

Women's Generic Rules

These rules relate to all ECB Women's Competitions unless otherwise indicated.

1 Management

- 1.1 The control of the Competition shall be undertaken by the ECB and RCG, all decisions relating to these rules or to matches played in the Competition shall be final and binding on all concerned.
- 1.2 The ECB and RCG may delegate any of their powers and duties.

2 Entry

- 2.1 Entry into any of ECB's County Competitions shall be open to those County Boards recognized by the ECB.
- 2.2 All counties wishing to enter or be re-admitted to the Competition must give written notice to that effect to the ECB Cricket Department by 1 October in the year prior to the Competition.
- 2.3 All clubs entering an ECB Competition must be affiliated through their County Cricket Boards.

3 Qualification of Players

Regulations governing the qualification of Women Cricketers for England

Subject to the overriding discretion of the ECB, acting with the consent of the International Cricket Council, a Cricketer will only be qualified to play for England in a Test Match or in a One Day International Match if:

- 3.1.1 she is either a British citizen or an Irish citizen; and
- 3.1.2 (a) she was born within England and Wales; or
(b) she has been resident in England and Wales for the immediately preceding twenty four consecutive months; and

- 3.1.3 she has not during the immediately preceding twenty four consecutive months either played cricket for any ICC Member Country at U19 level or above, or played First Class Cricket in any such Member Country except as an overseas cricketer under local rules similar to Regulation 3, or in any other circumstances approved by the ECB; and
- 3.1.4 she makes, whenever requested by the ECB, a declaration in the form set out in Annex A to the ECB Regulations.
- 3.1.5 In the case of a Cricketer seeking to become qualified under 3.2.2 above she will (until she has become qualified to play for England) only be treated as having been resident within England and Wales for the relevant consecutive period if she has spent a minimum of 183 days in each year within England and Wales (for which purpose "year" shall mean a year ending 1 April).

Definitions

- 3.2.1 England and Wales means England, Wales and the Isle of Man.
- 3.2.2 Residing and resident mean the occupation of a bona fide home (i.e. the only or main home of the Cricketer concerned) and the acquisition of temporary accommodation during the season may not fulfil this requirement.
- 3.2.3 Member Country means a country which is a member of the International Cricket Council.

Qualification Criteria for Senior Womens' Competitions

- 3.3.1 A player is eligible to play for a county at senior level if she meets any of the following criteria. These apply to the County Championships, the County Challenge Cup and County Qualification games. Please see the ECB Qualification Criteria for Junior Cricketers for competitions for the Under 17 age group and below.

Please note that overseas players cannot qualify through criteria (a) to (d) below.

- (a) Born in the county.
- (b) Currently resides continuously in the County and was resident for 6 months prior to 1 May that season.
- (c) Plays for a Club that is located within the County and also played for that Club in the previous season.
- (d) If a player has played for a particular County for four seasons, she will retain her eligibility to play for that County unless she becomes available for another County AND plays for that particular county.
- (e) 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 a County per season regardless of any qualification criteria. Overseas players must be registered with a women's Club and play Club cricket during the season.
- (f) A player may only represent one County at Senior level in any one playing season.

In addition, a county may seek approval from the ECB for permission to play any player, excepting overseas players, who does not meet any of the qualifying criteria detailed above. This approval will normally be considered prior to the commencement of a season, and the request should be submitted by 1 April on the appropriate form (available from the ECB). It is normal protocol to notify and seek the views of any County for whom that player would normally qualify.

In the event of a dispute, the matter should be referred to the ECB, whose decision shall be final.

Qualification Criteria for Junior Cricketers

The qualification criteria for all County Representative cricket for the Under 17 age group and below is as follows:

- 3.4.1 The criteria apply to boys as well as girls and any reference to she/her also refers to he/him.
- 3.4.2 A player may only represent one County in any one Competition in any one season.
- 3.4.3 A player shall be eligible to play for a County provided:-
 - i) She is resident within, or was born within, that County.
 - ii) Alternatively, she is attending an educational establishment within that County.
 - iii) Alternatively, she has been a bona-fide playing member of a Club within that County for at least the entire preceding season.
- 3.4.4 County boundaries shall be as defined by ECB Cricketing County Boundaries as currently agreed.
- 3.4.5 A player may play for a County for whom she is not qualified only if she has not been selected by the County/Counties for whom she is otherwise qualified and has obtained the written consent of that County/those counties. Such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld. There is no requirement to obtain the consent of the County of birth. In the event of a dispute the matter shall be referred to the ECB, whose decision shall be final.
- 3.4.6 A player who has played for a County, with a valid qualification for that County, during a season can continue to play for that county, if selected, the following season even if she no longer has a current qualification (for example following a change of school). The qualification remains valid from season to season, but lapses if the player does not represent the County during a season.

