

The ECB Women's Premier League Competition Rules

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The Women's Premier League

1 Title of Competition

- 1.1 The title of the competition will be the ECB Women's Premier League (ECB WPL)
- 1.2 Both the North and South ECB WPL competitions are included in these rules

2 Management of Competition

- 2.1 The management of the Competition will be run through the ECB Competitions Department and day to day management will be through Lisa Drummond (referred to as the Competition Manager)
- 2.2 All competition queries should be referred through **Lisa Drummond**
Lisa.Drummond@ecb.co.uk
Office tel: 0207 4321 273

3 Conditions of Entry

- 3.1 Clubs that qualified through the 2010 season will be eligible to enter the ECB WPL for 2011
- 3.2 Facilities will be assessed using the Premier League Umpires Pitch Assessment form – which must be completed after each match. It is the responsibility of the away team to ensure umpires complete and return it to ECB
- 3.3 For the 2011 season entry into ECB WPL the following conditions must be met:
 - 3.3.1 Club development plan needs to be online and accurate
 - 3.3.2 Pitch advisors report conducted in the last 3 years on the pitch used regularly by the ECB WPL team
 - 3.3.3 ECB WPL Club has a junior girls section or has an active partnership with a girls section at another club locally

- 3.3.4 The club is either registered or actively working towards its Clubmark accreditation
- 3.4 If Clubs do not meet the ECB WPL Conditions of Entry, ECB will retain the right to remove Clubs from the ECB WPL with immediate effect. All Clubs will have the opportunity to provide evidence in support of their actions within 7 days of being notified of a potential breach

4 Women's Senior Club Eligibility Criteria

- 4.1 A player is eligible to play for a Club where:
 - 4.1.1 A player only represents one Club during the 2011 season in all ECB WPL competitions (North and South)
 - 4.1.2 One overseas player, defined as a player not qualified for England under the ECB Regulations governing the qualification of Women Cricketers for England, may play for one Club per season
 - 4.1.3 On ECB Guidelines for Junior Players in Open Age Cricket, revised October 2010, no under 12 age group players or younger may take part in the ECB WPL, unless they are deemed by ECB performance managers to be of a standard to compete in any U13 girls' county age group competition. This is providing they are at least 11 years old, and in school Year 7 on 1st September in the year preceding the season and have written parental consent to play

5 Administration of Competition

- 5.1 Entering Players and Squads
 - 5.1.1 Clubs will be required to enter and register all players on their own play-cricket site before 1 April 2011
 - 5.1.2 When Registering additional players after April you must email the competition manager with the request and apply via the play-cricket site

- 5.1.3 Clubs should also apply for player registration to the ECB WPL through their own Club's play-cricket site (the Competition Manager can advise further on how to do this)
- 5.2 Amending Fixtures
- 5.2.1 Fixture dates will be provided by the competition manager and for the sake of clarity these shall be set as the "original" fixture date
- 5.2.2 All fixtures should be managed on line through each Club's play-cricket site
- 5.2.3 Clubs will be required to enter full fixture details prior to 1 April 2011 – these details should include:
- 5.2.3.1 Date of fixture
 - 5.2.3.2 Venue of fixture
 - 5.2.3.3 Time of fixture
- 5.2.4 If changes are made to fixtures during the season, the home side will be expected to amend fixture details and email the Competition Manager of the fixture change immediately
- 5.3 Rearrangement of Matches
- 5.3.1 Only cancelled matches (not abandoned matches) can be rearranged in the ECB WPL for 2011. If a match started but did not fulfil the minimum number of overs to constitute a result, it will be recorded as an abandoned match and bonus points gained shall be awarded to both teams
- 5.3.2 If a match needs to be rearranged due to unfit conditions or other extenuating circumstances, Clubs will be able to rearrange matches
- 5.3.3 Cancelled matches can be rearranged on any date where possible (**including county allocated Sundays**)
- 5.3.4 All re arranged matches need to be authorised by email to the competition (lisa.drumond@ecb.co.uk) no later than 5 days prior to the rearranged match date

- 5.3.5 Matches must be completed by 12 September, 2011
- 5.3.6 If Clubs have tried to rearrange with their intended opposition and have been unable to reach an agreement, this will be referred to the Competition Manager to decide on appropriate awarding of points
- 5.3.7 The "original" fixture date will be used to determine this decision

6 Playing Conditions

6.1 Laws of Cricket

- 6.1.1 Except as varied hereunder, the Laws of Cricket (2000 Code 4th Edition – 2010) shall apply.

