

# First Class Counties Second XI Championship

## 1 Playing Conditions

The competition will be played according to the Playing Conditions for First Class Cricket as they relate to matches in the County Championship with the following exceptions.

### 1.1 Number of Players

In addition to Law 1.1, the following shall apply:

By agreement of the captains, either one or both may nominate 12 players but with 11 only specifically nominated to bat. For the avoidance of doubt one captain, by agreement, may nominate 12 players when the opposing captain has elected to nominate 11. (refer Playing Condition 3 re exchange of nominated players and substitutes in the field).

## 2 Hours Of Play

2.1 For 3 day games (4 day games to be played as per the Championship ie. provision for 30 minutes to be made up from time lost from that day on Days 1,2 and 3 and 96 overs in the day - see Championship Playing Conditions).

The normal hours of play will be:

1st and 2nd days .....11.00am-6.30pm  
(10.30am-6.00pm in matches starting in September)  
or after 104 overs have been bowled, whichever is the later.

3rd day .....11.00am-6.00pm  
(10.30am-5.30pm in matches starting in September).

or as mutually arranged, provided that the number of overs to be bowled in a day are adjusted accordingly at

a rate of 16 overs per hour. The total hours of actual scheduled playing time in each match shall be 19 hours.

If a 12.00 noon start is agreed (not applicable to matches starting in September), the suggested normal times will be:

1st day .....12 noon -7.00pm

(or after 96 overs have been bowled, whichever is the later)

2nd day .....11.00am-7.00pm

(or after 112 overs have been bowled, whichever is the later)

3rd day .....11.00am-6.00pm

Where there is a change of innings during a day's play, except during the lunch or tea interval or during a suspension of play due to ground, weather or light conditions or during the last hour (see below), two overs will be deducted from the minimum number of overs to be bowled plus any over in progress at the end of the completed innings.

On the last day there will be a minimum of 80 overs (or 16 overs per hour) for playing time other than the last hour. If any of the minimum of 80 overs, or as recalculated, have not been bowled when one hour of scheduled playing time remains, the last hour of the match shall be the hour immediately following the completion of those overs. Laws 16.6, 16.7 and 16.8 will apply except that a minimum of 16 six ball overs shall be bowled in the last hour, and all calculations with regard to suspensions of play or the start of a new innings shall be based on one over for each full 3 minutes 45 seconds.

If however both captains (the batsmen at the wicket may act for their captain) accept that there is no prospect of either side achieving a victory, they may agree to finish the match at any time after the time for the commencement of the last hour has been reached.

In the event of play being delayed or interrupted on the first and/or second day for any reason other than normal intervals or one or more changes of innings, the umpires will not deduct any overs from the day's minimum requirement until an hour or more has been lost. After that, and for all interruptions on the third day, the number of overs will be reduced by one over for each 3 minutes 45 seconds or part thereof of the aggregate playing time lost. When extra time is played in these circumstances, play shall cease when the minimum number of overs for the day have been bowled.

Championship playing condition 4.6 will apply to the 1st and 2nd days only.

## 2.2 Luncheon and Tea Intervals

As per Championship matches, except that the regulations for the 4th day will apply to the 3rd day in three-day Second Eleven Championship matches .

In the event of the hours of play being rearranged by mutual agreement, the luncheon and tea intervals shall be timed to allow as equal sessions of play as possible.

If, on the first and/or second day of three day games, play has been suspended for 30 minutes or more prior to the scheduled time for the tea interval, tea will be delayed by half an hour and the 32 over proviso will no longer apply.

## 3 Exchange of Nominated Players, Substitutes and Replacement Players

County Championship Playing Condition 7 shall not apply

- 3.1 When a side consists of 12 nominated players (refer Playing Condition 1) there shall be no limit on the number of occasions the replacement of any such player by another nominated player or substitute can take place when that side is fielding, always providing not more than 11 fielders shall field at any one time.

- 3.2 A nominated player may, when on the field of play, either bowl or act as a wicket-keeper. A substitute shall not be allowed to bowl but may act as a wicket-keeper under the provisions of County Championship Playing Condition 7.2.
- 3.3 For the avoidance of doubt, if a fielder fails to take the field with his side at the start of a match or at any later time, or leaves the field during a session of play, although the umpire need not be told of the reason for his absence, he shall be informed, and his consent obtained, prior to a nominated player or substitute entering the field of play to take his place. The replacement nominated player or substitute shall only enter the field of play when the ball is Dead.
- 3.4 Whenever a nominated player returns to the field of play he shall not be subject to any restrictions regarding batting or bowling.
- 3.5 In the event of the captains having agreed that only one shall nominate 12 players, then the above provisions, wherever appropriate, shall apply for both sides when fielding.
- 3.6 Law 2.1 shall not apply in so far as it relates to substitutes.
- Law 2.5 shall not apply.
- Law 2.6 shall apply except that reference to Law 2.5 (b) shall be taken as referring to Second XI Playing Condition 3.3.
- County Championship Playing Condition 8.2 shall not apply.
- When both captains have agreed to nominate 11 players for their sides, Playing Condition 3.1 to 3.6 shall not apply.
- 3.7 In addition and as an exception to County Championship Playing Condition 7.2, prior to the commencement of scheduled start of play on the last scheduled day of the match, a replacement player shall

be allowed by right immediately in the event of a cricketer currently playing in a Second Eleven Championship match (a) being required, to join his County First Team for a three/four-day match or a one-day match or (b) sustaining an injury or illness such that he can take no further part in the match or (c) being replaced by a First XI player because he has been replaced in the First XI by a returning England player. Such replacement may be permitted to bat, bowl or act as wicket-keeper in that match, subject to the approval of the Cricket Operations Manager of the ECB, provided that it is not intended that the cricketer originally selected will return and participate again in the match. If the cricketer originally selected is batting at the time he is required to leave the match, he shall retire 'not out' and his replacement may be permitted to bat later in that innings subject to the approval of the Cricket Operations Manager of the ECB. If, however, it is intended that the cricketer originally selected will return and participate again in the match, neither a replacement player nor a substitute fieldsman will be permitted to take his place during the period of his absence.

