

Rules for ECB Competitions

1 All Counties to Participate

Each of the 18 First Class Counties listed in Schedule B to the Memorandum of Association of the ECB, agrees to participate (subject to qualification where appropriate) in all the ECB's Competitions listed in paragraphs 2.1 to 2.4 and 3.1 and 3.2 of this Regulation.

2 Competitive County Cricket

The Regulations Governing the Qualification and Registration of Cricketers for Competitive County Cricket and their Qualifications for England shall (except as mentioned in The Rules for The Cheltenham & Gloucester Trophy and The Benson and Hedges Cup apply in the following Competitions:

2.1 The County Championship

The Championship shall be competed for by the 18 First Class Counties, as defined in Schedule B to the Memorandum of Association of the ECB. In 2001 each County will play 16 matches playing the other 8 teams in its Division on a home and away basis. At the end of the season, the top three teams from the Second Division will be promoted and the bottom 3 teams from the First Division will be relegated.

First Division	Second Division
Essex	Derbyshire
Glamorgan	Durham
Kent	Gloucestershire
Lancashire	Hampshire
Leicestershire	Middlesex
Northamptonshire	Nottinghamshire
Somerset	Sussex
Surrey	Warwickshire
Yorkshire	Worcestershire

The Playing Conditions and Special Regulations for the Competition shall be decided annually by the ECB.

2.2 Cheltenham & Gloucester Trophy

- (i) The Cheltenham & Gloucester Trophy in 2001 shall be competed for by the 18 First Class Counties and the recreational sides from each of ECB's 38 Counties on a knock-out basis.
- (ii) The first two rounds of the 2002 Cheltenham & Gloucester Trophy will be played during the 2001 season. The competing teams in the 2002 Cheltenham & Gloucester Trophy will be as above plus Denmark, Holland, Ireland and Scotland.

The Playing Conditions and Rules of the Competition shall be decided annually by the ECB.

2.3 Norwich Union League

The Norwich Union League shall be competed for by the 18 First Class Counties, each County playing the other 8 teams in its Division on a home and away league basis. The top three teams from the Second Division will be promoted and the bottom three teams from the First Division will be relegated. The bottom four teams from the Second Division in 2001 will play in the two all First Class matches in Round 3 of the 2002 NatWest Trophy (6th v 9th, 7th v 8th).

Norwich Union League

First Division	Second Division
Gloucestershire	Derbyshire
Kent	Durham
Leicestershire	Essex
Northamptonshire	Glamorgan
Nottinghamshire	Hampshire
Somerset	Lancashire
Surrey	Middlesex
Warwickshire	Sussex
Yorkshire	Worcestershire

The Playing Conditions and Rules shall be decided annually by the ECB.

2.4 Benson and Hedges Cup

In 2001 the Benson and Hedges Cup shall be competed for by the 18 First Class Counties only, on a league/knock-out basis.

The Playing Conditions and Rules shall be decided annually by the ECB.

3 Other County Competitions

3.1 The First Class Counties Second Eleven Championship

The First Class Counties Second Eleven Championship shall be competed for by the Second XIs of the 18 First Class Counties, each team playing a minimum of 10 matches.

The Playing Conditions and Rules shall be decided annually by the ECB.

3.2 Second XI Trophy

The Second XI Trophy shall be competed for by the 18 First Class Counties, a Minor Counties XI and MCC Young Cricketers on a league/knock-out basis.

The Playing Conditions and Rules shall be decided annually by the ECB.

Cheltenham & Gloucester Trophy 2001

1 Title

The Competition will be known as the Cheltenham & Gloucester Trophy.

2 Entrants

Entrants to the Competition in 2001 will be confined to the eighteen First Class Counties and the recreational representative sides from each of ECB's 38 Counties (56 entrants in all). Entry to the Competition shall be contingent on each County agreeing to its Members paying ground admission to all matches in the Competition. The Competition will be played on a knock-out basis.

3 The Draw

The Chief Executive of ECB or his nominee will carry out the draw.

The First Class Counties enter the Competition in the 3rd Round. In 2002, the bottom four teams from Norwich Union League Division 2 in 2001 will contest the two all First-Class matches in the 3rd round (6th v 9th, 7th v 8th).

The draw for Rounds 3 and 4 of the forthcoming season's competition and for Rounds 1 and 2 of the subsequent season's competition will be announced at the end of the current season.

The draw for the Quarter and Semi-Final Rounds will be made on the first available day following the previous Round.

4 Venues

4.1 Denmark will play all matches away from home. (not relevant to 2001 competition)

4.2 The non First Class sides qualifying for the 3rd Round will play their 3rd Round match at home against First Class opposition.

