

REPLACEMENT PLAYER REGULATIONS



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1 SCOPE

These Regulations come into full force and effect on the Effective Date.

2 DEFINITIONS

In these Regulations:

Affected Player means a player in respect of which a formal notification has been made in accordance with the Regulation 6 or Regulation 7 (as applicable).

Appropriate Medical Professional has the meaning given to it in Regulation 4.

Bowl Out means the mechanism to determine a winner where 5 members of each team bowl at a wicket where no batter is present.

Concussed Player means a player who has been formally diagnosed by the Appropriate Medical Professional as having a diagnosed concussion, in accordance with the ECB Concussion Guidelines, or a player who is suspected to have a concussion and who requires further assessment.

Concussion means a concussion formally diagnosed in accordance with Regulation 6.

Cricket Organisation means the Cricket Organisation (as defined in the Disciplinary Procedure Regulations) which is responsible for the relevant Team.

Cricket Regulator means the body responsible for investigating and prosecuting breaches of the Applicable Regulations (as defined in the Disciplinary Procedure Regulations).

Disciplinary Procedure Regulations means the ECB's disciplinary procedure regulations governing as in force and amended from time to time.

ECB Concussion Guidelines means the Professional and Elite Academy Concussion Guidelines produced by the ECB, as published and amended from time to time.

ECB Domestic Cricket Operations Department means the ECB department responsible for overseeing domestic professional cricket in England and Wales.

Effective Date means 16 July 2026.

Illness means serious physical or psychological sickness which results in the player being incapacitated for some or all of the Match, as assessed and confirmed by the Appropriate Medical Professional. By way of example, an Illness would include an appendicitis.

Injury means serious internal or external damage to the body which results in the player being incapacitated for some or all of the Match, excluding a Concussion, as assessed and confirmed by the Appropriate Medical Professional. By way of example, an Injury would include (but are not limited to) fractures, muscle tears, deep cuts and dislocations.

Match has the meaning given to it in in Regulation 3.1.

Match Referee means the official appointed by the ECB to officiate as match referee at a Match, or if there is no Match Referee, ECB Domestic Cricket Operations or the umpire(s), as applicable.

Participant means any person or entity subject to the jurisdiction of the ECB as set out in Regulation 2.1 of the Disciplinary Procedure Regulations.

Replacement Event means a Concussion, Illness, Injury or Significant Life Event which has been notified in accordance with Regulations 6 or 7.

Replacement Report means the form completed by the individual specified in Regulation 6 or Regulation 7 notifying the Match Referee of a suspected concussion, Injury, Illness or Significant Life Event.

Replacement Player means player who has been formally nominated to replace an Affected Player in accordance with Regulation 8 .

Significant Life Event means a player's personal circumstances (which may be anticipated or not) which incapacitate them from participating in a Match or would result in significant mental distress should a Player not be able to withdraw themselves from a Match, as assessed and confirmed by the relevant Teams' Chief Executives. The threshold for a Significant Life Event is high, and only the most serious of events should be considered to meet this definition. By way of example, such events may include (but are not limited to) childbirth or serious illness or bereavement of an immediate family member.

Super Over means the mechanism to determine a winner via a one over per side sudden death match.

Team means a team competing in any Match.

3 JURISDICTION

3.1 Subject to Regulations 6.1 and 7.1, these Regulations apply to the following ECB competitions/matches only:

- 3.1.1 County Championship
- 3.1.2 One-Day Cup Men's Competition
- 3.1.3 One-Day Cup Women's Competition
- 3.1.4 One-Day Cup Women's League 2
- 3.1.5 T20 Blast Men's Competition
- 3.1.6 T20 Blast Women's Competition
- 3.1.7 T20 Blast Women's League 2
- 3.1.8 Women's T20 County Cup
- 3.1.9 The Men's Hundred and The Women's Hundred
- 3.1.10 Second XI championship
- 3.1.11 Second XI T20
- 3.1.12 Second XI friendlies

3.1.13 Tour matches (meaning those involving a representative team from another ICC Member Country),

(each a “**Match**”).

