

# The LV ECB Women's County Championship Competition Rules

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The LV Women's County Championship

## 1 Title of competition

- 1.1 The title of the competition will be the LV ECB Women's County Championship (LV ECB WCC)

## 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**

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## 3 Conditions of Entry

- 3.1 All Counties will be eligible to enter this competition
- 3.2 For the 2009 season entry into LV ECB WCC the following conditions must be met:
- Scorers (competent and non-playing) must be available for all games
  - For all home games qualified umpires must be provided
  - Each squad must have a named coach and named manager who are CRB cleared and who attend all games (where not available a suitable replacement must be found for games)
  - Facilities where home games are being played for all Competitions need to be of an appropriate standard – utilising the current mandatory Premier League facilities standards, facilities strategies or focus club networks

- 3.3 If Counties do not meet the LV ECB WCC Conditions of Entry, ECB will retain the right to remove Counties from the LV ECB WCC with immediate effect. All Counties 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 County Eligibility Criteria**

- 4.1 A player is eligible to play for a County at senior level if she meets any of the following criteria (all players in this competition must meet this eligibility):
- 4.1.1 She was born within that County
  - 4.1.2 She currently resides in that County and has been resident there for 6 months prior to 1 May, 2009
  - 4.1.3 She plays for a Club that is located within that County and has played for that Club since the start of the 2008 season
  - 4.1.4 Where a player only has eligibility to play for a County that does not provide competitive senior County cricket, she is entitled to represent any County without meeting any of the above eligibility criteria. Such cases need to be authorised by the Head of Women's Cricket before that player represents a chosen County side (email to [clare.connor@ecb.co.uk](mailto:clare.connor@ecb.co.uk))
  - 4.1.5 Where a player meets the eligibility of several Counties she is entitled to choose which County she would like to represent during the 2009 season. Such cases need to be authorised by the Head of Women's Cricket before that player represents a chosen County side (email to [clare.connor@ecb.co.uk](mailto:clare.connor@ecb.co.uk))
- 4.2 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 a County per season regardless of any qualification criteria. Overseas players must be registered with a women's Club and must play Club cricket during the season

#### 4.3 ADDITIONAL NOTES

- 4.3.1 A player may only represent one County at senior level in any given season for all Competitions (LV ECB WCC and ECB W20/20)
- 4.3.2 Please see the Qualification Criteria for Junior Cricketers (Boys & Girls) for the U17, U15 and U13 Girls' County Age Group Competitions (ECB GCAG)
- 4.3.3 A player may feasibly represent different Counties at ECB GCAG level and senior level in any given season. Such a scenario would be where a County offers GCAG cricket but not senior County cricket
- 4.3.4 Where a player has played for a County in previous seasons they retain the right to represent that County until they are eligible and play for another County

### 5 Administration of Competition

#### 5.1 Entering Players and Squads

- 5.1.1 Counties will be required to enter and register all players on their own play-cricket site before 1 April, 2009
- 5.1.2 Counties should also apply for player registration to the LV ECB WCC through their own County's play-cricket site (the Competition Manager can advise further on how to do this)

#### 5.2 Amending Fixtures

- 5.2.1 All fixtures should be managed on line through each County's play-cricket site
- 5.2.2 Counties will be required to enter full fixture details prior to 1 March, 2009 – these details should include:
- Date of fixture
  - Venue of fixture
  - Time of fixture
- 5.2.3 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 LV ECB WCC for 2009. 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, Counties will be able to rearrange matches
- 5.3.3 Cancelled matches can be rearranged on any date **excluding Club-allocated Sundays in the 2009 Domestic Programme** where possible
- 5.3.4 All rearranged matches need to be authorised by Clare Connor and Lisa Drummond by email (clare.connor@ecb.co.uk and Lisa.Drummond@ecb.co.uk) no later than 5 days prior to the rearranged match date
- 5.3.5 Division 5 matches must be completed by 31 August, 2009. All other Divisions need to complete their matches by 20 September, 2009
- 5.3.6 If matches cannot be rearranged and there is no fault on the part of either County, points for a cancelled match shall be awarded
- 5.3.7 If Counties 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
- 5.3.8 The original fixture date will be used to determine this decision

