

COMPETITIVE COUNTY CRICKET REGISTRATION REGULATIONS



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1 DEFINITIONS

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

1.2 In these Regulations:

Agency Transaction Form has the meaning given to it in the ECB Agents Regulations;

Appeal Panel means the panel appointed pursuant to Regulation 12.1 to hear appeals under Regulation 12;

Appeal Panel Chair means the chair of the Appeal Panel;

Approved Cricket has the meaning given to it in the ECB's Cricket Event Regulations;

Approved Playing Contract means an ECB and PCA-approved standard form of contract, which will include the "Standard Senior Contract" and "Standard Rookie Contract", between the relevant Professional County Club and relevant Cricketer, which complies with any minimum salary and minimum term stipulated in the Player Contract Engagement Guide;

Associate Member Country means a country which is an associate member of the ICC;

Close Season means 1 October to 31 March, both dates inclusive;

Competition means each of the County Championship, the T20 Blast and the One-Day Cup;

Competitive County Cricket means:

- (a) the County Championship;
- (b) the One-Day Cup;
- (c) the T20 Blast; and
- (d) any other similar competition authorised by and designated as Competitive County Cricket by the ECB which for the avoidance of doubt will include matches between a Professional County Club and a representative side of a Full or Associate Member Country.

Competitive County Cricket is classed as Open Cricket as defined in the ECB's Player Gender Eligibility Regulations;

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

Cricketer means a cricketer who is or seeks to be qualified and/or registered in accordance with these Regulations;

Disapproved Cricket has the meaning given to it in the ECB's Cricket Event Regulations;

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;

Disciplinary Tribunal means the panel appointed pursuant to the Disciplinary Procedure Regulations to deal with a particular disciplinary case;

ECB means the England and Wales Cricket Board;

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

EEA means the European Economic Area, namely the Republic of Ireland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, France, Italy, Germany, Denmark, Greece, Spain, Portugal, Austria, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Liechtenstein, Iceland, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia and includes each of its member states as from time to time applicable;

Effective Date means 24 March 2026;

Finals Stages means in relation to the County Championship, T20 Blast and the One-Day Cup, the period from the day after the last scheduled group match in the relevant Competition to the last scheduled day for the final of that Competition;

First-Class Cricket means First-Class Cricket or List A (Limited Overs) or List A (Twenty20) Cricket as recognised by the ICC in accordance with the ICC Classification of Official Cricket or the ECB in accordance with the ECB Classification of Official Cricket;

Full Member Country means a country which is a full member of the ICC;

Governing Body means, in relation to a Qualified Cricketer or an Unqualified Cricketer, the Governing Body or Bodies (if any) for cricket of any Full Member Country or Associate Member Country or Countries for which they are qualified to play in a Test Match, One Day International Match or International T20 Match under the ICC Player Eligibility Regulations;

Group Stages means, in relation to the Competitions, the period from the first scheduled group match of the relevant Competition until the last scheduled group match in that Competition;

Hundred Team means a team which competes in The Hundred;

ICC means the International Cricket Council;

ICC Event has the meaning given to it in the ICC Player Eligibility Regulations;

ICC Player Eligibility Regulations means any regulations of the ICC governing eligibility for International Matches, as in force and amended from time to time;

ICC Regulations on Sanctioning and Player Release means any regulations of the ICC governing the sanctioning of cricket events and player release mechanism, as in force and amended from time to time;

International T20 Match means a 20 over international match (or a series of such matches) between any ICC Member Countries;

National County Club means any National County Cricket Club which plays in the competitions organised by the NCCA;

NCCA means the National Counties Cricket Association;

Notice of Appeal has the meaning given to it in Regulation 12.3;

Official Cricket means cricket which is classified as official cricket under the ICC Classification of Official Cricket;

One Day International Match means a limited overs international match (or a series of such matches) between Full Member Countries, or between Associate Member Countries with ICC ODI status, or between a Full Member Country and an Associate Member Country with ICC ODI status;

Part C means Part C of the Approved Playing Contract;

Player Application means the application required to be submitted to the ECB via its official online portal in order to register a Cricketer under these Regulations;

Player Contract Engagement Guide means the guidance regarding player contracts which has been agreed between (i) the ECB, (ii) Professional County Clubs and (iii) the PCA;

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

Professional Cricket means all competitive cricket played by teams of a professional standard or in which the Cricketer is being paid to participate as a professional player, in each case whether or not recognised as Official Cricket by the ICC and includes all First-Class Cricket and Approved Cricket;

Qualified Cricketer has the meaning given to it in Regulation 2.1;

Residing and **Resident** mean the occupation of a bona fide home (i.e. the only or main home of the Cricketer concerned) and the acquisition of temporary accommodation during the Season may not fulfil this requirement;

Season means the English cricket season running from 1 April to 30 September, both dates inclusive;

Test Match means any match recognised as such by the ICC;

The Hundred means the ECB's domestic cricket competition in a "100-ball" format; and

Unqualified Cricketer means any Cricketer who does not fulfil all of the requirements of Regulation 2.1.

