

**WOMEN'S TIER 1, WOMEN'S TIER 2 & WOMEN'S T20 COUNTY CUP
COMPETITION REGULATIONS**



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Board Discretion

The ECB Board retains ultimate discretion over these Women's Tier 1, Tier 2 and T20 County Cup Competition Regulations ("**Regulations**") and the Playing Conditions for ECB Competitions and is entitled at any time to amend or vary them on reasonable notice to interested parties as well as in exceptional circumstances when the Board is entitled to immediately do so on notice to the interested parties.

Definitions

For the purposes of these Regulations:

Counties means the Tier 1 Counties, Tier 2 Counties and Tier 3 Counties;

Cricket Discipline Panel means the panel of individuals responsible for adjudicating on regulatory cases on behalf of the ECB;

Cricket Regulator means the body responsible for investigating and prosecuting breaches of ECB Regulations; Curtailment Decisions mean decisions which the ECB Board is required to take in connection with the competitions listed in Regulations 4, 5 and 6 and/or a match in those competitions not taking place as originally planned.

Disciplinary Procedure Regulations means the regulations governing the disciplinary procedure for regulatory cases brought before the Cricket Discipline Panel as in force and amended from time to time;

ECB means England and Wales Cricket Board;

ECB Competitions means the Tier 1 Competitions, Tier 2 Competitions and T20 Women's County Cup;

ECB General Conduct Regulations means the General Conduct Regulations which are applicable to ECB Competitions (as defined in the ECB General Conduct Regulations) as in force and amended from time to time;

ECB Regulations means the ECB's rules, regulations, playing conditions and codes as published and in force (and as amended and supplemented) from time to time;

Effective Date means 1 April 2026;

Professional Conduct Regulations means the ECB's Professional Conduct Regulations as in force and amended from time to time;

Professional County Club means any of the clubs and/or companies listed in Schedule A of the ECB's Articles of Association from time to time and/or any county cricket club from time to time playing in the Tier 1 Competitions and/or the Tier 2 Competitions;

Recreational Cricket Board means a body designated as such by the ECB which is responsible for the organisation of recreational cricketing activity and the development of cricket generally within a county and such other areas (if any) as may be agreed by the ECB;

Registration Regulations means the Tier 1 Registration Regulations, the Tier 2 Registration Regulations and the Tier 3 Registration Regulations as applicable;

Tier 1 Competitions means any women's domestic cricket competitions designated by the ECB as being a "Tier 1" competition, which, as at the Effective Date, includes the Vitality Blast Women's Competition and the Metro Bank One Day Cup Women's Competition;

Tier 1 County means a Professional County Club that participates in Tier 1 Competitions;

Tier 1 Registration Regulations means the regulations governing, amongst other things, registration for the Tier 1 Competitions as in force and amended from time to time;

Tier 2 Competitions means any women's domestic cricket competitions designated by the ECB as being a "Tier 2" competition, which, as at the Effective Date, includes the Vitality Blast Women's League 2 and the Metro Bank One Day Cup Women's League 2;

Tier 2 County means a Professional County Club that participates in Tier 2 Competitions;

Tier 2 Registration Regulations means the regulations governing, amongst other things, registration for the Tier 2 Competitions as in force and amended from time to time;

Tier 3 Competitions means any women's domestic cricket competitions designated by the ECB as being a "Tier 3" competition, which, as at the Effective Date, includes the Vitality Blast Women's League 3 and the Metro Bank One Day Cup Women's League 3;

Tier 3 County means a Recreational Cricket Board which (i) operates in a county without a Professional County Club and (ii) runs a team which participates in the Tier 3 Competitions and the T20 Women's County Cup;

Tier 3 Registration Regulations means the regulations governing, amongst other things, registration for the Tier 3 Competitions as in force and amended from time to time; and

T20 Women's County Cup means the T20 knockout cup competition which the Tier 1 Counties, Tier 2 Counties and Tier 3 Counties participate in, which as at the Effective Date, is known as the Vitality T20 Women's County Cup.

Application

These Regulations will come into full force and effect from the Effective Date.

1 AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE

Subject to any applicable suspension(s): each of the Tier 1 Counties agrees to participate) in the Tier 1 Competitions; each of the Tier 2 Counties agrees to participate in the Tier 2 Competitions; and each of the Counties agrees to participate in the T20 Women's County Cup,

as outlined in Regulations 4, 5 and 6.

2 FULL STRENGTH TEAMS AND ARRIVAL OF TEAMS

All Counties must field a full-strength team in the relevant matches in the ECB Competitions they are competing in.

