

NOC POLICY



**England and Wales Cricket Board, Lord's Cricket Ground
St John's Wood, London, NW8 8QZ
England**

Definitions:

Approved Cricket means cricket which has been sanctioned in accordance with the ICC Regulations;

Competitive County Cricket Registration Regulations means the regulations governing the qualification and registration of cricketers for Competitive County Cricket as amended and in force from time to time;

Cricketer Regulator means the body responsible for investigating and prosecuting breaches of ECB Regulations;

Disapproved Cricket has the meaning given to it in the ICC Regulations;

Domestic Registered Player means any player who (i) has been registered as a Qualified Cricketer under the Registration Regulations or (ii) would be eligible to be registered as a Qualified Cricketer under the Registration Regulations and has entered into a contract with a PCC or (iii) has an England Contract;

ECB means the England and Wales Cricket Board Limited;

ECB Competitions means the County Championship, One-Day Cup Men's Competition, T20 Blast Men's Competition, Tier 1 Competitions, Tier 2 Competitions, the Men's Hundred and the Women's Hundred.

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

Effective Date means June 1 2026.

England Contract means an England central contract, development contract, skills contract or secondment agreement (or any equivalent contracts introduced by the ECB from time to time) pursuant to which a male or female cricketer is employed by the ECB to play cricket for England.

ICC means the International Cricket Council;

ICC Regulations means the ICC Regulations on Sanctioning of Events and Player Release;

Men's Hundred Teams means any of the teams playing in the Men's Hundred from time to time;

National Cricket Federation means a national or regional entity which is a member of or is recognised by the ICC as the entity governing the sport of cricket in a country (or collective group of countries associated for cricketing purposes);

National Representative Team means a cricket team selected to represent a National Cricket Federation at senior level;

No Objection Letter means the form of NOC which is provided in respect of Unregistered Players;

NOC means a No Objection Certificate, as required to be issued under the ICC Regulations;

NOC Consultation Group means a group comprised of members of the ECB executive, including representatives from the domestic cricket operations, professional game and legal departments, with reference to the team England department and chief executive of the ECB where required;

Overseas Team means the team that a Player plays for, or is registered with, in respect of an Overseas Tournament;

Overseas Tournament means a professional cricket event or match played under the control of, or within the territory of, a National Cricket Federation which is not the ECB and which does not involve National Representative Teams, played by teams of a professional standard or in which the Player is being paid to participate as a professional player, in each case whether or not recognised as Official Cricket by the ICC and includes (i) all Approved Cricket and (ii) for the avoidance of doubt, a competition in which primarily retired professional cricketers participate and receive payment for participating;

Player means a Domestic Registered Player or Unregistered Player;

Playing Contract means a playing contract between the relevant PCC and the relevant Domestic Registered Player in the standard form approved by the ECB;

PCC 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.

Qualified Cricketer has the meaning given to it in the Registration Regulations;

Registration Regulations means the

- (a) Competitive County Cricket Registration Regulations;
- (b) Tier 1 Registration Regulations; and
- (c) Tier 2 Registration Regulations;

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

Team means the PCC a Domestic Registered Player is registered and/or contracted with;

The Hundred means the ECB's domestic cricket competition in a "100-ball" format and **Men's Hundred** and **Women's Hundred** mean The Hundred games played by the Men's Hundred Teams and Women's Hundred Teams, respectively;

Tier 1 Competitions means any women's domestic cricket competitions designated by the ECB as being a "Tier 1" competition, which, as at the Effective Date, includes the T20 Blast Women's Competition and the One Day Cup Women's Competition;

Tier 1 Registration Regulations means the regulations governing, amongst other things, registration for the Tier 1 Competitions as in force and amended from time to time;

Tier 2 Competitions means any women's domestic cricket competitions designated by the ECB as being a "Tier 2" competition, which, as at the Effective Date, includes the T20 Blast Women's League 2 and the One Day Cup Women's League 2;

Tier 2 Registration Regulations means the regulations governing registration for the Tier 2 Competitions as in force and amended from time to time;

Unregistered Player means a player who is eligible to be registered as a Qualified Cricketer under the Registration Regulations but is not currently registered nor contracted with a PCC nor subject to an England Contract;

White Ball Competitions means the T20 Blast Men's Competition, the T20 Blast Women's Competition, the One Day Cup Men's Competition, the One Day Cup Women's Competition, the Men's Hundred and the Women's Hundred; and

Women's Hundred Teams means any of the teams playing in the Women's Hundred from time to time.

1. The ICC Regulations require the ECB to issue an NOC for any Player who wishes to participate in overseas cricket. The purpose of this NOC Policy is to set out the process by which Players must apply for an NOC and the approach which will be adopted by the ECB when considering a request for an NOC.
2. If a Player wishes to participate in an Overseas Tournament, they must apply for (and receive) an NOC or No Objection Letter (as appropriate) before doing so. If a Player does not receive an NOC or No Objection Letter (as appropriate) in respect of an Overseas Tournament in which they participate, the Player will be considered to have participated in Disapproved Cricket for the purposes of the Registration Regulations.
3. If a Player wishes to participate in a non-professional/recreational overseas tournament or competition (which shall include, for the avoidance of doubt, club cricket e.g. grade cricket in Australia), an NOC or No Objection Letter (as appropriate) shall automatically be granted, and the Player may deem an NOC or No Objection Letter (as appropriate) to be automatically granted, without any further process required.
4. There shall be no limit on the number of NOCs or No Objection Letters a Player can receive in one calendar year or that a PCC can agree to in one calendar year.