2 QUALIFICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION FOR COMPETITIVE COUNTY CRICKET

2.1 Subject to the overriding discretion of the ECB and subject to the exceptions as provided below, a Cricketer will only be qualified to play in a Competitive County Cricket match (a **Qualified Cricketer**) if:

2.1.1 they are either:

(a) a British or Irish citizen; or

- (b) an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen with settled or pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme; and
 - 2.1.2 they have not, within the 12 months leading up to 1 April immediately before the Season in question, or at any time subsequently before applying for and being granted their registration with their Professional County Club either:
 - (a) played cricket for any Full Member Country except England at U17 level or above;
 - (b) played Professional Cricket in any Full Member Country outside England and Wales or in any other country outside England and Wales which is organised by or on behalf of any Full Member Country, except as an overseas cricketer under local rules promulgated by the relevant governing body of the Full Member Country similar to Regulation 3, or in any other circumstances approved by the ECB; or
 - (c) played Disapproved Cricket; and
 - 2.1.3 they do not, during the currency of their contract with their Professional County Club or their registration with their Professional County Club either:
 - (a) play cricket for any Full Member Country except England at U17 level or above;
 - (b) play Professional Cricket in any Full Member Country outside England and Wales or in any other country outside England and Wales which is organised by or on behalf of any Full Member Country, except as an overseas cricketer under local rules promulgated by the relevant Governing Body of the Full Member Country similar to Regulation 3, or in any other circumstances approved by the ECB; or
 - (c) play Disapproved Cricket; and
 - 2.1.4 they make, whenever requested by the ECB, a declaration in the form set out in Annex A to these Regulations.
- 2.2 If at any time the Cricketer no longer meets the conditions in Regulation 2.1.3, they must notify both the ECB and their Professional County Club. In this circumstance, subject to the overriding discretion of the ECB, the ECB will immediately cancel the Cricketer's registration as a Qualified Cricketer and they may not apply again for registration as a Qualified Cricketer during the term of the contract between the Cricketer and the Professional County Club for which they were originally registered as a Qualified Cricketer.
- 2.3 Where a Cricketer does not fulfil or at any time ceases to fulfil all of the conditions in Regulation 2.1 the ECB may for the purposes of exercising its overriding discretion pursuant to Regulation 2.1 or 2.2 above require them to attend a meeting at the ECB's offices in London (or virtually) to advance any case that they might have that such discretion should be exercised in their favour, answer any questions the ECB may have and provide any documents or other materials that the ECB considers may be relevant.

3 UNQUALIFIED CRICKETERS

The ECB retains an overriding discretion over the provisions and application of Regulation 3.

- 3.1 Subject only to Regulation 3.4, each Professional County Club will be entitled to have registered at any one time only four Unqualified Cricketers in respect of the 2026 Season.
- 3.2 In the Competitions in the 2026 Season, a Professional County Club may field the following maximum numbers of Unqualified Cricketers in each match:
 - 3.2.1 County Championship: a maximum of two Unqualified Cricketers;
 - 3.2.2 One-Day Cup: a maximum of two Unqualified Cricketers; and
 - 3.2.3 T20 Blast: a maximum of two Unqualified Cricketers.
- 3.3 In any Competitive County Cricket which is not part of a Competition, a Professional County Club may field a maximum of two Unqualified Cricketers in each match.
- 3.4 Notwithstanding Regulation 3.1, a Professional County Club may register one or more additional Unqualified Cricketers for a specific match or matches in the Finals Stage of the T20 Blast and/or the Finals Stage of the One-Day Cup where such Unqualified Cricketer(s) is/are eligible to play in that match or matches by complying with one or more of the conditions in Regulation 3.5. The maximum number of Unqualified Cricketers who can be fielded in each such match, as set out in Regulation 3.2, will continue to apply and such additional Unqualified Cricketer will be deemed to occupy one such place.
- 3.5 In order to be eligible to play for a Professional County Club in a match in the Finals Stage of the T20 Blast and/or the Finals Stage of the One-Day Cup an Unqualified Cricketer must have been:
 - 3.5.1 registered by that Professional County Club and played in at least one match for that Professional County Club in the Group Stages of the relevant Competition; and/or
 - 3.5.2 registered by that Professional County Club and named in that Professional County Club's squad for an abandoned match in the Group Stages of the relevant Competition; and/or
 - 3.5.3 registered by that Professional County Club for a match in the Group Stages of the relevant Competition and obtained a medical certificate to confirm that they were unfit to play in that match (including by virtue of being unavailable in connection with COVID-19) (and provided evidence of that if requested by the ECB).
- 3.6 A Professional County Club is entitled to change or temporarily substitute any one or more of its Unqualified Cricketers after the commencement of the Season, subject always to the provisions of these Regulations.
- 3.7 An Unqualified Cricketer must be registered by a Professional County Club for a minimum period of 21 consecutive days, save only where:
 - 3.7.1 the Professional County Club wishes to register the Unqualified Cricketer after 6 September 2026 and the ECB has been notified in writing by the relevant Professional County Club of its proposed registration of that Unqualified Cricketer by 6 September 2026 (and for the avoidance of any doubt this Regulation 3.7.1 should not be construed as in any way permitting the cancellation of the registration of another Unqualified Cricketer within 21 days of their registration); and/or

