



# Meeting the capacity challenge

A strategy to increase the number of umpires in Cricket in Leinster



## Meeting the Capacity Challenge:

### A strategy to increase the number of umpires in Cricket in Leinster

In 2021 the Cricket Leinster Match Officials Committee was established with a remit to consider officiating matters across all cricket in Leinster; it reports to the Cricket Committee. In recent months, the committee has been gathering information and considering ways to support current officials and to meet the challenges in the officiating area.

While the 2020 and 2021 seasons have been difficult in many ways, it is clear that interest levels in playing cricket remain strong. Registration figures are up year-on-year and with considerable increases in youth registration it is fair to say that growth in the number of clubs, teams and players in the game will continue to increase.

This benefit is not without its drawbacks however and one of those is in the area of officiating. Simply put, there are not enough umpires in the system to cover all the Open Competition, Womens and Youth matches each week.



Another issue that is highlighted regularly is that of player indiscipline and in conversations with a number of clubs it is clear that there is something of a circular problem. On the one hand players are becoming disillusioned with the game when playing in matches without official umpires; on the other hand, anecdotally, we are being told that umpires are standing in fewer matches because of a perceived deterioration in players' behaviour when they stand in matches.

Mindful of the above, something has to give and, to that end, Cricket Leinster is considering a more basic approach to umpiring numbers.

## **“Team Matches to Umpire Appointment” Tally Scheme**

The proposed scheme draws on techniques used in cricket around the world, where clubs are expected to provide an umpire for every team they field on any given day. For example:

***Alpha Cricket Club fields two teams every weekend, one Saturday and one Sunday. To balance this, they must provide two “umpire appointments” over that weekend. That could be one umpire appointed to two matches or two umpires appointed once each over that weekend.***

Cricket is a small family and despite significant efforts by the LCU&SA to attract umpires, it is clear that the clubs who make up that family have a role in supplying enough umpires to meet the needs of our league and cup cricket programmes.

Each club will be required to provide enough “umpire appointments” to match the number of teams they have in Open and Women’s competitions. Cricket Leinster and the LCU&SA will provide insurance and training for those umpires and they will be appointed by the LCU&SA and remunerated in the same way as existing umpires.

The benefits are manifold and will show immediate benefits to players and clubs alike. For those that enjoy their umpiring and show aptitude there are international appointments are there for the taking, now that Cricket Ireland are a Full Member of ICC. Regardless of what level you umpire, you’ll get the best seat in the house to enjoy our game.



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## How does the scheme work?

A formula will be applied for each club. This compares how many matches are being played by teams from the club against the number of umpires from their club who are standing in matches. This includes any existing umpires in the LCU&SA system who are affiliated to clubs.

Those clubs that are in credit, i.e., who provide more umpire appointments than matches, will receive a points bonus for all Open teams and Women's Division 1 teams in the following year

Those that have a shortfall, by providing fewer umpire appointments than matches played, will receive a points penalty to all teams.



An indicative sliding scale of penalties is shown below:

Percentage surplus / shortfall	League points Bonus / Penalty per team
0 - 10%	5
10 - 20%	10
20 - 30%	15
30 - 40%	20
40 - 50%	25
50 - 60%	30
60 - 70%	35
70 - 80%	40
80 - 90%	45
More than 90%	50

## Can you give us some examples of clubs?

For example, consider the five clubs below. The teams (or their Clubs) have, in the preceding season, each provided a differing number of umpire appointments as follows:

Club	Matches Played in previous season	Appointments Provided in previous season	Relative Percentage +/-	Points Bonus / Penalty applied to each team
Alpha CC	16	12	-25%	- 15 points
Bravo CC	17	34	+100%	+ 50 points
Charlie CC	102	26	-74%	- 40 points
Delta CC	86	104	+21%	+ 15 points
Echo CC	54	0	More than 90%	- 50 points

## How does a club know what they need to do?

In an average season, each team might play six T20 matches, and a league programme of 14 matches, for a total of 20 matches. This means that a one-team-club providing no umpire appointments to offset those 20 matches would face a points penalty in the following season of 50 league points for all Open Competition teams, as well as any teams in Women's Division 1.

Conversely, a club who provide four umpires to stand in 10 matches each over the season, forty appointments, would benefit to the tune of 50 league points per team. This is the equivalent of less than one match a fortnight for each umpire.

CL can provide each club individually with an indication of their relative position under this scheme moving into the 2022 season. To calculate this, appointments from the 2019 season were analysed per affiliated club. Any new umpires for the 2020 and 2021 season were then added, to give a reasonable indication of a full season worth of appointments. These figures were compared to the provisional team entries for the 2022 season, taking 20 matches per team as a benchmark. Please contact [results@cricketleinster.ie](mailto:results@cricketleinster.ie) if you wish to receive the indicative data for your club.

For the 2022 and 2023 seasons, indicative updates will be provided to clubs throughout the season on appointments to date, with a view to introducing the above system fully from the start of the 2024 season. In doing so, this allows clubs a full 18 months – or two winters – to consider their position and for sufficient training courses to be provided in advance of the roll out of the above scheme.

### **What training courses are available for new umpires?**

The LCU&SA run Umpire education in Leinster on behalf of IACUS, the national officials body. Courses are accredited by IACUS and are delivered by qualified tutors. Participants will receive a nationally recognised certificate.

In order to be eligible for appointment to matches potential umpires must undertake 16 hours of training across two courses, Stage One and Stage Two.

It is planned that the LCU&SA will run Stage One and Stage Two courses in early 2022. This would allow the participants to start umpiring in the 2022 season. Further courses will be run between the 2022 and 2023 season.

The following courses are now available to book:

Course Title	Course Dates	Location	Cost per participant
Stage One	Starting 18 January 2022, 2 hours twice a week for two weeks	Zoom	€15
Stage Two	Starting 15 February 2022, 2 hours twice a week for two weeks	Zoom	€15

Further details on booking courses can be found here:

<https://leinstercricketumpiresscorers.net/2021/12/06/cricket-umpire-courses-2022/>