**6 Penalties for Breach of LV ECB WCC Rules**

**6.1 Conceding Matches**

6.1.1 If Counties concede matches, funding from the ECB shall be withdrawn for the matches they have conceded

6.1.2 If a County concedes a match they shall be removed from the LV ECB WCC with immediate affect and all points relating to matches involving that County shall be expunged

**6.2 Other Breaches of LV ECB WCC Rules**

6.2.1 Where a County has breached any LV ECB WCC rule or Condition of Entry stated within this document, the Competition Manager shall have the right to apply the following penalties:

- To remove points obtained in matches where the breach occurred
- To overturn match results based on information obtained relating to a breach in the LV ECB WCC rule, during any match
- To remove Counties from the LV ECB WCC with immediate effect if any Conditions of Entry are not adhered to or if a County breaches an LV ECB WCC rule more than once
- If a County is removed from the LV ECB WCC, all points obtained by other Counties against the removed County shall be expunged

6.2.2 All Counties will have the opportunity to provide evidence in support of their actions within 7 days of being notified of a potential breach

## **7 Playing Conditions**

### **7.1 Laws of Cricket**

7.1.1 Except as varied hereunder, the Laws of Cricket (2000 Code 3rd Edition - 2008) shall apply.

### **7.2 Teams**

7.2.1 Each captain shall provide a list of the names of the 11 players and the nominated 12th player in writing to the umpires before the toss. No player (including the nominated 12th player) may be changed after the toss without the consent of the opposing captain

7.2.2 Coaches and non-players are not permitted to coach whilst the match is in progress. 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)

7.2.3 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'

### **7.3 Pitch and Facility Requirements**

#### **7.3.1 Wicket Length**

7.3.1.1 A full, 22 yard wicket shall be used

#### **7.3.2 Boundary Size**

7.3.2.1 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

#### **7.3.3 Pitch Facilities**

7.3.3.1 Where possible grounds should meet Premier league facilities mandatory criteria or be a named CCB Focus Club

#### 7.3.4 Scoreboard

7.3.4.1 All grounds must have an appropriate scoreboard for the duration of the game that provides the following information:

- Team runs
- Wickets
- Overs bowled
- Target score for the team batting second

#### 7.4 Equipment

##### 7.4.1 Cricket Balls

7.4.1.1 A 5oz hardball will be used

7.4.1.2 The Competition Manager will provide all match balls to each County for the number of games played

7.4.1.3 Each County has to provide a match ball and a spare (the latter not provided by the ECB) for their **fielding** innings

7.4.1.4 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

7.4.1.5 If the ball is to be replaced, the umpire shall inform the batter. 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

##### 7.4.2 Protective headwear

7.4.2.1 The ECB Helmet / protective headwear directive will be applied during all times

## 7.5 Powerplays

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

### 7.5.2 Pitch Markings – Inner Ring Fielders

7.5.2.1 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 25yards (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 yard (4 metres) intervals

7.5.2.2 During the first block of Powerplay overs, only two fieldsmen shall be permitted outside this 25 yard fielding restriction area at the instant of delivery

7.5.2.3 During the second and third Powerplay blocks only three fieldsmen shall be permitted outside the 25 yard fielding restriction area at the instant of delivery

7.5.2.4 During the non Powerplay overs, no more than 5 fieldsmen shall be permitted outside the 25 yard fielding restriction area

### 7.5.3 Stationary Fielders

7.5.3.1 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). As above, the fielding restriction area should be marked by dots

7.5.3.2 During the initial block of Powerplay overs (in an uninterrupted innings, the first 10), there must be a minimum of two stationary fielders within this 13 yard fielding restriction area at the instant of delivery

- 7.5.3.3 When a fast bowler is bowling the two stationary fielders may be permitted to stand deeper than 13 yards (12 metres) provided only that they are standing in slip, leg slip or gully positions
- 7.5.4 Powerplay overs shall apply for 20 overs per innings to be taken as follows:
- 7.5.4.1 The first block of Powerplay overs (a block of 10 overs for an uninterrupted match) shall be at the commencement of the innings.
- 7.5.4.2 For the remaining second and third block of Powerplay overs (blocks of 5 overs for an uninterrupted match), one block shall be taken at the discretion of the fielding captain and the other at the discretion of either of the batsmen at the wicket
- 7.5.5 A batsman must nominate her team's Powerplay no later than the moment at which the umpire reaches the stumps at the bowler's end for the start of the next over. The fielding captain may nominate her team's Powerplay any time prior to the commencement of the over. The umpire who will stand at the bowler's end for the commencement of a Powerplay block shall determine which side first made the request
- 7.5.6 Once a side has nominated a Powerplay, the decision can not be reversed
- 7.5.7 Should either team choose not to exercise their discretion, their Powerplay Overs will automatically commence at the latest available point in the innings (i.e. in an uninterrupted innings, one unclaimed Powerplay will begin at the start of the 46th over)
- 7.5.8 In circumstances when the number of overs of the batting team is reduced, the number of Powerplay overs 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