- 3.7.2 the Professional County Club has registered an additional Unqualified Cricketer pursuant to Regulation 3.4, which registration will be deemed to remain in force solely for the duration of the specified match or matches, as listed in the registration application, in which the relevant Professional County Club participates, after which time the registration of that additional Unqualified Cricketer is deemed to have been automatically cancelled; and/or
- 3.7.3 the Approved Playing Contract of that Unqualified Cricketer expires at an earlier date, in which case the registration of the Unqualified Cricketer may be cancelled on the expiry of that contract, but a substitute Unqualified Cricketer may not be registered under these Regulations until 21 days from the registration of the first Unqualified Cricketer.
- 3.8 Where a Professional County Club wishes to cancel the registration of one Unqualified Cricketer and on the same day register another Unqualified Cricketer in accordance with these Regulations, that day will be deemed to constitute the last day of registration for the first Unqualified Cricketer and the first day of registration for the replacement Unqualified Cricketer. Only one of these Unqualified Cricketers may play in any match on that day.
- 3.9 Where an Unqualified Cricketer has been registered during the Close Season or during a previous Season, the 21 day minimum registration time period will only be deemed to run from the first day of the following Season.
- 3.10 Each Unqualified Cricketer must be registered before the first Competitive County Cricket match in which they represent the relevant Professional County Club.
- 3.11 A Professional County Club will not be entitled to register:
- 3.11.1 an Unqualified Cricketer who has already represented another Professional County Club in a Competitive County Cricket match during the relevant Season; or
- 3.11.2 an Unqualified Cricketer who has within the 12 months leading up to 1st April immediately before the Season in question or at any time subsequently before applying for and being granted their registration with their Professional County Club, played Disapproved Cricket.
- 3.12 A Professional County Club wishing to register an Unqualified Cricketer must first obtain the written consent of their Governing Body (if any) in accordance with the ICC Regulations on Sanctioning of Events and Player Release.
- 3.13 If an Unqualified Cricketer, having been registered:
- 3.13.1 indicates by whatever means that they are unavailable for or declines selection by their Governing Body for an official tour or other competition, their Professional County Club may not, except with the prior consent of the ECB, play the Cricketer in any Competitive County Cricket match during the currency of that tour or while their country's team is involved in the tour or competition in question; or
- 3.13.2 during the currency of their contract with a Professional County Club plays Disapproved Cricket then, subject to the overriding discretion of the ECB, the Cricketer's registration as an Unqualified Cricketer will be cancelled and they must not be permitted to apply again for registration during the term of the contract between the Cricketer and the Professional County Club for which they were originally registered as an Unqualified Cricketer.

4 REGISTRATION PROVISIONS

- 4.1 Subject to the overriding discretion of the ECB and Regulations 4.2 to 4.4 and 5, a Professional County Club may register any Cricketer who meets the requirements of these Regulations .
- 4.2 The ECB has an overriding discretion to refuse to grant a registration in respect of any given Cricketer where:
- 4.2.1 a Professional County Club is subject to any applicable player registration sanctions under any ECB Regulations;
 - 4.2.2 the Cricketer in question is subject to any suspension or period of ineligibility under any ECB or ICC Regulations or the Regulations of another ICC Member Country; or
 - 4.2.3 having given the relevant Professional County Club and Cricketer a reasonable opportunity to make representations the ECB considers, in its absolute discretion, that the grant of such registration adversely affects (or is likely to adversely affect) the best interests, image or reputation of Competitive County Cricket, the ECB or cricket generally, including but not limited to where the Cricketer in question is the subject of any allegations, investigations or charges by the ECB, ICC, another ICC Member Country, police or other law enforcement body relating to any doping, corruption or criminal offence or any other serious misconduct.
- 4.3 Except with the approval of the ECB, each Professional County Club may have a maximum of 30 Qualified Cricketers registered for it at any one time. However, a Professional County Club may register:
- 4.3.1 an additional Qualified Cricketer above this limit for each of its registered Qualified Cricketers who has an ECB red ball and/or white ball central contract to play for England for all or a substantial part of the current Season; and
 - 4.3.2 an additional Qualified Cricketer above this limit, who may be registered to play in the One-Day Cup only, for each of its registered Qualified Cricketers who holds a playing contract for that Season with a Hundred Team.
- 4.4 Subject to the overriding discretion of the ECB:
- 4.4.1 A Qualified Cricketer already registered for a National County Club may be registered for a Professional County Club, or vice versa, with the consent of the Professional County Club or National County Club with whom they are already registered and without cancellation of the registration for that Professional County Club or National County Club being required.
 - 4.4.2 No Cricketer may be registered for more than one Professional County Club in the same Season, unless Regulations 4.4.3 or 4.4.7 apply.
 - 4.4.3 A Qualified Cricketer whose registration with a Professional County Club has been validly cancelled during the current Season may be registered with only one other Professional County Club during the same Season.
 - 4.4.4 Any registration in accordance with Regulation 4.4.3 will be subject to the requirements stipulated in Regulation 9.4.3.

- 4.4.5 If a Qualified Cricketer is registered with another Professional County Club during the current Season in accordance with Regulation 4.4.3, they will not be eligible to play in the current Season for their new Professional County Club in the Finals Stage unless they have, within the current Season:
- (a) played in at least one match for their new Professional County Club in the Group Stages of that Competition; and/or
 - (b) been named in their new Professional County Club's squad for an abandoned match in the Group Stages of that Competition; and/or
 - (c) been registered by their new Professional County Club at the time of a match in the Group Stages of that Competition and obtained a medical certificate to confirm that they were unfit to play in that match or otherwise confirmed that they were isolating at the time of the match in connection with COVID-19 (and provided evidence of that if requested by the ECB).
- 4.4.6 In the case of a dispute arising from the Cricketer's contract with the first Professional County Club being terminated, it is at the discretion of the ECB to determine whether the registration may be transferred.
- 4.4.7 No Cricketer may be registered for one Professional County Club when contracted in writing by another Professional County Club unless the contract only relates to a period commencing after the end of the current Season and, if applicable, a period beyond the expiry of their existing Professional County Club contract.
- 4.4.8 A Qualified Cricketer may be loaned to another Professional County Club in accordance with Regulation 9.
- 4.5 Where the Professional County Club has registered a Qualified Cricketer pursuant to Regulation 4.3 or 4.4 for the One-Day Cup only, this registration will be deemed to remain in force solely for the duration of the One-Day Cup, after which time the registration of that Cricketer will be deemed to have been automatically cancelled. Such a player is not eligible to play in any other Competition.
- 4.6 Except as provided for under Regulation 4.7, Cricketers who have been registered to a Hundred Team will not be eligible to participate in any Competitive County Cricket, second XI cricket or recreational club cricket during the period in which that Cricketer's Hundred Team is participating in The Hundred. For the purposes of this Regulation 4.6 only, a Cricketer's Hundred Team will be deemed to have started participating in The Hundred from and including 20 July 2026.
- 4.7 A Cricketer may be released by the Hundred Team with which they are registered to play for the Professional County Club with which they are registered in a specific match in the One-Day Cup or a second XI competition, or to play for a club in recreational club cricket if:
- 4.7.1 that Cricketer has a central contract to play for England; or
 - 4.7.2 the Cricketer, the Professional County Club and the Hundred Team with which the Cricketer is registered have provided written consent for the Cricketer's release from the Hundred Team in accordance with Regulation 4.8.
- 4.8 A Cricketer may be released by their Hundred Team in accordance with Regulation 4.7.2 if:

