

The ECB Women's Twenty20 Competition Rules

1 Title of competition

- 1.1 The title of the competition will be the ECB Women's Twenty20 Competition (ECB W20/20)

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 Counties that met ECB MQS for Women's and Girls cricket will be eligible for entry into this Competition (see MQS Implementation Plan_V1)
- 3.2 In addition the following Conditions of Entry must be met:
- Scorers (competent and non-playing) must be available for all matches
 - Each squad must have a named coach and named manager who are CRB cleared and who attend all matches (where not available a suitable replacement must be found for these matches)
 - Each County can name a maximum of 14 players for the Competition. These players must be registered for the Competition via their own play-cricket site no later than 20 July, 2009

- 3.3 If Counties do not meet the ECB W20/20 Conditions of Entry, ECB will retain the right to remove Counties from the ECB W20/20 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)
 - 4.1.5 Where a player meet 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)
- 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
- 5.1.2 Counties should also apply for player registration to the ECB W20/20 through their own County's play-cricket site before 20 July, 2009 (The Competition Manager can advise further on how to do this)

5.2 Fixture setting

- 5.2.1 The Competition Manager will be responsible for setting all fixtures for the ECB W20/20
- 5.2.2 Dates for the competition will be 29 and 30 July, 2009. All teams will play each other once in their respective leagues. The Competition Manager will issue final venue details no later than 1 May, 2009
- 5.2.3 Match Timings will be as follows:
 - 5.2.3.1 Match 1 on 29 July, 2009 will commence for all venues at 11:00

5.2.3.2 Match 2 on 29 July, 2009 will commence for all venues at 16:00

5.2.3.3 Match 3 on 30 July, 2009 will commence for all venues at 10:30

5.2.3.4 Lunch will not be provided after match 3 on 30 July, 2009 and pitches will not be available after 14:00 at all venues

6 Penalties for Breach of ECB W20/20 Rules

6.1 Conceding Games

6.1.1 If a County concedes a game they shall be removed from the ECB W20/20 with immediate affect and all points relating to games involving that County shall be expunged

6.2 Other Breaches of ECB W20/20 Rules

6.2.1 Where a County has breached any ECB W20/20 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 ECB W20/20 rule
- To remove Counties from the ECB W20/20 with immediate effect if any Conditions of Entry are not adhered to or if a County breaches an ECB W20/20 rule more than once
- If a County is removed from the ECB W20/20, 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 in progress
- 7.2.3 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)
- 7.2.4 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 It will be the responsibility of the Competition Manager to allocate appropriate pitches for the ECB W20/20
- 7.3.2 Wicket Length
- 7.3.2.1 A full, 22 yard wicket shall be used
- 7.3.3 Boundary Size
- 7.3.3.1 The boundary shall be a minimum of 55 yards (20.29 metres) and a maximum of 70 yards (64 metres). Distances shall be measured from the centre of the pitch

7.3.4 Pitch Facilities

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

7.3.5 Scoreboard

7.3.5.1 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 during the ECB W20/20

7.5 Fielding restrictions

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 25 yards (23 metres). The semi-circles shall be linked by two parallel straight lines drawn on the field. The fielding restriction areas should be marked by continuous painted white lines or 'dots' at 5 yard intervals

7.5.2.2 During the first 6 overs of each innings (in an uninterrupted match), only two fielders shall be permitted outside the 25 yard fielding restriction area at the instant of delivery

7.5.2.3 For the remaining overs, no more than 5 fielders 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 centrepoint of the popping crease at either end of the pitch. The radius of each of the circles shall be 13 yards (12 metres)

7.5.3.2 During the first 6 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.

7.5.3.3 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

7.5.4 Fielding Restrictions for Reduced Matches

7.5.4.1 In circumstances where the number of overs for the team batting first team is reduced, the number of overs for which the above 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 reduced innings	No. of overs for which fielding restrictions will apply
5-6	1
7-9	2
10-13	3
14-16	4
17-19	5

