

## **Hillman Trophy & Plate 2026 Rules related FAQs.**

### **Eligibility**

Players are eligible if they are a member of the club they represent, haven't represented another club in The Hillman Trophy that year, have three competition cards in their record over the previous 12 month period, and fall into either of the two handicap categories.

**Q – We haven't got enough low handicap category players. Can I select players with a higher handicap if they play off an index of 9.4 on the day.**

A – Yes.

**Q – I selected a player for a match, but after being selected their handicap came down meaning they are no longer eligible for the category we selected them for. Can they still play?**

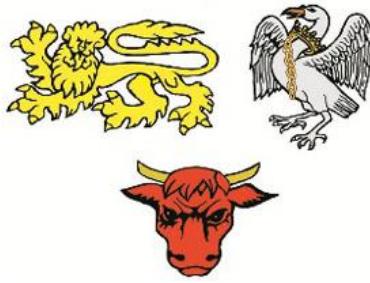
A – Yes. Providing their handicap was eligible at any point in time during the previous 30 days of the match date. They must play off their exact handicap on the day.

On the day of the match, both teams must play in exact handicap order. Where teams have a higher handicap player representing the low handicap index category, that player will be counted as having an exact index of 9.4 on the day.

**Q- I selected a player for the match, but after being selected their handicap went up meaning they are no longer eligible for the category we selected them for. Can they still play?**

A- Yes. The maximum handicap index they can play off on the day is the maximum handicap index allowed in the category they represent.

On the day of the match, both teams must play in exact handicap order. Where teams have a higher handicap player representing the low handicap index category, that player will be counted as having an exact index of 9.4 on the day. If they were representing the higher handicap category they will be counted as having an exact handicap index of 20.4



**Q – What happens if a player represents us in a match but is subsequently found not to have been eligible.**

A – It's the Captain's responsibility to ensure his players are eligible. If a player is found not to be eligible before teeing off, the Captain can withdraw the player and forfeit one of the games – see below. If, after the match has been played, the opposing team finds that a player was ineligible, the team in breach of the rules will be disqualified and the result given to their opponents.

**Q – What happens if I can't field enough players?**

A – The team may participate but must still go off in handicap order. They will be deemed to have lost the singles match that they didn't have a player for. In the case of a draw, the team fielding a full team will go through to the next round. Every effort must be made to ensure the player "missing out" on a game still plays the course.

**Arrangement of Matches**

The home club must offer two weekend dates (on two different weekends) for the match to be played. If agreeable by both Captains, the away club can host the match.

The Hillman Trophy is a friendly but competitive event. All clubs are expected to try their very hardest to play their matches. If, for any reason, a home drawn club can't host, then we expect the "away" team to try and arrange for the match to be played at their venue. Captains must try their hardest to compete in the spirit of The Hillman Trophy.

When matches can't be played, we in the BB&O Office will decide who goes through to the next round based on the information we have. There will be **NO EXTENSIONS**.

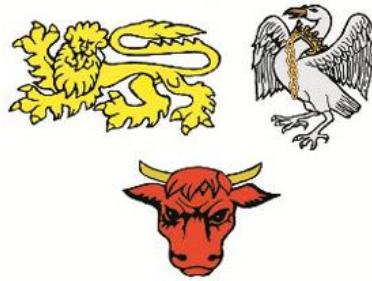
To avoid disappointment, we ask all Captains to be as sympathetic and accommodating as possible to your opponents. If we do have to make difficult decisions, in general, the below can be used as a guideline but the office reserves the right to treat every case individually and our decisions are final.

**Q – The Home club didn't contact me until the last minute, and as a result we can't make one of the two dates offered. What happens?**

A – It's the responsibility of both clubs to organize the match and so if two dates are offered but the match not played, BB&O will find in favour of the "home" club unless they have deliberately ignored earlier contact by the visiting club.

**Q – The Home club can't offer two weekend dates and we can't make the one they've offered. What happens?**

A – If the "away" club are given enough notice (three weeks before the round ends) they may offer the "home" club one weekend date for the match to be played at the away venue. If a date



is offered, and the “home” club can’t play, the match will be awarded to the away club. If a date is not offered by the “away” club, the winner will be decided by lot.

**Q – We were due to play a match, but the weather made it impossible. We can’t arrange another match in time. Who goes through to the next round?**

A – The BB&O Office will arrange for the match to be decided by lot.