4.3 The matches in all Rounds except Round 3 and the Final will be played on the grounds of the teams drawn first.

4.4 The Final will be played at Lord's.

5 Umpires

For the 3rd Round onwards, ECB will appoint umpires from the First Class and Reserve Lists wherever possible.

6 Exception to Cup-Tieing of Players

Players registered and contracted with First Class Counties will not be cup-tied as a result of having played for a County Board or Minor County in the Cheltenham & Gloucester Trophy once that side has been knocked out of the Competition if they meet all the following criteria:

1. They are uncapped.
2. They have not reached the age of 23 on 30th September of the previous year.
3. At the time of their last appearance of the season in the Cheltenham & Gloucester Trophy for the Minor County or County Board they have not played in the County Championship, Benson and Hedges Cup or the Norwich Union League in the current season.

Cup-tieing regulations apply for the duration of the season but players are not Cup-tied from one season to the next.

7 Status of Matches

Matches in the Competition will not be considered First Class.

8 Complimentary Tickets

Each participant shall receive for its own use, 60 complimentary tickets giving free admission to the ground for all matches including the Final. Umpires to receive four complimentary tickets for the Final and two complimentary tickets for all other matches.

9 Allocation of Tickets

The allocation of tickets for all matches except the Final

shall be a matter for negotiation between the home and away sides, save that in the event of agreement not being reached the away side shall be entitled to purchase a maximum of one-third of the total seating available at the ground on which the match is staged.

The Benson and Hedges Cup

1 Title

The Competition will be known as the Benson and Hedges Cup.

2 Entrants

Entrants to the Competition in 2001 will be the 18 First Class Counties only. The Competition will be played on a league/knock-out basis.

3 League Stage

The 18 Counties will play this stage of the Competition in 3 round-robin groups of 6 teams. The top two teams from each group and the two best third placed teams will qualify for the Quarter-finals. The top team from each group and the best second placed team will receive home draws in the Quarter-finals.

North	Midlands/ Wales/West	South
Derbyshire	Glamorgan	Essex
Durham	Gloucestershire	Hampshire
Lancashire	Northamptonshire	Kent
Leicestershire	Somerset	Middlesex
Nottinghamshire	Warwickshire	Surrey
Yorkshire	Worcestershire	Sussex

4 The Draw

The Chief Executive of ECB or his nominee will make the draw for the Quarter-finals and Semi-finals on the first available day following the completion of the previous Round.

5 Venues

The Semi-finals will be played on the grounds of the teams drawn first. The Final will be played at Lord's.

6 Umpires

First Class Umpires will be appointed for all matches.

7 Status of Matches

Matches in this Competition will not be considered First Class.

8 Complimentary Tickets

Each Entrant shall receive for its own use, 60 complimentary tickets giving free admission to the ground for all matches including the Final. Umpires to receive four complimentary tickets for the Final and two complimentary tickets for all other matches.

9 Allocation of Tickets

The allocation of tickets for all matches except the Final shall be a matter for negotiation between the home and away sides, save that in the event of agreement not being reached the away side shall be entitled to purchase a maximum of one-third of the total seating available at the ground on which the match is staged.

First Class Counties Second XI Championship

1 Title

The Competition will be known as the First Class Counties Second Eleven Championship.

2 Administration

2.1 Entrants

Entrants to the Competition will be confined to the Second Eleven of the eighteen First Class Counties.

2.2 Form of Competition

Each team will play a minimum of 10 matches, four of which will be four-day matches, the Competition being decided on average points per game played.

2.3 Qualification of Cricketers

In addition to players registered under the ECB's Registration Regulations, Counties may play the following:

2.3.1 cricketers who are qualified, but not registered;

2.3.2 one unqualified cricketer in any one match

2.3.3 in addition to the one "unqualified" player allowed under 2.3.2, one further "unqualified" player if he is in the course of qualifying for the County or is on a cricket scholarship approved by the ECB.

Cricketers in categories 2.3.1, 2.3.2 and 2.3.3 above may be permitted to play for more than one County in any one season.

3 Discipline

3.1 In the event of any breach of discipline in the Second Eleven Championship, the player and his Captain, Coach/Manager (away from home) or Chief Executive/Secretary (at home), shall be advised by the Umpire of the breach of discipline and this should be done at the end of the particular session of play or at the

end of the day's play. In the normal way it will be expected that the County concerned will then wish to deal responsibly and effectively with the matter.

- 3.2 The ECB Cricket Department should also be advised immediately of the report and should be advised subsequently of the action taken by the County concerned.

4 Umpires

The ECB will appoint one First Class / Reserve List Umpire for each match whenever possible. Otherwise, Umpires (the best available) will be provided by the 'home' County. Each Captain will complete a report form on any non-First Class Umpire after each match for submission to the 'home' County's Secretary, and will complete a report form on any Reserve List Umpire for submission to ECB.

