

Rules for ECB Competitions

Board Discretion

The Board of ECB retains ultimate discretion over the Rules for ECB Competitions and Playing Conditions and shall be entitled at any time to amend or vary them on reasonable notice to interested parties as well as in exceptional circumstances when the Board shall be entitled to immediately do so on notice to the interested parties.

1 All Counties to Participate

Each of the 18 First Class Counties listed in Schedule B to the Memorandum of Association of the ECB, agrees to participate (subject to qualification where appropriate) in all the ECB's Competitions listed in paragraphs 3 to 8 of these Regulations.

2 Full Strength Teams

All Counties shall field a full strength team in all matches in The LV County Championship, the Friends Provident Trophy, the Twenty20 Cup and the NatWest Pro40 (see also ECB Directives).

3 Competitive County Cricket

The Regulations Governing the Qualification and Registration of Cricketers for Competitive County Cricket and their Qualification for England shall (except as mentioned in The Rules for The Friends Provident Trophy) apply in the Competitions specified in these Regulations.

4 The LV County Championship

4.1 Title

The Competition will be known as the LV County Championship.

4.2 Entrants

The Championship shall be competed for by the 18 First Class Counties, as defined in Schedule B to the Memorandum of Association of the ECB. In 2008 each County will play 16 matches playing the other 8 teams in its Division on a home and away basis. At the end of the season, the top two teams from the Second Division will be promoted and the bottom two teams from the First Division will be relegated.

1st Division	2nd Division
Durham	Derbyshire
Hampshire	Essex
Kent	Glamorgan
Lancashire	Gloucestershire
Nottinghamshire	Leicestershire
Somerset	Middlesex
Surrey	Northamptonshire
Sussex.....	Warwickshire
Yorkshire.....	Worcestershire

4.3 Umpires

First Class Umpires will be appointed for all matches.

4.4 Status of Matches

Matches in this Competition will be considered First Class.

4.5 Playing Conditions

The Playing Conditions and Rules shall be decided annually by the ECB.

5 Friends Provident Trophy

5.1 Title

The Competition will be known as the Friends Provident Trophy.

5.2 Entrants

Entrants to the Competition in 2008 will be confined to the eighteen First Class Counties, Scotland and Ireland. There will be four groups of 5 teams as specified below. Each team will play all other teams home and away. The winners from each group will receive a home draw to play against a runner-up from any of the groups. This will be determined by a free draw. The winners of the quarter-finals will enter a free draw for the semi-final ties. The semi-final winners shall contest the final.

North	Midlands	South East	South/West
Scotland	Nottinghamshire	Essex	Gloucestershire
Durham	Northamptonshire	Middlesex	Glamorgan
Derbyshire	Leicestershire	Surrey	Worcestershire
Yorkshire	Warwickshire	Kent	Hampshire
Lancashire	Ireland	Sussex	Somerset

5.3 Umpires

ECB will appoint umpires from the First Class Full and Reserve Lists wherever possible.

5.4 Eligibility of Players - Refer to Qualification and Registration "Further Regulations Governing the Qualification of Cricketers to play in the Friends Provident Trophy".

5.5 Status of Matches

Matches in the Competition will not be considered First Class.

5.6 Playing Conditions

The Playing Conditions and Rules of the Competition shall be decided annually by the ECB.

6 NatWest Pro40

6.1 Title

The Competition will be known as the NatWest Pro40.

6.2 Entrants

The NatWest Pro40 shall be competed for by the 18 First Class Counties. Nine Teams will compete in Division 1 and nine Teams will compete in Division 2. Each Team shall play the other teams in its Division once, either home or away. At the end of the 2008 season the bottom 2 teams from the First Division will automatically be relegated to the Second Division for 2009 and the top 2 teams from the Second Division will automatically be promoted to the First Division for 2009. There will be a Play-Off between the team finishing 3rd in the Second Division in 2008 and the team finishing 7th in the First Division in 2008. The Second Division team will be at home, and the winner of the match will take a place in the First Division in 2009.

1st Division	2nd Division
Durham.....	Derbyshire
Gloucestershire	Essex
Hampshire	Glamorgan
Lancashire.....	Kent
Middlesex.....	Leicestershire
Nottinghamshire	Northamptonshire
Somerset.....	Surrey
Sussex.....	Warwickshire
Worcestershire	Yorkshire

6.3 Umpires

First Class Umpires will be appointed for all matches.

