



**S9 REGIONAL COUNTY
COMPETITION 2026
SEASON**

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1. Section 1 – Playing Conditions Introduction

1.1 Competition

ECB S9 Regional Disability Cricket County Competition

This is an open-age mixed gender mixed disability county cricket competition.

1.2 Definitions

The S9 Regional County level disability cricket offer is for cricketers with either a physical disability, learning disability or have hearing loss (Please check separate documentation regarding eligibility criteria for the relevant impairment group). S9 Regional games are 30 overs per side, however, other formats, such as pairs cricket or shorter over formats are acceptable within this competition.

Games are played using a soft composite ball that is the same size and weight as a conventional cricket ball

1.3 Competition Management

The competition is wholly managed by the England & Wales Cricket Board, via the Domestic Cricket Operations department (DCO).

The competition is managed by Richard Hill MBE (ECB Competitions Manager), who also manages the playing regulations, competition management, player registration and classification, results reporting and competition website.

The standard laws of cricket will apply to all S9 Regional matches; however, a number of nuances apply to this format of cricket and are highlighted in yellow throughout this document. Decisions in relation to the competition are taken by Richard Hill and any queries or questions can be channelled through email (richard.hill@ecb.co.uk)

Should teams, managers, players or officials need to raise any issues concerning discipline, then initial contacts should be made direct to the Cricket Regulator. The appropriate contacts can be found on their website: www.cricketregulator.co.uk

2. Section 2 - Playing Conditions by Cricket Law

The Laws of Cricket (2017 Code 3rd Edition- 2022) as amended by these Playing Conditions, apply to the S9 Championship.

2.1 LAW 1 – THE PLAYERS

Law 1.1 (Number of players) shall be replaced by:

A match is played between two sides, each of **nine** players, one of whom shall be captain. A match can, however, be played between teams consisting of ten or eleven players. Agreement between the two competing teams must have been made during the week leading to the match where possible. A match shall not commence if either team is unable to nominate at least 9 players. After the match has commenced, should a team have fewer than 9 players able to play, the umpires in consultation with the team managers of both teams must agree before continuing the match.

If, during the match and for whatever reason, a side is reduced to fewer than the original number of nominated players, the match shall continue if it is possible to do so under the Laws.

Law 1.2 (Nomination and replacement of players) shall be replaced by:

Each captain shall nominate their starting lineup of players (whether 9,10 or 11) in writing, to one of the umpires before the toss. The names on the notification to the umpires must be the batting line up for the match (not necessarily in batting order) and cannot be altered once the team sheet has been submitted. No player may be replaced after the nomination of teams and before the umpire has called Play, without the consent of the opposing captain (not to be unreasonably withheld). Additionally, if a team has substitute players within their matchday squad, those substitute players would need to be named also along with details of their age. If substitute players are going to bowl, the quota of available overs will be subject to the ECB's age restriction for fast bowlers. These restrictions will supersede the maximum number of overs that can normally be bowled within these playing conditions where the restricted amount falls below that number.

No player may be replaced after the umpire has called Play before the first ball of the match. If after a captain has nominated their players, it is discovered that someone who was not on the list has acted in the match as though a nominated player, then, if consent is not given by the opposing captain (not to be unreasonably withheld) for the original nomination to be changed, the offender shall take no further part in the match and no replacement, including the original nominated player shall be allowed.

Concussion Replacements

Concussion replacements shall be allowed in accordance with the ECB's Concussion Replacement Regulations. <https://resources.ecb.co.uk/ecb/document/2025/03/03/c1ea855b-f580-4341-9982-69997799d18b/Concussion-Replacement-Regulations.pdf>

2.2 LAW 2 – THE UMPIRES

Law 2.1 (appointment and attendance) shall be replaced by:

Two umpires shall be appointed, one for each end to control the game as required by the Laws and playing conditions with absolute impartiality.

Umpires will be appointed by the hosting county through their relevant Officials Association.

Law 2.7 – Fitness for play - shall apply with the addition that:

The safety of all people within the ground is of paramount importance to the ECB. In the event that any threatening circumstance to any person, whether actual or perceived, comes to the attention of any umpire (including for example weather, pitch invasions, act of God, etc), then the players, officials and any other person should immediately be asked to either leave the field of play in a safe and orderly manner and relocate to a safe and secure area, or to remain on the field of play or to not enter the field of play, in each case depending on the particular threat.

Clothing and Equipment

In all matches, players should wear their county clothing and cricket equipment as appropriate. It is compulsory for all batters to wear helmets. The wearing of helmets is also recommended for any fielder who fields close to the wicket also.

Sight Screens

Sight Screens shall be white.

2.3 LAW 3 – THE SCORERS

Law 3.1 – Appointment of scorers – two scorers will be appointed for each match.

Law 3.2 – Correctness of scores - shall apply. For the avoidance of doubt, a team innings score may only be corrected where necessary prior to the commencement of the subsequent team-innings of the match.

2.4 LAW 4 – THE BALL

Balls to be used

S9 Regional matches are played using the New Balance 'incrediball' Softball conforming to the specifications laid down by the ECB, and spare used balls for changing during a match shall also be of the same brand and specification. All spare balls shall pass both ring tests of the ball gauge. Except as provided for in Law 4.5 and 41.2, the fielding captain, or their nominee, may select the ball with which they wish to bowl which shall be from the whole of the supply of new balls available. Such selection must take place in the presence of the umpires, and the ball shall not be marked in any way.

Law 4.3 (New ball) shall not apply. One new ball shall be used for each innings.

