



BEAR FLAT CRICKET CLUB



CLUB RULES 2026

Rule 1 – Name

The name of the Club shall be the Bear Flat Cricket Club, which shall hereinafter be referred to in these rules as the “Club”. The Club shall be affiliated to the England and Wales Cricket Board through whichever League or Leagues the Club is a member.

Rule 2 – ECB Compliance

The Club shall adopt and implement the ECB Safe Hands – Cricket’s Policy for Safeguarding Children and any future versions of the policy and shall adopt and implement the ECB Anti Discrimination Code of Conduct and any future versions of this policy.

Rule 3 – Badges, colours, etc.

The emblem of the Club shall be a White Polar Bear and the Club’s colour is Navy Blue.

Rule 4 – Membership

- (a) Membership shall be open to anyone on application who agrees to abide by the rules of the Club and who is interested in the sport regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or other beliefs, except as a necessary consequence of the requirements of cricket.
- (b) Members who have performed long and/or signal service to the Club may be granted Honorary Life Membership by a majority vote of the Annual General Meeting.
- (c) No person shall be eligible to take part in the business of the Club or be eligible for selection for any Club team unless the appropriate subscription has been paid by the specified date or membership has been agreed by the Management Committee.
- (d) The Management Committee may refuse membership, or remove it, only for good cause such as conduct or character likely to bring the club or cricket into disrepute. Appeal against refusal or removal may be made to the Management Committee who shall appoint an Appeals Committee to hear the appeal.
- (e) All members will be subject to the rules and by joining the Club will be deemed to accept these rules and any Codes of Conduct that the club has adopted.
- (f) Applications for membership shall be made via the online membership application form. Membership will not be considered to be in place until the appropriate membership fee has been paid. Members are required to register their membership of the club on the Play Cricket website. The Honorary Secretary shall then apply for their membership of the appropriate cricket league.
- (g) **Removal of Membership, Discipline and Appeals**
Any complaints regarding the behaviour of members, guests or volunteers should be lodged in writing with the Secretary. Any person that is the subject of a written complaint or appeal shall be notified of the procedures to be followed by the relevant committee in reasonable time to prepare for any hearing. The Committee shall appoint a disciplinary sub-committee (Disciplinary Sub-Committee) who will meet to hear complaints within 21 days of a complaint being lodged. Any person requested to attend a Disciplinary Sub-Committee shall be entitled to be accompanied by a friend or other representative and to call witnesses. The Disciplinary Sub-Committee has the power to take appropriate disciplinary action



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on behalf of the Committee, including the termination of membership or exclusion from Club premises.

The outcome of the disciplinary hearing shall be put in writing to the person who lodged the complaint and the person against whom the complaint was made within 14 days following the hearing. There shall be a right of appeal within 14 days of receipt of the disciplinary decision or decision to refuse membership:

- (i) against the Disciplinary Sub-Committee's findings or the sanction imposed or both and
- (ii) against the Committee's refusal to admit a new member

In either case, the Committee shall appoint an appeals committee ("Appeals Committee"). The Appeals Committee shall have a maximum of three members which shall not include members involved with the initial disciplinary hearing but may include non-members of the Club. The Appeals Committee shall consider the appeal within [21] days of the Secretary receiving the appeal. The individual who submitted the appeal shall be entitled to be accompanied by a friend or other representative and to call witnesses. The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding on all parties.

Rule 5 – Organisation and Management

- (a) Management
The management of the Club shall be vested in the Management Committee and Officials duly elected by the members at an Annual or Special General Meeting.
- (b) Annual General Meeting
The Annual General Meeting shall be held each year on a date to be agreed by the Management Committee, all members entitled to attend and vote being notified in writing by the Honorary Secretary at least **14 clear days** in advance. Ten members shall be a quorum for such a meeting.
- (c) Special General Meeting
A Special General Meeting may be convened at any time by the Honorary Secretary:
 - (i) on the recommendation of the Management Committee, or
 - (ii) at the written request of 10 members. All members being notified in writing by the Honorary Secretary at least 14 clear days in advance. Ten members shall be a quorum for such a meeting.
- (d) Officials
The following officers of the Club shall be elected for the ensuing year at each Annual General Meeting, normally by a show of hands, but by ballot if so demanded by a simple majority of members present:

President	1 st XI Captain
Chairman	2 nd XI Captain
Honorary Secretary	1 st XI Vice Captain
Honorary Treasurer	2 nd XI Vice Captain
Club Captain	Safeguarding Officer
Communications Officer	Development Officer



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Non-playing members shall be eligible for election as officers except to the positions of Captains and Vice-Captains.

The Members shall appoint a Club Safeguarding Officer to ensure compliance with safeguarding legislation and the ECB Safe Hands policy.

At least three members of the Committee must be unrelated to each other and not co-habiting.

A Director of Cricket may be appointed by the Management Committee by majority vote.

- (e) Management, Selection and Cricket Development Committees
The Management Committee shall consist of the following officers:

Chairman	Communications Officer
Honorary Secretary	1 st XI Captain and Vice Captain
Honorary Treasurer	2 nd XI Captain and Vice Captain
Club Captain	Ladies XI Captain and Vice Captain
Safeguarding Officer	Sunday XI Captain and Vice Captain
Development Officer	Director of Cricket

and such other members as the Management Committee shall from time to time decide. The Committee may also fill any casual vacancies until the next Annual General Meeting and shall consider skills needed and diversity on the Committee.

