



Vitality Under 15 Club T20

Competition Rules

1 Title

The title of the Competition shall be the Vitality Under 15 Club T20, competing for the Harry Secombe Trophy.

2 Management

2.1 All decisions relating to the interpretation of these rules or to matches played in the Competition shall be made by the ECB and will be final and binding on all concerned.

The ECB may delegate any of their powers and duties, including (where appropriate) to the Cricket Regulator.

2.2 All potential breaches of these Rules, or disputes arising from the application of interpretation of these Rules, shall be referred to a panel of three members of the ECB Recreational Discipline Panel (the "Panel"), whose decision shall be final and binding. The Panel shall consider any such matter in such manner and following such procedures as it considers appropriate and shall not be bound by rules governing the admissibility of evidence in judicial or other proceedings.

The Cricket Regulator shall confirm the identity of the Panel members to the relevant parties. If any party objects to any member of the Panel on the basis of a conflict of interest, the Cricket Regulator shall consider whether it is necessary to appoint a new member of the Panel.

3 Entry

3.1 County

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 October 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 October in the year prior to the Competition.

3.2 Clubs

All competing cricket clubs must be affiliated to their County Board. Each club must apply to enter their County Competition by the date specified by their County Board. A club can only enter the County Competition of one County Board irrespective of how many County Boards they are affiliated to. Counties must submit a list of competing clubs and contact addresses each year to the ECB Competitions Department by the date specified by the ECB.

4 Competition Structure

4.1 County

The Competition shall be organised on a County basis and each County Board shall organise their own Competition to determine a winner to enter the National Stages of the Competition.

All arrangements for County Competitions shall be the responsibility of each County Board and must be completed and reported to the ECB Competitions Department in accordance with the timetable specified by the ECB. The name and contact details of the winning club in each County Competition must be immediately notified to the ECB Competitions Department.

4.2 National Stage Rounds 1 and 2

Matches in the National Stage Rounds 1 and 2 shall be undertaken in accordance with the draw and timetable made each year by the ECB.

Arrangements for these matches are to be made by the respective County Organisers in consultation with the clubs involved. The results must be notified to the ECB Competitions Department immediately following each match.

4.3 Regional Finals

The Regional Finals shall be organised with four teams playing two Regional Semi Final matches, one Regional Final and one playoff match on one day at one of four venues. All arrangements for these matches shall be made by the ECB Competitions Department.

4.4 Semi Finals

The North and South Semi Finals shall be organised with two teams playing in each Semi Final. All arrangements for these matches shall be made by the ECB Competitions Department.

4.5 National Final

The National Final shall be organised with two teams playing in the one-off final. All arrangements for this match shall be made by the ECB Competitions Department.

5 Eligibility

The Competition shall be open to all clubs which are affiliated to their County Board or to clubs based in Scotland affiliated to Cricket Scotland. Clubs should enter the Competition of the County in which they are physically located (as per the ECB Cricketing County boundaries as currently defined). If a club wishes to enter the Competition of another County for reasons of easier travel or historical precedent this can be arranged provided that the permission of the home County Board is obtained. Such permission should not be unreasonably withheld. A club may enter one or more teams but Rule 6 will apply in so far as each team will be considered as a separate club.

6 Qualification of Players

A player may represent a club in the Competition if they are under 15 years of age at midnight on 31st August prior to the season of the Competition. All players must be bona-fide Junior Members of the club they represent and play for the club in the Junior League or Leagues that the club enters. Overseas exchange students who are based in England and Wales for less than three months are not eligible to take part in this competition.

A player may play for only one club in the Competition in any one season. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes any player that plays for two different clubs across two different counties in a county competition that feeds into the National Stages of the U15 Club T20. Sanctions for a breach of this regulation may result in the removal of the player and/or club from the County or National Stages of the competition.

For lower level County competitions that do not feed into the National Stages of the competition, local level regulations will determine whether a player shall be permitted to play for more than one club.

7 Cricket Balls

Each County Board shall be responsible for determining the supply of cricket balls for their own County Competition except the County Final. The ECB shall be responsible for supplying two cricket balls for each match played in the County Final and National Stages of the competition.

To encourage the use of coloured clothing by clubs if they wish to wear it, the balls supplied by ECB will be pink, which can be used with white or black sightscreens.

8 Helmets & Faceguards

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

9 Umpires

Each County Board shall be responsible for the appointment of umpires in their County Competition and for home matches for their County Champion in the National Stage Rounds 1 and 2. The ECB shall appoint all umpires for all other National Stage matches. All appointed umpires must be full members of the ECB Association of Cricket Officials. All umpires must have current DBS clearance.

10 Match Results

The use of live electronic scoring is strongly encouraged for all matches.

10.1 County

Each winning club must add the result of their match to the Play-Cricket website or forward the result of their match to their County Board immediately following the completion of each match.

10.2 National Stage Rounds 1 and 2

Each winning club must add the result of their match to the Play-Cricket website following each match in Rounds 1 and 2.

10.3 Regional Finals Onwards

Each club must hand a completed result sheet to the ECB match manager immediately following each match at the Regional, Semi and National Finals stage. If an ECB match manager is not present, the winning club must add the result of their match to the Play-Cricket website.

11 **Code of Conduct**

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

12 **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 refer the matter to a Panel in accordance with Rule 2.2.

