

The ECB Girls County Age Group U13, U15 and U17 Competition Rules

1 Title of competition

- 1.1 The title of the competition will be the ECB Girls County Age Group U13, U15 and U17 Competition (ECB GCAG)
- 1.2 3 competitions are referred to within these competition rules
 - Under 13 ECB Girls' County Age Group Competition
 - Under 15 ECB Girls' County Age Group Competition
 - Under 17 ECB Girls' County Age Group Competition

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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Office: 0207 4321 273
- 2.3 For clarity, except where these rules refer to "Generic rules" – these rules shall supersede any other rules contained in any other documentation

3 Conditions of Entry

- 3.1 All Counties will be eligible to enter this competition
- 3.2 For the 2009 season entry into ECB GCAG the following conditions must be met:
 - Fixtures must be confirmed for ECB GCAG games by 1 March to Lisa Drummond

- 12 players in each GCAG squad must be named and unique to one squad – they must be registered on play-cricket by 1 April and must have appropriate club experience to compete
- 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 ECB GCAG Conditions of Entry, ECB will retain the right to remove Counties from the ECB GCAG 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 Qualification Criteria for Junior Cricketers (boys and girls')

4.1 Refer to Generic rules 3.4

5 Administration of Competition

5.1 Format of the Competition

5.1.1 Each ECB GCAG shall consist of:

Regional round	To be completed and on play-cricket by midnight 16th August	
Quarter final	22nd August	Reserve date: 29th August
Semi finals	5th September	Reserve date: 12th September
Final	19th September	Reserve date: 26th September

- 5.1.2 Following completion of Regional rounds the following Q/F draw has been made:

AGE	Quarter final 1	Quarter final 2	Quarter final 3	Quarter final 4
U13	W.Mids v E.Mids	South v London	North v RU2	West v RU1
U15	North v W.Mids	West v London	South v E.Mids	RU1 v RU2
U17	North v South	W.Mids v West	London v RU1	E.Mids v RU2
AGE	Semi final 1		Semi final 2	
All	Winners QF1 v QF2		Winners QF3 v QF4	
All	National Finals – winner of SF1 v SF2			

- 5.1.3 Quarter finals: 1st named team will be the home team – if no venue can be sourced fixture will be swapped – home team must also provide umpires
- 5.1.4 Semi Finals: ECB to provide venues and umpires for games
- 5.1.5 National Final: ECB to provide venues and umpires for games
- 5.1.6 Counties must provide their own scorer for all games

5.2 Entering Players and Squads

- 5.2.1 Counties will be required to enter their squads on their own play-cricket site before 1 April, 2009
- 5.2.2 Each squad should contain no less than 12 players that are not named in any other age group squad for that County
- 5.2.3 Counties should also apply for player registration to the ECB GCAG through their own County's play-cricket site (The Competition Manager can advise further on how to do this)

5.3 Amending Fixtures

- 5.3.1 All fixtures have been entered onto play-cricket by the Competition Manager
- 5.3.2 All fixtures should be managed on line through each County's play-cricket site
- 5.3.3 The designated Home County will be required to enter fixture details prior to 1 March, 2009 – these details should include:
 - Date of fixture
 - Venue of fixture
 - Time of fixture
- 5.3.4 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

5.4 Rearrangement of matches

- 5.4.1 Only cancelled matches (not abandoned matches) can be rearranged in the ECB GCAG 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
- 5.4.2 If a match needs to be rearranged due to unfit conditions or for other extenuating circumstances, Counties will be able to rearrange matches
- 5.4.3 All matches must be played within the ECB GCAG timescales and notification of a change of fixture must be sent to the Competition Manager
- 5.4.4 If matches cannot be rearranged and there is no fault on the part of either County, points for a cancelled match shall be awarded
- 5.4.5 If Counties cannot agree an alternative date the original fixture date given prior to 1 March, 2009 will count as the official fixture date and the Competition Manager will allocate points accordingly

6 Penalties for Breach of ECB GCAG Rules

6.1 Conceding Games

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

6.1.2 If Counties concede more than 2 matches, they shall be removed from the ECB GCAG. All points awarded to opposition Counties for matches against this County shall be expunged

6.2 Other Breaches of ECB GCAG Rules

6.2.1 Where a County has breached any ECB GCAG 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 during Regional Rounds where the breach occurred
- To overturn match results based on information obtained relating to a breach in the ECB GCAG rule, during any Round
- To remove Counties from the ECB GCAG with immediate effect if any Conditions of Entry are not adhered to or if a County breaches an ECB GCAG rule more than once.
- If a County is removed from the ECB GCAG, 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 team must provide the umpires with a written team list before the toss is made prior to the match

7.2.2 Each team can consist of 12 players (only 11 can field at any given time)

7.2.3 Fielders can be switched at any time during the innings – with the umpires permission and between overs / intervals

7.2.4 Only 11 of the named players can bat but all players can bowl

7.2.5 Coaches and non-players are not permitted to coach whilst the match in progress

7.2.6 Coaches shall be allowed to enter the field of play during drinks intervals to support team and captain – this should not interfere with match timings and is at the discretion of the match officials (umpires)

