

Vitality Women's County T20

Competition Rules



This competition will use the Generic 20 overs per side Playing Conditions.

1 Title

The title of the competition will be the Vitality Women's County T20 (Vitality WCT20)

2 Management of Competition

- 2.1 The control of the Competition shall be undertaken by the relevant Cricket Committee responsible for this Competition 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 relevant Committee 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 Department by 1st September in the year prior to the Competition.
- 3.3 Each squad must have a named coach and named manager who are DBS cleared and who attend all matches (where not available a suitable replacement must be found for all matches)

4 Competition Structure

4.1 Format of the Competition

Each County will play 4 single days of competition on pre-determined dates with the four league winners progressing to the National Finals being played on Sunday 25th and Monday 26th August. For clarity, there will be no promotion or relegation.

4.2 Fixture setting

4.2.1 Fixture dates for the 2024 season have been set as:

- Round 1 **Sunday 26th May**
- Round 2 **Sunday 16th June**
- Round 3 **Sunday 28th July**
- Round 4 **Sunday 11th August**

Matches will take place at 10:30, 13:30 and 16:30 with the exception of the Group 1 double-header matches which will start at 11:00 and 15:00. If all teams are in agreement to amend these start times (while taking into consideration sunset times) then this will be permitted.

4.2.2 The dates and times of fixtures have been predetermined and uploaded onto the Play-Cricket website. It is the responsibility of the host County to inform all visiting County sides of the venue details.

Host Counties must also inform the ECB (sue.laister@ecb.co.uk) of their playing venue.

4.3 Matches that are cancelled or abandoned cannot be rearranged.

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

	Scheduled Start Time	Latest Start Time (5 overs per team)	Cut-off Time (latest possible finish)
Match 1	10:30	12:30	13:15
Match 2	13:30	15:30	16:15
Match 3	16:30	18:30	19:15

For matches involving double headers:

	Scheduled Start Time	Latest Start Time (5 overs per team)	Cut-off Time (latest possible finish)
Match 1	11:00	13:00	13:45
Match 2	15:00	17:00	17:45

5 Qualification of players – Women's Senior County Eligibility Criteria

A player is eligible to play for a County at senior level if she meets any of the following criteria (all players in the Vitality WCT20 must meet this eligibility):

- 5.1 She was born within that County.
- 5.2 She currently resides in that County and has been resident there for 6 months prior to 1st May 2024.
- 5.3 She is attending an educational establishment within that County.
- 5.4 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 Competitions Manager before that player represents a chosen County side (email to sue.laister@ecb.co.uk)
- 5.5 Where a player meets the eligibility of several Counties she is entitled to choose which County she would like to represent during the 2024 season. Such cases need to be authorised by the Competitions Manager before that player represents a chosen County side (email to sue.laister@ecb.co.uk)
- 5.6 Two overseas players, 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. Only one overseas player may be fielded in any one match.
- 5.7 She has completed the Dual Registration Form, this scheme replaces the Player Loan system, and all parties including ECB are satisfied that the criteria of the 2024 Dual Registration Scheme have been met (see separate Dual Registration System for Women's County Cricket paper available from sue.laister@ecb.co.uk).

- 5.8 A player may play for a County for whom the player is not qualified only if the player has not been selected by the County/Counties for whom the player is otherwise qualified and has obtained the written consent of that County/those Counties. Such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld. There is no requirement to obtain the consent of the County of birth. In the event of a dispute the matter shall be referred to the ECB, whose decision shall be final.
- 5.9 Based on ECB Guidelines for Junior Players in Open Age Cricket no under 12 age group players or younger may take part in the ECB Vitality WCT20, unless they are deemed by the ECB National Talent Manager to be of a standard to compete in any U13 girls' county match. This is providing they are at least 11 years old, and in school Year 7 on 1st September in the year preceding the season and have written parental consent to play.

5.10 **ADDITIONAL NOTES**

- 5.10.1 Other than when involved in the Dual Registration System, a player may only represent one County at senior level in any given season in the Vitality WCT20 Competition.
- 5.10.2 A player may feasibly represent different Counties at ECB Girls County Age Group level and senior level in any given season. Such a scenario would be where a County offers girls junior cricket but not senior County cricket.
- 5.10.3 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.

6 **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.

- 6.1 A 5oz Kookaburra Club Match White Ball (hard ball) will be used for all matches however in exceptional circumstances the Kookaburra Club Match Pink Ball (hard ball) can be used provided permission has been given by Sue Laister, Competitions Manager, and the opposition informed.
- 6.2 Each County will receive enough match balls to cover all of the matches that they are hosting.
- 6.3 All County sides present must be able to provide a spare match ball if required (this will generally be one of the two sides involved in the match at the time).

7 **Clothing & Sight Screens**

- 7.1 In all matches players are required to wear coloured clothing. All players must be in the same kit and use black sight screens.
- 7.2 If in exceptional circumstances a pink ball is being used white or black sight screens can be used.

8 **Helmets and Faceguards**

Any player under the age of 18 playing in any ECB Competition shall be bound by the ECB Directive.

9 **Umpires**

ECB shall be responsible for appointing umpires through the ACO Regional Appointment Officers for all Group Stage and National Finals fixtures in this competition.

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 WINNING side to enter the result and full scorecard details onto the Play-Cricket website within 24 hours of the conclusion of each Round of the competition.

13 **Points**

13.1 The following points system shall apply:

Win	8 + Bonus Points
Tie	4 + Bonus Points
Abandoned	2 + Bonus Points
Cancelled	2
Loss	0 + Bonus Points
Conceded	0
Team Conceded Against	20

For Group 1 double-header matches, the first fixture played will count towards the group points table, the second fixture will be played as a friendly.

13.2 **Bonus Points**

Additional bonus points will be awarded in two phases, at the end of the powerplay and at the end of the match. Below lists how bonus points will be awarded:

13.2.1 Power Play Bonus Points

Wickets Taken

1-2 wickets	1
3+ wickets	2

Runs in Power Play

30-44 runs	1
45+ runs	2

13.2.2 Overall Bonus Points (in additional to Power Play Bonus Points)

Wickets Taken

1-4	1
5-6	2
7-8	3
9-10	4

Boundaries Overall (4's and 6's hit off the bat, not wides/no balls)

5-10	1
11-15	2
16-20	3
21+	4

Bonus points will need to be manually added to Play-Cricket at the conclusion of each fixture. In the Play-Cricket admin area, go to 'Day to Day', 'Results', select relevant match and click on 'Edit Result'. Scroll down to batting and bowling boxes to add bonus points.

14 Group Matches

In the event of teams finishing on equal points in a Group, the final standings shall be decided in the following order of priority:

- 14.1 Head-to-head result(s) of teams tied on total points.
- 14.2 If still equal or if the teams with equal points did not play each other in the Group matches, 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.
- 14.3 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.
- 14.4 In the highly unlikely event that teams cannot be separated by 14.1 to 14.3 above this will be done by drawing lots.

15 National Finals

The four group winners will progress to the National Finals which will be played as a round-robin league format with the league winner being declared the National winner.

16 Code of Conduct

All players, coaches or match officials shall be bound by the MCC Spirit of Cricket and the ECB General Conduct Regulations.

17 **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.