6.2 Umpires

- 6.2.1 The home team shall be responsible for allocating umpires with appropriate qualifications. Allocation will be available from the following in order of preference:
 - 6.2.1.1 From either a Local or Regional ECBACO panel – where ECB shall support Clubs in allocating umpires
 - 6.2.1.2 From a Regional representative that has permission from the Competition Manager to allocate umpires for the ECB WPL
 - 6.2.1.3 From your own club – with appropriate ECBACO membership / qualification or previous ACO qualification – to be agreed with Sue Redfern in advance of the season to confirm suitability
- 6.2.2 Before the toss the umpires shall:
 - 6.2.2.1 Ascertain the hours of play and agree with the captains:
 - 6.2.2.2 Agree the balls to be used during the match. See Law 5 (The ball).
 - 6.2.2.3 Clarify times and durations of intervals for meals

6.2.2.4 Communicate any special conditions of play affecting match.

6.2.2.5 Inform the scorers of the above.

6.3 Scorers

6.3.1 It is the responsibility of each team to provide a nominated scorers for all matches during the ECB WPL

6.3.2 Coach, Manager and squad members will not be permitted to be the nominated scorer

6.3.3 Scorers should be members of the ECBACO

6.4 Duration

6.4.1 Each team shall bat for 50 overs unless all out earlier

6.4.2 Unless both teams agree otherwise, the match start time will be 12:00

6.4.3 Each innings shall last for no longer than 3 hours 10 minutes

6.4.4 Innings will be separated by a 45 minute interval, unless interruptions have occurred where the umpires can waive / amend this interval time

6.4.5 If the team batting first is dismissed in less than 50 overs, the team batting second shall be entitled to bat for 50 overs

6.5 Slowness of Play

6.5.1 If the team fielding first fails to bowl the required number of overs by the scheduled time, play shall continue until the required number of overs has been bowled. The interval shall be reduced to enable the second innings to commence at the scheduled time, subject to there being a minimum interval of 20 minutes. The team batting second shall only receive the number of overs it completed in the scheduled time. For example the team fielding first bowls 48 overs in the scheduled time. Play shall continue until the required number of overs has

been bowled. The team batting second shall only receive 48 overs in which to chase the required total score.

- 6.5.2 If the team fielding second fails to bowl 50 overs by the scheduled time, the hours of play shall be extended until the required numbers of overs have been bowled or a result is achieved
- 6.5.3 If the umpires declare the slowness of play was through no fault of the fielding side the umpires can waive some / all of the penalty above

6.6 Drinks / Stoppages in Innings

- 6.6.1 Each innings will be allowed 1 drinks interval of 5 minutes (unless exceptional conditions where 2 drinks intervals will be allowed)
- 6.6.2 These intervals cannot take place if:
 - 6.6.2.1 less than 60 minutes has passed since previous interval
 - 6.6.2.2 less than 10 overs remaining in the innings

6.7 Teams

- 6.7.1 Each captain shall nominate 11 players in writing at the toss, plus any number of substitute fielders.
- 6.7.2 No player (of the named playing 11) may be changed after the toss without the consent of the opposing captain
- 6.7.3 Coaches and non-players are not permitted to coach whilst the match in progress
- 6.7.4 Coaches and non-players (other than a physio) are not permitted to enter the field of play at any time once play has commenced (including drinks intervals)
- 6.7.5 Substitute fielders shall only be permitted in cases of injury, illness or other wholly acceptable reasons. 'Wholly acceptable reasons' should be limited to extreme circumstances and should not include what is commonly referred to as a 'comfort break'

6.8 Pitch and Facility Requirements

6.8.1 Wicket Length

6.8.1.1 A full, 22 yard wicket shall be used

6.8.2 Boundary Size

6.8.2.1 The boundary shall be a minimum of 55 yards (50.29 metres) and a maximum of 70 yards (64 metres). Distances shall be measured from the centre of the pitch.