7.3 Pitch and Facility Requirements

7.3.1 Wicket length

7.3.1.1 For U13, 21 yards should be used

7.3.1.2 For U15 and U17 a full size wicket should be used (22 yards)

7.3.2 Boundary size

7.3.2.1 For U13: between 30m (33 yards) and 55m (60 yards)

7.3.2.2 For U15: between 35m (38 yards) and 65m (71 yards)

7.3.2.3 For U17: between 50m (55 yards) and 70m (77 yards)

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 County

7.3.4 Scoreboard – 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 For U13 age group a 4 ¾oz hardball will be used

7.4.1.2 For U15 and U17 age groups a 5oz hardball will be used

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

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

7.4.2 Protective headwear

- The ECB Helmet / protective headwear directive will be applied during all times during the ECB GCAG

7.5 Junior 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 For U13 and U15: 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
- 7.5.3 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
- 7.5.4 The umpire should ensure these restrictions are not breached and must stop the game until the distance is correct

7.6 Duration

- 7.6.1 Unless both teams agree otherwise, the match start time will be 14:00
- 7.6.2 Matches will be played with the following timings:
 - 7.6.2.1 For U13 – 30 overs per innings within 100 minutes (1hr 40 - excluding drinks / stoppages)
 - 7.6.2.2 For U15 – 35 overs per innings within 120 minutes (2hrs - excluding drinks / stoppages)
 - 7.6.2.3 For U17 – 45 overs per innings within 150 minutes (2hrs 30 - excluding drinks / stoppages)
- 7.6.3 Innings will be separated by a 30 minute interval, unless interruptions have occurred where the umpires can waive / amend this interval time
- 7.6.4 If the team batting first is dismissed in less than their allocated overs, the team batting second shall be entitled to bat for all of their allocated overs

7.7 Slowness of Play

- 7.7.1 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 allocated overs irrespective of the number of overs it bowled in the scheduled time of the first innings

- 7.7.2 If the team fielding second fails to bowl their allocated 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
- 7.7.3 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

7.8 Drinks / Stoppages in Innings

- 7.8.1 Each innings will be allowed 1 drinks interval of 5 mins (unless exceptional conditions where 2 drinks intervals will be allowed)
- 7.8.2 These intervals cannot take place if :
 - 7.8.2.1 there is less than 60 mins since previous interval
 - 7.8.2.2 less than 10 overs remaining in the innings

7.9 Adverse Conditions of Weather or Light

- 7.9.1 If umpires agree that conditions are not dangerous, both captains have the right to agree to continue or commence play
- 7.9.2 In unsuitable light conditions the batting captain or batter has the right to continue or commence play
- 7.9.3 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

7.9.4 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 20 overs at U17 and 15 overs for U13 and U15) 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

7.9.5 Cut off times for affected games would be:

7.9.5.1 U13 and U15: 18:30

7.9.5.2 U17: 19:00

7.9.5.3 If at 18:00 (U13 and U15) and 18:30 (U17), play is in progress and there is no further interruption, play may continue until the agreed number of overs have been completed

7.9.5.4 If at 18:00 (U13 and U15) and 18:30 (U17), play is not in progress and umpires declare the number of overs cannot be completed before 18:45 (U13 and U15) and 19:15 (U17) the match will end immediately

7.9.6 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

7.10 Calculation of Target Score in Reduced Overs Games

7.10.1 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)

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

7.10.3 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 U13 team batting first makes 90 runs off their full 30 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

7.11 Additional Playing Conditions

7.11.1 Wide Balls

7.11.1.1 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

7.11.1.2 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

7.11.2 Bowlers

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

7.11.2.2 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

7.11.2.3 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

7.11.2.4 ECB's Fast Bowling Directive will apply for the ECB GCAG

8 Results

8.1 Match Results and Points

Win	In a match consisting of a minimum of 15 overs for U13/U15 and 20 overs for U17 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 15 overs for U13/U15 and 20 overs for U17	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
ALL ECB GCAG	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. an U17 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 ECB GCAG Rankings

8.3.1 2009 Regional Round Rankings

8.3.1.1 Counties will progress into the next round using the following criteria, in the order given:

- Number of points in the County's Regional Pool
- Team with the most wins in each Regional Pool
- 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

8.3.1.2 Runners up for the Quarter Finals will be decided on the following criteria, in the order given:

- Net run rate
- % wins

8.3.2 Match Results for Other Rounds (QF, SF & Final)

8.3.2.1 In the event of a result not being obtained by the reserve date of the ECB GCAG, the following process will determine the result of the match:

- If teams are at the ground a bowl out (outdoors or indoors) will take place to achieve a result

- 5 players from each side will bowl 2 overarm deliveries each at a wicket (in accordance with all ECB GCAG rules and the laws of cricket). No balls and wides shall count as deliveries. The side that hits the wicket the most shall be the winner. If the number of hits is equal, the same players will bowl 1 ball each alternately to achieve a result on a sudden death basis
- If teams are not at the ground the winner shall be determined through the Competition Manager tossing a coin

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 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 National Development Lead for Women's and Girls' Cricket (Sue Redfern)
- 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 Sue Redfern will obtain further clarification from all parties concerned
 - If required Competition Manager and Sue Redfern will hold a meeting to determine more detail of the events and facts
 - Sue Redfern 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