- 4.8.1 the Hundred Team is not playing a match on the same day (or any of the same days) as the match for which the Cricketer is being released;
- 4.8.2 the Hundred Team has participated in at least two matches in The Hundred prior to the relevant match for which the Cricketer is being released; and
- 4.8.3 the Player has not been a nominated player in both of the previous two matches of the Hundred Team prior to the relevant match for which the Cricketer is being released,

and provided that they comply with the following requirements:

- 4.8.4 the Hundred Team have provided the written consents referred to at Regulation 4.7.2 to the ECB; and
 - 4.8.5 the ECB has provided written confirmation to the Cricketer, the Professional County Club and the Hundred Team with which the Cricketer is registered that the release has been approved.
- 4.9 For the avoidance of doubt, any release in accordance with Regulation 4.7 will have no impact on the Cricketer's Fee (as defined under the Cricketer's player contract with their Hundred Team to participate in The Hundred).
- 4.10 No Cricketer may be registered until they have provided evidence of a right to work in the UK as a professional sportsperson. Cricketers must be able to evidence their right to work in the UK as a professional sportsperson throughout the duration of their playing contract and must provide evidence of such if requested by the ECB.

5 FURTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO REGISTRATION

5.1 Subject to the overriding discretion of the ECB:

5.1.1 in order to register with a Professional County Club, a Cricketer must:

- (a) complete (i) the Anti-Corruption Module, (ii) the Recreational Drugs/Anti-Doping Module, (iii) the Player Behaviour Module and (iv) submit evidence to the ECB that they have undergone an electrocardiogram (ECG) and completed an appropriate medical questionnaire which has been reviewed and cleared by the Professional County Club's Chief Medical Officer within the last two years (if the Cricketer was under 21 at the date of their last ECG) or within the last five years (if the Cricketer was 21 or over at the date of their last ECG); and
- (b) hold a signed Approved Playing Contract;

5.1.2 a Cricketer must not play for a Professional County Club in any Competitive County Cricket match unless:

- (a) they are registered for that Professional County Club or loaned to that County in accordance with these Regulations; and
- (b) the Professional County Club with which they are registered has submitted to the ECB a signed undertaking in the form prescribed by the ECB.

If a Cricketer plays for a Professional County Club in any Competitive County Cricket match without satisfying the requirements of Regulation 5.1, both the Cricketer and the Professional County Club (and the Home County if applicable) will be in breach of these Regulations.

- 5.2 In order to apply to register a Cricketer, a Professional County Club must submit:
- 5.2.1 the Player Application;
 - 5.2.2 the associated Agency Transaction Form;
 - 5.2.3 if the Cricketer has a basic salary of less than £29,000 per year (or less than £29,000 in total, if the Approved Playing Contract is for a period of less than a full year), a copy of the Cricketer's signed Part C; and
 - 5.2.4 any supporting paperwork as required in each particular case by the ECB.
- 5.3 A Cricketer will be registered with a Professional County Club for the period that their Approved Playing Contract is valid, in accordance with the documentation submitted by the Professional County Club under Regulation 5.2. If the Cricketer's Approved Playing Contract is renewed or extended, the Professional County Club must submit a signed copy of the Cricketer's new Part C (if the Cricketer has a basic salary of less than £29,000 per year, or less than £29,000 in total if the Approved Playing Contract is for a period of less than a full year) or confirm the start and end dates of the Cricketer's new Approved Playing Contract, and submit the associated Agency Transaction Form and other supporting paperwork as required in each particular case by the ECB. Once the ECB has confirmed in writing that these documents are complete and satisfactory, the Cricketer's registration will be extended for the period that the new Approved Playing Contract is valid.
- 5.4 If the ECB is not informed that a Cricketer's Approved Playing Contract has been renewed or extended by the expiry date of the Approved Playing Contract, the Cricketer's registration will be temporarily suspended until the Professional County Club submits their pre-season list in accordance with Regulation 5.7. If the Cricketer does not appear on the Professional County Club's pre-season list their registration will be cancelled. The Professional County Club must notify the Cricketer in writing if they remain registered for the Professional County Club in accordance with this Regulation 5.4.
- 5.5 Once the documents referred to in Regulation 5.2 have been submitted to ECB and the ECB has confirmed in writing that these documents are complete and satisfactory, the suspension of the Cricketer's registration imposed under Regulation 5.4 will be lifted to allow the Cricketer to play in Competitive County Cricket.
- 5.6 Professional County Clubs will notify all Cricketers registered with them if there is any change of that Cricketer's registration status, including when a Cricketer's registration is temporarily suspended.
- 5.7 Not later than seven working days prior to the first day of the Season in each year, each Professional County Club must send to the ECB and to every other Professional County Club, in a form prescribed by the ECB, lists of:
- 5.7.1 its registered Cricketers showing:
 - (a) the category of Approved Playing Contract in place for each Cricketer for all or part of the relevant Season; and