The number of replacement players permitted to take a full part in a match shall be limited to one per team in any match other than in exceptional circumstances approved by the the ECB Head of Operations (First-Class Cricket) or the Umpires and Match Operations Manager.

- 3.8 Umpires shall be informed of all player exchanges on every occasion.

#### **4 The Ball**

ECB will specify a number of matches in which Tiflex balls shall be used. For other matches Counties must use balls of Grade A quality BSI approved balls of any manufacture.

## **5 Covering The Pitch and Surrounding Areas**

Counties shall make every effort to comply with the covering regulations applying in the Championship. For matches played at headquarter grounds, the minimum covering requirements for First Class cricket shall apply.

## **6 Over-Rate Penalties**

The minimum over-rate to be achieved by County Second XIs will be 16 overs per hour. When calculating the over-rate, two minutes will be allowed for each wicket taken which results in the subsequent batsman immediately commencing his innings. For the avoidance of doubt, no allowance shall be given for the final wicket in an innings or for a wicket that falls prior to any interval. No allowances shall be given for drinks intervals. Any suspension of play for an injury to a player or for any other reason beyond the control of the players shall be a deductible allowance. The Umpire at the bowler's end will inform the fielding Captain, the batsman and his fellow Umpire of any time allowances as and when they arise and the scorers at the earliest opportunity. (This matter will not be subject to retrospective negotiation).

Overs will be calculated at the end of the match and penalties applied on a match by match basis. The relevant calculation to establish the match target is:

(Total minutes in the field -2 minutes per allowable wicket - Umpires' allowances)/3.75 (fractions to be ignored)

For example, a side that has been in the field for 491 minutes throughout the course of the match and that has taken 18 allowable wickets and been allowed 10 minutes by the Umpires, has a match target of  $491 - 36 - 10 / 3.75 = 118.67$  overs. Ignoring fractions, the match target is 118 overs.

For the purpose of over-rate calculations, no single innings will be assessed at more than 24 overs per hour. In any such innings, any overs bowled in excess of a rate of 24 overs per hour will be disregarded.

For each over (fractions to be ignored) that a side has bowled short of the target number, 0.50 points will be deducted from their Championship total as follows:

1 over short of the match target.....	0.50 points deduction
2 overs short of the match target....	1.00 points deduction
3 overs short of the match target .....	1.50 points deduction etc.

Only matches in which a team has bowled for 4 hours or more (net of time allowed for wickets taken and Umpires' allowances) in the match will be subject to over-rate penalties.

Where possible, the scoreboard shall show the number of overs above or below the target overs for the bowling side. This number is calculated by subtracting the number of overs that should have been bowled (calculated as above and ignoring fractions) from the number of overs that have actually been bowled (ignoring fractions in the total number of overs bowled in the match). This will be updated at the very minimum at the start of every session.

## 7 Scoring of Points

- 7.1 For a win, 14 points, plus any points scored in the first innings.
- 7.2 In a tie, each side to score seven points, plus any points scored in the first innings.
- 7.3 In a drawn match, each side to score four points, plus any points scored in the first innings (see also paragraph 7.6 below).
- 7.4 If the scores are equal in a drawn match, the side batting in the fourth innings to score seven points, plus any points scored in the first innings.
- 7.5 First Innings Points in 3-day matches (awarded only for performances in the first 100 overs of each first innings and retained whatever the result of the match).

- 7.5.1 A maximum of four batting points to be available as under:
- 150 to 199 runs ..... 1 point
  - 200 to 249 runs ..... 2 points
  - 250 to 299 runs ..... 3 points
  - 300 runs or over ..... 4 points
- 7.5.2 A maximum of four bowling points to be available as under:
- 3 to 4 wickets taken ..... 1 point
  - 5 to 6 wickets taken ..... 2 points
  - 7 to 8 wickets taken ..... 3 points
  - 9 to 10 wickets taken ..... 4 points
- 7.6 First innings points in 4-day matches are awarded as for First XI Championship.
- 7.7 If a match is abandoned without a ball being bowled, each side to score four points.
- 7.8 The Championship will be decided on an average number of points per game played basis. Each County has been allocated six mandatory fixtures and in addition to these matches, Counties are free to organise additional 3 or 4 day fixtures, including reverse fixtures, which with the approval of the ECB Head of Operations (First-Class Cricket) or the Umpires and Match Operations Manager, will count towards the Second XI Championship. Should any sides in the Championship table have equal averages the following tie-breakers shall apply in the order stated:
- the highest ratio of runs scored per wickets lost throughout the season.
  - the lowest ratio of runs conceded per wickets taken throughout the season.