

First Class County Competition Regulations

The Bob Willis Trophy

Board Discretion

The Board of ECB retains ultimate discretion over these Regulations and the Playing Conditions for ECB Competitions 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 A to the ECB Articles of Association agrees to participate (subject to any applicable suspension(s)) in The Bob Willis Trophy.

2 Full Strength Teams and Arrival of Teams

All Counties shall field a full strength team in all matches in The Bob Willis Trophy. Both full teams shall arrive at the venue at a time so that the match can commence at the scheduled time. (See also ECB Directives).

In normal circumstances, a maximum of 30 minutes shall be allowed for a late-arriving team to prepare for the match.

3 Competitive County Cricket

The Regulations Governing the Qualification and Registration of Cricketers for Competitive County Cricket and their Qualification for England shall apply.

4 The Bob Willis Trophy

4.1 Title

The Competition will be known as The Bob Willis Trophy.

4.2 Entrants

The Bob Willis Trophy shall be competed for by the 18 First Class Counties, divided into 3 regional groups of 6. Each County will play 5 matches. The groups are as follows:

North Group

Derbyshire
Durham
Lancashire
Leicestershire
Nottinghamshire
Yorkshire

Central Group

Glamorgan
Gloucestershire
Northamptonshire
Somerset
Warwickshire
Worcestershire

South Group

Essex
Hampshire
Kent
Middlesex
Surrey
Sussex

The two best first-place teams shall play in the Final. (See Playing Conditions re tiebreakers in the event of teams finishing on equal points).

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 Regulations and Playing Conditions

These Regulations and the Playing Conditions shall be decided by the ECB.

5 Competition Technical Committee

A Competition Technical Committee appointed by the Board of the ECB shall be responsible for making recommendations to the Board of the ECB on Curtailment Decisions (as defined below).

Curtailment Decisions shall mean decisions which the Board of the ECB is required to take in connection with The Bob Willis Trophy and/or a match in The Bob Willis Trophy not taking place as originally planned and/or not being completed as originally planned.