Playing Conditions

The Laws of Cricket (2017 Code 3rd Edition - 2022) shall apply with the following exceptions:

1 In all Matches

- 1.1 Matches shall consist of one innings per side.
- 1.2 Each innings shall be a maximum of 20 overs duration. A minimum of 5 overs a side will constitute a match.
- 1.3 All sides are expected to be in position to bowl the first ball of the last of their 20 overs within 1 hour 15 minutes playing time. This is a guide and no penalties will be applied but teams are strongly encouraged to meet this target.
- 1.4 If the number of overs available to each side are not equal then run rate will be used to decide matches up to and including the Regional Finals. In National Semi Final and Final matches the Duckworth/Lewis method will be employed.
- 1.5 No bowler shall bowl more than four overs in a match.
In matches of less than 20 overs per side the number of overs per bowler will be reduced pro rata.
 - 1.5.1 The provisions requiring an equivalent number of overs from the same end to have elapsed before a subsequent spell can commence shall not apply (e.g. in any age group competition where a maximum of 4 overs per bowler is allowed these may be bowled at any time in the innings irrespective of the number of spells bowled).
- 1.6 When a batter reaches or passes the personal total of 50 runs they must 'retire' and will not be allowed to return (to be listed as 'retired not out' on the final scorecard, see 3.1.1). A batter can continue their innings beyond 50 if their 'retirement' would end the innings before the agreed number of overs have been bowled.
- 1.7 The team scoring the most runs in its innings shall be the winner.
- 1.8 Restrictions on the placement of Fielders
 - 1.8.1 Two semi-circles shall be drawn on the field of play. The semi-circles shall have as their centre the middle stump at either end of the pitch. The radius of each of the semi-circles shall be 30 yards (27.4 metres). The ends of each semi-circle shall be joined to the other by a straight line drawn on the field on the same side of the pitch. The field restriction area should be marked by painted white 'dots' at five-yard intervals, each 'dot' to be covered by a white plastic or rubber (but not metal) disc measuring seven inches in diameter.
 - 1.8.2 At the instant of delivery, there may not be more than five fielders on the leg side.
 - 1.8.3 For the duration of the innings only five fielders are permitted to be outside the field restriction marking at the instant of delivery.
 - 1.8.4 In the event of an infringement of the above fielding restrictions, the umpire at the striker's end shall call and signal 'No Ball'.

1.9 Junior Fielding Restrictions

1.9.1 No young player who is 15 or 14 years old shall be allowed to field closer than 8 yards (7.3 metres) from the batters position on the popping crease on a middle stump line, except behind the wicket on the off side, until the batter has played at the ball.

A fielder shall be allowed to move into the restricted area to make a catch or field the ball provided that they were outside the area when the stroke was made.

1.9.2 For players who are 13 years old or younger, the distance is 11 yards (10 metres).

1.9.3 These minimum distances apply even if the player is wearing a helmet.

1.9.4 Should a young player in these age groups come within the restricted distance the umpire must stop the game immediately and instruct the fielder to move back.

The Team Manager shall be responsible for identifying to the umpires any players who 13 years old or younger.

1.10 No Ball

1.10.1 Law 41.6 (Bowling of dangerous and unfair short pitched deliveries) shall apply with the following additions:

1.10.1.1 Regardless of how wide of the striker a delivery is, there shall be no more than one delivery per over that after pitching pass or would have passed clearly over shoulder height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease.

1.10.1.2 The umpire shall make it clear to the bowler (and any bowler called upon to complete an over) and the batter at the wicket when a delivery within the limit in 1.10.1.1 has been bowled. It is unfair if the limit is exceeded and the umpire shall call and signal No ball on each such occasion and consider it as part of the warning sequence in Laws 41.6.3 and 41.6.4.

1.10.1.3 If a bowler is "No Balled" a second time in the innings for the same offence the Umpire is to invoke Law 41.6.4 and the bowler shall be removed forthwith and shall not be allowed to bowl again in that innings.

Note: For the avoidance of doubt the warnings detailed in Laws 41.6.1, 41.6.2 and those above in 1.10.1.1 and 1.10.1.2 are cumulative.

1.10.2 Law 41.7 (Bowling of dangerous and unfair non-pitching deliveries) shall apply.

1.11 Wide Ball - Judging a Wide

Umpires are instructed to apply a very strict and consistent interpretation in regard to this Law in order to prevent negative bowling wide of the wicket.

Any offside or legside delivery which in the opinion of the umpire does not give the batter a reasonable opportunity to score shall be called a wide. For guidance purposes, a legside wide shall be called if a ball passes on the legside outside the pads of the batter standing in a normal batting position.

2 **In County Competitions**

The procedure for arriving at the winner should the scores be equal shall be determined by each County Board.

3 **In National Stage Matches**

3.1 In the event of the scores of each team being equal the winner shall be determined as follows:

3.1.1 The side which has taken the greater number of wickets. Batters that have retired will be declared 'retired not out' and therefore should not be included in total wickets lost.

3.1.2 If still equal, the side with the higher score at the end of 19 overs, if still equal, the score at the end of 18 overs, 17 overs, etc.

3.1.3 If still equal five players shall be nominated to bowl alternately at the wickets from the bowler's end and the team scoring the most hits shall be the winner. In the event of the number of hits being equal, the above 5 bowlers shall be nominated to bowl alternatively in a sudden death bowl out until a winner has been achieved.

3.2 In the event of a rain curtailed match

3.2.1 The match can be rearranged, if before the original game has been started, both sides can mutually agree a reserve date before the deadline date for that round.

3.2.2 Or, if weather permits, the winner shall be decided by a bowl-out, as defined in 3.1.3 above.

3.2.3 Or, if a bowl-out is not possible, the winner shall be decided by the toss of a coin.

3.2.4 In the National Final, if no result on-field is possible, the trophy shall be shared. A bowl-out or coin toss shall not be used to determine a winner in the National Final.