordcl.com)

As we will run the current league email system alongside the Play Cricket system in 2021 we need each club to indicate the three officials they wish to receive league communications.

### **Raising Standards**

Last week you will have received the initial email from Bill Holmes regarding the Raising Standards initiative. A second communication will follow tomorrow and club officials are urged to consider carefully its contents.

It has been clear from posts on social media that many of you have been doing good work to either upgrade facilities or to enhance the experience for members of your club. We are aware of ambitious extension plans, clubhouses being rebuilt, outfielders being relayed, clubhouses being refurbished, fencing being installed, sightscreens being built, glossy newsletters being produced to keep members updated.

It is important that we celebrate the many initiative being undertaken and we urge all clubs who have raised standards at their club to tell us about it and we will feature details and pictures on the league website.



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Please email details and pictures to [editor@bradfordcl.com](mailto:editor@bradfordcl.com)

In these difficult times we should all celebrate the good work being carried out by dedicated club volunteers.

### **Overseas Players**

Today the league has sent out guidance to clubs regarding overseas players. We ask you all to consider the guidance and take into consideration the issues that Covi-19 travel restrictions and quarantine periods may have.

Further criteria have been introduced to the ECB endorsement process for 2021 as follows: Non-First Class Cricket Clubs i.e .Gordon Rigg Bradford League Clubs – affiliated to ECB, are “Safe Hands” compliant and meet at least one of the following criteria:

1. They are Clubmark accredited.
2. In the 2021 season they will be participating in one of the top 2 divisions of a league recognised by the ECB as a Premier League.

The eligibility criteria for employing overseas players is detailed on the ECB website under Governing Body Endorsements and can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.ecb.co.uk/governance/regulations/governing-body-endorsement>

### **Diversity and inclusion**

ECB is currently working on game wide policies for Diversity and Inclusion which must be adopted by all leagues. As a Premier League we will ensure that this is enshrined in our rules and in our practices. The ECB Regulatory Committee is currently reviewing the draft proposals. The aim is to help the game by providing:

- Consistency of processes across recreational cricket
- Defined appeal routes enabling clarity to all.
- Penalty structures for levels of offences (based on existing penalty ranges)



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### **Annual General Meeting**

Due to Covid-19 this was postponed from November and will now be held on March 18. The agenda, reports and accounts will be sent out in advance. As in previous years, voting will be conducted on line and the meeting will be conducted on Zoom. Full details will be forwarded in the coming weeks.

### **Coming this week**

**Monday:** The second Raising Standards email from Bill Holmes

**Tuesday:** Each club will receive a spreadsheet detailing the contacts they have on Play Cricket and the actions they need to take.

**Friday:** ECB Weekly Update for Clubs and Leagues

**And finally** ..... Thank you to everybody working hard for their clubs in these testing times. Keep up the good work and don't forget to tell us about the good things you have been doing.



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