Meetings of the Committee shall normally be held on not less than eight occasions at regular intervals throughout the year and shall be convened by the Secretary giving all Committee Members at least three days' notice. Five elected members of the Committee shall be a quorum at such a meeting. The Chairman shall have a casting vote.

Whenever a Committee member has a personal interest in a matter to be discussed they must declare it, withdraw from that part of the meeting (unless asked to stay), not be counted in the quorum for that agenda item and withdraw during the vote and have no vote on the matter concerned. Conflicts of Interest must be recorded and minuted.

Selection Committee

The Selection Committee shall consist of the following members:

Club Captain
Saturday 1st XI Captain
Saturday 2nd XI Captain
Director of Cricket



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The Chairman of the Committee shall be the Club Captain. Two members shall be a quorum at such a meeting and the Club Captain shall have a casting vote. The Committee shall elect from their number a Team Secretary who shall be responsible for notifying the players and the Communications Officer of selection. The Selection Committee may co-opt such additional members as it may require subject to not less than two-thirds of its total number being directly elected members of the Management Committee.



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Cricket Development Committee

The cricket development committee shall consist of:

Director of Cricket
Safeguarding Officer
Youth team managers
Youth team coaches
Youth team project lead
Womens team project lead
Secretary

The cricket development committee will report to the management committee.

- (f) Miscellaneous
 - (i) Any member absent from a Management Committee Meeting shall furnish an explanation for such absence. The Committee shall have power to dismiss from office any Committee Member who, in its opinion, is not fulfilling his obligation to the Committee.
 - (ii) The Secretary shall keep minutes of all Annual or Special General Meetings and Management Committee Meetings. Formal minutes of Sub-Committee Meetings need not be kept but reports of business transacted at all such meetings (except team selection) shall be submitted to the full Management Committee.
 - (iii) The 1st and 2nd XI Captains and the Honorary Treasurer shall render to every Annual General Meeting reports of the past year. In addition, the Honorary Treasurer shall submit a Statement of Account.
 - (iv) Resignation of officers are to be submitted to the Chairman or Honorary Secretary in writing.
- (i) Holding of meetings by electronic means
An Annual General Meeting, Extraordinary General Meeting or Management Meeting may be held face-to-face or by suitable electronic means agreed by the Management Committee and communicated to the participants.

Rule 6 – Finance

- (a) The Club is not instituted for financial profit or gain and no dividend, bonus or similar payment shall be made to any member. Any surplus of income over expenditure shall be used for furthering the objectives of the Club.
- (b) The financial period end of the Club shall be 31 October.
- (c) The Annual Subscription rates shall be determined each year at the Annual General Meeting. These subscriptions shall be deemed to fall due on the day after the Annual General Meeting. Failure of members to pay subscriptions by 31 March may, at the discretion of the Management Committee, result in their membership being terminated. All playing members shall pay the appropriate subscription each season but, at the discretion of the Management Committee, a rebate may be granted for new members joining after the start of the season for each complete calendar month between 1 May and the date of their first selection. The management committee reserve the right to increase subscriptions during the season should the need arise to fund additional projects to the benefit of the club.



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- (d) The Club may have different classes of membership and subscription on a non-discriminatory and fair basis. The Club will have an equitable pricing policy and will keep subscriptions at levels that will not pose a significant obstacle to people participating.
- (e) The funds of the Club shall be administered by the Honorary Treasurer, acting under the instruction of the Management Committee.
- (f) The funds of the Club shall only be invested in Government Securities, or Trustee Securities, except with the express authority of the Annual General Meeting; but the Management Committee with the approval of an Annual or Special General Meeting may purchase, take on lease mortgage or sell freehold or lease-hold land or buildings for the specific purpose of carrying out the policy of the Club, either alone or jointly with any other Club or person.
- (g) Any bank account in which any part of the Club's funds are deposited shall be operated by the Committee and shall be held in the name of the Club. Unless regulations state otherwise, all cheques and orders for payment of money from such accounts must be approved by at least two people authorised by the Committee.
- (h) The club shall be registered at Companies House as a limited company. Directors of the company shall consist of the Chairman, the Honorary Treasurer and the Honorary Secretary.

Rule 7 – Dissolution or Amalgamation

- (a) The Club may not be dissolved nor its funds distributed except with the consent of not less than three-quarters of its members voting in a ballot.
- (b) After settling all liabilities of the Club, the Committee shall dispose of the net assets remaining to another organisation with similar objects to the Club.
- (c) The Club may not be amalgamated with another organisation except with the consent of not less than two-thirds of the members voting in a ballot.
- (c) The decision to ballot members shall be taken at a Special General Meeting called by the Management Committee.

Rule 8 – Amendment of Rules

Major changes to these rules shall not be made except by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast at an Annual General or Special General Meeting. Minor changes, such as an officer's role description may be approved by the management committee and must be minuted.

Rule 9 – Laws of the Game

The laws of the game shall be in compliance with the laws of the league to which the club is affiliated.

Rule 11 – Compensation

Members of the Club play in games at their own risk and the Management Committee will not be held responsible for any injury sustained travelling to, or from, or during games, nor damage to or loss of any personal effects carried on such occasions.



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Rule 12 – Interpretation of Rules

Interpretation of the foregoing rules, or decisions on points not covered therein, shall rest with the Management Committee.