

## COMMUNICATION TO CLUBS VIA CRICKET LEINSTER WEBSITE – 10 MAY 2019

### 2020 VISION UNVEILED FOR ALL CRICKET LEINSTER OPEN COMPETITIONS

Cricket Leinster today announces the confirmed structures for all Open Competitions from the year 2020 onwards, after what has been a lengthy review process. The overhaul of the competition structures was identified as being a key focus of the *Cricket Leinster Strategic Plan 2019-2021* after it became apparent the structures in 2018 were not fit for purpose for a wide number of reasons.

Cricket Leinster would like to thank all contributors to the process of reviewing the Open Competition Structures (including Conor Hoey (Dublin University), Keith Kilduff (Mullingar), Kamil Mahajan (Adamstown), Kumar Rudraraju (Tyrrelstown), Barry Tucker (Pembroke), Allan Eastwood (Rush), Joe Morrissey (Clontarf), Paul Reynolds (Honorary Secretary, Cricket Leinster) and Mark Jones (Chair, Cricket Committee), those hard-working volunteers on the Cricket Committee and all of our clubs for engaging so positively in the process.

These new structures have been approved by both the Board and the Cricket Committee of Cricket Leinster.

#### **VISION**

As professional cricket develops in Ireland, it is important to recognise that the clubs and club competition are the heart and soul of our great game. For Ireland to flourish on the International stage, it is crucial that the clubs continue to grow.

The vision for the future has taken into consideration what is best for all 44 clubs that compete in the Open Competitions. Whilst it has been difficult to get to a final position, we believe the structure that will commence in 2020 will be a strong format that will aid the development of club cricket across Leinster.

#### **PATHWAY**

It is vital that the new structures for Open Competitions implement both a meritocratic system giving all clubs, both developed and emerging, a pathway to the elite divisions, whilst retaining the Best v Best strength of the Leinster Premier League. The vision does this and will ensure the good health of Leinster club cricket for years to come.

The CL Cricket Committee has overseen the process of developing this vision for the future Open Competition Structures. It has been agreed that these structures will be in place for a minimum of 3 years to allow clubs to develop and invest with certainty – providing all clubs the opportunity to progress to the level they aspire to.

#### **CLEAR CRITERIA**

With this in mind, Cricket Leinster will be working with clubs to understand their aspirations, identify key areas for development and most importantly, work with them to achieve their ambitions.

## REBRAND

Alongside the 2020 Vision for the Competition Structures, there is also a rebrand of the top 4 leagues within the structure. This adds clarity, recognition and simplicity to our top leagues with the 4 leading divisions becoming named:

- **Premier League**
- **Championship**
- **Division 1**
- **Division 2**

The remaining 13 divisions of Open Competitions will be named from Division 3 down to Division 15 from 2020 onwards.

## 2020 Competitions Structures

### Premier League & Championship

Much like the 2019 season, the top two divisions will split their seasons into two 50-over competitions. The first half of the season will see the 'Senior League Cup' take place with Dublin University being one of the competing teams.

The second half of the season will split into the Premier League and Championship with two round-robin home and away leagues, Cork County will take part in place of Dublin University in this half of the season.

### Division 1 & Division 2

Beneath the top two leagues will be a new league, named 'Division 1' which will be a 3rd league made-up solely of club 1st XIs. This has been created to help developing clubs move along a defined pathway to the very highest level.

What was Division 3 in 2018/2019 will be rebranded as 'Division 2' from 2020 onwards and be reserved for the very best 2nd XI sides from anywhere across Leinster.

As part of this pathway, the new Divisions 1 and 2 will also combine for a 'League Cup' with the White Ball, Coloured Clothing 50 Overs format - allowing the progressing 1st XIs to challenge themselves in the white ball format against the best 2nd XIs.

## Make-up of Competition Structures

The breakdown of the composition of the top 4 division competition structures is as follows, please note the split between the early season and late season competitions for the top 2 divisions;

### Premier League & Championship

#### IBI Corporate Finance Leinster Senior Cup - (April 2020 - June 2020)

- Premier League & Championship (14-16 Clubs) **randomly** split across two groups with seeding
- Includes Dublin University excludes Cork County
- Top 2 in each group go to semi-final
- Final played in early-mid June each year
- White Ball, Coloured Clothing, 50 Overs

#### a) LHW Financial Planning Premier League (June 2020 - September 2020)

#### b) Cricket Leinster Championship (June 2020 - September 2020)

- Premier League made up of top 8 club teams in Leinster
- Championship made up of next 7-8 club teams depending upon number of eligible clubs
- In both leagues all sides play each other twice, home and away
- Relegation / promotion
  - **Automatic:** 1 side promoted from Championship, replacing 1 side relegated from Premier League each year.
  - **Playoff:** 1 Side goes to promotion/relegation play-off - 7th in Premier League v 2nd in Championship
- Red Ball, White Clothing, 50 Overs