- 3.4.7 Age groups are defined by the player's age at midnight on 31 August in the year prior to the relevant season.
- 3.4.8 Girls will only be eligible to play in the ECB County Age Group Leagues (U13, U15, U17) if they play for a club or school unless prior approval has been given by the ECB.

Points of Clarification

The following points are intended to answer some of the more frequently asked questions relating to the qualification criteria:

- 3.5.1 The "entire preceding season" membership requirement means that Club membership during the current season does not count and players must have become a bona fide member of the club no later than 1 May during the preceding season..
- 3.5.2 Playing membership of a Club includes membership of a Kwik Cricket or 'Junior Colts' section if the Club has one, and does not imply match play against other Clubs.
- 3.5.3 Qualification by birth is excluded from the 'consent' arrangements for the sake of simplicity.
- 3.5.4 Players who have multiple qualifications are free to select the County that they wish to represent. Once that selection is made it remains in force for that season, but can be changed in subsequent seasons, without requiring consent, provided that the player still has a valid qualification for the newly selected County and notifies her former County in writing.
- 3.5.5 The position of First Class County Academies was raised and discussed by the ECB Schools, Junior and Youth Group in October 2003. It was generally accepted that Academy Directors should have responsibility for the cricketers in their charge, where they play and up to a point when they bowled and where they batted. Players joining a First Class Academy would not automatically qualify for that County. The Academy Director should

draw up and agree a playing programme to meet the needs of the player, which might involve her continuing to play for her Minor County or might mean a transfer to the First Class County (as allowed in the case of contracted players) or a combination of both. The existing regulations preventing a player from playing for more than one county in a specific Competition during the season remain in force. It was agreed that good communication between counties, based on the best interests of the player, was the key.

- 3.5.6 Club membership during the preceding season will qualify a player to play only for the County in which the Club is physically located (as per the ECB Cricketing County Boundaries as currently defined). Membership of a League that crosses County boundaries, affiliation to more than one County Board or participation in the Colts structure of another county will not alter the primary affiliation of the Club to the County in which it is located and therefore the County qualification based on Club membership of its players.

All disputes relating to these qualification criteria should be addressed to the ECB Cricket Department initially. If necessary disputes will be referred by the Cricket Department to the ECB Registration Committee whose decision will be final.

3.6 Club Qualifications

- 3.6.1 A cricketer shall only be eligible to play for a Club in an ECB Premier League Competition if she is a bona-fide, fully paid-up member of that Club.
- 3.6.2 A cricketer shall only be eligible to play for one ECB Premier League Club in any one season. A cricketer who is registered by an ECB Premier League Club to play in an ECB Premier League (North or South) during the current season can only play for a non-Premier League Club during the same season with the explicit prior permission of the League within which that non-Premier League Club is playing.

3.6.3 A cricketer shall only be qualified to play in an ECB Premier League Competition if she is qualified to play for England or is registered under the provisions of 3.6.5 below as an overseas player resident in England, except for the one overseas player – see 3.6.4.

3.6.4 No more than one overseas player, defined as one not qualified to play for England, can play for a Club in any one game, unless she is an exempt player under the provisions of 3.6.5 below.

3.6.5 Overseas Players Resident in England

A cricketer who is not qualified for England under the current ECB Regulations or for Scotland under the current International Cricket Council (ICC) Regulations, but who is ordinarily resident in this country can qualify as an overseas player resident in England and play in ECB Premier League Competitions only if:

she has been resident in this country for a period of two years before the date of her request for registration

she has not been out of this country for longer than 35 days consecutively or 70 days in total during the previous twenty four months

any remuneration she receives from playing cricket is not the main source of her income.

The definition of 'ordinarily resident' shall be in the absolute discretion of the ECB.

Any such player MUST be registered directly with the ECB Cricket Department, having completed an ECB 'Category 3 - Overseas Player' registration form. The ECB will approve the registration as "Exempt" and the player will not be regarded as an overseas player in the Premier Leagues or the National Knock-Out Cup.

A player, who has a home in this country and has been granted "Exempt" status, who subsequently accepts a temporary work assignment, not related to cricket, in another country may apply to re-instate her previous

"Exempt" status immediately on her return to this country. Approval is at the discretion of the registration body and is not automatic.