7.5.5 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 guidelines

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 Each innings shall last for no longer than 1 hour and 15 minutes
- 7.7.2 Innings will be separated by a 15 minute interval, unless interruptions have occurred where the umpires can waive / amend this interval time
- 7.7.3 Each team shall bat for 20 overs unless all out earlier
- 7.7.4 If the team batting first is dismissed in less than 20 overs, the team batting second shall be entitled to bat for 20 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 10 minutes. The team batting second shall receive its full quota of 20 overs irrespective of the number of overs it bowled in the scheduled time for the first innings
- 7.8.2 If the team fielding second fails to bowl the 20 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 No drinks intervals shall be permitted
- 7.9.2 An individual player may be given a drink either on the boundary edge or at the fall of a wicket, on the field, provided that no playing time is wasted. No other drinks shall be taken onto the field without the permission of the umpires. Any player taking drinks onto the field shall be dressed in proper cricket attire

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, 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 5 overs to enable a result
- Reduce overs based on 3 overs for each 10 minutes lost
- Time limits on reduced overs would be calculated on the basis of 16 overs per hour rounded up to the nearest 5 minutes

7.10.5 Rescheduled cut off times for affected matches will be as follows:

	Match	Scheduled Start Time	Latest Start Time (5 overs per team)	Cut-off Time (latest possible finish)
Wednesday	Match 1	11:00	14:15	15:00
29 July	Match 2	16:00	18:45	19:30
Thursday 30 July	Match 3	10:30	13:15	14:00

7.10.6 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 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 5 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 120 runs off their full 20 overs. If the innings of the team batting second is reduced to 10 overs, their target score will be 61. This is based on innings run rate of 6 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. The batting side will not be able to declare their innings closed within this competition

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 for the ECB W20/20

7.12.3 Front Foot No-balls and Free Hit

- 7.12.3.1 If the bowler bowls a foot fault, the striker will receive a free hit. If the delivery for the free hit is not a legitimate delivery (any kind of no ball or a wide ball), then the next delivery will become a free hit for the batting team
- 7.12.3.2 For any free hit, the striker can be dismissed only under the circumstances that apply for a no ball, even if the delivery for the free hit is called a wide ball
- 7.12.3.3 Field changes are not permitted for free hit deliveries unless there is a change of striker
- 7.12.3.4 Following the normal No Ball signal the umpires will then signal a free hit by extending one arm straight upwards and moving it in a circular motion

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	15	No Bonus Points
Loss	Opposite of win	0	Bonus Points
Tie	Scores and wickets equal	10	No bonus points
Abandoned	Fewer than 20 overs bowled by each team	6	BP to both teams
Cancelled	No play possible	3	-
Conceded	Opposition does not fulfil match	15	-

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

	Batting Points* (please read example below)	Bowling Points
ECB W20/20	Equal or more than: 4 Runs per over (RPO): 1 point 5 RPO: 2 points 6 RPO: 3 points 7 RPO: 4 points	1 point for each of the following wickets taken 3, 5, 7 and 9

- * e.g. A match is reduced to 5 overs per side. The team batting first makes 35 runs. This is 7 RPO which potentially earns them 4 batting bonus points, depending on the outcome of the match. The team batting second then scores 18 runs off 3 overs, all out. Despite scoring at 6 RPO, the team batting second earns no batting bonus points (because their allocated number of overs was 5, therefore less than 4 RPO). 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 ECB W20/20 League Rankings

8.3.1 2009 Final Standings

8.3.1.1 Counties will be placed in their respective divisions 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 Entry for 2010 season

8.3.2.1 Counties that finish top of their respective divisions will be promoted for 2010 and will replace Counties that finished bottom of their respective divisions

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, players or spectators 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 1 hour
- 10.2 If any County wants to challenge the outcome of a penalty imposed they must inform the Competition Manager within 1 hour 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 the 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 2 hours