### Division 1 & Division 2

#### League Cup- (April 2020 - June 2020)

- Division 1 & Division 2 Clubs **randomly** split across two groups
- Top 2 in each group go to semi-final
- Final played in early-mid June each year
- White Ball, Coloured Clothing, 50 Overs

### **Cricket Leinster Division 1 (June 2020 - September 2020)**

- Division 1 made up of the next best 8 club **First XIs** from Leinster structures. Division 1 to be open to **First XIs** only
- Clubs will submit expressions of interest to compete in this structure in 2020, with Grounds, Youth, Coaching, Player structures all having a bearing - see transition for more
- Red Ball, White Clothing, 50 Overs
- All sides play each other twice, home and away
- Relegation/promotion
  - **Automatic:** 1 side promoted from Division 1, replacing 1 side relegated from Championship
- League Cup with Division 2 Sides is cup competition played with White Ball, Coloured Clothing in 50 Overs format

### **Cricket Leinster Division 2 (June 2020 - September 2020)**

- Division 2 made up of the next best 8 club teams from Leinster structures. Division 2 to be open to all teams but in 2020 it will be made up of 8 x Second XIs to start with
- Red Ball, White Clothing, 50 Overs
- All sides play each other twice, home and away
- 2 sides relegated to Division 3 and replaced with top 2 sides from Division 4
- No promotion possible from Division 2 for 2nd XI's higher than Division 2
- League Cup with Division 1 Sides is cup competition played with White Ball, Coloured Clothing in 50 Overs format

## **Transition from 2019 to new 2020 Competition Structures**

### **Premier League & Championship**

For the clubs with 1st XIs in the Premier League and Championship in 2019, the placement of their 1st XI for the 2020 season will be determined on their performance from both the 2018 and 2019 season.

This is being done for two reasons,

1. To give clubs all necessary information in advance of the 2019 season so they can understand the impact of their performance in 2019 upon their league placing in 2020.
2. The Cricket Committee felt it was important to ensure that the performances in the 2018 counted towards each club's league placement for 2020 to reward the most consistent clubs and get the 8 strongest teams possible in the Premier League in 2020.

Therefore the places in the 2020 league structures will be decided by this points weighted formula based on the clubs' performance in:

- 1) The 2018 League(s)
- 2) The 2019 League Cup and
- 3) The 2019 League(s);

2018 League Position	2019 League Cup position	2019 League(s) position
<i>50% Weighting</i>	<i>25% Weighting</i>	<i>25% Weighting</i>

The points range from 700 for 1st in Premier League to 50 for last in Division 2 in 2018. Then from 350 for 1st in the League Cup or Premier League down to 25 for last in Division 2 in 2019.

These points will added up at the end of the 2019 season. The top 8 teams will make-up the 2020 Premier League with the remaining teams going to the Championship for 2020. This points table will be updated often as the season progresses in 2019 so clubs are aware of what impact their 2019 matches will have on their positioning.

### **2020 Championship**

Under the above methodology there is capacity to promote up to 2 additional Club 1st XIs to the Championship. Cricket Leinster will invite clubs to put their case forward if they wish to be considered for expedited promotion. In line with the CL Strategic plan, clubs will be considered based on a number of criteria ranging from ground accreditation to club structures to the future sustainability of the club within their respective communities.

Cricket Leinster will work with any such clubs who wish to pursue this pathway.

## **Division 1 & Division 2**

### **Division 1**

Division 1 is a departure from any historic league structures and creates an additional division that is locked down for **only 1st XIs** to compete in. As such, all clubs outside of the 2019 Open Premier structures are invited to make expressions of interest to Cricket Leinster to place their 1st XI in the new division. The decision to select the 8 teams to make-up the division in 2020 will be based around the following factors;

- League placing at the end of the 2019 Season
- Ground accreditation status
- Coaching and playing structure and standard within club
- Youth Cricket structure
- Desire and commitment of club to compete at a higher level

Submissions from clubs can be made to Cricket Leinster who will engage with our clubs to assist their future plans. Should there be more than 8 teams who wish to enter the new division and meet the criteria, then Cricket Leinster will make the final decision on the make-up of the league for the 2020 season.

There will be no relegation from Division 1 for a 3 year period to assist all competing clubs in terms of developments and sustainability.

**Division 2**

Division 2 will be made up of 8 teams

- a) The Top 7 2nd XIs from the 2019 Division 3 table and
- b) The highest ranking 2nd XIs from the 2019 Division 4 table.