6.9 Equipment

6.9.1 Cricket Balls

6.9.1.1 A 5oz hardball will be used

6.9.1.2 The Competition Manager will provide all match balls to each Club for the number of matches played

6.9.1.3 Each Club must have to provide a match ball and a spare (the latter not provided by the ECB) for their **fielding** innings

6.9.1.4 In the event of the ball becoming wet and soggy as a result of play continuing in inclement weather or it being affected by dew, and in the opinion of the umpires being unfit for play, the ball may be replaced for a ball that has similar amount of wear, even though it has not gone out of shape

6.9.1.5 If the ball is to be replaced, the umpire shall inform the batters. Either the batter or bowler may raise the matter with the umpires and the umpires' decision as to a replacement or otherwise will be final

6.9.2 Helmets and Faceguards

6.9.2.1 Please refer to Generic rule 9

6.10 Bowlers, Wides & No-balls

- 6.10.1 Bowlers will be restricted to a fifth of the allocated overs in the innings
- 6.10.2 Where the total overs are not divisible by 5, one additional over shall be allowed to the maximum number per bowler necessary to make up the balance
- 6.10.3 In the event of a bowler breaking down and being unable to complete an over, the remaining balls will be allowed by another bowler. Such part of an over will count as a full over only in so far as each bowler's limit is concerned
- 6.10.4 ECB's Fast Bowling Directive will apply during all matches in the ECB WPL

6.10.5 Wide Balls

- 6.10.5.1 Any offside delivery which in the opinion of the umpire does not give the batter a reasonable opportunity to score shall be called a wide
- 6.10.5.2 Any delivery that would have passed down the legside of the batter whilst in her normal stance shall be called a wide

6.10.6 No-balls

- 6.10.6.1 In addition to the front foot no-ball the umpire at the bowler's end shall call and signal No Ball if a ball which they consider to have been delivered without having previously touched bat or person of the striker:
 - 6.10.6.1.1 bounces more than ONCE
 - 6.10.6.1.2 rolls along the ground before it reaches the popping crease

6.11 Field Placements and Restrictions

- 6.11.1 At the instant of delivery, there may not be more than 5 fielders on the leg side.

6.11.2 Pitch Markings & Stationary Fielders

- 6.11.2.1 Two semi-circles shall be drawn on the field of play. The semi-circles shall have as their centre the middle stump at either end of the pitch. The radius of each of the semi-circles shall be 25 yards (23 metres). The semi-circles shall be linked by two parallel straight lines drawn on the field. These fielding restriction areas should be marked by continuous painted white lines or 'dots' at 5 yards (4 metres) intervals
- 6.11.2.2 During the first fifteen overs (in an uninterrupted match) only two fielders shall be permitted outside this fielding restriction area at the instant of delivery
- 6.11.2.3 For the remaining overs no more than 5 fielders shall be permitted outside the fielding restriction area indicated above

6.11.3 Stationary Fielders

- 6.11.3.1 A further two inner circles shall be drawn on the field of play. The circles shall have as their centres the centre point of the popping crease at either end of the pitch. The radius of each of the circles shall be 13 yards (12 metres)
- 6.11.3.2 During the first fifteen overs of each innings (in an uninterrupted match) there must be a minimum of two stationary fielders within this 13 yard fielding restriction area at the instant of delivery
- 6.11.3.3 When a fast bowler is bowling the two stationary fielders may be permitted to stand deeper than 13 yards provided only that they are standing in slip, leg slip or gully positions

6.11.4 Fielding Restrictions for Reduced Matches

- 6.11.4.1 In circumstances where the number of overs for the team batting first team is reduced, the number of overs for which the fielding

restrictions shall apply shall be reduced in accordance with the table below. For the sake of clarity, it should be noted that the table shall apply to both the 1st and 2nd innings of the match:

Total overs in innings	Overs for which restrictions apply
20 - 23	6
24 - 26	7
27 - 29	8
30 - 33	9
34 - 36	10
37 - 39	11
40 - 43	12
44 - 46	13
47 - 49	14
50	15

6.12 Junior Fielding guidelines

- 6.12.1 For U13 and U15 players: no player will be allowed to stand closer than 11 yards and 8 yards from the middle of the wicket respectively, until the batter has played the ball. This is with the exception of the wicket keeper and fielders on the off-side behind the wicket
- 6.12.2 For any player aged 16 and over: players that stand within 6 yards of the batter must wear a helmet with the exception of the wicket keeper and fielders on the off-side behind the wicket
- 6.12.3 The umpire should ensure these restrictions are not breached and must stop the game until the distance is correct

