

Vitality Women's Club T20 Cup & Plate

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 National Women's Club T20 Cup & Plate.

2 **Management of Competition**

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 Entry into the Competitions shall be open to all clubs which are affiliated to their County Cricket Board.

3.2 A club may enter one team, if short of players local clubs are encouraged to join together to form a team, (see point 5.2) the club name will be that for which the majority of players play for. Players are only eligible to play for one team i.e. they must not play for another club in later rounds.

3.3 A club may enter one or more teams into the competition but Reg 5 will apply insofar as each team will be considered a separate club.

4 **Competition Structure**

4.1 ECB shall split clubs entering both competitions into regional groups for initial rounds which shall be organised as a straight knockout format, the losers of the preliminary round and first round matches in the Cup will go forward to the Plate Competition to join those clubs which have directly entered the Plate.

4.2 Both the Cup & Plate will culminate in Regional Finals. The winner of each Regional Final will progress to the National Semi-Finals and a Finals Day which will be organised by the ECB.

4.2.1 Cup Fixture dates for the 2026 season have been set as:

Preliminary Round	Sunday 19th April
Round 1	Monday 4th May
Round 2	Sunday 7th June
Round 3	Sunday 21st June
Round 4	Sunday 5th July
Regional Final	Sunday 19th July
National Semi Finals	Sunday 2nd August (<i>fixed date</i>)
National Final	Sunday 16th August (<i>fixed date</i>)

4.2.2 Plate Fixture dates for the 2026 season have been set as:

Preliminary Round	Sunday 31st May
Round 1	Sunday 7th June
Round 2	Sunday 21st June
Round 3	Sunday 5th July
Regional Final	Sunday 19th July
National Semi Finals	Sunday 2nd August (<i>fixed date</i>)
National Final	Sunday 16th August (<i>fixed date</i>)

4.2.3 The dates of the fixtures have been predetermined and uploaded onto the Play-Cricket website. It is the responsibility of the host Club to inform all visiting Clubs the venue & starting time details and ensure that this information is uploaded onto the Play-Cricket website.

4.2.4 Fixtures should be played on the scheduled date however these can be rearranged, either earlier or later than the scheduled date, providing that both clubs agree to the change of date and that the match must be completed 7 days prior to the next scheduled round. If either club wishes to play on the scheduled date then this is the date that takes precedence. Any date changes must be amended on Play-Cricket.

5 **Qualification & Registration of Players**

5.1 A player may only represent one club in each of the competitions, there is no age limit.

5.2 A maximum of 2 guest players from one locally named club that has not entered the competition will be eligible to play, these 2 players must be confirmed in writing to Sue Laister, Competitions Manager (sue.laister@ecb.co.uk) no later than five days prior to the first match in the competition. For reasons of clarity these named 2 players are not able to be changed during the competition.

** It is the intention to phase out the use of guest players from the 2027 season onwards.*

5.3 One overseas player, defined as a player not qualified for England under the ECB Regulations governing the qualification of Women Cricketers for England, may play for a club in any match.

All players must satisfy the Home Office immigration rules before cricket eligibility can be considered. If you have any queries about this, please contact sue.laister@ecb.co.uk.

- 5.4 All players must be fully paid up members of the club they are representing or of the club that they would normally play league cricket for.
- 5.5 Each team can consist of up to 12 players, no more than 11 players can bat or be on the field at any time. All players must be nominated to the umpires in writing before the toss is made. There is no requirement to nominate which 11 players will bat. Any replacement/ substitution of a member of the fielding side can only be made with the approval of the umpires and only at the end of an over, the fall of a wicket or during an interval. Once a player has taken the field they can play a full part in the match, subject to the provisions of Law 17.6 (Bowler changing ends).

6 **Cricket Balls**

ECB will provide Pink Tiflex balls for all rounds of the competition, 2 balls and team sheets will be sent to the home team and team sheets to the address provided by the club.

7 **Clothing & Sightscreens**

- 7.1 All players are encouraged to wear coloured clothing although this is not mandatory, all players must wear the same kit.
- 7.2 As 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 Regulations.

9 **Umpires**

- 9.1 For all rounds with the exception of the Regional Group Finals, National Semi Finals and Finals (of both the Cup and Plate), each team shall be responsible for providing an umpire for each match, this could be done by an internal member of the club who should be a competent umpire or should the teams involved in a match wish to use independent umpires, the home team should contact their County ACO.
- 9.2 For the Regional Group Finals, National Semi Finals and Finals the ECB will appoint the umpires, each team must provide their own scorer throughout the 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 of any player who is 19 years old or younger. It is recommended that the ECB Team Sheet card (available from the local County Board) is used whenever possible.

12 Match Results

12.1 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.

12.2 In the event of a rain curtailed match:

12.2.1 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.

12.2.2 Or, if weather permits, the winner shall be decided by a bowl-out (Generic Playing Condition 6).

12.2.3 Or, if a bowl-out is not possible, the winner shall be decided by the toss of a coin. Coin toss to be conducted with both captains present and if not possible, done remotely via video link. In exceptional circumstances ECB will conduct the coin toss to determine a winner.

12.2.4 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.

13 Code of Conduct

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

14 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.