Law 4.5 (Ball lost or becoming unfit for play) shall apply with the addition that:

The umpires may deem a ball that has become wet and soggy or unusually soft to be unfit for play. The umpires alone will select the replacement ball from the supply of approved replacements and shall inform the batters at the wicket and the fielding captain.

Either bowler or batter may raise the matter with the umpires and the umpires' decision as to a replacement or otherwise shall be final.

The umpires may use a ball gauge to assist them in their decision as to whether a used ball should be changed because it is out of shape. They shall only do so should the ball visually appear to be out of shape. Additionally, the fielding captain only may request that the umpires check the shape of the ball a maximum of one occasion for each ball. If the ball does not pass both ring tests of the ball gauge, it shall be changed.

2.5 LAW 5 – THE BAT

Law 5 shall apply with the addition that only Type A bats shall be used.

2.6 LAW 6 – THE PITCH

All maintenance issues should be carried out with the guiding principle that they should ensure that conditions are as similar as possible for both sides throughout the match.

Law 6.3 (Selection and preparation) shall apply with the following additions:

Captains, umpires and Head Grounds Managers should co-operate to ensure that, prior to the start of any day's play, no-one bounces a ball on the pitch or strikes it with a bat to assess its condition or for any other reason or causes damage to the pitch in any other way.

Law 6.5 – Non-turf pitches – may be used where appropriate.

2.7 LAW 7 – THE CREASES

Law 7.3 shall apply

2.8 LAW 8 – THE WICKETS

Law 8.2 (Size of stumps) shall apply.

2.9 LAW 9 – PREPARATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE PLAYING AREA

All maintenance issues should be carried out with the guiding principle that they should ensure that conditions are as similar as possible for both sides throughout the match.

Law 9.1.3 (Choice of rollers) is replaced by:

One light roller must be available. Rollers heavier than 254kg are prohibited.

Drying of Pitch and Ground

Prior to tossing for choice of innings the artificial drying of the pitch and outfield shall be at the discretion of the Head Grounds Manager. Thereafter and throughout the match the drying of the outfield may be undertaken at any time by the Head Grounds Manager, but the drying of the pitch shall be carried out only on the instructions and under the supervision of the umpires. The umpires shall be empowered to have the pitch dried without reference to the captains at any time they are of the opinion that it is unfit for play.

The umpires may instruct the Head Grounds Manager to use any available equipment, including any roller (other than an absorbent roller), for the purpose of drying the pitch and making it fit for play.

An absorbent roller may be used to remove water from the covers including, where necessary, the cover on the match pitch.

Following the artificial drying of the pitch, the captain of the batting side shall not have the right to select the roller prior to the resumption of play, but the umpires may decide on the use of a roller if they think fit.

2.10 LAW 10 – COVERING THE PITCH

All maintenance issues should be carried out with the guiding principle that they should ensure that conditions are as similar as possible for both sides throughout the match, and in line with each venue's applicable COVID guidelines for ground staff.

2.11 LAW 11 – INTERVALS

There will normally be two sessions of play of 2 hours each (for 30 overs per side matches; 2 hours and 20 minutes for 35 overs per side matches; and 2 hours 40 minutes for 40 overs per side matches), separated by an interval of 30 minutes. Law 11.9 (Agreement to forgo intervals) shall not apply.

If the innings of the team batting first is completed prior to the scheduled time for the Interval, the Interval shall take place immediately and the Innings of the team batting second will

commence correspondingly earlier. In circumstances where the side bowling first has not completed the allotted number of overs by the scheduled or re-scheduled cessation time for the first innings, the umpires shall reduce the length of the interval by the amount of time that the first innings over-ran. The minimum time for the interval will be 15 minutes.

On any occasion where the innings of the side batting first is delayed or interrupted, the umpires will reduce the length of the interval to 15 minutes.

Intervals for Drinks

One drinks interval is permitted. An individual player may be given a drink either on the boundary edge or at the fall of a wicket, on the field, provided that no playing time is wasted. No other drinks shall be taken on to the play field without the permission of the umpires. Any person taking drinks onto the field shall be dressed in proper cricket attire. Where there are exceptional weather conditions (i.e. very hot), further drinks breaks may be scheduled in consultation with the umpires.

2.12 LAW 12 – START OF PLAY, CESSATION OF PLAY

Divisional Matches

Traditionally, the start times of all divisional matches are 1300 hours on Sundays. Teams can negotiate different starting times should there be a requirement to do so.

Length of Innings – In uninterrupted matches (i.e. matches which are neither delayed nor interrupted):

Each team shall bat for 30 overs unless all out earlier. (Different innings lengths (i.e. 35 or 40 overs can be played if agreed by contending teams in advance)

If the team fielding first fails to bowl the required number of overs by the scheduled time for the cessation of the first innings, play shall continue until the required number of overs has been bowled.

If the team batting first is dismissed in less than 30 overs, (or 35 or 40) the team batting second shall be entitled to bat for 30 overs, (or 35 or 40)

If the team fielding second fails to bowl 30 overs (or 35, or 40) by the scheduled time for the cessation of the second innings, the hours of play for the match shall, subject to conditions of ground, weather and light, be extended until the required number of overs has been bowled or a result has been achieved.

Delayed or interrupted matches – All Matches.

If the agreed start time of a match is delayed due to weather, then the umpires will deduct one overs for every four minutes lost. Once a match has started after a delayed start, the same number of overs deducted in that first innings will be matched in the second innings so that both teams are able to face the same number of overs from that point.

