

# ECB 50+ County Championship

## Competition Rules

### 1 Title

The title of the Competition shall be the ECB 50+ County Championship. The name of a sponsor (if any) may be incorporated into the title.

### 2 Management

- 2.1 The control of the Competition shall be undertaken by the ECB Clubs and Leagues Sub-Group and all decisions relating to these rules or to matches played in the Competition shall be final and binding on all concerned.
- 2.2 The ECB and the Clubs and Leagues Sub-Group may delegate any of its powers and duties.

### 3 Entry

- 3.1 The Competition shall be open to those counties listed in the First Schedule to the constitution of the ECB Recreational Forum. Only one team may enter from each county.
- 3.2 Counties who participated in the previous year's Competition shall automatically be included in the Competition for the following year unless written notification to the contrary is given by 1st September in the year prior to the Competition. A county wishing to be re-admitted to the competition must give notice to that effect to the ECB by 1st September in the year prior to the Competition.

### 4 Competition Structure

- 4.1 The Competition shall be organised on a flexible regional basis as decided from time to time by the Clubs and Leagues Sub-Group.

- 4.2 Eight sides shall qualify for the knock-out stage.
- 4.3 The County Boards shall undertake all match arrangements.
- 4.4 The ECB shall undertake arrangements for the Final in conjunction with the County Board drawn at home.

## **5 Qualification of Players**

- 5.1 All players must be 50 or over when participating in any match in the competition.
- 5.2 Players must be bona-fide members of a club situated in the County he is representing and the club must be affiliated to the ECB through the County Board.
- 5.3 Players shall represent only one County in the competition in any one season.
- 5.4 All players must have been resident in the UK for the two years prior to the commencement of the current season.

## **6 Cricket Balls**

Two new cricket balls for all matches in the competition will be provided by the ECB.

## **7 Umpires**

- 7.1 Each County Board in conjunction with their local Association of Cricket Umpires and Scorers shall appoint one Full Member of ACU&S for all Regional Group and Play-Off matches. The Home County may appoint both umpires to stand in a Regional Group match by mutual consent between the two counties involved.
- 7.2 In the Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and Final, umpires shall be appointed by ECB bearing in mind the Counties involved and geographical and financial considerations.

## **8 Scorer**

Each County Board shall also provide a scorer for each match they play.

## 9 Match Arrangements

9.1 The County drawn at home shall be responsible for all match arrangements and must offer its opponents at least three half day dates within the dates laid down for each round. The visiting team shall be equally responsible for seeing that fixtures are arranged.

9.2 If a match is cancelled or there is no result due solely to bad weather, every effort shall be made to re-arrange the fixture within the laid down dates. The home side shall, within seven calendar days, provide the opposition, and inform the ECB Cricket Department, with at least two alternative dates on which the match may be re-arranged. Failure to do so will result in the match being awarded to the other side unless both counties have mutually agreed not to re-arrange the match because of insufficient time. When a match is abandoned for the second occasion, counties shall have the option of mutually agreeing a further date, within the laid-down time-scale for that round, or, in the event of no agreement to re-arrange, the match shall be declared a 'no result'. If it is not possible to re-arrange a match with the laid-down dates due to the time-scale, the match shall be declared a 'no result'.

### 9.3 Play-Off Matches

Counties shall arrange fixtures between themselves and must be completed by the designated closing date for this round. Counties drawn at home in these matches must offer their opponents at least two half-day dates.

### 9.4 Quarter-Final and Semi-Final Matches

Matches in these two rounds will be played on the designated dates unless both counties mutually agree to play on another date, which is no later than the designated closing date for the round. Matches where no result is achieved, due to bad weather, can be re-arranged, providing the re-arranged match is played on or before the designated closing date for the round.

## **10 Match Results**

At the end of each match both scorers shall sign an official result sheet and the Home County shall return this to the ECB Cricket Department within 48 hours.

# Playing Regulations

The Laws of Cricket (2000 Code) shall apply with the following exceptions:

## 1 Hours of Play

- 1.1 All matches in the competition other than the Final shall commence at 1.00pm unless mutually agreed otherwise by the two teams in any one match.
- 1.2 The Tea Interval, which will normally be taken between innings, shall be twenty minutes. In interrupted or delayed matches, the Tea Interval may be waived with the agreement of both Captains or taken prior to the start of play. Captains and umpires must agree before play commences the latest time at which play can finish to allow subsequent changes in the number of overs, should play be interrupted by bad weather. In the event of agreement not being reached, Close of Play shall be 7.30pm.

## 2 Length of Innings

Each team shall bat for 45 overs unless all out earlier. In matches where the start is delayed or play suspended:

- 2.1 The object shall always be to re-arrange the number of overs so that both teams have the opportunity of batting for the same number of overs. Overs to be bowled shall be based on an average rate of 18 overs per hour (one over per 3 minutes 20 seconds or part thereof) in the time remaining before Close of Play (See 1.2.)
- 2.2 If the number of overs of the side batting first is reduced, no fixed time will be specified for the close of their innings.
- 2.3 If, owing to a suspension of play during the innings of the side batting second, it is not possible for that team to have the opportunity of batting for the same number of overs as the team batting first, they will bat for a

number of overs to be calculated as in 2.1.

- 2.4 The team batting second shall not bat for a greater number of overs than the first team, unless the latter has been all out in less than the agreed number of overs.
- 2.5 The minimum length of a match shall be ten overs per side.
- N.b.** Umpires shall notify all concerned of the time of resumption of play following delay or suspension, immediately they have reached a decision. The umpires shall be responsible for calculating the revised number of overs to be played in the match and for notifying the decision immediately to all concerned.