3.2 These Regulations apply from the nomination of teams prior to the relevant Match until the conclusion of the relevant Match.

4 APPROPRIATE MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL

Each Team must ensure that it has an appropriately qualified medical professional who is qualified to diagnose and manage concussions, injuries and illnesses present at all times during a Match (the “**Appropriate Medical Professional**”).

5 DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

5.1 The Cricket Regulator will investigate alleged breaches of these Regulations and refer cases to the Cricket Discipline Panel where appropriate, in accordance with the Disciplinary Procedure Regulations.

5.2 Where a case is referred by the Cricket Regulator for determination by the Cricket Discipline Panel, the Cricket Discipline Panel will apply the procedures and sanctions set out in the Disciplinary Procedure Regulations.

6 CONCUSSION ASSESSMENT

6.1 This Regulation 6 applies to a suspected concussion or diagnosed Concussion which impacts a player’s participation in any Match.

6.2 If a player suffers a head trauma or the concussion of a player is suspected by an umpire, team-mate, team support staff or qualified medical professional, the Appropriate Medical Professional will conduct a concussion assessment in accordance with the ECB Concussion Guidelines.

6.3 If the Appropriate Medical Professional determines that concussion is established or that further assessment is required during a Match, the following provisions shall apply:

6.3.1 The Appropriate Medical Professional will determine (in their absolute discretion) whether to direct the player to leave the field of play.

6.3.2 Play in the Match must not resume until that player has completely left the field of play.

6.3.3 A maximum of 5 minutes will be allowed for an initial assessment on the field of play. If further assessment is required, the player or umpire must be removed from the field of play and may not return until a full assessment has been completed in accordance with the ECB Concussion Guidelines.

6.3.4 A batter instructed to leave the field of play following an assessment is deemed to have “Retired – not out” pursuant to Law 25.4.2 and may, if no concussion has been diagnosed after a full assessment in accordance with the ECB Concussion Guidelines, return to play pursuant to Law 25.

- 6.3.5 If a team is 9 wickets down and either has a player off the field with a suspected concussion and/or an assessment is currently taking place, or has a batter at the crease who requires further assessment for concussion, no additional time will be allocated to the innings for the assessment to be concluded.
- 6.3.6 A player on the fielding team who is instructed to leave the field of play following an assessment can, if no concussion or suspected concussion has been diagnosed after a full assessment in accordance with the ECB Concussion Guidelines, return to play pursuant to Law 24.
- 6.3.7 Once a Player has been diagnosed with a Concussion by the Appropriate Medical Professional and the Match Referee has been informed, the Concussed Player may take no further part in the relevant Match (including, for the avoidance of doubt, any Super Over or Bowl Out).
- 6.4 The return of a Concussed Player to play in any Match will be strictly subject to and in accordance with the ECB Concussion Guidelines and will be managed by the Appropriate Medical Professional or any other medical professional retained by their Team or employer.
- 6.5 The outcome of any assessment by the Appropriate Medical Professional is final. No player, umpire, coach or member of the Team support staff may do or say anything to try to influence or interfere with the Appropriate Medical Professional's assessment and/or decision-making.
- 6.6 The Appropriate Medical Professional must formally notify the Match Referee (either orally or in writing via the submission of a Replacement Report) of a Concussed Player immediately following the head trauma assessment. Once this formal notification has been made it may not be withdrawn under any circumstances.
- 6.7 If initial formal notification under Regulation 6.6 is made orally, the Affected Player's Team must complete and submit to the Match Referee a Replacement Report and as soon as reasonably practicable, and within 24 hours at the latest.
- 6.8 The Appropriate Medical Professional must also ensure that relevant medical records are completed and uploaded onto the ECB Medical Records System. Concussion management and concussion reporting is required at all times to meet the appropriate medical standards.