Any revision of the number of overs that may be necessary due to a delayed start or one or more interruptions in play because of adverse ground, weather or light conditions or any other reason. To constitute a match, a minimum of 5 overs must be bowled to the side batting

second, unless a result has been achieved earlier.

Delay or interruptions to the innings of the team batting first.

- (a) When playing time has been lost (see above) the revised number of overs to be bowled in the match shall be based on a rate of 4 mins per over in the total time available for play (that is, time already played added to time remaining though not including the time allocated to the interval).

Should calculations regarding numbers of overs result in a fraction of an over, the fraction shall be ignored.

In the event of a suspension occurring in the middle of an over, the number of total overs to be bowled in the match will be calculated as if the over in progress at the time of the interruption had been completed.

The innings of the team batting first will continue from the point of the interruption.

The revision of the number of overs should ensure, whenever possible, that both teams have the opportunity to bat for the same number of overs. (Where this is possible, if the total number of overs in the match thereby calculated results in an odd number of total overs in the match, then one over shall be added and the new total divided in half).

- (b) The team batting second shall not bat for a greater number of overs than the first team unless the latter completed its innings in less than its allocated overs.

To constitute a match, a minimum of 5 overs must be bowled to the side batting second, unless a result has been achieved earlier.

A fixed time will be specified for the commencement of the interval, and the close of play for the match, by applying a rate of 4 mins per over in respect of each over already bowled and/or scheduled to be bowled in each innings, rounding up any part minutes to the next full minute. All relative delays, interruptions in play, and the duration of the interval will be considered.

If this calculation produces a close of play time that is earlier than the original time for cessation of play on the final scheduled day for play (time for cessation of play shall take into account extra time), then one additional over should be allocated to each team, with the interval and close of play times being recalculated accordingly.

If there is more than one interruption to the innings of the side batting first, the above calculations should always be based on the original scheduled close of play, rather than the rescheduled close resulting from the previous interruption.

- (c) If the team fielding first fails to bowl the revised number of overs by the specified time, play shall continue subject to conditions of ground, weather, light and time constraints until the required number of overs has been bowled or the innings is completed. In all reduced overs matches both teams will be given one over's leeway in addition to anytime that the umpires might allow for stoppages. Allowances prior to a stoppage are carried forward and they do not influence the recalculated number of overs or the scheduled close of either innings.

Delay or interruptions to the innings of the team batting second.

- (d) When playing time has been lost (see above) and, as a result, it is not possible for the team batting second to have the opportunity of receiving its allocated, or revised allocation of overs in the playing time available, the number of overs shall be reduced at a rate of 4 mins per over in respect of the aggregated lost playing time. However, should the innings of the team batting first have been completed prior to the scheduled, or re-scheduled time for the commencement of the interval, then any calculation relating to the revision of overs shall not be effective until an amount of time equivalent to that by which the second innings started early has elapsed.

Should the calculations result in a fraction of an over the fraction be ignored. In the event of a suspension occurring in the middle of an over, the number of total overs lost will be calculated as above and the innings of the team batting second will continue from the point of the interruption. (Note Playing Condition 12.4.3(b) below)

- (e) A rescheduled time for the close of play will be fixed by applying a rate of 4 minutes per over in respect of each over already bowled and/or re-scheduled to be bowled in the innings, rounding up any part minutes to the next full minute. (The timing and duration of all relative delays and interruptions in play with respect to the second innings will be considered in specifying this time.) This calculation should not cause the match to finish earlier than the time that was set for the cessation of play at the commencement of the second innings.

To constitute a match, a minimum of 5 overs must be bowled to the team batting second unless a result has been achieved earlier.

The team batting second shall not bat for a greater number of overs than the first team unless the latter completed its innings in less than its allocated overs.

If, at the time at which play can resume, the number of overs required to be bowled in the second innings have already been bowled, then there shall be no further play, and the result shall be determined by the Duckworth Lewis Stern method.

- (f) If the team fielding second fails to bowl the revised overs by the scheduled or re-scheduled close of play, the hours of play shall be extended subject to conditions of ground, weather and light until the overs have been bowled or a result achieved, and Playing Condition 12.5 shall apply. In all reduced overs matches the fielding team will be given one over's leeway in addition to any time that the umpires might allow for stoppages. Allowances prior to a stoppage are carried forward for the purposes of the application of Playing Condition 12.5 only – they do not influence the recalculated number of overs or the scheduled close of play.

Note The scoring team will provide the Duckworth Lewis Stern Match process. The appointed scorers must understand the Duckworth Lewis Stern method and will be responsible for the Duckworth Lewis Stern calculations required. The umpires will both satisfy themselves as to the correctness of all such calculations before allowing play to take place.

Over-Rate Penalties

No over rate penalties apply to S9 format.

Ringling of the Bell

The bell will be rung five minutes before the start of play and before the termination of an interval, when the umpires shall go to the wickets.

2.13 LAW 13 – INNINGS

Law 13.1 (Number of innings) shall be replaced by the following:

The match will consist of one innings per side: each innings being limited to a maximum of 30 overs, (or 35 or 40).

Number of Overs Per Bowler

No bowler shall bowl more than 6 overs in an innings in 30 overs a side match. Bowlers under the age of 18 must conform to the ECB bowling restrictions for fast bowlers. This will limit such bowlers at a rate of less than 6 overs.