### **3 The Result**

- 3.1 A result can be achieved only if both teams have batted for at least 10 overs unless one team has been all out in less than 10 overs or unless the team batting second scores enough runs to win in less than 10 overs. All other matches in which one or both teams have not had the opportunity of batting for a minimum of 10 overs shall be declared 'No Result' matches and will be subject to Rule 9.2.
- 3.2 In matches in which both teams have had the opportunity of batting for the agreed number of overs (i.e. 45 overs each in an uninterrupted match, or a lesser number of overs in an interrupted match), the team scoring the highest number of runs shall be the winner. If the scores are equal, the team who have taken the greater number of wickets shall be the winner. If still equal, the winner shall be decided as follows:
- 3.2.1 45 overs-a-side match
- The team with the higher score at the end of the 44th over (providing both teams have received 44 overs), if still equal, at the end of the 43rd over (providing both teams have received 43 overs) and so on, until a winner is decided.
- 3.2.2 Reduced, but equal overs-a-side match

The team with the higher score at the end of the penultimate over and so on, until a winner is decided.

- 3.2.3 Both sides dismissed in 45 overs-a-side or reduced, but equal overs-a-side match.

If both sides are all out, the side with the higher overall scoring rate shall be the winner. If still equal, the winner shall be the side with the highest score after 40 overs, or if still equal after 30 overs, or if still equal after 20 overs, or if still equal after 10 overs.

- 3.3 If the team batting second has not had the opportunity to complete the agreed number of overs, and has neither been all out, nor has passed its opponent's score, the following shall apply:

- 3.3.1 If the match is abandoned, the result shall be decided on the average run-rate throughout both innings.

- 3.3.2 If, due to suspension of play, the number of overs in the innings of the side batting second is revised, their target score shall be calculated by multiplying the reduced number of overs by the average runs scored by the side batting first.

- 3.4 In the event of the team batting first being all out in less than their full quota of overs, the calculation of their run-rate shall be based on the full quota of overs to which they would have been entitled and shall apply only where the team batting second has not had the opportunity to bat for the agreed number of overs.

## **4 Number of Overs per Bowler**

- 4.1 No bowler may bowl more than nine overs, however, in a delayed start or interrupted match, where the overs are reduced for both sides or for the side bowling second, no bowler may bowl more than one-fifth of the total overs allowed (unless such a number has been exceeded before the interruption), except that where the total overs are not divisible by five, an additional over shall be allowed to the minimum number of bowlers

necessary to make up the balance - e.g. after 16 overs, rain interrupts play and the innings is reduced to 32 overs. Both opening bowlers have bowled 8 overs. Two bowlers can bowl 7 overs and three bowlers can bowl 6. Bowlers one and two have already exceeded this limit. They count as the two bowlers who were allowed the extra over (7 as opposed to 6) and so other bowlers are limited to 6 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.

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.

## **5 Law 14 - Declarations**

Law 14 will not apply in this competition. The captain of the batting side may not declare his innings closed at any time during the course of the match.

## **6 Law 25.1 - Wide Ball - Judging a Wide Ball**

Umpires are instructed to apply a very strict and consistent interpretation in regard to this law in order to prevent negative bowling wide of the wicket or over the batsman's head.

The following criteria should be adopted as a guide to Umpires:

- 6.1 If the ball passes either side of the wicket sufficiently wide enough to make it virtually impossible for the striker to play a 'normal cricket stroke' both from where he is standing and from where he should normally be standing at the crease, the Umpire should call and signal 'Wide'.

## **7 Restriction on Placement of Fieldsmen**

At the instant of delivery a minimum of four fieldsmen



(plus the bowler and wicket-keeper) must be within an area bounded by two semi-circles centred on each middle stump (each with a radius of 30 yards) and joined by a parallel line on each side of the pitch. In the event of an infringement, the square leg Umpire shall call 'No Ball'. The fielding circle should be marked by painted white 'dots' at five yard intervals, each 'dot' to be covered by a white plastic or rubber (but not metal) disc measuring seven inches in diameter.

## **8 Points scoring system for Regional Group matches**

- 8.1 The team winning the match shall score two points.
- 8.2 In a 'no result' match, that is a match in which no result is achieved solely due to bad weather, each team shall score one point.
- 8.3 In the event of two or more teams in any Regional Group having an equal number of points, their overall positions in the table shall be based on the team with the higher overall average to be calculated by dividing the strike rate (balls bowled divided by wickets taken) into the scoring rate (runs scored divided by wickets lost).
- 8.4 In the event of any team not fulfilling a fixture for any reason other than weather, they will be deemed to have conceded and therefore lost the match and they will also have deemed to have bowled 50 overs (300 balls) and taken 0 wickets for the purposes of the calculation in 8.3.
- 8.5 The five group winners will automatically go forward into the quarter-finals. The runner-up with the best record will automatically qualify for the quarter-finals. This will be determined first by the county with the best playing record, (ie. a county with a record of 4 wins and 1 loss will be better than one with 3 wins and 2 losses), and, if more than one county has an equal record, the best record will be the best overall average as calculated in 8.3. The other four will play off to decide the remaining

two Quarter-Final places.

- 8.6 If a result is unable to be gained in the Play-Off round by the designated closing date, the winners of each match will be the teams with the higher overall average as calculated in 8.3.

## **9 Quarter-final and Semi-final Matches**

If a result cannot be achieved by the designated closing date for the round, the winners of each match will be the team that has recorded the highest overall average to be calculated as in 8.3.