- (b) for any Cricketer whose playing contract of employment expires before the start of the following Season the date when such contract is due to expire or terminate; and
- 5.7.2 any Cricketers on loan to play for that Professional County Club, including the relevant competition(s) to which the loan relates; and
- 5.7.3 the Cricketers whose registrations for that Professional County Club have been cancelled or Approved Playing Contracts have expired since the circulation of the previous Season's list.
- 5.8 In respect of any Cricketer whose Approved Playing Contract has been renewed or extended but whose registration has been suspended in accordance with Regulation 5.4, not later than seven days prior to the first day of the Season in each year, each Professional County Club will send to the ECB the documents referred to in Regulation 5.3 in order that the suspension of the Cricketer's registration can be lifted to allow the Cricketer to play in Competitive County Cricket.
- 5.9 When a Professional County Club registers or loans a Cricketer, any such registration and the information regarding that Cricketer listed in Regulation 5.7 must be notified to the other Counties within 14 days after such registration is approved by the ECB.
- 5.10 If at any time after the Season's list is lodged with the ECB, a Professional County Club agrees with a Cricketer a new date for when their contract of employment will expire or terminate which renders the information given under Regulation 5.7.1(b) out-of-date, it will promptly notify both the ECB and all other Counties and provide them with the updated information regarding that Cricketer listed in Regulation 5.7.
- 5.11 A registration will not become effective until the ECB has issued a confirmation of that registration, provided that in a case of exceptional or unforeseen circumstances the ECB may grant a temporary registration which has the full effects of registration before the documentation required at Regulation 5.2 (completed and satisfactory in all respects) has been received and considered by the ECB, subject to such documentation being subsequently lodged within such a period as the ECB requires.

6 CANCELLATION/SUSPENSION OF REGISTRATION

- 6.1 Cancellation of a registration may only take place as follows:
 - 6.1.1 by written notice to the ECB signed by the Professional County Club and the Cricketer agreeing to such cancellation;
 - 6.1.2 by written notice by either the Professional County Club or the Cricketer to the ECB and to the other in any case where the Cricketer has ceased to be employed by the Professional County Club in question to play as part of their Professional County Club and the ECB is satisfied that no infringement of Regulation 7.1 or 7.2 has occurred;
 - 6.1.3 by way of automatic cancellation in accordance with Regulation 3.7.2; or
 - 6.1.4 by the ECB:

- (a) in the case of a temporary registration which is not followed by the documentation required at Regulation 5.2 (completed and satisfactory in all respects) within such period as may be required pursuant to Regulation 5.11;
- (b) to give effect to a decision of the Cricket Discipline Panel or any other tribunal or panel appointed under any ECB Regulations or ICC Regulations or the Regulations of another ICC Member Country (as applicable);
- (c) if it considers, in its absolute discretion and having given the relevant Professional County Club and Cricketer a reasonable opportunity to make representations, that such cancellation would be in the best interests of Competitive County Cricket, the ECB or cricket generally including but not limited to where the Cricketer in question is the subject of any allegations, investigations or charges by the ECB, ICC, another ICC Member Country, police or other law enforcement body relating to any doping, corruption or criminal offence or any other serious misconduct;
- (d) where the Cricketer in question ceases to be eligible to be registered as a Qualified Cricketer pursuant to Regulation 2 or as an Unqualified Cricketer pursuant to Regulation 3 (as the case may be) or otherwise to give effect to the relevant provisions of Regulations 2 or 3 (as applicable);
- (e) in the case of any registered Cricketer (whether on a list supplied by their Professional County Club pursuant to Regulation 5.7 or otherwise) such Cricketer does not hold an effective signed Approved Playing Contract with their Professional County Club to play for that Professional County Club;
- (f) if, within a reasonable period after they have been requested to do so by the ECB, the Cricketer has not made and delivered to the ECB a declaration in the form set out in Annex A to these Regulations, including, if so requested, a renewal of such declaration and such other undertaking or declaration as the ECB may from time to time require;
- (g) in the case of an Unqualified Cricketer, if the Professional County Club holding their registration fails to provide the written consent of their Governing Body in respect of the relevant Season in accordance with Regulation 3.12 or if that consent is subsequently withdrawn; or
- (h) if the Cricketer in question (i) does not have the right to work or (ii) fails to provide evidence of their right to work to the ECB in accordance with Regulation 4.10 within a reasonable period of being requested to do so.

6.2 Without prejudice to the ECB's rights to cancel a Cricketer's registration pursuant to Regulation 6.1, the ECB may elect to suspend a Cricketer's registration:

- 6.2.1 automatically in the circumstances under Regulations 5.2 and 5.4;
- 6.2.2 to give effect to a decision of the Cricket Discipline Panel or any other tribunal or panel appointed under any ECB Regulations or ICC Regulations or the Regulations of another ICC Member Country (as applicable); or
- 6.2.3 if it considers, in its absolute discretion and having given the relevant Professional County Club and Cricketer a reasonable opportunity to make representations, that such suspension would be in the best interests of Competitive County Cricket, the

ECB or cricket generally including but not limited to where the Cricketer in question is the subject of any allegations, investigations or charges by the ECB, ICC, another ICC Member Country, police or other law enforcement body relating to any doping, corruption or criminal offence or any other serious misconduct.