For other restrictive bowling numbers, please see the table below:

Number of Players	Overs Per Innings	Maximum Boundary Length	Overs Per Bowler	Bowlers' Restrictions	Batters' Restrictions
9	30	40 Yards	6	3 wickets	Retire at 50 and 75
10	35	45 Yards	7	3 wickets	Retire at 50 and 75
11	40	50 Yards	8	3 wickets	Retire at 50 and 75

Bowlers in S9 Regional matches are restricted in taking three wickets in an innings. Once a bowler has taken three wickets then they must retire from bowling with immediate effect. This applies even if it occurs mid over. In that case another player must complete the remainder of that over.

Where a bowler has completed another bowler's over as a result of reaching the 3-wicket limit. The partial over bowled by the replacement bowler will count as one full over in so far as each bowler's limit is concerned.

In the event of a bowler breaking down and being unable to complete an over, the remaining balls will

be bowled by another bowler. Such part of an over will count as a full over only in so far as each bowler's limit is concerned

In a delayed or interrupted match where the overs are reduced for both teams and for the team bowling second, for innings of rescheduled length of at least 10 overs, no bowler may bowl more than one-fifth of the total overs allowed (unless such a number has been exceeded before the interruption). Where the total overs is not divisible by 5, one additional over shall be allowed to the maximum number per bowler necessary to make up the balance.

For innings of rescheduled length of between 5 and 9 overs, no bowler may bowl more than two overs. When an interruption occurs mid-over and on resumption the bowler has exceeded the new maximum allocation, he will be allowed to finish the incomplete over. The scoreboard shall show the total number of overs bowled.

Fast Bowling

Any regulations or guidelines on fast bowling notified by the ECB from time to time shall apply. It shall be the responsibility of the captain of any player to whom the fast-bowling regulations or guidelines apply to inform the umpires of such and to apply the regulations or guidelines. Any deviation from the fast-bowling regulations or guidelines (as applicable) shall have no implications on the course of the match or competition in question.

2.14 LAW 14 – THE FOLLOW-ON

Law 14 shall not apply.

2.15 LAW 15 – DECLARATION AND FORFEITURE

The captain of the batting side may not declare his innings closed at any time during a match.

2.16 LAW 16 – THE RESULT

Laws 16.1, 16.4 and 16.5.2 shall not apply.

- Rain effected – Prior to Start – For each four-minute delay or part thereof an over will be deducted. This will continue to a minimum of 15 overs per side. All games must be played with the same number of overs for each team, so overs deducted prior to the start of the game, will apply to both innings.
- Rain effected – Match has started – If rain effects the game during the first innings then for every four minutes lost (or part thereof) an over will be deducted from both innings, if the game is delayed by 8 minutes, two overs will be lost for each team making it a 28 over per side game.
- If rain effects the game during the second innings overs will be reduced at the rate of four minutes per over, however the required score will be adjusted based on the first innings run rate plus premium of 10% to ensure fairness to both sides. 15 overs in the second innings will be required to constitute a game.
- For example, if the side batting first scored 175 from their allotted overs, which in this case was 30 and the side batting second lost 20 minutes due to rain, their overs would be reduced by 5 overs to 25. This would mean that their target to win would be 175 divided by 30 equalling 5.83. This would then be multiplied by 25 (the number of available overs in the second innings), giving 145.8. This result would then be increased by 10%, giving a winning target of 160.
- In a normal league match, if the second innings fails to last 15 overs due to weather, then the game will be deemed as abandoned.

Points System S9 Regional Divisions

Each team will play 6 games. The fixtures for each team will be determined once the final divisional structures have been confirmed. Each team will play 3 home matches and 3 away matches. The top team in each division will be deemed 'regional winners' for the season and will receive a commemorative trophy and players medals.

Where teams at the top finish on the same number of points at the end of the competition in their divisions, the placings will be decided using the following methods, in the order listed, until a clear difference is achieved:

- a) Net Run Rate – this will be calculated (and displayed) in the league tables on <https://disabilitycomps.play-cricket.com>. The best net run rate will be declared the winner. Should this not resolve the difference, then:
- b) The team with the greatest number of wins will be determined the winner. The clarify this, wins, in this scenario are deemed as games actually played and therefore wins by default (opposition conceding), will not count. If this does not determine a difference, then:
- c) The team with the greatest number of points gained from 'played' matches will be declared the winner (i.e. all points gained from defaulted or cancelled matches) will be subtracted to get the value. If this doesn't create a clear winner, then:
- d) The result of the head-to-head between the two teams (if teams have played each other twice and one team has won both then this rule will still apply, however if they have one once each, then the winner will be the team who have accrued the highest number of runs in their head-to-head games). If this doesn't determine a clear winner, then:
- e) The total number of wickets taken during the season by both teams will be calculated and the winner declared as the team with the highest number.

The points available for each match played are displayed in the table below:

Winning Team	30 Points
Tied Match	15 Points each team
Cancelled Games (Weather)	10 Points each team
Abandoned Games	10 Points each plus the relevant bonus points at time of abandonment
Bonus Points (Losing Team)	Batting: 1 Point each for scoring 75, 100, 125, 150 and 175 runs
	Bowling: 1 Point each for taking 3, 5, 7, 9 and 10 wickets. Five bowling points will apply if a side is all out, regardless of the number of wickets taken

2.17 LAW 17 – THE OVER

Law 17 shall apply.

2.18 LAW 18 – SCORING RUNS

Law 18 shall apply.

2.19 LAW 19 – BOUNDARIES

Law 19.1 (Determining the boundary and the field of play) shall apply with the following additions:

Depending on the agreed number of starting players, the boundary lengths will differ. The table below determines the boundary length.