For every match in an ECB Competition, both full teams must arrive at the venue at a time so that the match can commence at the scheduled time.

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

3 REGISTRATION

The Tier 1 Registration Regulations apply in respect of the Tier 1 Competitions.

The Tier 2 Registration Regulations apply in respect of the Tier 2 Competitions.

The Registration Regulations apply in respect of the T20 Women's County Cup.

4 METRO BANK ONE DAY CUP

4.1 Tier 1

The Tier 1 Competition will be known as the Metro Bank One Day Cup Women's Competition.

4.1.1 Competition Structure / Entrants

The 9 Tier 1 Counties will play the group stage of the competition in 1 group of 9 teams. Each team will play 16 group matches, playing the other 8 teams in the group on a home and away basis.

The group is as follows: -

Durham
Essex
Hampshire
Lancashire
Somerset
Surrey
The Blaze
Warwickshire
Yorkshire

The first-place team from the group stage will qualify for the Final.

The team finishing second in the group will receive a home draw and play against the team finishing third in the group.

See the Playing Conditions applicable to the Metro Bank One Day Cup Women's Competition in relation to tiebreakers in the event of teams finishing on equal points.

4.1.2 Venues

The Final will be played at The Utilita Bowl, Southampton.

4.1.3 Umpires

Umpires will be appointed by ECB to all matches.

4.1.4 Match Referees

Match Referees will be appointed by ECB to all matches from the ECB's panel of Match Referees. When it is not possible to do so, the appointed umpires will fulfil the areas of responsibility of the Match Referee.

4.1.5 Regulations and Playing Conditions

These Regulations and the Playing Conditions applicable to the Metro Bank One Day Cup Women's Competition will be decided annually by the ECB.

4.2 Tier 2

The Tier 2 Competition will be known as the Metro Bank One Day Cup Women's League 2.

4.2.1 Competition Structure / Entrants

The 9 Tier 2 Counties will play the group stage of the competition in 1 group of 9 teams. Each team will play 8 group matches, playing the other 8 teams in the group on a home or away basis, as specified by ECB.

The group is as follows: -

Derbyshire Falcons
Glamorgan
Gloucestershire
Kent
Middlesex
Leicestershire Foxes
Northamptonshire Steelbacks
Sussex Sharks
Worcestershire Rapids

The top four teams from the group will qualify for the semi-finals.

The team finishing first in the group will receive a home draw and play against the team finishing fourth in the group.

The team finishing second in the group will receive a home draw and play against the team finishing third in the group.

See the Playing Conditions applicable to the Metro Bank One Day Cup Women's League 2 in relation to tiebreakers in the event of teams finishing on equal points.

4.2.2 Venues

The Final will be played at The Seat Unique Stadium, Bristol.

4.2.3 Umpires

Umpires will be appointed by ECB to all matches.

4.2.4 Match Referees

Match Referees will not be appointed to matches in this competition. The appointed umpires will fulfil the areas of responsibility of the Match Referee.

4.2.5 Regulations and Playing Conditions

These Regulations and the Playing Conditions applicable to the Metro Bank One Day Cup Women's League 2 will be decided annually by the ECB.

5 VITALITY BLAST

5.1 Tier 1

The Tier 1 Competition will be known as the Vitality Blast Women's Competition.

5.1.1 Competition Structure / Entrants

The 9 Tier 1 Counties will play the group stage of the competition in 1 group of 9 teams. Each team will play 12 group matches, playing 4 teams in the group on a home and away basis, and 4 teams in the group on a home or away basis, as specified by ECB.

The group is as follows: -

Bears
Durham
Essex
Hampshire Hawks
Surrey
Somerset
The Blaze
Lancashire Thunder
Yorkshire

The top four teams from the group will qualify for the semi-finals.

The team finishing first in the group will play against the team finishing fourth in the group.
The team finishing second in the group will play against the team finishing third in the group.

See the Playing Conditions applicable to the Vitality Blast Women's Competition in relation to tiebreakers in the event of teams finishing on equal points

5.1.2 Venues

The semi-final and the Final will be played at The Kia Oval.

5.1.3 Umpires

Umpires will be appointed by ECB to all matches.

5.1.4 Match Referees

Match Referees will be appointed by ECB to all matches from the ECB's panel of Match Referees. When it is not possible to do so, the appointed umpires will fulfil the areas of responsibility of the Match Referee.

5.1.5 Regulations and Playing Conditions

These Regulations and the Playing Conditions applicable to the Vitality Blast Women's Competition will be decided annually by the ECB.