Innings duration	First Powerplay	Fielding Powerplay	Batting Powerplay	Total Powerplay
20 - 22	4	2	2	8
23 - 24	5	2	2	9
25 - 27	5	3	2	10
28 - 29	6	3	2	11
30 - 32	6	3	3	12
33 - 34	7	3	3	13
35 - 37	7	4	3	14
38 - 39	8	4	3	15
40 - 42	8	4	4	16
43 - 44	9	4	4	17
45 - 47	9	5	4	18
48 - 49	10	5	4	19

- 7.5.9 Each block of Powerplay overs must commence at the start of an over
- 7.5.10 If play is interrupted during the first or second Powerplay and on resumption the overs required to be bowled in that Powerplay have already been exceeded, then subsequent Powerplay(s) will assume to have been taken consecutively up to that point. If play is interrupted during the first Powerplay and resumes during the second Powerplay, the second Powerplay will be deemed to have been nominated by the fielding captain
- 7.5.11 If play is interrupted during a Powerplay and on resumption the total number of Powerplay overs has already been exceeded, then the fielding restrictions will be lifted immediately. Note that this is the only circumstance under which the Powerplay status can be changed during an over
- 7.5.12 If following an interruption while a Powerplay is not in progress, it is found on resumption that the recalculated number of Powerplay overs remaining equals or exceeds the number of overs to be bowled in the innings, then the Powerplay will commence at the start of the next over

- 7.5.13 At the commencement of each discretionary block of Powerplay Overs, the umpire shall signal such commencement to the scorers by rotating his arm in a large circle. If the batting side has chosen the Powerplay the umpire shall signal this to the scorers by tapping his hands above his head after the signal. The umpire shall also indicate to the fielding captain before any signal is made that the batting side has chosen its Powerplay
- 7.5.14 In the event of an infringement of any of the above fielding restrictions, the square leg umpire shall call and signal 'No Ball'
- 7.6 Junior Fielding restrictions**
- 7.6.1 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
- 7.6.2 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
- 7.6.3 The umpire should ensure these restrictions are not breached and must stop the game until the distance is correct
- 7.7 Duration**
- 7.7.1 Unless both teams agree otherwise, the match start time will be 11:00
- 7.7.2 Each innings shall last for no longer than 3 hours 10 minutes
- 7.7.3 Innings will be separated by a 45 minute interval, unless interruptions have occurred where the umpires can waive / amend this interval time
- 7.7.4 Each team shall bat for 50 overs unless all out earlier

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

#### 7.8 Slowness of Play

7.8.1 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 receive its full quota of 50 overs irrespective of the number of overs it bowled in the scheduled time for first innings

7.8.2 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

7.8.3 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 in the above points

#### 7.9 Drinks / Stoppages in Innings

7.9.1 Each innings will be allowed 1 drinks interval of 5 minutes (unless exceptional conditions where 2 drinks intervals will be allowed)

7.9.2 These intervals cannot take place if:

7.9.2.1 less than 60 minutes has passed since previous interval

7.9.2.2 less than 10 overs remaining in the innings

#### 7.10 Adverse Conditions of Weather or Light

7.10.1 If umpires agree that conditions are not dangerous, both captains have the right to agree to continue or commence play