Number of Players	Overs Per Innings	Maximum Boundary Length	Overs Per Bowler	Bowlers Restrictions	Batter's Restrictions
9	30	40 Yards	6	3 wickets	Retire at 50 and 75
10	35	45 Yards	7	3 wickets	Retire at 50 and 75
11	40	50 Yards	8	3 wickets	Retire at 50 and 75

The Ground Authority shall aim to provide the largest playing area, subject to no boundary exceeding a the stated boundary maximums shown in the above table from the centre of the pitch.

On grounds where the boundary is not clearly defined by a perimeter fence or edge of grass area, it must be marked by a rope.

In addition to Law 19.1.2, if practicable, sight screens shall be provided at both ends of all grounds. Advertising shall be permitted on the sight screen behind the striker, provided that it is removed for the subsequent over from that end.

Law 19.7 (Runs scored from boundaries) shall apply and in addition, at the point that the ball ceases to be dead subsequent to a boundary being scored or Time has been called, there shall be no scope for review or further review of the number of runs scored from that boundary.

2.20 LAW 20 – DEAD BALL

Law 20 shall apply with the addition of the following to Law 20.4 (umpire calling and signaling Dead Ball).

2.21 LAW 21 – NO BALL

Law 21 shall apply with the following additions:

Law 21.1 (Mode of Delivery) - there shall be no special agreement under Law 21.1.2 that a ball may be delivered underarm.

Law 21.2 (Fair Delivery – the Arm) and 21.3 (Ball thrown or delivered underarm – action by umpires) shall be read in conjunction with the ECB's Bowling Review Regulations. In special circumstances, where due to the nature of a player's impairment, and in agreement of the umpires and both captains (before the start of a match), a bowler may bowl with a non-standard action. This applies to the upper limb movement of the bowler.

Restrictions – In S9 Regional matches, bowlers MUST retire from bowling once they have achieved taking 3 wickets. This means 3 'bowlers' wickets as run outs are not counted as bowlers' wickets. Once the 3-wicket threshold has been reached, the bowler must retire IMMEDIATELY that feat has been achieved, even if it is mid-over.

In that case of a mid over retirement, another bowler will need to complete the remain balls. Any part-over bowled in these circumstances would count towards that bowler's allocation for the match.

Law 21.15 (Penalty for a No ball) No-balls will count as 2 extra runs for the batting side; however, no extra balls will be bowled except in the last over of the innings where the normal no-ball rules will apply (i.e. 1 extra run plus the extra ball)

In the event of the striker's end umpire failing to call and signal No Ball when Law 28.4 (Limitation of onside fielders) has been breached, immediately the ball becomes dead the striker may draw the matter to that umpire's attention.

If the striker's end umpire can verify the breach he shall call and signal No Ball. If the striker's end umpire is unable to verify the breach, then he shall confirm that the events of the delivery shall be unchanged.

Any ball that passes above waist height whether the batter is standing or seated will be called a no ball and dealt with accordingly.

Law 21.10 (Ball bouncing overhead height of striker) shall not apply. (See Playing Condition 41.3.4).

2.22 LAW 22 – WIDE BALL

Law 22 shall apply with the following exceptions:

In addition to Law 22.1 (Judging a Wide), any delivery, not being a No ball and not touching the striker's bat or person, that passes outside of the return crease on either side of the striker's wicket shall be called Wide. Law 22.4.1 shall not apply in this circumstance.

Wides will count as 2 extra runs for the batting side; however, no extra balls will be bowled except in the last over of the innings where the normal wides rules will apply (i.e. 1 extra run plus the extra ball)

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

2.23 LAW 23 – BYE AND LEG BYE

Law 23 shall apply

2.24 LAW 24 – FIELDER'S ABSENCE; SUBSTITUTES

Law 24.1 (Substitute fielders) shall apply with the following additions:

The S9 Regional 'squad' can play as a squad. This means that if your squad has 15 players, it is possible for all 15 players to take part in a game, however, the captain will need to complete a team card listing the nine, ten or eleven players who will bat, (whichever is applicable). The team card should also list the substitute players too. This is pertinent where those substitute bowlers will be expected to bowl during the innings. The team cards must be handed to the umpires at the toss, and once the toss has taken place, the nine, ten or eleven named players cannot be changed.

The remaining players in the 'squad' are able to act as substitutes and where required, will be able to bowl. The restrictions of 6 overs or 20% of the total allocated overs cannot be exceeded by any bowler. Substitute fielders coming on to the field of play must follow the protocols around informing the umpires before doing so.

Squad members of the fielding team who are not playing in the match and who are not acting as substitute fielders shall be required to wear a team training bib whilst on the playing area (including the area between the boundary and the perimeter fencing).

For clarity, players who are normally S9 players may take an active part in a D40 Pursuit match up to a maximum of THREE games per season. Once the three-match threshold has been achieved, the player automatically becomes a D40 player and can no longer take part in S9 games.

An S9 player's active role in a D40 team can be:

- A named player in the original batting line (whether the player has batted or not)
- A bowler – a person who has bowled a minimum of one ball

If an S9 player is part of the match day squad but is not a named batter or does not bowl, then that game would not count as one of the three game restriction.

2.25 LAW 25 – BATTER'S INNINGS; RUNNERS

Law 25 shall apply with the following amendments:

Batters are restricted to scoring 50 in S9 Regional matches. Once that individual score has been reached, the batter must 'retire – not out'. The batter can resume their innings once all other wickets have fallen. Batter's that resume their innings must do so in order of retirement, the first retired batter must be the first to resume. Once a batter has reached 75 runs, they will be required to retire OUT.