7 INJURY, ILLNESS AND SIGNIFICANT LIFE EVENT

- 7.1 This Regulation 7 applies to all Matches in the County Championship only.
- 7.2 If a player suffers an Injury, Illness or Significant Life Event during a Match in the County Championship only, the Affected Player's Team shall be entitled to request that the Affected Player be replaced with a Replacement Player.
- 7.3 If a suspected Injury, Illness or Significant Life Event (as applicable) occurs during a Match in the County Championship and the relevant player is on the field at the relevant time:
 - 7.3.1 The Appropriate Medical Professional has a maximum of 5 minutes to determine (in their absolute discretion) whether to direct the player to leave the field of play in order to complete a Replacement Report.

- 7.3.2 If further assessment is required, the player must be removed from the field of play and may not return until a full assessment has been completed in accordance with these Regulations.
- 7.3.3 Play must not resume until that player has completely left the field of play.
- 7.3.4 A batter instructed to leave the field of play following an assessment is deemed to have “Retired – not out”.
- 7.3.5 If a team is 9 wickets down and either has a player off the field with a suspected Injury and/or Illness or has a batter at the crease who requires further assessment, no additional time will be allocated to the innings for the assessment to be concluded.
- 7.4 Should an Affected Player’s Team wish for the Affected Player to be withdrawn from the Match in the County Championship, they must formally notify the Match Referee (either orally or in writing via the submission of a Replacement Report) as soon as possible. Once this formal notification has been made, it may not be withdrawn under any circumstances.
- 7.5 If initial formal notification under Regulation 7.4 is made orally, the Affected Player’s Team must complete and submit to the Match Referee a Replacement Report and as soon as reasonably practicable, and within 24 hours at the latest.
- 7.6 The Replacement Report and the occurrence of the relevant Replacement Event must be signed off by:
 - 7.6.1 In the case of Illness, the Appropriate Medical Professional.
 - 7.6.2 In the case of Injury, the Appropriate Medical Professional.
 - 7.6.3 In the case of a Significant Life Event, the Chief Executives (or their designates which, for the avoidance of doubt, cannot be the team’s coach or Director of Cricket) of both teams playing in the Match.
- 7.7 The outcome of any assessment under this Regulation 7 by the relevant person is final. No player, umpire, coach or member of the Team support staff may do or say anything to try to influence or interfere with the relevant assessment and/or decision-making.
- 7.8 The Appropriate Medical Professional must ensure that relevant medical records are completed and uploaded onto the ECB Medical Records System.
- 7.9 The Affected Player who has been withdrawn from a Match will not be eligible to play in another Match for the following period, as follows:
 - 7.9.1 In the case of Injury or Illness, the Affected Player will not be eligible to participate in a Match for seven full days (such period commencing the day after the Affected Player has been formally withdrawn from the Match).
 - 7.9.2 In the case of a Significant Life Event the Affected Player will not be eligible to participate in the remainder of the Match or in any other Matches taking place on the day(s) of the Match.

8 ACTIVATION OF A REPLACEMENT PLAYER

- 8.1 A Replacement Player may be activated in the case of Concussion for all Matches.
- 8.2 A Replacement Player may be activated in the case of Injury, Illness or a Significant Life Event in the County Championship only and not for any other Matches.
- 8.3 In the case of Injury or Illness, either:
 - 8.3.1 a Replacement Player must be activated before the commencement of the third innings of a County Championship Match; or
 - 8.3.2 the Match Referee must be notified prior to the commencement of the third innings of a County Championship Match that an Affected Player is undergoing an Injury or Illness assessment and that a replacement request may follow. In this situation only, a Replacement Player may be activated after the commencement of the third innings. During the period of assessment, the Affected Player may not take any part in the County Championship Match.
- 8.4 In the case of a Significant Life Event, a Replacement Player may be activated at any time during a County Championship Match.
- 8.5 For the avoidance of doubt, any forfeited innings shall count towards the number of innings that have been completed.
- 8.6 At any point following the notification of an Affected Player under Regulation 6.6 or 7.4 (as applicable), if the relevant Team wishes to activate a Replacement Player, it must have its captain (or coach where the captain cannot reasonably practicably do so) formally nominate a player to the Match Referee for approval as the Replacement Player.
- 8.7 The Match Referee will make the final determination (in consultation with ECB Domestic Cricket Operations Department, in the Match Referee's absolute discretion) on whether to approve the nominated player as a Replacement Player, and any conditions that must apply. The Match Referee's decision is final and there will be no right of appeal.
- 8.8 A Replacement Player will not be approved until the Replacement Player is formally confirmed by the Match Referee to the Affected Player's Team and the opposing Team.
- 8.9 When considering whether to approve (or not) a player to be a Replacement Player, the Match Referee will take into consideration the following points:
 - 8.9.1 The Replacement Player must be 'like for like' (or sufficiently close to like for like). Specifically, the type of player should match the skillset of the Affected Player.
 - 8.9.2 In circumstances where a Replacement Player is required for an all-rounder the Match Referee may take into account the role that the Affected Player would have been likely to play in the remainder of the Match.
 - 8.9.3 The Match Referee may accept a Replacement Player on a conditional basis, for example an all-rounder replacing a batter on the condition that the Replacement Player either does not bowl spin or does not bowl at all.