6.13 Fitness of play (Ground Condition and Light)

- 6.13.1 All references to ground include the pitch. See Law 7.1 (Area of pitch)

- 6.13.2 It is solely for the umpires to decide whether either conditions of ground, weather or light or exceptional circumstances mean that it would be dangerous or unreasonable for play to take place. Conditions shall not be regarded as either dangerous or unreasonable merely because they are not ideal
- 6.13.3 Conditions shall be regarded as dangerous if there is actual and foreseeable risk to the safety of any player or umpire
- 6.13.4 Conditions shall be regarded as unreasonable if, although posing no risk to safety, it would not be sensible for play to proceed
- 6.13.5 When there is a suspension of play it is the responsibility of the umpires to monitor conditions. They shall make inspections as often as appropriate, unaccompanied by any players or officials. Once the umpires together agree that the conditions are no longer dangerous or unreasonable they shall call upon the players to resume play
- 6.14 Delay or Interruption – First Innings**
- 6.14.1 If playing time has been lost the revised number of overs shall be based on a rate of 16 overs per hour in the total time available for play
- 6.14.2 The revision of the number of overs should ensure, where possible, that both teams have the opportunity of batting for the same number of overs
- 6.14.3 The team batting second should not be allocated more overs than the team batting first
- 6.14.4 As soon as the total minutes playing time remaining is less than the completed overs already faced by team one, multiplied by 3.8, the first innings should be terminated immediately.

6.15 Delay or Interruption – Second Innings

- 6.15.1 When playing time has been lost and, as a result, it is not possible for the team batting second to complete its allocated overs in the playing time available, the number of overs shall be reduced at a rate of 16 overs per hour in respect of the lost playing time. Fractions of overs should be ignored for this purpose
- 6.15.2 In addition, should the innings of the team batting first have been completed prior to the scheduled, or rescheduled time for the commencement of the interval, then any calculation relating to the revision of overs shall not be effective until an amount of time equivalent to that by which the second innings started early has elapsed
- 6.15.3 A fixed time shall be specified for the close of play by applying a rate of 16 overs per hour. The timing and duration of all relative delays, extensions in playing hours and interruptions in play will be taken into consideration in specifying this time
- 6.15.4 If the team fielding second fails to bowl the revised number of overs by the scheduled or rescheduled close of play, the hours of play shall be extended until the overs have been bowled or a result achieved, whichever comes first
- 6.15.5 The umpire should ensure these restrictions are not breached and must stop the game until the distance is correct

6.16 Calculation of Target Score in Reduced Overs Games

- 6.16.1 Using the above calculations, if the stoppage occurs during the first innings, overs will be reduced to enable both teams the opportunity to face the same number of overs (ensuring this is a minimum of 20 overs for each innings)
- 6.16.2 If the stoppage occurs during the second innings, overs can be reduced accordingly to ensure a result is obtained

- 6.16.3 If the number of overs for the team batting second has to be reduced to fewer than the number of overs allocated to the team batting first, then the target score shall be reduced according to the innings run rate of the team that batted first

e.g. the team batting first makes 150 runs off their full 50 overs. If the innings of the team batting second is reduced to 20 overs, their target score will be 61. This is based on innings run rate of 3 per over plus 1 run to win the match

7 Results

7.1 Match Results and Points

Win	In a match consisting of a minimum of 20 overs the team that scored more runs than the opposition wins.	10	Bonus Points
Loss	Opposite of win	0	Bonus Points
Tie	Both teams' scores are equal	5	Bonus Points
Abandoned	Play possible but fewer than 20 overs bowled by each team	5	Bonus Points
Cancelled	No play possible	0	-

7.2 Bonus Points (max of 4 batting and 4 bowling)

Batting Points* (please read example below)	Bowling Points
Equal or more than: 1.5 Runs per over (RPO): 1 point 2 RPO: 2 points 3 RPO: 3 points 4 RPO: 4 points	1 point for each of the following wickets taken 3, 5, 7 and 9

- * e.g. A match is reduced to 20 overs per side. The team batting first makes 80 runs. This is 4 RPO which gives them 4 batting bonus points, depending on the

outcome of the match. The team batting second then scores 40 runs off 10 overs, all out. Despite scoring at 4 RPO, the team batting second only earns 2 batting bonus points (because their allocated number of overs was 20)