- 6.3 If the registration of a Cricketer is cancelled at any time (for any reason), the Professional County Club with whom the Cricketer was previously registered must notify, in the written form prescribed by the ECB at Regulation 5.7, all the other Counties within 14 days of such cancellation being notified to or by the ECB (as applicable).
- 6.4 Unless otherwise notified in writing by the ECB at the time of the suspension, the suspended Cricketer will, if a Qualified Cricketer, be counted against the maximum limit set in Regulation 4.3 and, if an Unqualified Cricketer, remain subject to the minimum 21 consecutive day period of registration and be counted against the Professional County Club's maximum Unqualified Cricketer limits in Regulation 3.

7 NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN COUNTIES AND CRICKETERS

- 7.1 A Professional County Club must not approach or be involved in discussions with any Cricketer registered by another Professional County Club or any agent or other person on their behalf with a view to offering them a trial or registering them or employing them in any capacity unless Regulation 7.3 or 7.4 applies. A Professional County Club which fails to comply with this Regulation 7.1 will be subject to the disciplinary procedure prescribed by the Disciplinary Procedure Regulations.
- 7.2 Each registered Cricketer will be deemed to have undertaken that neither they nor any agent or other person on their behalf will approach or be involved in discussions with any other Professional County Club with a view to employment in any capacity unless Regulation 7.3 or 7.4 applies.
- 7.3 Regulations 7.1 and 7.2 will not apply to approaches or discussions to which the Professional County Club with whom the Cricketer is registered has given its prior written consent, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed. A Professional County Club will be deemed to have given such consent in any case where it has informed the Cricketer in question in writing that they will not be offered a new contract of employment when their present contract expires. For the purposes of this Regulation 7.3, the ECB will have an overriding discretion to disapply Regulations 7.1 and 7.2 in circumstances where it believes that a Professional County Club is acting or has acted unreasonably in withholding or delaying its consent.
- 7.4 Regulations 7.1 and 7.2 will not apply to approaches or discussions which either (i) take place to or with a Cricketer whose contract of employment with that Professional County Club has come to an end or who never had a contract; or (ii) are first initiated after 1st June in any Season to or with a Cricketer whose contract of employment expires prior to the start of the Season in the following year.
- 7.5 In order to discourage informal approaches, including approaches through a Professional County Club's registered Cricketers, if an employee or agent (including another Cricketer) or official or member of the board (or equivalent controlling body) of a Professional County Club approaches or is involved in discussions with a Cricketer or any agent or other person on their behalf, such approach or discussions will be regarded for the purposes of this Regulation as an approach or discussion on behalf of that Professional County Club, except in circumstances where the Professional County Club satisfies the ECB that this was contrary to a written instruction received by the employee or agent or official or member of the board (or equivalent

controlling body) concerned and that the employee or agent or official or member of the board (or equivalent controlling body) concerned had not been authorised to make the approach or to be involved in the discussions. For this purpose a person will be deemed to be an agent of a Professional County Club at any time when they are engaged in an activity at the request or with the authority of that Professional County Club or in respect of which they receive any remuneration or other benefit (including reimbursement of any part of their expenses) from that Professional County Club or on the basis of past experience could reasonably expect to receive any such remuneration or other benefit as aforesaid.

7.6 The provisions of Regulations 7.1 and 7.2 will also apply to a Cricketer who is in the process of qualifying as a Qualified Cricketer under Regulation 2 in order to become a registered Cricketer for a Professional County Club where:

7.6.1 the Professional County Club concerned has a bona fide intention to register that Cricketer on qualification;

7.6.2 the Cricketer is contracted by the Professional County Club during the Season or Seasons remaining before qualification; and

7.6.3 the Professional County Club has notified the ECB and all other Professional County Clubs in writing of the position relating to that Cricketer by reference to this Regulation.

8 TRANSFERS OF CRICKETERS BETWEEN COUNTIES

8.1 If any payment or other valuable consideration is received by a Professional County Club in connection with the transfer of a Cricketer from employment by one Professional County Club to employment by another, all Professional County Clubs having knowledge thereof will promptly report full details thereof to the ECB. There is no objection to any such payment if (but only if) Regulation 7.3 or 7.4 or 7.5 has been complied with.

8.2 Every Professional County Club will have an obligation to notify the ECB promptly of any fact or circumstance coming to its attention which might give rise to a suspicion that a breach of Regulation 7.1 or 7.2 may have occurred, and to supply full details thereof. Upon receipt of any such notification, the ECB will report the same to each Professional County Club involved, together with such details as may be relevant to identify the circumstance, and each such Professional County Club will promptly supply to the ECB copies of all documents in its possession or under its control, together with all other information available to it, which may be of assistance in establishing whether or not a breach of Regulation 7.1 or 7.2 has occurred and, if so, by whom.

9 LOAN SYSTEM

Subject to the overriding discretion of the ECB (which discretion to refuse the approval of a loan, by way of example, is likely to only be exercised against a Professional County Club which is subject to registration sanctions or other sanctions under any ECB Regulations), only loans of Qualified Cricketers between Counties are permitted as set out in this Regulation 9.

9.1 The loan of a registered Cricketer from one Professional County Club (the "**Home County**") to another Professional County Club (the "**Away County**") will be permitted as long as the ECB are informed in writing of the loan prior to the commencement of the loan period. For the avoidance of doubt, a loan may commence during a match, in which case the Cricketer will be eligible to participate in that match once the loan has been approved by the ECB.