No Objection Certificates

5. An NOC must be approved by the Domestic Registered Player's Team(s) and the ECB (in that order). Should the Domestic Registered Player become registered to a different Team prior to participating in the Overseas Tournament, a new NOC must be approved by that Team and the ECB (in that order).
6. The Domestic Registered Player's Team will consider whether to approve the NOC in accordance with the process set out in the Playing Contract for the Domestic Registered Player.
7. If the Domestic Registered Player's Team(s) approve the NOC, the Domestic Registered Player's Team(s) shall submit the NOC request to the ECB for approval. When submitting the NOC to the ECB, the Domestic Registered Player's Team will clearly state the category of approved Playing Contract that it has in place with the Registered Player and submit Part C of the Playing Contract if requested.

No Objection Letters

8. An Unregistered Player must apply to the ECB for a No Objection Letter. Should the Player become a Domestic Registered Player prior to participating in the Overseas Tournament, an NOC must be approved by the Domestic Registered Player's Team and the ECB (in that order).

NOC Consultation Group

9. The NOC Consultation Group will consider whether to approve the NOC or No Objection Letter, as applicable, in accordance with paragraphs 11-15.
10. The NOC Consultation Group will not be obliged to consider an NOC if the Domestic Registered Player's Team(s) has not approved it.
11. The NOC Consultation Group will refuse an NOC or No Objection Letter if the Overseas Tournament has not been confirmed to be Approved Cricket, including not having received approval from the ICC, where required.

12. The NOC Consultation Group shall be entitled to refuse an NOC or No Objection Letter if:
 - a. the Player is the subject of any allegations, investigations, charges or sanctions by the ECB, ICC, another ICC Member Country, police or other law enforcement body;
 - b. the ECB and/or Cricket Regulator has any reasonable concerns that the Overseas Tournament poses or may pose a risk from a corruption perspective or may put the Player or the integrity of the game at risk; and/or
 - c. in the case of an NOC request, the Overseas Tournament is scheduled to take place (in part or in full) during the Season, in particular when the White Ball Competitions are scheduled to take place;

13. The NOC Consultation Group shall be entitled to refuse or impose conditions on the granting of an NOC or No Objection Letter (in particular, but not limited to, the period that the NOC or No Objection Letter is approved for) if:
 - a. in the case of an NOC, the Domestic Registered Player has an England Contract and the Domestic Registered Player's form, fitness and/or commitments under their England Contract may be compromised by their participation in the Overseas Tournament, on the basis of:
 - i. the terms of the England Contract;
 - ii. their physical and/or mental fitness;
 - iii. the timing and/or duration of their unavailability;
 - iv. the notice provided;
 - v. their performance and development;
 - vi. the nature of the opportunity and previous experiences of the same;
 - vii. the potential impact of injury in the Overseas Tournament; and
 - viii. whether there are sufficient players to cover for their absence.
 - b. the granting of the NOC or No Objection Letter (taking into account other NOCs and No Objection Letters that have been requested and/or granted) may compromise the integrity, proper functioning, predictability, stability and/or consistency of the ECB Competitions and/or Overseas Tournaments.

14. The NOC Consultation Group will not consider an NOC or No Objection Letter request where the dates specified for participation in the Overseas Tournament in relation to such request, overlap (in any way), with the dates specified for participation in another Overseas Tournament for which an NOC or No Objection Letter has already been granted, until, in respect of the original Overseas Tournament, the earlier of:
 - a. the Player's Overseas Team has been knocked out of the Overseas Tournament and has concluded their group matches; or
 - b. the Player's contract for participating in the Overseas Tournament has expired.

15. When a Player submits an NOC or No Objection Letter request, the NOC Consultation Group shall be entitled to request copies of fully executed playing contracts for both Overseas Tournaments and/or communications around playing opportunities.

Appeal

16. If the NOC Consultation Group refuses or imposes conditions on the granting of an NOC or No Objection Letter, the Player shall have the right to appeal to the ECB Board in accordance with paragraphs 17-21.
17. An appeal must be lodged within seven working days after the player is informed of the decision of the NOC Consultation Group to refuse or impose conditions on the granting of an NOC or No Objection Letter.
18. For an appeal to be validly commenced, the Player must submit a written notice of appeal to the ECB setting out the decision against which the appeal is made and the ground(s) (as set out in paragraph 19) on which the appeal is based.
19. Valid grounds of appeal, which must be particularised in writing, shall be as follows:
 - a. that the decision was reached outside the jurisdiction of the NOC Consultation Group;
 - b. that the decision could not have been reached by any reasonable decision-making body which had applied its mind properly to the issues to be decided;
 - c. that the decision was reached as a result of fraud, malice or bad faith;
 - d. procedural irregularity; and/or
 - e. that the decision was contrary to English law.
20. The ECB Board may determine its own procedure and shall deal with the appeal in any way it sees fit, including as to whether:
 - a. to consider the appeal on the basis of the written submissions or whether any oral evidence is required; and
 - b. to appoint a sub-committee of the ECB Board to consider the appeal.
21. The burden of proof shall be on the Player and the standard of proof shall be on the balance of probabilities.
22. The ECB Board shall confirm its decision to the Player in writing.
23. The decision of the ECB Board shall be final and binding.