5.2 Tier 2

The Tier 2 Competition will be known as the Vitality Blast Women's League 2.

5.2.1 Competition Structure / Entrants

The 9 Tier 2 Counties will play the group stage of the competition in 1 group of 9 teams. Each team will play 8 group matches, playing the other 8 teams in the group on a home or away basis, as specified by ECB.

The group is as follows: -

Derbyshire Falcons
Glamorgan
Gloucestershire
Kent
Middlesex
Leicestershire Foxes
Northamptonshire Steelbacks
Sussex Sharks
Worcestershire Rapids

The first-place team from the group stage will qualify for the Final.

A semi-final will take place between the second-place team and third-place team, with the winner qualifying for the Final.

See the Playing Conditions applicable to the Vitality Blast Women's League 2 in relation to tiebreakers in the event of teams finishing on equal points

5.2.2 Venues

The semi-finals and the Final will be played at Sophia Gardens, Cardiff.

5.2.3 Umpires

Umpires will be appointed by ECB to all matches.

5.2.4 Match Referees

Match Referees will not be appointed to these matches. The appointed umpires will fulfil the areas of responsibility of the Match Referee.

5.2.5 Regulations and Playing Conditions

These Regulations and the Playing Conditions applicable to the Vitality Blast Women's League 2 will be decided annually by the ECB.

6 VITALITY T20 WOMEN'S COUNTY CUP

6.1 The competition will be known as the Vitality T20 Women's County Cup.

6.1.1 Competition Structure / Entrants

Entrants to the competition will be the Tier 1 Counties, Tier 2 Counties and Tier 3 Counties, as outlined below. The competition will be played on a knock-out basis, with an open draw.

Rounds 1 and 2 will consist of Tier 2 and Tier 3 Teams only, with Tier 1 teams entering the competition at Round 3.

Tier 3		Tier 2	Tier 1
Beds & Hunts	Hertfordshire	Derbyshire	Bears
Berkshire	Lincolnshire	Glamorgan	Durham
Buckinghamshire	Norfolk	Gloucestershire	Essex
Cambridgeshire	Northumberland	Kent	Hampshire Hawks
Cheshire	Oxfordshire	Middlesex	Somerset
Cornwall	Shropshire	Leicestershire Foxes	Surrey
Cumbria	Staffordshire	Northamptonshire	The Blaze
Devon	Suffolk	Sussex	Lancashire Thunder
Dorset	Wiltshire	Worcestershire	Yorkshire
Herefordshire			

6.1.2 Venues

The semi-finals and the Final will be played at Emirates Old Trafford.

6.1.3 Player Eligibility

Subject to the following paragraph, a cricketer who is registered with, or on loan to, a County in accordance with the applicable Registration Regulations is eligible to play for that County in the T20 Women's County Cup.

A cricketer who is registered with a Tier 1 County under Regulation 3 of the Tier 1 Registration Regulations is not eligible to play in the T20 Women's County Cup.

A cricketer can only play for one County in the T20 Women's County Cup during the same season.

A loaned player can play for their away County in the T20 Women's County Cup if the away County is in the same Tier or a lower Tier as their home County. A loaned player cannot play for the away County in the T20 Women's County Cup if the away County is in a higher Tier.

6.1.4 Discipline

All participants in the T20 Women's County Cup will be subject to the Professional Conduct Regulations and the Disciplinary Procedure Regulations.

Tier 3 Counties and Participants (as defined in the Disciplinary Procedure Regulations) who are associated with a Tier 3 County will be subject to the Professional Conduct Regulations and the Disciplinary Procedure Regulations in respect of on-field misconduct and off-field misconduct which is related to the T20 Women's County Cup (as determined by the Cricket Regulator) and will be subject to the ECB General Conduct Regulations in respect of all other off-field misconduct.

6.1.5 Umpires

Umpires will be appointed by ECB to all matches.

6.1.6 Match Referees

Match Referees may be appointed to matches from the quarter-final stage from the ECB's panel of Match Referees. When it is not possible to do so, the appointed umpires will fulfil the areas of responsibility of the Match Referee.

6.1.7 Regulations and Playing Conditions

These Regulations and the Playing Conditions applicable to the Vitality T20 Women's County Cup will be decided annually by the ECB.

7 COMPETITION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

A Competition Technical Committee appointed by the ECB Board will be responsible for:

- making recommendations to the ECB Board on Curtailment Decisions; and
- determining whether a match can continue due to the reduced availability of a County's players taking into account the welfare of the players and the best interests of the match and competition.