

**PLAYING CONDITIONS – PROFESSIONAL COUNTY CLUBS SECOND XI
CHAMPIONSHIP**



**England and Wales Cricket Board, Lord's Cricket Ground
St John's Wood, London, NW8 8QZ
England**

Application

The Playing Conditions for the Rothesay County Championship, as varied below, apply to the Professional County Clubs Second XI Championship from the Effective Date.

Effective Date means 1 April 2026.

Second XI Friendlies

Playing Conditions for 2-, 3-, and 4-day friendlies will be agreed between the participating teams and the umpires with any dispute referred to ECB Domestic Cricket Operations.

1. LAW 1 – THE PLAYERS

1.1 In addition to Rothesay County Championship Playing Condition 1.1 (Number of players), the following shall apply:

By agreement of the captains, either one or both may nominate 12 players but with 11 only to bat per innings (this may be a different 11 batting in the second innings than in the first innings). For the avoidance of doubt one captain, by agreement, may nominate 12 players when the opposing captain has elected to nominate 11.

1.2 When a side consists of 12 nominated players, there shall be no limit on the number of occasions an exchange of nominated players can take place when that side is fielding, always providing not more than 11 fielders shall field at any one time.

1.3 Umpires shall be informed of all player exchanges on every occasion.

1.4 Regardless of whether 11 or 12 players have been nominated in a team, prior to the scheduled start of play on the last scheduled day of the match, a replacement player shall be allowed by right immediately in the event of a cricketer currently playing in a Second XI Championship match (a) being required, to join an England representative team or their Professional County Club's First Team (**First XI**) for a three/four-day match or a one-day match or (b) sustaining an injury or illness such that they can take no further part in the match or (c) being replaced by a First XI player because they have been replaced in the First XI by a returning England player or (d) being required to fulfil an academic commitment. Such replacement may be permitted to bat, bowl or act as wicket-keeper in that match, subject to the approval of ECB Domestic Cricket Operations, provided that it is not intended that the cricketer originally selected will return and participate again in the match.

If the cricketer originally selected is batting at the time they are required to leave the match, they shall retire 'not out' and their replacement may be permitted to bat later in that innings subject to the approval of ECB Domestic Cricket Operations. If, however, it is intended that the cricketer originally selected will return and participate again in the match, a replacement player will not be permitted to take their place during the period of their absence. The number of replacement players permitted to take a full part in a match shall be limited to two per team in any match other than in exceptional circumstances approved by ECB Domestic Cricket Operations.

3. LAW 3 – THE SCORERS

Rothesay County Championship Playing Condition 3.1 shall not apply.

4. LAW 4 – THE BALL

- 4.1 Grade 1 quality red balls of Dukes, Kookaburra or Gunn & Moore manufacture shall be used in Second XI Championship matches, to be determined by the home team.

5. LAW 5 – THE BAT

- 5.1 Rothesay County Championship Playing Condition 5 shall apply except that all Types of bat shall be allowed.

6. LAW 6 – THE PITCH

The ECB's Pitch Regulations shall apply as they refer to the Second XI Championship.

Law 6.5 – Non-turf pitches – will not apply. However, stitched hybrid pitch systems in which synthetic turf fibres (polyethylene or polypropylene, of beige and/or green colour) are inserted vertically into an entire soil pitch with established natural turf, shall be permitted. Fibre stitches should be at a mean square spacing of 18 to 22 mm parallel to the direction of play and over the whole pitch area as defined by Law 6.1.

10. LAW 9 – COVERING THE PITCH

Rothesay County Championship Playing Conditions 10.3.2(c) and 10.3.2(d) shall not apply.

16. LAW 16 – THE RESULT

- 16.1 Entrants to the Second XI Championship shall be the Second XI of the eighteen Professional County Clubs. Each team shall be placed in a group of 6 teams, playing every other team once, a total of 5 matches each.

The two group winners with the highest number of points shall play in the Final.

Should teams finish on the same number of points, Rothesay County Championship Playing Condition 16.2.7 shall apply as it refers to tiebreakers. (If teams in different groups finish on equal points, then the tiebreaker relating to points scored in matches between the two teams shall not apply).

Should the Final result in a tie or a draw, the trophy shall be shared.

24. LAW 24 – FIELDER'S ABSENCE; SUBSTITUTES

- 24.1 When both teams have nominated 11 players, Rothesay County Championship playing condition 24 shall apply.
- 24.2 When one or both teams have nominated 12 players, Laws 24.1, 24.2, 24.3 shall not apply. Rothesay County Championship playing conditions 24.1.1 and 24.1.3 apply. Rothesay County Championship playing conditions 24.1.2 and 24.2 do not apply.