4 Cricket Balls

4.1 The Home side shall provide two new cricket balls for each match when balls are not provided by the ECB. The balls shall be of the standard laid down by the ECB for each competition and shall be given to the umpires prior to the commencement of the match. The Home side will also be responsible for supplying enough spare balls of equal standard. A new ball must be used at the start of each innings.

4.2 The ball specifications for women's cricket:

Women's cricket 5oz

U13 4³/₄ oz

5 Umpires

5.1 Each Club side shall appoint one Member of the ECB Officials Association or ACU&S, who has received CRB clearance, in each match unless the umpires are appointed by the ECB or the County Board. The umpires shall be appointed for the whole match and may not play in the match.

5.2 Counties shall appoint two umpires who shall be Full Members of the ECB Officials Association or ACU&S and also have CRB clearance for each home match they play.

5.3 Where umpires are appointed by the ECB, both counties must complete and sign the ECB Report on Reserve List/Local Umpires form and return it to the ECB Cricket Department after each match.

6 Scorers

Each team shall provide their own scorer in all matches except in certain competitions when ECB will appoint the

scorers. The scorers shall be appointed for the whole match and may not play in the match.

7 Age Group Definition

Age Groups are based on the age of the player at midnight on 31 August in the year preceding the current season.

8 Team Sheets

Each side must provide the umpires with a team sheet before the start of the match identifying any player who has not reached the age of 18 on the date of the match and showing the specific age group of any player who is in the Under 19 age group or younger. It is recommended that the ECB Team Sheet card (available from the ECB Cricket Department) is used whenever possible.

9 Helmets

Any player under the age of 18 playing in all ECB Competitions must wear a helmet with a faceguard when batting and when standing up to the stumps when keeping wicket unless prior written consent has been given by a parent or guardian. Any player who has parental consent not to wear a helmet should be identified on the signed team sheet provided to the umpires prior to the start of each match.

10 Match Results

It is the responsibility of the **HOME** side to enter the result onto the appropriate site on Play-Cricket.com within 72 hours of the match being completed. The **AWAY** side should confirm that the summary result has been correctly entered within the next 24 hours. The **WINNING** team to enter full score cards onto www.play-cricket.com. **BOTH** teams to post completed result sheets to ECB or your WRCM. **BOTH** sides must ensure that their squad details have been entered into Play-Cricket prior to each match they play.

11 Code of Conduct

All players, team officials and umpires shall be bound by the MCC Spirit of Cricket and ECB Code of Conduct Regulations.

12 Coaching

Coaching shall not be permitted from the sidelines during a match. In such an event, the umpire shall request the coach/manager/parent to stop. If this persists, the umpire shall have the power to warn the offending team captain and manager that the matter will be reported to the County Board/ECB.

13 Disputes

Any dispute arising from the application or interpretation of the Rules and Playing Conditions shall be referred to the ECB. Any decision of the ECB shall be final and binding on the parties concerned.

Playing Conditions

1 Number of Overs per Bowler

- 1.1 Unless otherwise specified in the Playing Conditions for a specific competition no bowler may bowl more than one-fifth of the amount of overs scheduled for the innings. However, in a delayed start, or interrupted match, where the overs are reduced for both sides, or for the side bowling second, no bowler may bowl more than one-fifth of the total overs allowed (unless such a number has been exceeded before the interruption), except that where the total overs are not divisible by five, an additional over shall be allowed to the minimum number of bowlers necessary to make up the balance - e.g. after 16 overs, rain interrupts play and the innings is reduced to 32 overs. Both opening bowlers have bowled 8 overs. Two bowlers can bowl 7 overs and three bowlers can bowl 6 overs. Bowlers 1 and 2 have already exceeded this limit. They count as the two bowlers who were allowed the extra over (7 as opposed to 6) and so any other bowlers are limited to 6 overs.
- 1.2 When an interruption occurs mid-over and on resumption the bowler has exceeded the new maximum allocation, he will be allowed to finish the incomplete over.
- 1.3 In the event of a bowler breaking down and being unable to complete an over, another bowler will bowl the remaining balls. Such part of an over will count as a full over only in so far as each bowler's limit is concerned.
- 1.4 Where possible, the number of overs bowled by each individual bowler shall be indicated on the scoreboard, from the commencement of an innings.
- 1.5 The allocation of overs per bowler will not be reduced as a result of the deduction of any penalty overs.