6.4 Status of Matches

Matches in this Competition will not be considered First Class.

6.5 Playing Conditions

The Playing Conditions and Rules shall be decided annually by the ECB.

7 The Twenty20 Cup

7.1 Title

The Competition will be known as the Twenty20 Cup.

7.2 Entrants

Entrants to the Competition in 2008 will be the 18 First Class Counties only. The Competition will be played on a league/knock-out basis.

7.3 League Stage

The 18 Counties will play this stage of the Competition in 3 groups of 6 teams. Each County will play all the other teams in its group home and away. The top two teams from each group and the two best third placed teams will qualify for the Quarter-finals. The top team from each group and the best second placed team will receive home draws in the Quarter-finals. The Quarter-finals will be played on 7,8 and 9 July.

North	Midlands/ Wales/West	South
Derbyshire	Glamorgan	Essex
Durham	Gloucestershire	Hampshire
Lancashire	Northamptonshire	Kent
Leicestershire	Somerset	Middlesex
Nottinghamshire	Warwickshire	Surrey
Yorkshire	Worcestershire	Sussex

7.4 The Draw

The Chief Executive of ECB or his nominee will make the draw for the Quarter-finals as soon as possible following the completion of the League Stage matches, and the draw for the semi-finals as soon as possible following the Quarter-finals - the semi-final draw will be a free draw. The two Semi-Finals and the Final will be played on Saturday 26 July (Reserve Day 27 July).

7.5 Venues

The Semi-finals and the Final will be played at The Rose Bowl.

7.6 Umpires

First Class Umpires will be appointed for all matches.

7.7 Status of Matches

Matches in this Competition will not be considered First Class.

7.8 Playing Conditions

The Playing Conditions and Rules shall be decided annually by the ECB.

8 The First Class Counties Second XI Championship

8.1 Title

The Competition will be known as the First Class Counties Second XI Championship.

8.2 Entrants

Entrants to the Competition will be confined to the Second XI of the eighteen First Class Counties, MCC Young Cricketers and Scotland 'A'. Each team will play a minimum of 6 matches, the Competition being decided on average points per game played. Matches may be of 3- or 4-day duration.

8.3 Qualification of Cricketers

In addition to players registered under the ECB's Registration Regulations, Counties may play the following:

8.3.1 cricketers who are qualified, but not registered;

8.3.2 one unqualified cricketer in each match

8.3.3 in addition to the one "unqualified" player allowed under 8.3.2, one further "unqualified" player if he is in the course of qualifying for the County or is on a cricket scholarship approved by the ECB.

Cricketers in categories 8.3.1, 8.3.2 and 8.3.3 above shall be permitted to play for more than one County in any one season. MCC Young Cricketers and Scotland

'A' cricketers shall be permitted to play for one or more Counties in addition to MCC Young Cricketers/ Scotland 'A' (as appropriate) in the same season.

8.4 Discipline

8.4.1 In the event of any breach of discipline in the Second XI Championship, the player and his Captain, Coach/ Manager (away from home) or Chief Executive/ Secretary (at home), shall be advised by the Umpire of the breach of discipline and this should be done at the end of the particular session of play or at the end of the day's play. Umpires shall apply the ECB fixed penalty discipline system as appropriate.

8.4.2 The ECB Cricket Department should also be advised immediately of the report.

8.5 Umpires

Wherever possible, the ECB will appoint one First Class Full or Reserve List Umpire and one non-First Class Umpire to each match. Each Captain will complete a report form on both Umpires after each match for submission to the 'home' County's Chief Executive and to ECB.

8.6 Results of Matches

A match result form shall be sent to the Cricket Operations Executive of the ECB, Lord's Ground, London NW8 8QZ, within 24 hours of the conclusion of each match.

8.7 Playing Conditions

The Playing Conditions and Rules shall be decided annually by the ECB.

9 Second XI Trophy

9.1 Title

The Competition will be known as the Second XI Trophy.

9.2 Entrants

Entrants to the Competition will be confined to the eighteen First Class Counties, a Minor Counties XI and MCC Young Cricketers.