- If teams have fewer than 11 batsmen – the fielding team shall be awarded full bowling bonus points if only one batter remains

7.3 ECB WPL Division Rankings

7.3.1 2011 Final Standings

7.3.1.1 Clubs will be ranked in their respective Divisions at the end of the 2011 season using the following criteria, in the order given:

7.3.1.1.1 Average points from completed but not cancelled or abandoned matches

7.3.1.1.2 Number of points scored between 2 sides when playing each other (including abandoned matches)

7.3.1.1.3 Team with the highest net run-rate

7.3.2 National Premier League Final

7.3.2.1 The winners of both the North and South ECB WPL will be invited to play in the National ECB WPL Final. The Competition Manager will provide neutral venues and officials for this game. This match will be scheduled for the 18th September 2011.

7.3.3 Promotion and Relegation for 2012

7.3.3.1 The following is subject to any amendments made within the ECB Competition Review 2011 Report – due for completion April 2011

7.3.3.2 Only Clubs that meet the required Conditions of Entry will be eligible to participate in the 2012 ECB WPL. This includes any clubs that have won their respective Regional leagues and any play-offs to become eligible for the ECB WPL

7.3.3.3 The Clubs that finish bottom of both the North and South ECB WPL will be relegated into their respective Regional feeder leagues

7.3.3.4 If a Club is removed or withdraws from the ECB WPL then the above relegation scenario will not occur

7.3.3.5 If any Clubs fail to meet the ECB WPL Conditions of Entry then the teams that finished bottom of their respective ECB WPL will be permitted to retain their ECB WPL status for 2012 provided that they meet the ECB WPL Conditions of Entry

8 Penalties for Breach of ECB WPL Rules

8.1 Conceded Matches

8.1.1 If a Club concedes 2 matches they shall be removed from the ECB WPL with immediate affect and all points relating to matches involving that Club shall be expunged

8.1.2 If Clubs concede 1 match, ECB performance related fee payments for that club will be withheld and distributed accordingly to other clubs who do meet the required standards

8.2 Other Breaches of ECB WPL Rules

8.2.1 Where a Club has breached any ECB WPL rule or Condition of Entry stated within this document, the Competition Manager shall have the right to apply the following penalties:

8.2.1.1 To remove points obtained in matches where the breach occurred

8.2.1.2 To overturn match results based on information obtained relating to a breach in the ECB WPL rule, during any match

8.2.1.3 To remove Clubs from the ECB WPL with immediate effect if any Conditions of Entry are not adhered to or if a Club breaches an ECB WPL rule more than once.

- 8.2.2 If a Club is removed from the ECB WPL, all points obtained by other Clubs against the removed Club shall be expunged
- 8.2.3 If a Club is removed the performance related funding for that Club will be retained by the ECB. Other Clubs funding will not be affected
- 8.2.4 All Clubs will have the opportunity to provide evidence in support of their actions within 7 days of being notified of a potential breach to the competitions managers.

9 Code of Conduct / Spirit of Cricket

- 9.1 Refer to section 9 of the Generic rules in the ECB NFC rules and regulations booklet

10 Appeals and Complaints

- 10.1 If any Club would like to raise a potential breach / issue to the attention of the ECB, they must confirm this in writing to the Competition Manager within 72 hours of game where the breach/complaint occurred
- 10.2 If any Club wants to challenge the outcome of a penalty imposed they must inform the Competition Manager within 7 days of being in receipt of the penalty / the decision being made
- 10.3 The Competition Manager will confirm receipt of all complaints / appeals
- 10.4 All appeals and complaints shall be investigated by both the competition manager and the national development lead for women's and girls cricket (Sue Redfern)
- 10.5 The format of the above will be as follows:
 - 10.5.1 Competition Manager will receive written notice of complaint / appeal from Club

- 10.5.2 Competition Manager will acknowledge receipt of the above and inform the Club that has been reported
- 10.5.3 Competition Manager will obtain further clarification from all parties concerned
- 10.5.4 If required Competition Manager and Sue Redfern will hold a meeting to determine more detail of the events / facts
- 10.5.5 Sue Redfern will complete a written report on the:
- 10.5.6 Outcomes of the investigation
- 10.5.7 Recommendations
- 10.5.8 Actions ECB will take resulting in this process and the alleged breach
- 10.6 All appeals / complaints will be dealt with within 15 working days where ECB are not awaiting information