2 ECB Fast Bowling Directives

The ECB Fast Bowling Directives will apply to all matches in all ECB Competitions.

Age	Maximum overs per spell	Maximum overs per day
Up to U13	4 overs per spell	8 overs per day
U14, U15	5 overs per spell	10 overs per day
U16, U17	6 overs per spell	18 overs per day
U18, U19	7 overs per spell	21 overs per day

For the purposes of these Directives a fast bowler is defined as a bowler to whom a wicket keeper in the same age group would in normal circumstances stand back to take the ball.

Team Managers and/or captains are responsible for providing the umpires with a team sheet showing the ages of any player who is aged Under 19 or below before the toss for innings takes place.

Umpires are requested to ensure that this Playing Condition is strictly adhered to in all circumstances.

3 Restrictions on The Placement of Fielders - without Inner Circles

- 3.1 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 30 yards (27.4 metres). The ends of each semi-circle shall be joined to the other by a straight line drawn on the field on the same side of the pitch. The field restriction area should be marked by painted white 'dots' at five-yard intervals, each 'dot' to be covered by a white plastic or rubber (but not metal) disc measuring seven inches in diameter.
- 3.2 At the instant of delivery, there may not be more than five fielders on the leg side.

- 3.3 For the duration of the innings only five fielders are permitted to be outside the field restriction marking at the instant of delivery.
- 3.4 In the event of an infringement of the above fielding restrictions, the umpire at the striker's end shall call and signal 'No Ball'.

4 Restrictions on The Placement of Fielders - with Inner Circles

- 4.1 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 30 yards (27.4 metres). The ends of each semi-circle shall be joined to the other by a straight line drawn on the field on the same side of the pitch. The field restriction area should be marked by painted white 'dots' at five-yard intervals, each 'dot' to be covered by a white plastic or rubber (but not metal) disc measuring seven inches in diameter.
- 4.2 At the instant of delivery, there may not be more than five fielders on the leg side.
- 4.3 For the first 15 overs of each innings only two fielders are permitted to be outside the field restriction marking at the instant of delivery.
- 4.4 For the remaining overs of each innings only five fielders are permitted to be outside the field restriction marking at the instant of delivery.
- 4.5 Two inner circles shall be drawn on the field of the 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 is 15 yards (13.72 metres). The field restriction area should be marked by 'dots'. The segment of the circles reserved for the slip positions shall not be demarcated. (The final mark of the 15 yards radius shall be a line placed at an angle of 45 degrees, measured from the popping crease at a point level with the middle stump). In the first 15 overs there must be a minimum of

two stationary fielders within the 15-yard field restriction of the striker at the instant of delivery. When a fast bowler is bowling the two stationary fieldsmen may be permitted to stand deeper than 15 yards (in the un-demarcated area) provided only that they are standing in slip, leg slip or gully positions.

- 4.6 In circumstances where the number of overs for the team batting first is reduced, the number of overs in regard to the restrictions in 4.3. and 4.5. above shall be reduced proportionately in a ratio of 15:45 or 15:50 in accordance with the table below. Fractions are to be ignored in all calculations regarding the number of overs.

Number of overs for which fielding restrictions in 4.3. and 4.5. above will apply:

45 overs a side		50 overs a side	
Total overs in innings	Overs for which restrictions apply	Total overs in innings	Overs for which restrictions apply
10 – 11	3	10 – 13	3
12 - 14	4	14 - 16	4
15 - 17	5	17 - 19	5
18 - 20	6	20 - 23	6
21 - 23	7	24 - 26	7
24 - 26	8	27 - 29	8
27 - 29	9	30 - 33	9
30 - 32	10	34 - 36	10
33 - 35	11	37 - 39	11
36 - 38	12	40 - 43	12
39 - 41	13	44 - 46	13
42 - 44	14	47 - 49	14
45	15	50	15

Where the number of overs for the team batting second is reduced, the aim will be to maintain the restrictions in 4.3 and 4.5. for the same proportion of the second innings that they were maintained for the first innings (fractions to be ignored).

- 4.7 In the event of an infringement of any of the above fielding restrictions, the umpire at the striker's end shall call and signal 'No Ball'.