The exception to this rule is where a batter has retired 'not out' due to any other reason other than reaching 50 – i.e. due to injury or concussion. In those cases, the batter may recommence their innings on the fall of the next wicket, not needing to resume in order of retirement. The rules around retirement will apply where the player reaches the score restrictions previously mentioned.

Runners shall be allowed for players nominated prior to the toss where a need is identified as a consequence of their impairment.

A batter's runner must be a member of the playing squad for that day and should be a player that has already batted or is due to bat in the lower order. Where possible and without good reason, a batter's runner should remain as the same person throughout the batter's innings.

2.26 LAW 26 – PRACTICE ON THE FIELD

Law 26 shall apply with the following additions:

No practice shall be undertaken on a match pitch during its preparation

There shall be no bowling or batting practice on any part of the square or the area parallel to the match pitch during the hours of play except between innings.

Hitting Up

Teams are required to observe Ground Authority Regulations and the ECB Range Hitting Directive and to exercise the utmost care and caution when engaging in practice and pre-match warm-up and 'hitting up' activities to avoid the risk of injury to members of the public, damage to the centre wicket region and to perimeter fencing.

2.27 LAW 27 – THE WICKET-KEEPER

Law 27 shall apply.

2.28 LAW 28 – THE FIELDER

Law 28 shall apply with the following additions:

Fielding Restrictions – No fielder shall be allowed to field closer than 11 yards from the middle stump, except behind the wicket on the offside, until the batsman has played the ball.

Wheelchairs or other walking aids etc. will be classed as a normal part of a batsman's equipment and will be treated as such with regard to 'Law 36 LBW' and 'Law 35 Hit Wicket'.

When fielding, wheelchairs and walking aids may be used to field the ball without penalty under 'Law 41 Unfair Play'.

A ball struck by the batsman that rebounds from their wheelchair and is caught by any member of the fielding side without being grounded before or after hitting the wheelchair, will be considered a fair catch. However, a ball which lodges or rests in or on a wheelchair will not constitute fair catch.

Bowling Actions – agreement must be sought by both captains and in conjunction with the umpires for bowlers who are unable to bowl in the conventional manner due to their disability. Generally, the ball must pitch once before reaching the batsman, however, part of the agreement must also include the option for agreed bowlers to pitch the ball more than once due to their disability if the delivery is deemed as not dangerous and within the 'spirit of the game'.

Furthermore, it should also be agreed between the captains as to where bowlers will deliver the ball from regarding the normal wicket length.

2.29 LAW 29 – THE WICKET IS DOWN

Law 29 shall apply.

2.30 LAW 30 – BATTER OUT OF HIS/HER GROUND

Law 30 shall apply.

2.31 LAW 31 – APPEALS

Law 31 shall apply.

2.32 LAW 32 – BOWLED

Law 32 shall apply.

2.33 LAW 33 – CAUGHT

Law 33 shall apply, except:

A ball that is struck by a batter that rebounds from a wheelchair directly, without touching the ground will be deemed a fair catch. However, a ball that lodges or rests in or on a wheelchair will not constitute a fair catch.

2.34 LAW 34 – HIT THE BALL TWICE

Law 34 shall apply.

2.35 LAW 35 – HIT WICKET

Law 35 shall apply except

Wheelchairs and other mobility aids etc. that are used by players will be classed as part of a batter's equipment and will be treated as such regarding Law 35 'Hit Wicket'.

2.36 LAW 36 – LEG BEFORE WICKET

Law 36 shall apply except

Wheelchairs and other mobility aids etc. that are used by players will be classed as part of a batter's equipment and will be treated as such regarding Law 36 'Leg Before wicket'.

2.37 LAW 37 – OBSTRUCTING THE FIELD

Law 37 shall apply.

2.38 LAW 38 – RUN OUT

Law 38 shall apply.

2.39 LAW 39 – STUMPED

Law 39 shall apply.

2.40 LAW 40 – TIMED OUT

Law 40 shall apply except that the incoming batter must be in position to take guard or for their partner to be ready to receive the next ball within 120 seconds of the fall of the previous wicket or the retirement of a batter. The incoming batter is expected to be ready to make their way to the wicket immediately. Umpires shall strictly apply Law 41.10 (Batter wasting time).

2.41 LAW 41 – UNFAIR PLAY

Law 41 shall apply with the following additions/amendments:

Matches where a mutually convenient outcome is possible

Where a Match Referee (or if none, the umpires) is concerned that the match is being conducted in a manner that seeks to lead to a mutually convenient outcome, they will notify ECB Domestic Cricket Operations at the earliest opportunity, who in turn will refer the matter to the Cricket Regulator for further investigation in accordance with the Disciplinary Procedure Regulations.

When fielding, wheelchairs and walking aids etc. may be used to help field the ball without penalty under law 41 – ‘unfair play’.

Law 41.3 (The match ball – changing its condition) shall be replaced by:

The umpires shall make frequent and irregular inspections of the ball. In addition, they shall immediately inspect the ball if they suspect anyone of attempting to change the condition of the ball. It is an offence for any player to take any action which changes, or which may be perceived as likely to change the condition of the ball.

Except in carrying out their normal duties, a batter is not allowed to willfully damage the ball. See also Law 5.5 (Damage to the ball).

A fielder may, however

- a) polish the ball on their clothing provided that no artificial substance is used, that the only natural substance used is sweat, and that such polishing wastes no time.
- b) remove mud from the ball under the supervision of an umpire.
- c) dry a wet ball on a piece of cloth that has been approved by the umpires.