- 8.9.4 A signed written undertaking (which must expressly accept any conditions, if applicable) must be submitted by the captain of the Team (or their nominee) to the Match Referee prior to a Replacement Player being permitted.
- 8.9.5 In circumstances where a Team has more than one Affected Player, and requests to activate more than one Replacement Player, the Match Referee will take into account the following when considering approval for the second or subsequent Replacement Players:
- (a) the impact of the loss of the Affected Players on the Team;
 - (b) the cricket still to be played in the Match; and
 - (c) the conditions placed (if any) on the existing Replacement Players and whether these should be withdrawn or amended in any way.
- 8.9.6 There is no limit on the number of Replacement Players allowed per Team in a Match.
- 8.9.7 Only one Replacement Player is permitted for each Replacement Event.
- 8.10 The Replacement Player and the Replacement Player's Team has responsibility for ensuring that the Replacement Player meets the relevant eligibility and/or registration requirements that apply to the Match.
- 8.11 A Replacement Player must be at the venue in order for that replacement to be confirmed or if needing to travel, they must arrive as soon as reasonably possible. The Replacement Player may not remain playing in an existing Match (for example a Second XI fixture) when they are nominated and activated as a Replacement Player. If the Replacement Player is not immediately available, a substitute will be allowed in accordance with Playing Condition 24.
- 8.12 If, at the time of activation, the Replacement Player is replacing an:
- 8.12.1 Affected Player who has "Retired – not out" during their Team's current batting innings, the Replacement Player may only bat in that innings (where possible) pursuant to Law 25 as though they were a batter returning to their innings; or

***NOTE:** For scoring and statistical purposes, the Replacement Player will be entered as an additional batter and their innings will be considered separate to the innings of the Affected Player (who will remain "Retired – Not out"). However, the fielding side still only needs to take 10 wickets to end the batting Team's innings.*
 - 8.12.2 Affected Player who has "Retired – not out" during their Team's previous batting innings and that batting innings has since concluded, the Replacement Player may bat at any position in the batting order in that Team's subsequent batting innings (if any); or
 - 8.12.3 Affected Player from the fielding Team, the Replacement Player may enter the field of play pursuant to Law 24 as though they were a member of the fielding Team returning to play and without needing to serve any further Penalty time to any already being served by the Affected Player.

- 8.13 In accordance with Law 1.2.3.2, any warnings or suspensions that applied to the Affected Player in the Match will be inherited by the Replacement Player, for the purpose of the relevant Match only.
- 8.14 In a limited overs Match where an Affected Player has been replaced by a Replacement Player (which is only permitted for a limited overs Match in the case of Concussion), the Replacement Player may only bowl the remaining allocation of overs relating to the Affected Player they have replaced.
- 8.15 Once a Replacement Player has been activated, and a signed written undertaking has been submitted by the captain of the Team (or their nominee) to the Match Referee in accordance with Regulation 8.9.4, the Replacement Player becomes a nominated player in the Team immediately.
- 8.16 The Match Referee will inform venue operations, scorers, and where appropriate, any other relevant personnel whether a Replacement Player has been approved as soon as practicable.