

# 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 3 to 8 of these Regulations.

## 2 Full Strength Teams

All Counties shall field a full strength team in all matches in The Frizzell County Championship, the Cheltenham & Gloucester Trophy, the Twenty20 Cup and the National Cricket League (see also ECB Directives).

## 3 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) apply in the Competitions specified in these Regulations.

## 4 The Frizzell County Championship

### 4.1 Title

The Competition will be known as the Frizzell County Championship.

### 4.2 Entrants

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 2003 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

Kent .....Durham

Lancashire .....Glamorgan

Leicestershire .....Gloucestershire

Middlesex.....Hampshire

Nottinghamshire .....Northamptonshire

Surrey.....Somerset

Sussex.....Worcestershire

Warwickshire.....Yorkshire

#### 4.3 Umpires

First Class Umpires will be appointed for all matches.

#### 4.4 Status of Matches

Matches in this Competition will be considered First Class.

#### 4.5 Playing Conditions

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

### 5 Cheltenham & Gloucester Trophy 2003

#### 5.1 Title

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

#### 5.2 Entrants

Entrants to the Competition in 2003 will be confined to

the eighteen First Class Counties, the recreational sides from each of ECB's 38 Counties, and Denmark, Holland, Ireland and Scotland (60 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. The first round of the 2004 Cheltenham & Gloucester Trophy will be played during the 2003 season. The competing teams in the 2004 Cheltenham & Gloucester Trophy will be the eighteen First Class Counties, 20 Minor Counties and Denmark, Holland, Ireland and Scotland (42 entrants in all).

### 5.3 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 2003, the bottom four teams from Norwich Union League Division 2 in 2002 will contest the two all First-Class matches in the 3rd round (6th v 9th, 7th v 8th).

The draw for Rounds 2 and 3 of the forthcoming season's competition and for Round 1 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.

### 5.4 Venues

- 5.4.1 Denmark will play all matches away from home where appropriate until Round 1 of the 2004 competition. From Round 1 of the 2004 competition Denmark may play matches at home as and when the draw dictates.

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

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

5.4.4 The Final will be played at Lord's.

## 5.5 Umpires

ECB will appoint umpires for Rounds 1 and 2. For the 3rd Round onwards, ECB will appoint umpires from the First Class Full and Reserve Lists wherever possible.

## 5.6 **Eligibility of Players - Refer to Qualification and Registration, paragraph 15.**

## 5.7 Status of Matches

Matches in the Competition will not be considered First Class.

## 5.8 Playing Conditions

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

# 6 **National Cricket League**

## 6.1 Title

The Competition will be known as the National Cricket League.

## 6.2 Entrants

The National Cricket League shall be competed for by the 18 First Class Counties and Scotland. Nine Teams will compete in Division 1 and ten Teams will compete in Division 2. Each Team shall play the other 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 2003 will play in the two all First Class matches in Round 2 of the 2004 Cheltenham & Gloucester Trophy (6th v 9th, 7th v 8th).

### **National Cricket League**

#### **First Division.....Second Division**

Essex.....Derbyshire

Glamorgan .....Durham

Gloucestershire .....Hampshire

Kent.....Lancashire

Leicestershire.....Middlesex

Surrey .....Northamptonshire

Warwickshire.....Nottinghamshire

Worcestershire .....Scotland

Yorkshire .....Somerset

.....Sussex

### 6.3 Umpires

First Class Umpires will be appointed for all matches.

### 6.4 Status of Matches

Matches in this Competition will not be considered First Class.

### 6.5 Playing Conditions

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

## **7 The Twenty20 Cup**

### 7.1 Title

The Competition will be known as the Twenty20 Cup.

## 7.2 Entrants

Entrants to the Competition in 2003 will be the 18 First Class Counties only. The Competition will be played on a league/knock-out basis.

## 7.3 League Stage

The 18 Counties will play this stage of the Competition in 3 round-robin groups of 6 teams. The top team from each group and the best second placed team will qualify for the Semi-Finals. The two Semi-Finals and the Final will be played on Saturday 19 July (Reserve Day 20 July).

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

## 7.4 The Draw

The Chief Executive of ECB or his nominee will make the draw for the Semi-Finals as soon as possible following the completion of the League Stage matches. This will be a free draw.

## 7.5 Venues

The Semi-finals and the Final will be played at a venue to be confirmed.

## 7.6 Umpires

First Class Umpires will be appointed for all matches.

## 7.7 Status of Matches

Matches in this Competition will not be considered First Class.

## 7.8 Playing Conditions

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

# 8 The First Class Counties Second XI Championship

## 8.1 Title

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

## 8.2 Entrants

Entrants to the Competition will be confined to the Second XI of the eighteen First Class Counties. Each team will play a minimum of 10 matches, the Competition being decided on average points per game played. Matches may be of 3- or 4-day duration.

## 8.3 Qualification of Cricketers

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

8.3.1 cricketers who are qualified, but not registered;

8.3.2 one unqualified cricketer in any one match

8.3.3 in addition to the one "unqualified" player allowed under 8.3.2, 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 8.3.1, 8.3.2 and 8.3.3 above may be permitted to play for more than one County in any one season.

## 8.4 Discipline

- 8.4.1 In the event of any breach of discipline in the Second XI 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. Umpires shall apply the ECB fixed penalty discipline system as appropriate.
- 8.4.2 The ECB Cricket Department should also be advised immediately of the report.

## 8.5 Umpires

The ECB will appoint one First Class Full or 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 locally appointed or Reserve List Umpire after each match for submission to the 'home' County's Chief Executive and to ECB.

## 8.6 Results of Matches

Both teams will be responsible for sending 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.

## 8.7 Playing Conditions

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

# 9 **Second XI Trophy**

## 9.1 Title

The Competition will be known as the Second XI Trophy.



## 9.2 Entrants

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

## 9.3 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.

### 9.3.1 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

## 9.4 Venues

### 9.4.1 Zonal League Matches

Each participant will play four matches at home and four 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 25th July 2003.

### 9.4.2 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 11th August 2003 (Tuesday 12th August a reserve day).

#### 9.4.3 Final

The venue for the Final will be the headquarters ground of one of the teams in the Final. If both headquarters grounds are available, then the venue shall be decided by a draw. If the headquarters ground of neither team is available the match shall be played at another recognised County ground of the team drawn first. If no such ground is available, then the match shall be played at a recognised County ground of the team drawn second. The Final will be played on Monday 8th September 2003 (reserve day Tuesday 9th September).

### 9.5 Qualification of Players

9.5.1 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:

9.5.1.1 players who are qualified, but not registered

9.5.1.2 one "unqualified" player if he is in the course of qualifying for the County or is on a cricket scholarship approved by the ECB.

9.5.1.3 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).

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

- 9.5.2 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 2003). 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.
- 9.5.3 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.
- 9.5.4 The following rules shall apply in respect of players who are attached to both a First Class County and a Minor County:
- 9.5.4.1 The First Class County shall have priority where there is a contractual arrangement.
- 9.5.4.2 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.
- 9.5.4.3 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).
- 9.6 Discipline
- 9.6.1 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. Umpires shall apply the ECB fixed penalty discipline system as appropriate.

9.6.2 The ECB Cricket Department should also be advised by the Umpires immediately of the report.

## 9.7 Umpires

The ECB will appoint one First Class Full or 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. 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.

## 9.8 Results of Matches

Both teams will be responsible for sending 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.

## 9.9 Playing Conditions

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