The umpires shall consider the condition of the ball to have been unfairly changed if any action by any player leads the umpires to consider that the condition of the ball is inconsistent with the use it has received.

The umpires shall then ask the captain of the opposing side if they would like the ball to be replaced. If necessary, in the case of the batting side, the batters at the wicket may deputise for their captain.

If a replacement ball is requested, the umpires shall select and bring into use immediately, a ball which shall have wear comparable to that of the previous ball immediately prior to the contravention.

The umpires together shall decide whether they can identify the player(s) responsible for the unfair action.

Regardless of whether a replacement ball has been chosen to be used, if it is possible to identify the player(s) responsible, the bowler's end umpire shall:

- a) award 5 penalty runs to the opposing side.
- b) if appropriate, inform the batters at the wicket and the captain of the fielding side that the ball has been changed and the reason for their action.
- c) Inform the captain of the batting side as soon as practicable of what has occurred.

Together with the other umpire report the incident to ECB Domestic Cricket Operations who in turn will refer the matter to the Cricket Regulator.

Regardless of whether a replacement ball has been chosen to be used, if it is not possible to identify

the player(s) responsible, the bowler's end umpire shall issue the captain with a first and final warning, and advise the captain that the incident will be reported to ECB Domestic Cricket Operations who in turn will refer the matter to the Cricket Regulator and that should there be any further incident by that team during the remainder of the match, steps 41.2.4(a) to (d) above will be adopted, with the captain deemed under d) to be the player responsible.

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

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 over shoulder height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease.

The umpire shall make it clear to the bowler (and any bowler called upon to complete an over) and the batters at the wicket when a delivery within the limit in

41.3.1 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.

If a short, pitched delivery either:

- a) Passes or would have passed over head height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease; or
- b) Passes or would have passed between shoulder height and head height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease; or
- c) Passes between shoulder height and head height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease and wide of the striker so that in the umpire's opinion they are unable to hit it with their bat by means of a normal cricket stroke it shall, although not necessarily threatening physical injury, be deemed dangerous in accordance with Law 41.6.1, and considered as part of the warning sequence in Laws 41.6.3 and 41.6.4.

Law 21.10 shall not apply. A delivery as described in 1.1.1a) , if not a No ball and not touching the striker's bat or person, shall be called and signalled Wide (refer Law 22).

A delivery as described in 1.1.1c), if not a No ball, and not touching the striker's bat or person, shall be called and signalled Wide (refer Law 22).

Law 41.6.5 shall not apply. Any warnings applied in Law 41.6.3 shall be added to any warnings applied in Law 41.7 and action taken according to Law 41.6.4.

Law 41.7 (Bowling of dangerous and unfair non-pitching deliveries) shall apply with the following amendment:

Law 41.7.5 shall not apply. Any warnings applied in Law 41.7 shall be added to any warnings applied in Law 41.6.3 and action taken according to Law 41.7.4.

2.42 LAW 42 – PLAYERS' CONDUCT

Law 42 shall apply with the following amendments:

In Laws 42.1.4, 42.2.2.2, 42.3.2.2, the batters at the wicket may deputise for their captain.

In Laws 42.1.4, 42.4.2.2, 42.5.2.2, a team representative may deputise for their captain.

General Conduct Regulations (GCR) shall also apply as appropriate and as separately detailed.

3. Section 3 – S9 Regional Competition Information.

The S9 Regional competition comprises of five regional divisions.

Each of the competing teams have players with either a physical disability, a learning disability or have hearing loss. A mix of at least two of those impairments must be present on the field of play at all times.

The competition allows the opportunity for each team to play six divisional matches. Each team plays each other at least once during the competition and also two teams twice. Each team will play three home fixtures and three away fixtures.

For S9 Regional matches, teams will be allocated the following points:

Winning Team	30 Points
Tied Match	15 Points each team
Cancelled Games (Weather)	10 Points each team
Abandoned Games	10 Points each plus the relevant bonus points at time of abandonment
Bonus Points (Losing Team)	Batting: 1 Point each for scoring 75, 100, 125, 150 and 175 runs
	Bowling: 1 Point each for taking 3, 5, 7, 9 and 10 wickets. Five bowling points will apply if a side is all out, regardless of the number of wickets taken

There are no tie breaks, bowl offs or replayed matches in this competition. If matches are unable to be played on the allocated dates, then the above relevant points will be awarded.

1. Competition Restrictions

The S9 Regional is a softball cricket competition with stand-alone regional divisions playing round robin games, where the regional winner is determined by virtue of finishing top of their relevant division

. Restrictions are in place for both batter's and bowlers. These are:

- **Batters** – Must retire, not out on 50. – Batters can resume innings in order of retirement, but must then retire, out should they reach a score of 75.
- **Bowlers** are restricted to bowl 6 overs, or 20% of the full allocation, whichever is smaller, however, once a bowler has taken 3 bowlers' wickets, they must retire immediately, even if its mid over. The balance of the over to be completed by another player.

Participants must have undergone disability cricket profiling to maintain eligibility.

2. Entry/Team Eligibility

County boards may apply for inclusion in the S9 Regional competition with at least six months' notice of intent. For a team to be eligible, the criteria below (player eligibility) must be met prior to the first match being played.

To enter the competition, an affiliation form needs to be completed. The affiliation form can be obtained via email from richard.hill@ecb.co.uk and on completion, it should be emailed back to the same address.

3. Player Eligibility

The S9 Regional is an 'Open-Age' cricket competition. This means that it is open to anyone aged 12 or over. It is a mixed gender competition.