5 Results of Matches

Both teams will be responsible for posting a match result form to the Cricket Operations Manager of the ECB, Lord's Ground, London NW8 8QZ, within 24 hours of the conclusion of each match. It is no longer necessary for the results of matches to be telephoned to ECB provided that match result forms are sent to the ECB promptly.

The Second XI Trophy

1 Title

The Competition will be known as the Second XI Trophy.

2 Administration

2.1 Entrants

Entrants to the Competition will be confined to the eighteen First Class Counties, a Minor Counties XI and MCC Young Cricketers.

2.2 Form of Competition

The Competition will comprise 20 teams, divided into four zones. Each team will play the other teams in its zone at home and away, on a league basis. The top team in each zone will qualify to go into a draw for the Semi-finals. The winning Semi-finalists will play in the Final.

2.3 Zones

The zones will comprise the following teams:

A: Durham, Derbyshire, Lancashire, Nottinghamshire, Yorkshire

B: Leicestershire, Middlesex, Minor Counties, Northamptonshire, Warwickshire

C: Glamorgan, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Somerset, Worcestershire

D: Essex, Kent, MCC Young Cricketers, Surrey, Sussex

2.4 Venues

2.4.1 Zonal League Matches

Each participant will play half its matches at home and half away. Teams must make every effort when fixing venues to ensure that travelling is kept to a minimum. Zonal matches are to be completed by Friday 27th July 2001.

2.4.2 Semi-finals

To be played on the 'headquarters' ground of the home team or, if not available, on another recognised County ground of the home team. If no such ground is available, to be played on the 'headquarters' ground, or if not available, another recognised County ground of the away team.

The Semi-finals will be played on Monday 6th August (Tuesday 7th August 2001 a reserve day).

2.4.3 Final

The venue for the Final will be determined by a draw. The Final will be played on Monday 3rd September 2001 (reserve day Tuesday 4th September).

3 Qualification of Players

3.1 The Regulations for the Qualification and Registration of Cricketers for Competitive County Cricket and their Qualification for England shall apply. In addition the following will be eligible to play:

3.1.1 players who are qualified, but not registered

3.1.2 players on trial (players that are neither registered nor contracted with a First Class County are not cup-tied by representing a team in the Competition).

3.1.3 MCC Young Cricketers are allowed to play a maximum of two overseas scholars in any game.

3.2 In the Semi-finals and Final a team shall not play more than three 'capped' cricketers (this includes cricketers 'capped' by a former County or Counties), nor more than three players over the age of 25 (as of 1st April 2001). In addition, 'capped cricketers' may only play in the Semi-final or Final if they have played in at least two zonal matches unless dispensation has been granted by the ECB Cricket Department.

3.3 MCC Young Cricketers who are attached to any First Class County or Minor County shall not be eligible to

play for the County in the competition.

- 3.4 The following rules shall apply in respect of players who are attached to both a First Class County and a Minor County:
- 3.4.1 The First Class County shall have priority where there is a contractual arrangement.
- 3.4.2 Where no contract exists, and where the player is registered for either a First Class or a Minor County, the County for which he is registered shall have priority. Subject to the permission of the Secretary of MCCA being obtained, a First Class County may play a Minor Counties player.
- 3.4.3 Where no contract exists, and where a player is registered by both a First Class and a Minor County (or by neither), the player shall be free to choose whether he wishes to play for the First Class County concerned or for the Minor County team (although he shall not be permitted to play for more than one team in any one season).

4 Discipline

- 4.1 In the event of any breach of discipline in this Competition, the player and his Captain, Coach/Manager (away from home) or Chief Executive/Secretary (at home), shall be advised by the Umpires of the breach of discipline and this should be done at the end of the particular session of play or at the end of the day's play. In the normal way it will be expected that the team concerned will then wish to deal responsibly and effectively with the matter.
- 4.2 The ECB Cricket Department should also be advised by the team concerned (not the Umpires) immediately of the report and should be advised subsequently of the action taken by the team concerned.

5 Umpires

The ECB will appoint one First Class / Reserve List Umpire for each zonal match with the home team providing the other Umpire. Each Captain will complete a report form on any locally appointed or reserve list umpire after each match for submission to the home team's Chief Executive/Secretary and ECB respectively. ECB will appoint First Class Umpires for the Final and every endeavour will be made by the ECB to appoint First Class Umpires for the Semi-final matches.

6 Results of Matches

Both teams will be responsible for posting a match result form to the Cricket Operations Manager of the ECB, Lord's Ground, London NW8 8QZ, within 24 hours of the conclusion of each match. It is not necessary for the results of matches to be telephoned to ECB, provided that match result forms are sent to the ECB promptly.