Dear Championship Rep/ Fixture Secretary

**Please reply to fixtures@twocountiescricket.co.uk**

The 2025 season has now drawn to a close and for many it is a chance to relax after a busy summer but the fixture planning for 2026 needs to begin.

With the withdrawal of Lakenheath and Little Bardfield Village from Division 3 there will be additional promotion given to teams in Divisions 5,6 and 7. Should any teams affected by this have any concerns please contact us as a matter of urgency.

All we need from your club at this time are dates when your ground/s will not be available for cricket next summer and any other information you feel relevant e.g. change of ground, ground share etc . Currently the planned dates for next season are 18th April to 12th September as agreed by the management committee. We would be grateful if this information could be forwarded to us by **Monday 6th October**– we do realise from our own experiences that some clubs using council or village owned grounds may find this difficult but your support with this would be much appreciated.

**Please note that requests from previous years will not be carried forward to next summer so you will need to contact us again especially where ground sharing with football, rugby or another sport is an issue.**

Last year over half the clubs in the Championship gave us non availability dates and /or a preference for a home/away game on a specific date. Some gave us several dates which however hard we tried were impossible to meet. We cannot guarantee that all your requests will be met.

Whilst we are very keen to work with clubs to ensure as few issues as possible please be aware that finding solutions for ground non availability is **not** the responsibility of the management committee. Clubs may have to make arrangements themselves although we will try and make some suggestions as to alternative venues they could contact. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any queries.

Set out below are the current rules around fixtures and their planning. Please read through them so that all clubs have a clear understanding of them. This will keep any problems to a minimum.

To remove perceived ambiguity the following wording is now applicable:

1. Requests for exemption for Weddings, Stag and Hen Do’s, Tours etc will**NOT** be granted.
2. Requests for exemption for football/rugby use will **NOT** be automatically granted.
3. Requests for non-availability of a ground for village fetes/music festivals or similar with shared facilities will be considered but **CANNOT**be guaranteed.
4. All fixtures for the Two Counties cricket Championship will be organised for a Saturday by the fixtures secretaries.
5. The MSC will specify the 22 weeks of each season and all matches must be played within this fixture window and any team playing in a 12 team league will have fixtures arranged on each Saturday in the 22 weeks of the season. This means that if you have two teams in the top divisions you will have a home fixture on every Saturday.
6. Any 12 team league club who is unable to play a fixture as arranged can contact their opposition and arrange a mutually agreed replacement date on any of the Bank Holidays or on a Sunday. If this is not possible then they must find an alternative day and/or venue within the 22 week season or (in the case of the home team) concede home advantage.  All clubs are asked to show consideration and willingness to compromise and the MSC will be available for advice to teams.
7. Teams in an 11 team league will have the same criteria as in paragraph 4 and 5 above applied – the only difference here being that there will be 2 Saturdays when a club will not have a fixture.  The Fixtures Secretary will **ATTEMPT** to help clubs out here as advised above but this cannot be guaranteed and if it is not possible then the conditions in paragraph 5 will apply.
8. Teams in a 10 (or less) team league have even more flexibility as there could be 4 (or even more) Saturdays when they do not have a fixture.  It will be **ATTEMPTED** to arrange these fixtures to allow a smaller window but this cannot be guaranteed and if it is not possible then the conditions in paragraph 6 will apply.
9. If a fixture needs  to be moved to a bank holiday or Sunday, you will need to contact your  opposition, make the necessary arrangements between yourselves and then we would ask that both clubs written consent to the change is sent to us via email by the 31st January.  After this date we cannot guarantee to support any change/s suggested.
10. Information as to any ground changes for fixtures where the home venue is unavailable would also be most useful,
11. **Nil returns would be appreciated.**

Kindest regards

Ros and Stuart.