Players must register for the county disability team where their permanent residence is located. Exceptions to this is where your 'home' county does not have an S9 Regional team, in which case, a player is permitted to sign for the nearest adjacent county to their 'home' address.

Players will not be permitted to opt for a county that would result in navigating through or past another county that has S9 Regional team.

ALL players must have undergone disability cricket eligibility profiling BEFORE they are able to play in matches. In addition, the eligible players must also be setup on play-cricket as a player and be visible through the authorisation process.

A minimum of 15 players must be registered as S9 Regional players for each competing team.

Players who are registered as D40 Pursuit players will not be permitted to play in any of the domestic disability county S9 competitions again during the season.

Once an S9 Regional player plays THREE D40 Pursuit or D40 Quest games, that player will automatically become a D40 player and will no longer be eligible to play S9 Regional games for the rest of the current season.

4. Overseas Players

The S9 Regional competition does not have any provision that allows the participation of overseas players. Overseas players for this competition are defined as players who would travel from overseas to specifically take part in the S9 competition.

5. Professional Players

The S9 Regional competition does not have any provision that allows the participation of professional players.

6. Eligibility Disputes

Players with either a physical disability, a learning disability or hearing loss or who are D/deaf may apply to take part in the S9 Regional. Players living with those impairments must meet the eligibility requirements of the relevant classification process for their impairment.

Should a player be deemed to be 'outside the scope' of their relevant eligibility criteria, then a formal 'right to appeal' may be made via email to disabilitycricket@ecb.co.uk.

The formal appeal must detail the reasons for the appeal and in best practice provide additional evidence to support the players application and to substantiate the appeal.

An appeal will receive an acknowledgement. As part of that acknowledgement, the player will receive full details on how the appeals process works.

In most cases, the appeal is actioned by an independent sports classifier, one of which, was not involved in the original classification process and decision

The outcome of the appeal is binding. The decision that is made cannot be subjected to any further appeals.

7. Transfer of Players.

Player will not be able to transfer to other counties during a normal season.

8. Pitches

The ground, which includes the outfield, surrounds, and the pitch should be fully prepared in readiness for the start of the match. Boundaries should be clearly marked with either a rope or white line.

If a white line is used, markers should also be provided.

Sightscreens should be aligned, and in accordance with the new laws be outside the boundary.

On grounds where it is not possible to place a sight screen outside the boundary, the rope, or white line should be placed inside the sight screen, always leaving sufficient room for the screen to be moved for a bowler bowling over or round the wicket.

The score box should be clean, tidy, and ready for use.

The pitch should be correctly marked in accordance with the Laws.

Both Players and Umpires dressing rooms should be clean and tidy. In the Umpires room there should be two new match balls (provided by the home team), six spare balls of varying degrees of usage, together with bails (including spares) and bowlers' markers.

9. Cricket Balls

The S9 Regional competition uses full size New Balance compound 'Incrediballs'. One new ball per innings should be used. A supply of the balls, sufficient for all home game requirements will be supplied to each team by the ECB.

Each competing team is expected to keep a stock of old used balls as spares should they be required.

10. Match Officials

Two qualified umpires should be appointed to each S9 Regional match. The home team is responsible for acquiring the services of the umpires and should do so via their relevant county officials' association.

Each competing team is expected to provide a proficient scorer for each match. Scoring should be ideally carried out using Play Cricket scorer or Play Cricket Scorer Pro.

Penalty sanctions will be imposed for the absence of the full quota of match officials. See appendix 1

11. Team Sheets

It is a mandatory requirement for each team to complete a team card prior to the start of each game. Ideally, these should be presented to the umpire during the toss. **The team cards MUST be completed in full (including substitutes) and must include the players registration numbers. Failure to complete this process will result in penalty sanctions.** See appendix 1

12. Match Reporting

The home team for each match is responsible in ensuring the scorecard from their games is completed on play cricket. **The completing of the FULL SCORECARD on play cricket is a MANDATORY requirement and MUST include the names of the umpires and scorers.** Just completing the result is not sufficient

to satisfy the requirements. Failure to complete this process will result in a penalty sanction. See appendix 1

13. Head Protection

All players taking part in the ECB Disability County level competitions must comply to the regulations laid down in the ECB Head Protector Guideline document at all times. A copy of those regulations can be found here: https://resources.ecb.co.uk/ecb/document/2025/12/05/895cb10a-034c-42a1-9027-df0c03616485/Head-Protector-Regulations_4-December-2025.pdf

14. Disciplinary Process

All of the ECB domestic Disability County Cricket Competitions all fall within the requirements of the ECB's Disability Procedure Regulations. A copy of those regulations can be accessed here: <https://resources.ecb.co.uk/ecb/document/2025/04/02/fac3dc36-8cbe-4d62-bead-e2d7c63350c2/Disciplinary-Procedure-Regulations.pdf>

15. After The game

Please ensure you match is recorded in play cricket **by 8pm on the Tuesday following the match**, at the latest. This includes matches that are cancelled or abandoned

Appendix 1 – Penalties Matrix

Penalty Description	Penalty Value	Applicable Team
Failure to complete the play-cricket scorecard within the deadline	5 points deducted	Home Team
Failure to supply ACO umpires	5 points deducted	Home Team
Non-Fulfilment of fixture	15 points deducted	Offending Team
Non-Fulfilment of Fixture	30 points awarded	Non-Offending Team
Playing a non-registered player	30 points deducted	Offending Team
Failure to provide a scorer	5 points deducted	Offending Team
Failure to complete a team card	2 points deducted	Offending Team