



Royal London Under 18 County Cup

Competition Rules

This competition will use the Generic 50 overs per side Playing Conditions.

1 **Title**

The title of the Competition shall be the Royal London Under 18 County Cup.

2 **Management**

- 2.1 The control of the Competition shall be undertaken by the Talent Pathway Sub-Group and all decisions relating to these rules or to matches played in the Competition shall be final and binding on all concerned.
- 2.2 The ECB and Talent Pathway Sub-Group may delegate any of their powers and duties.

3 **Entry**

- 3.1 Entry into any of ECB's County Competitions shall be open to those County Boards recognised by the ECB.
- 3.2 Counties who participated in the previous year's Competition shall automatically be included for the following season unless written notification to the contrary is given by 1st September in the year prior to the Competition. A County wishing to enter or be re-admitted to a Competition must give written notice to that effect to the ECB Competitions Team by 1st September in the year prior to the Competition.

4 **Competition Structure**

- 4.1 The Competition will be organised on a flexible Regional basis as decided by the ECB. The Competition will be split into A & B Divisions with four Regions with each Group winner going forward into the knock-out stages of the Competition.
- 4.2 Fixture dates will be circulated by the ECB Competitions Team, these dates can be changed by mutual agreement so long as the new date is prior to that of the last round of matches scheduled in the Group stage. For B Division matches it is the responsibility of Counties to arrange their fixture dates. All fixtures will be listed on Play-Cricket as 1st April and it is the responsibility of the Home County to upload the correct information onto Play-Cricket once it has been agreed between both Counties.

The dates, fixtures and venues shall be notified to the ECB Competitions Team via the Play-Cricket website by 28th February. Fixtures may only be changed after this date by mutual consent by the Counties concerned and must be played within the time scale for the Regional Group matches laid down. Details must be notified to the ECB Competitions Team.

Matches cannot be re-arranged once the full list of fixtures has been notified to the ECB Competitions Team and to the Counties.

In exceptional circumstances the ECB Competitions Team can sanction subsequent changes but only before the first match in the Competition is played. Fixtures cannot be re-arranged if the originally scheduled fixture is abandoned even if no play has taken place.

4.3 The ECB Competitions Team will conduct a draw for matches in the Semi-Finals and Final, which shall be played on the dates laid down by the ECB Competitions Team.

4.4 All matches to start at 10:45am unless agreed by both Counties.

5 **Qualification of Players**

Please refer to Generic Rule 3.4 (Qualification Criteria for Junior Cricketers).

5.1 A player may play for only one County in the Under 18 County Cup in any one season, with the exception of those players that are dual registered with another County. If a County includes in their team a player who has played for another County (not including dual registered players), or for whom consent to play him has not been obtained, all points attained by that County in the match or matches shall be forfeited. From the Semi Finals onwards the match shall be forfeited.

5.2 In the event of a dispute, the matter shall be referred to the ECB, whose decision shall be final.

5.3 Players from the Channel Islands shall be eligible to play for any County in the County Cup provided that they only represent one County in the Competition in any one season.

6 **Number of Players**

Each team can consist of up to 12 players. No more than 11 players can bat or be on the field at any time.

All players must be nominated to the umpires in writing before the toss is made. There is no requirement to nominate which 11 players will bat. Any replacement/ substitution of a member of the fielding side can only be made with the approval of the umpires and only at the end of an over, the fall of a wicket or during an interval. Once a player has taken the field he can play a full part in the match, subject to the provisions of Law 17.6 (Bowler changing ends).

7 **Cricket Balls**

The Home side shall provide two new cricket balls for each match when balls are not provided by the ECB. The balls shall be of the standard laid down by the ECB for each Competition and shall be given to the umpires prior to the commencement of the match. The Home side will also be responsible for supplying enough spare balls of equal standard. A new ball must be used at the start of each innings.

Please note that for all A and B Division group stage and knockout matches, white balls will be provided to all host counties for their home fixtures, therefore the use of black sightscreens will be necessary for all matches.

8 **Helmets & Faceguards**
Any player under the age of 18 playing in any ECB Competition shall be bound by the ECB Directive.

9 **Umpires**
Umpires for all matches will be appointed by the ECB Competitions Team.

10 **Scorers**
Each team shall provide their own competent, non-playing scorer in all matches. If a team fails to provide a scorer a player has to be nominated from the team to take up the duty for the entire duration of the match.

The use of live electronic scoring is strongly encouraged for all matches.

11 **Team Sheets**
Each side must provide the umpires with a team sheet before the start of the match identifying any player who has not reached the age of 18 on the date of the match and showing the specific age group of any player who is in the Under 19 age group or younger. It is recommended that the ECB Team Sheet card (available from the local County Board) is used whenever possible.

12 **Match Results**
It is the responsibility of the HOME side to enter the result and full scorecard details onto the appropriate site on play-cricket.com within 24 hours of the match being completed. The AWAY side should confirm that the summary result has been correctly entered within the next 24 hours. Both sides must ensure that their squad details have been entered into play-cricket.com prior to each match they play.

In the event of the match being cancelled or abandoned it is still the responsibility of the Home County to enter the fact on Play-Cricket.

13 **Points**

13.1 The following points system will apply:

Win	4
Tie	2
Abandoned or Cancelled	1
Loss	0

13.2 **Group Matches**

In the event of teams finishing on equal points in a Group, the right to play in the Knock-out Stages will be decided in the following order of priority:

a) When two teams have equal points, the team which was the winner of the Group Match played between them will be placed in the higher position.
When more than two teams have equal points, the team which was the winner of the most number of matches played between those teams will be placed in the higher position.

- b) If still equal, the team with the higher net run rate in the Group Matches in which a result was achieved will be placed in the higher position.
- c) If still equal, the team with the higher number of wickets taken per balls bowled in the Group Matches in which a result was achieved, will be placed in the higher position.
- d) In the highly unlikely event that teams cannot be separated by (a) to (c) above this will be done by drawing lots.

14 **Code of Conduct**

All players, team officials, club supporters and umpires shall be bound by the MCC Spirit of Cricket and the ECB Code of Conduct.

15 **Coaching**

Coaching shall not be permitted from the sidelines during a match. In such an event, the umpire shall request the coach/manager/parent/spectator to stop. If this persists, the umpire shall have the power to warn the offending team captain and manager that the matter will be reported to the County Board/ECB.

The above does not apply to coaches during drinks intervals.