

Vitality Under 18 County T20

Competition Rules

This competition will use the Generic 20 overs per side Playing Conditions.

1 **Title**

The title of the Competition shall be the Vitality Under 18 County T20.

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 Entry into any of ECB's County Competitions shall be open to those County Boards recognised by the ECB.

3.2 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 September 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 Team by 1st September in the year prior to the Competition.

4 **Competition Structure**

4.1 The competition will be organised with Professional Counties and National Counties playing in separate competitions. Professional Counties will play in one of three groups and National Counties playing in one of five groups.

4.1.1 Winners of the three Professional County groups (Groups 1-3) shall progress to the Professional County Finals. Highest ranked County based on i) points from group stage matches and if tied; ii) Net Run Rate, will progress direct to Final. Remaining two group winners to play in Semi Final.

- 4.1.2 Winners of the five National County groups plus the three best performing second placed teams (Groups 4-8) shall progress to the National Counties Quarter Finals. Four Quarter Final winners to progress to National Counties Finals, with the format of two Semi Finals followed by a Final being played on the same day.
- 4.2 There will be no group stage fixtures dates set, all group stage matches to be completed by the deadline (Professional Counties – 5th July 2026, National Counties - 9th August 2026). The dates, start times and venues shall be notified to the ECB Competitions Team via the Play-Cricket website by 28th February. Fixtures may only be changed after this date by mutual consent by the Counties concerned and must be played within the time scale for the Group matches laid down. Details must be notified to the ECB Competitions Team.

5 **Qualification of Players**

Please refer to Generic Rule 3.4 (Qualification Criteria for Junior Cricketers).

- 5.1 A player may play for only one County in the Under 18 County Cup in any one season, with the exception of those players that are dual registered with another County.
- If a County includes in their team a player who has played for another County (not including dual registered players), or for whom consent to play him has not been obtained, all points attained by that County in the match or matches shall be forfeited. From the knockout stages the match shall be forfeited.
- 5.2 In the event of a dispute, the matter shall be referred to the ECB, whose decision shall be final.
- 5.3 Players from the Channel Islands shall be eligible to play for any County in the County Cup provided that they only represent one County in the Competition in any one season.
- 5.4 Up to three U19 players may be selected for all matches.

6 **Number of Players**

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).

7 **Cricket Balls**

The Home side shall provide two new cricket balls for each match when balls are not provided by the ECB. The balls shall be of the standard laid down by the ECB for each Competition and shall be given to the umpires prior to the commencement of the match.

The Home side will also be responsible for supplying enough spare balls of equal standard. A new ball must be used at the start of each innings.

Please note that for all matches, white balls (Newbery County Elite) will be provided to all host counties for their home fixtures, therefore the use of black sightscreens will be necessary for all matches.

8 Helmets & Faceguards

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

9 Umpires

Umpires for all matches will be appointed by the ACO and ECB Competitions Team.

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 19 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

It is the responsibility of the HOME side to enter the result and full scorecard details onto the appropriate site on Play-Cricket within 24 hours of the match being completed. The AWAY side should confirm that the summary result has been correctly entered within the next 24 hours. Both sides must ensure that their squad details have been entered onto Play-Cricket prior to each match they play.

In the event of the match being cancelled or abandoned it is still the responsibility of the Home County to enter the fact on Play-Cricket.

13 Points

13.1 The following points system will apply:

Win	4
Tie	2
Abandoned or Cancelled	1
Loss	0

13.2 **Group Matches**

In the event of teams finishing on equal points in a Group, the final league finishing positions will be decided in the following order of priority:

- a) When two teams have equal points, the team with the higher net run rate in the group Matches in which a result was achieved will be placed in the higher position.
- b) If still equal, the team which was the winner of the Group Match(es) played between them will be placed in the higher position.
When more than two teams have equal points and net run rate, the team which was the winner of the most number of matches played between those teams will be placed in the higher position.
- c) If still equal, the team with the higher number of wickets taken per balls bowled in the Group Matches in which a result was achieved, will be placed in the higher position.
- d) In the highly unlikely event that teams cannot be separated by (a) to (c) above this will be done by drawing lots.

14 **Code of Conduct**

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

15 **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.