- 9.2 Loans may only take place with the written agreement of all relevant parties, being: (i) the Home County, (ii) the Away County and (iii) the Cricketer. A Professional County Club wishing to take on loan a Cricketer who has not been advertised for loan must first direct its approach to the Chief Executive of the Professional County Club with which the Cricketer is registered and in no circumstances should any approach be made to the Cricketer by any representative of the Professional County Club wishing to take them on loan until approval has been given by the Home County. A Cricketer interested in being offered out on loan must address this with their Professional County Club Chief Executive and in no circumstances approach another Professional County Club with a view to a loan until their availability has been agreed with their Professional County Club.
- 9.3 A Cricketer may be (a) loaned to play in all competitions for the Away County or (b) loaned for a specific Competition(s) and/or second XI competition(s) without affecting the Cricketer's availability for the Home County in other Competition(s). Unless otherwise agreed between the Away County and the Home County, the Home County will have priority should there be a conflict of fixtures for the Cricketer, save that in the event of a fixture clash between an Away County first XI fixture and a Home County second XI fixture, the Away County will have priority. Subject to the sole discretion of the ECB, a Cricketer may be loaned to more than one Away County at any one time.
- 9.4 Save only as set out in Regulation 9.5, a loan (or an extension of a current loan to include additional Competition(s)):
- 9.4.1 must be for a minimum period of 14 days in the first instance. Subsequent extensions are permitted by agreement between the Home and Away Counties and the Cricketer; and
- 9.4.2 may not be for more than one Season and the term of a loan may not be commenced in a Close Season; and
- 9.4.3 may not be commenced after 8 September of the relevant Season (or, in the event of schedule changes, a date specified by ECB to cover the final 3 rounds of the County Championship) unless:
- (a) the Cricketer being loaned has played in no more than 2 County Championship matches (including any matches they have played whilst on loan) in the relevant Season in which case the loan may be commenced between 8 and 15 September (or, in the event of schedule changes, dates specified by ECB prior to the final 2 rounds of the County Championship); and
- (b) the Cricketer is being loaned between two Professional County Clubs which are not in the same division of the County Championship.
- For the avoidance of doubt participation as a fielding substitute will not be counted as having played in a match for the purposes of this Regulation.
- 9.5 Subject to the prior written approval of the ECB, the loan of a Cricketer will not be subject to the restrictions in Regulation 9.4 if such loan's core purpose is to provide a wicket-keeper for a Professional County Club and then only for such time period as the ECB is satisfied that no other reasonable wicket-keeping options are available to that Professional County Club. In the periods specified in Regulation 9.4.3, such approval is unlikely to be granted should the wicket-keeper being loaned materially enhance the quality of the team as compared with that Professional County Club's registered wicket-keepers.

- 9.6 A Cricketer may, subject to the relevant restrictions set out in this Regulation 9, be loaned to more than one Away County in any single Season.
- 9.7 The agreement between the Home County and the Away County regarding the loan of the Cricketer (including the terms of any restrictions on the Cricketer's ability to play for the Away County) will be recorded in the ECB's standard form loan agreement which must be signed by the Home County, the Away County and the Cricketer and a fully signed copy lodged with the ECB for ECB approval.
- 9.8 A Cricketer will not be eligible to play in the Finals Stage for the Away County unless they have, within the current Season, complied with the following in respect of at least two matches:
- 9.8.1 played for the Away County in the Group Stages of that Competition;
 - 9.8.2 been named in the Away County's squad for an abandoned match in the Group Stages of that Competition; and/or
 - 9.8.3 been on loan to the Away County at the time of a match in the Group Stages of that Competition and obtained a medical certificate to confirm that they were unfit to play in that match or confirms that they were isolating at the time of the match in connection with COVID-19 (and provided evidence of that if requested by the ECB).

However, no such restriction will apply to the player's ability to play for the Home County in any Competition.

- 9.9 The Cricketer may not return to play for the Home County except (i) in a match in a Competition or second XI competition which is not expressly covered by the terms of the loan agreement or (ii) in the circumstances set out in Regulation 9.14.
- 9.10 The Cricketer's loan can be terminated as a result of the expiry of the loan agreement or in exceptional circumstances and with the prior written approval of the ECB Head of Domestic Cricket Operations (or their nominee). Exceptional circumstances may include unexpected international call up or an injury to a key Cricketer of the Home County for whom the Cricketer would be a direct and reasonable replacement.
- 9.11 Unless otherwise agreed by each of the Home County, the Away County and the Cricketer in writing in the loan agreement, the Away County will pay to the Home County the basic salary, National Insurance and other contractual payments (except pensions) which are due to the Cricketer during the course of the loan period (as set out in the Cricketer's contract with the Home County) plus VAT if applicable. In addition, during the loan period, the Cricketer will receive from the Away County any appearance monies, win bonuses or other similar bonus payments to which other members of the Away County would be entitled during the loan period. The Cricketer's pension contributions will continue to be paid by the Home County.
- 9.12 The registration (and the contract of employment) of the Cricketer will remain with the Home County throughout the loan period.
- 9.13 At the end of the loan period (including any extensions) the Cricketer will return to the Home County and will be entitled to the normal benefits of their contract (until its expiry).
- 9.14 Unless expressly stipulated otherwise in the loan agreement, the Home County may recall the Cricketer to play in a match or matches in the Finals Stage of the One-Day Cup or the T20 Blast during the loan period, and notwithstanding any such recall the term of the loan agreement will continue uninterrupted in accordance with its terms.

