

# **Appendix A      National 60+/70+ County Cricket Championship Competition Rules 2023**

## **1      TITLE**

The Championship shall be known as the NATIONAL 60+/70+ COUNTY CRICKET CHAMPIONSHIP (the **Championship**).

## **2      MANAGEMENT**

The control of the competition shall be the responsibility of the Management Committee. Competition Organisers will be appointed in each age group who will have the responsibility and authority to manage the effective operation of the competition and liaise directly with the County representatives.

## **3      STRUCTURE**

### **3.1**      The structure of the Championship and composition of the Competitions shall be determined annually by the Management Committee who may seek the opinion of the Counties at the Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting.

All Championships will comprise of either one or more Regional Groups depending on the number of entrants.

Each County within a group will normally play the other Counties within the same group home and away unless the structure dictates otherwise.

Finishing positions in all Group Tables will be determined by average points. In the event of 2 or more teams finishing with the same number of points the final positions in the league table will be determined by the same criteria used in 3.6.

On completion of the Group Matches teams will qualify for a Seeded Cup Competition with either 8 or 16 qualifiers.

The remaining teams will qualify for the Seeded Vase and / or a seeded Bowl Competition.

If the number of entrants for a specific Competition does not warrant a Knock Out phase the winner will be the County finishing top of the league with the highest average points. Finishing positions where teams have identical average points will be determined as per 3.6 below.

Seedings will be determined first and foremost by finishing positions in the Group Tables irrespective of teams who finish in a lower league position having higher average points. The highest seeds will have home draws through to and including the Semi Finals.

Should the seedings place teams from the same Group to play each other in the last 16 and last 8, the draw will be adjusted to ensure those teams cannot meet. Should a lower seed defeat a higher seed in the Knockout phase then they take the place in the draw of the higher seed in succeeding rounds.

### **3.2      60+ Championships**

All matches shall be played on Tuesday unless mutually agreed otherwise by both teams. Any alterations to the published Fixture List must be agreed by the Competition Organiser.

### **3.3      70+ Championships**

All matches shall be played on Thursday unless mutually agreed otherwise by both teams. Any alterations to the published Fixture List must be agreed by the Competition Organiser.

3.4 The Competition Organisers shall undertake the match arrangements for the Cup, Vase and Bowl Semi-Finals and Finals in each Competition. The National 60+ / 70+ County Cricket Championship will be responsible for the provision and costs of the Grounds, umpires, match balls and Teas for the Finals only, all other costs to be shared by the sides competing in the Semi-Finals and Finals.

3.5 Depending on the number of entrants in each Championship the Competition Organiser will consider if there is sufficient time available for cancelled games to be rearranged and provided prior to the start of the Championship a majority of all the participating teams in that Championship agree, rearranged games will be permitted up to an agreed cut-off date.

**3.6 Knockout Qualification.**

In the event of two or more teams being equal on average points in the final placing, then their overall position in the Group Championship Table shall be based on:

(i) Individual results between the two equal Counties with the County gaining most points from their two matches being placed first. If still equal, then

(ii) The best run rate of the two Counties, based on overs that have been completed.

If still equal, then

(iii) The toss of a coin by the Competition Organiser.

(iv) When qualification for a specific KO competition requires identifying a best placed team(s) across all the Groups then the best placed team(s) will be based on Average Points. If average points are equal, the best run rate as per (ii) above shall be the determinant.

**4 PLAYER QUALIFICATION**

**4.1 60 + Championship Competitions**

4.1.1 Players must be at least 60 years of age on the date of the match, except;  
One player is allowed per team at 59 years of age on the date of the match.  
Female players of at least 50 years of age on the date of the match are allowed.

**4.2 70 + Championship Competitions**

4.2.1 Players must be at least 70 years of age on the date of the match, except;  
Two players are allowed per team at 69 years of age on the date of the match.  
Female players of at least 60 years of age on the date of the match are allowed.

4.3 To qualify to play for a County, players must meet one of the criteria below or be approved via Grandfather Rights as per 4.4 or via a Special Registration as per 4.5 below.

(1) Reside in the County that they are representing

OR

(2) Born in the County that they are representing

**4.4 Grandfather Rights**

Where a player previously met the 60+/70+ player qualification criteria and has represented a County for a number of years but no longer meets the qualifying criteria the Management Committee may grant dispensation for a player to continue playing for that County.

The criteria for Grandfather Rights is that the player must have represented their County for a minimum of 3 years or played at least 10 matches for the County.

In addition any player who has played 50+ for a County but does not meet any of the 60+/70+ player qualification criteria in 4.3 above may be granted dispensation by the Management Committee to continue representing their 50+ County provided they have represented the County for a minimum of 3 years or played at least 10 matches for the County at 50+ level.

#### 4.5 Special Registrations

An individual player who is not qualified to play for a County that participates in the County Championship under rule 4.3 but would be qualified under this rule in a bordering County that does not play in the County Championship may be Specially Registered to play by a participating County.

The participating County may only register one player under this rule if they only enter the 60+ 1st XI Championship but may register a second player if they also enter a team in the 60+ 2nd XI Championship, a third if they enter the 3rd XI Championship and a fourth if they enter the 4th XI Championship.

A fifth player aged 69 and over on the day of the match may be registered if a County enters the 70+ Championship (only one player between the Counties if a combined Counties team enters the 70+ Championship).

A County accepting Specially Registered players may only play 1 such player per team in an individual match.

The Special Register will be controlled by the Secretary on behalf of the Committee and details of every Special Registration shall be included on the Championship website. Any player who is Specially Registered may continue to play 50+ cricket for his home County. If the player's home County joins the Championship the player's Special Registration will be automatically cancelled.