9.3 Form of Competition

The Competition will comprise 20 teams, divided into four zones. Each team will play the other teams in its zone at home and away, on a league basis. The top team in each zone will qualify to go into a draw for the Semi-finals. The winning Semi-finalists will play in the Final.

9.3.1 Zones

The zones will comprise the following teams:

A: Durham, Derbyshire, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Yorkshire

B: Essex, Middlesex, Minor Counties, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire,

C: Glamorgan, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Warwickshire, Worcestershire

D: Hampshire, Kent, MCC Young Cricketers, Surrey, Sussex

9.4 Venues

9.4.1 Zonal League Matches

Each participant will play four matches at home and four away. Teams must make every effort when fixing venues to ensure that travelling is kept to a minimum. Zonal matches are to be completed by Friday 18 July 2008.

9.4.2 Semi-finals

To be played on the 'headquarters' ground of the home team or, if not available, on another recognised County ground of the home team. If no such ground is available,

to be played on the 'headquarters' ground, or if not available, another recognised County ground of the away team.

The Semi-finals will be played on 4 August 2008 (5 August a reserve day).

9.4.3 Final

The venue for the Final will be the headquarters ground of one of the teams in the Final. If both headquarters grounds are available, then the venue shall be decided by a draw. If the headquarters ground of neither team is available the match shall be played at another recognized County ground of the team drawn first. If no such ground is available, then the match shall be played at a recognized County ground of the team drawn second. The Final will be played on 1 September 2008 (2 September a reserve day).

9.5 Qualification of Players

9.5.1 The Regulations for the Qualification and Registration of Cricketers for Competitive County Cricket and their Qualification for England shall apply. In addition the following will be eligible to play:

9.5.1.1 players who are qualified, but not registered

9.5.1.2 one unqualified cricketer in each match

9.5.1.3 In addition to the one unqualified cricketer allowed under 9.5.1.2, one "unqualified" player if he is in the course of qualifying for the County or is on a cricket scholarship approved by the ECB.

9.5.1.4 players on trial (players that are neither registered nor contracted with a First Class County) are not cup-tied by representing a team in the Competition.

9.5.1.5 MCC Young Cricketers are allowed to play a maximum of two overseas scholars in any game.

- 9.5.2 'Capped' cricketers (this includes cricketers capped by a former County or Counties) may only play in the Semi-final or Final if they have played in at least one zonal match unless dispensation has been granted by the ECB Cricket Department.
- 9.5.3 MCC Young Cricketers who are attached to any First Class County or Minor County shall not be eligible to play for the County in the competition.
- 9.5.4 The following rules shall apply in respect of players who are attached to both a First Class County and a Minor County:
- 9.5.4.1 The First Class County shall have priority where there is a contractual arrangement.
- 9.5.4.2 Where no contract exists, and where the player is registered for either a First Class or a Minor County, the County for which he is registered shall have priority. Subject to the permission of the Secretary of MCCA being obtained, a First Class County may play a Minor Counties player.
- 9.5.4.3 Where no contract exists, and where a player is registered by both a First Class and a Minor County (or by neither), the player shall be free to choose whether he wishes to play for the First Class County concerned or for the Minor County team (although he shall not be permitted to play for more than one team in any one season).
- 9.6 Discipline
- 9.6.1 In the event of any breach of discipline in this Competition, the player and his Captain, Coach/Manager (away from home) or Chief Executive/Secretary (at home), shall be advised by the Umpires of the breach of discipline and this should be done at the end of the particular session of play or at the end of the day's play. Umpires shall apply the ECB fixed penalty discipline system as appropriate.

9.6.2 The ECB Cricket Department should also be advised by the Umpires immediately of the report.

9.7 Umpires

Where possible, the ECB will appoint one First Class Full or Reserve List Umpire and one non-First Class Umpire to each zonal match. Each Captain will complete a report form on both umpires after each match for submission to the home team's Chief Executive/Secretary and ECB. ECB will appoint First Class Umpires for the Final and every endeavour will be made by the ECB to appoint First Class Umpires for the Semi-final matches.

9.8 Results of Matches

A match result form shall be sent to the Cricket Operations Executive of the ECB, Lord's Ground, London NW8 8QZ, within 24 hours of the conclusion of each match.

9.9 Playing Conditions

The Playing Conditions and Rules shall be decided annually by the ECB.