7.10.2 In unsuitable light conditions the batting captain or batter has the right to continue or commence play

- 7.10.3 If conditions during a rain stoppage improve and the rain is reduced to drizzle, the umpires must consider if they would have suspended play in the first place under similar conditions. If both on-field umpires agree that the current drizzle would not have caused a stoppage, then play shall resume immediately.
- 7.10.4 If adverse conditions of weather or light interfere with normal play, the umpires can:
- rearrange the number of overs to be bowled to ensure where possible both teams receive the same number of allocated overs, which must be a minimum of 20 overs to enable a result
  - reduce overs based on 3 overs for each 10 minutes lost
  - calculate time limits on reduced overs on the basis of 18 overs per hour rounded up to the nearest 5 minutes
- 7.10.5 rescheduled cut off times for affected games will be 19:00
- 7.10.6 If at 18:30, play is in progress and there is no further interruption, play may continue until the agreed number of overs have been completed
- 7.10.7 If at 18:30, play is not in progress and umpires declare the number of overs cannot be completed before 19:15 the match will end immediately
- 7.10.8 The number of overs for the team batting second shall not be reduced due to the team batting first being dismissed in fewer overs than they were allocated
- 7.11 Calculation of Target Score in Reduced Overs Games
- 7.11.1 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)

7.11.2 If the stoppage occurs during the second innings, overs can be reduced accordingly to ensure a result is obtained

7.11.3 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

## 7.12 Additional Playing Conditions

### 7.12.1 Wide Balls

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

7.12.1.2 Any offside or legside delivery which in the opinion of the umpire does not give the batter a reasonable opportunity to score shall be called a wide

### 7.12.2 Bowlers

7.12.2.1 Bowlers will be restricted to a fifth of the allocated overs in the innings

7.12.2.2 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

7.12.2.3 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

7.12.2.4 ECB's Fast Bowling Directive will apply during the LV ECB WCC

## 8 Results

### 8.1 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. If the scores are equal, the team that lost fewer wickets wins	20	No Bonus Points
Loss	Opposite of win	0	Bonus Points
Tie	Scores and wickets equal	15	No bonus points
Abandoned	Fewer than 20 overs bowled by each team	10	BP to both teams
Cancelled	No play possible	5	-
Conceded	Opposition does not fulfil match	20	-

### 8.2 Bonus Points (max of 4 batting and 4 bowling)

	Batting Points* (please read example below)	Bowling Points
LV ECB WCC	Equal or more than: 2 Runs per over (RPO): 1 point 3 RPO: 2 points 4 RPO: 3 points 5 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 potentially earns them 3 batting bonus points, depending on the outcome of the match. The team batting second then scores 60 runs off 10 overs, all out. Despite scoring at 6 RPO, the team batting second only earns 2 batting bonus points (because their allocated number of overs was 20). The team batting first won the game and therefore did not earn any bonus points

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

### 8.3 LV ECB WCC League Rankings

#### 8.3.1 2009 Final Standings

8.3.1.1 Counties will be ranked in their respective divisions at the end of the 2009 season using the following criteria, in the order given:

- Number of points
- Team with the most wins
- Number of points scored between 2 sides when playing each other
- Team with the highest net run-rate
- Team with the lowest rate based on total wickets lost divided by the total number of overs faced

#### 8.3.2 Rankings for 2010

8.3.2.1 The Counties that finish top of their respective Divisions 2-4 will be promoted and will replace those Counties that finish bottom of their respective Divisions 1-3

8.3.2.2 The Counties that finish top of their Division 5 North & East and Division 5 South & West will take part in a Play-off Final on 6 September (ECB to arrange venue) to determine which team will replace the County that finished bottom of Division 4

## 9 Code of Conduct / Spirit of Cricket

9.1 It is required that all Counties adhere to both the ECB Code of Conduct and the MCC Spirit of Cricket

9.2 If Teams, officials or players breach either the ECB Code of Conduct or the MCC Spirit of Cricket terms, the Competition Manager will enforce penalties and investigate the claims of the breach

9.3 ECB will not tolerate any breach in these conditions

## 10 Appeals and Complaints

- 10.1 If any County 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
- 10.2 If any County wants to challenge the outcome of a penalty imposed they must inform the Competition Manager within 7 days of 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 Head of England Women's Cricket (Clare Connor)
- 10.5 The format will be as follows:
- Competition Manager will receive written notice of complaint / appeal from County
  - Competition Manager will acknowledge receipt of the above and inform the County that has been reported
  - Competition Manager and Clare Connor will obtain further clarification from all parties concerned
  - If required Competition Manager and Clare Connor will hold a meeting to determine more detail of the events and facts
  - Clare Connor will complete a written report on the:
    - Outcomes of the investigation
    - Recommendations
    - 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