10 NOTICES

- 10.1 Any notice to be given to a Professional County Club under these Regulations will be deemed to be properly given if delivered by hand, email or sent by first class or registered post addressed to the Chief Executive of the Professional County Club at the address for that Professional County Club registered with the ECB. Any notice to be given to a Cricketer under these Regulations will be deemed to be properly given if delivered by hand or sent by first class or registered post to them at their last known address in the United Kingdom with a copy to their Professional County Club marked for their attention. Any such notice will be deemed to be served on the second day following that on which it is posted, save in the case of hand delivery or email in which case service will be deemed to have taken place on the date of hand delivery or the sending of the email (as applicable).

11 DISPUTES

- 11.1 Any unresolved dispute as to the interpretation or implementation of these Regulations will be referred to the ECB for a decision. Such decision, subject to the provisions for appeal contained in Regulation 12 below, will be final and binding on the parties to the dispute.

12 APPEALS PROCEDURE

- 12.1 Appeals from parties directly affected by decisions of the ECB under these Regulations) will be made to the Appeal Panel. Any dispute as to whether a party is directly affected by a relevant decision of the ECB will also be resolved by the Appeal Panel.
- 12.2 The Appeal Panel will hear appeals on the merits against decisions made by the ECB including against any sanction or penalty imposed as a result, or as part, of that decision. The Appeal Panel will determine the dispute in accordance with these Regulations and, where appropriate, the laws of England and Wales. However, the Appeal Panel will also pay due regard, to the extent permitted by law, to the fact that certain decisions are made in the exercise of the absolute discretion of the ECB and that the ECB is the guardian of the game of cricket in England and Wales and is in a unique position to assess the best interests of the game.
- 12.3 A written notice of the Appeal complying with Regulation 12.4 below ("**Notice of Appeal**") must be received by the ECB's Head of Cricket Operations (First-Class) within 14 days of receipt of notification by the directly affected party of the relevant decision. Failure to lodge a written Notice of Appeal complying with the requirements of Regulation 12.4 below will mean that the appeal is out of time and it will not be entertained by the Appeal Panel, unless the Appellant is able to demonstrate to the Appeal Panel that there were exceptional reasons justifying such failure.
- 12.4 The Notice of Appeal must state (i) the decision or part of the decision or the penalty/sanction against which the Appeal is made (ii), the grounds and basis of the Appeal and, (iii) the nature of the remedy sought. The Notice of Appeal must be accompanied by a deposit of £1,000 which may be used to defray part of any costs awarded against the appellant or returned to them in whole or in part after the Appeal Hearing at the discretion of the Appeal Panel.
- 12.5 As soon as reasonably practicable following receipt of the Notice of Appeal, the Chair of the Cricket Discipline Panel will appoint the Appeal Panel comprising three members, one from a list of suitable persons nominated by the PCA, one to be nominated by the Chair of the ECB and a suitably qualified Appeal Panel Chair to be nominated by Sport Resolutions (UK).
- 12.6 The Appeal Panel Chair will fix a date for the appeal hearing which will normally be within 28 days of the lodging of the Notice of Appeal.

- 12.7 The Appeal Panel will determine its own procedure, provided that this will include the opportunity for each party to present their/its case. The ECB will normally be represented as a party to any appeal against a decision of the ECB.
- 12.8 Decisions of the Appeal Panel will be by majority vote and where necessary the Chair of the Panel has a casting vote.
- 12.9 Decisions of the Appeal Panel will be communicated in writing to the parties as soon as possible after the hearing.
- 12.10 The Appeal Panel has unlimited power to award costs against either party. For the avoidance of any doubt, the payment of the £1,000 deposit should in no way be construed as a cap on the costs liability of any party which submits an Appeal.
- 12.11 Any decisions made pursuant to these Regulations will stand and be enforceable by the ECB pending determination of any appeal pursuant to this Regulation.
- 12.12 The decision of the Appeal Panel is final and binding on all parties to the appeal and there will be no right of appeal of any kind by any party to any body whatsoever on any ground whatsoever, and/or the parties will be deemed to have waived irrevocably any right to appeal, review or recourse to a court of law, arbitral body or any other body of any nature.

ANNEX A

Declaration referred to in Regulation 2.1.4 of the Competitive County Cricket Registration Regulations.

This declaration is made for the purposes of the ECB Competitive County Cricket Registration Regulations (the “**Regulations**”), as updated by the ECB from time to time, and the terms used in it have the meanings given to them in the Regulations.

To the England and Wales Cricket Board (the “**ECB**”)

I, []

of []

DO SOLEMNLY AND SINCERELY DECLARE as follows:

- 1 It is not my desire or intention to play cricket for any Full Member Country except England at any time in the future and accordingly from the date of this declaration I will not play, and I am not seeking to and will not seek to qualify to play, in a Test Match, a One Day International Match, an International T20 Match, any other First-Class Cricket, or any other match at Under 17 level or above for any such Full Member Country. Nor is it my desire or intention to play Professional Cricket in any Full Member Country outside England and Wales or in any other country outside England and Wales which is organised by or on behalf of any Full Member Country, except as an overseas cricketer under local rules similar to Regulation 3 of the Regulations, or in any other circumstances approved by the ECB and accordingly from the date of this declaration I will not so play and I am not seeking to and will not seek to so play.
- 2 I undertake and agree to abide by all ECB Rules and Regulations and further, I undertake to abide by the policies of the ECB and to always act in the best interests of cricket in England and Wales.
- 3 I acknowledge that this declaration does not prevent me from representing an Associate Member Country unless and until I have represented an Full Member Country at an ICC Event.
- 4 I have sought and been given legal advice as to the consequences of giving a false statement in this statutory declaration.

AND I MAKE this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of the Statutory Declarations Act 1835.

DECLARED by the said _____

at _____ this _____ day of _____

Before me, _____

Justice of the Peace or Notary Public or other officer authorised by law to administer an oath.