5 Junior Fielding Restrictions

- 5.1 No young player in the Under 15 age group or younger shall be allowed to field closer than 8 yards (7.3 metres) from the middle stump, except behind the wicket on the off side, until the batsman has played at the ball. A fielder shall be allowed to move into the restricted area to make a catch or field the ball provided that they were outside the area when the stroke was made.
- 5.2 For players in the Under 13 age group and below the distance is 11 yards (10 metres).
- 5.3 These minimum distances apply even if the player is wearing a helmet.
- 5.4 Should a young player in these age groups come within the restricted distance the umpire must stop the game immediately and instruct the fielder to move back.
- 5.5 In addition any young player in the Under 16 to Under 18 age groups, who has not reached the age of 18, must wear a helmet when fielding within 6 yards (5.5 metres) of the bat, except behind the wicket on the off side. Players should wear appropriate protective equipment whenever they are fielding in a position where they feel at risk.

6 Law 14 - Declarations

Unless otherwise indicated, Law 14 will not apply in any limited overs Competition. The captain of the batting side may not declare the innings closed at any time during the course of the match.

7 Law 25 - Wide Ball - Judging a wide

In addition to Law 25 the following will apply:

Umpires are instructed to apply a very strict and consistent interpretation in regard to this Law in order to prevent negative bowling wide of the wicket.

Any offside or legside delivery which in the opinion of the umpires does not give the batsman a reasonable opportunity to score shall be called a wide. For guidance purposes, in adult cricket a legside wide should be called if a ball passes on the legside outside the pads of the batsman standing in a normal guard position.

8 Wicket-Keeping Gloves

Law 40.2 will apply in all ECB Competitions.

9 Bowl-Outs

- 9.1 In the event of no result being obtained by other methods and where there is no reserve date on which to play the game, a bowl-out (outdoors or indoors) will take place to achieve a result. Five players from each side will bowl two overarm deliveries each at a wicket (conforming to Law 8) from a wicket pitched at a distance of 22 yards with, if practicable, bowling, popping and return creases marked (conforming to Law 9). The side which bowls down the wicket (as defined in Law 28.1a) the most times shall be the winner. If the scores are equal, the same players will bowl one ball each alternately to achieve a result on a 'sudden death' basis.

The following shall also apply in respect of 'bowl-outs':

- 9.1.1 The same suitably acceptable ball (not a new one) will be used by both teams. If this ball becomes wet, it may be changed subject to the umpires' approval.
- 9.1.2 If a bowler bowls a 'no ball' it will count as one of the two deliveries but will not count towards the score of the team.

- 9.1.3 If the original match has started, then the five cricketers nominated to take part in the 'bowl-out' must be chosen from the eleven cricketers and 12th man selected to play in the match. If there has been no play in the original match (the toss has not taken place), the five cricketers may be selected from any of the players in the squad as registered on Play-Cricket.
- 9.1.4 Each side will appoint a wicket-keeper to stand behind the wicket but out of reach of the stumps.

10 Net Run-Rate

A team's net run rate is calculated by deducting from the average runs per over scored by that team, the average runs per over scored against that team. The calculation of average runs shall be total runs scored x 100 divided by legitimate balls received.

In the event of a team being all out in less than its full quota of overs, the calculation of its net run rate shall be based on the full quota of overs to which it would have been entitled and not the number of overs in which the team was dismissed.

11 Scoreboard

In all Competition matches it shall be the responsibility of the batting side to ascertain the details of score, wickets and overs from the scorers and to see that the scoreboard is brought up to date with this information at least at the end of every over.

12 Average Run Rate

A team's average run rate is calculated by dividing the number of runs scored in its innings by the number of legitimate balls received during that innings. In the case of the team batting first being dismissed in less than the number of overs allocated for their innings, the calculation will be based on the number of balls that the team was scheduled to receive and not on the number

actually received. In the case of the team batting second being unable to receive their allocated overs, the calculation of their average run rate will be based on the actual number of legitimate deliveries received by them during their innings. The average run rate can be calculated to any number of decimal positions and a tie can only be achieved if the average run rates are identical.

13 Boundaries

It is recommended that, other than in exceptional circumstances, the size of the boundary, measured from the middle of the pitch being used in the match, shall conform to the following dimensions:

	Minimum	Maximum
All Adult matches except NKO	55m (60 yds)	70m (77 yds)
National Knock-Out	50m (55 yds)	70m (77 yds)
Under 17	50m (55 yds)	70m (77 yds)
Under 15	35m (38 yds)	65m (71 yds)
Under 13	30m (33 yds)	55m (60 yds)

14 Injury to Wicket-Keeper (Law 2.2)

If the wicket-keeper is injured a substitute shall be allowed to act as wicket-keeper provided that the opposing captain consents.