- 4.6 Players shall represent only one County in each age group in the Competition in any one season.
- 4.7 All players must be registered on the Championship National 60+ /70+ County Cricket - Play Cricket Web site. Unregistered players are not allowed to play in any Championship match. Registration forms are to be completed by all players confirming compliance with Rules 4.1 to 4.3 and retained by County Managers/Organisers.
- 4.8 Any County that is guilty of contravening any of these terms and conditions contained in Rule 4 shall be penalised for the offence by the Championship Disciplinary Committee on advice from the Competition Organiser. The County involved in the offence shall receive notification of the decision in writing from the Management Committee and will have the right of appeal in line with the rules of the Constitution.

## 5 **PLAYER SELECTION**

- 5.1 In line with the requirements of the Championship's Code of Conduct and the 'Spirit of Cricket', players who have played six or more Championship matches during the season for their County 1st XI will be considered as 1st XI players and cannot be selected to play for their County 2nd XI, 3rd XI or 4th XI teams except with the explicit permission of the Competition Organiser.

5.1.1 County 1st XI players cannot play for their County 2nd XI, 3rd XI or 4th XI in the same week. However flexibility may be given by the Competition Organiser providing that the player selection policy falls within accepted standards of the Competitions Code of Conduct and Spirit of cricket Appendix C.

- 5.1.2 Current International representative players who have played one international match or more for England Over 60's or 70s in the current or previous season, are not eligible for selection in their respective County 2nd XI, 3rd XI or 4th XI teams.
- 5.2 In line with the requirements of the Championship's Code of Conduct and the 'Spirit of Cricket', players who have played in total six or more Championship matches during the season for their County 1st and 2nd XI, will be considered 2nd XI players and cannot be selected to play in their County's 3rd XI or 4th XI teams except with the explicit permission of the Competition Organiser.
- 5.2.1 County 2nd XI players cannot normally be selected to play in their County 3rd XI or 4th XI teams in the same week. However some flexibility may be given by the Competition Organiser providing that the player selection policy falls within accepted standards of the Competitions Code of Conduct and Spirit of cricket Appendix C.
- 5.3 In line with the requirements of the Championship's Code of Conduct and the 'Spirit of Cricket', players who have played in total six or more Championship matches during the season for their County 1st, 2nd and 3rd XI, will be considered 3rd XI players and cannot be selected to play in their County's 4th XI except with the explicit permission of the Competition Organiser.
- 5.3.1 County 3rd XI players cannot normally play in their County 4th XI team in the same week. However some flexibility may be given by the Competition Organiser providing that the player selection policy falls within accepted standards of the Competitions Code of Conduct and Spirit of cricket Appendix C.
- 5.4 No players may participate in more than one Knock Out Competition in the same age group without the explicit permission of the Competition Organiser. With the proviso that should any regular lower team player be required to play in a higher team in a KO match they would remain eligible for the lower team in future rounds BUT, again, the explicit permission of the competition organiser must be sought prior to the match.
- 5.5 Rules 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4 are specific to a County taking advantage of a player's superior skill in a lower grade match.  
The Championship does not have any intention of interfering in the natural process of the County's player selection policies. The Competition Organiser will advise if the County is in doubt regarding this Rule.  
Breaching the Spirit of Cricket in this context includes a confirmed strong higher team player playing down without having being dropped despite having played less than 6 matches in a higher team(s). The Competition Organiser must be consulted prior to the match if the County is in doubt regarding this Rule.
- 5.6 The Management Committee or their appointed Sub Committee shall consider and adjudicate on any complaints made by a County or dispute or through any reports by the Web Site Administrator's scrutiny of team selections which would infringe Rules: 4, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4 or the abuse of the Championships Code of Conduct.  
If in the opinion of the Management Committee or Sub Committee an infringement or abuse has occurred, they shall impose whatever fine or penalty they see fit on the County guilty of the offence or abuse.
- 5.7 Prior to the commencement of play, the team Captains must exchange team sheets detailing the names of their team selection and signed by the Captain verifying that the team selected satisfies the criteria in Rule 4 and Rule 5. The team sheets shall be then be given to the umpires for their record. A team sheet will be made available to download from the website.

## **6 CRICKET BALLS**

6.1 One new cricket ball of an identical make shall be provided by each County for each match. The cricket balls will be of a brand quality agreed by the Management Committee.

## **7 UMPIRES and SCORERS.**

7.1 Each County shall appoint and provide, whenever possible, an appropriately qualified, stage 1 minimum, ECB ACO member umpire for each regional match played at all levels of the Competition.

7.2 Where both Counties agree, the home County can supply both umpires to the standard required under Rule 7.1. The away County is responsible for the costs of one of the umpires.

7.3 The Competition Organisers will appoint independent umpires to the standard required under Rule 7.1 for all Quarter Finals; Semi Finals and Finals.

7.4 The umpires selected by The Competition Organiser for the Semi-Finals and Finals shall have no direct affiliation to the Counties playing in these matches and will be the nearest available to the venue that the matches are played.

7.5 Counties are required to provide a competent scorer for each match that they play.

## **8 MATCH ARRANGEMENTS**

8.1 The Season will commence on the date published in the fixture list as decided by The Management Committee.

8.2 Fixtures are to be played strictly in accordance with the day and the dates published in the fixture lists which will be provided to the Counties prior to the commencement of the season. No alterations can be made to the day or the dates that are published without the permission and agreement of the relevant Competition Organiser.

8.3 The Home County shall be responsible for the ground venue and the cost of such to play the fixture. In Championships, where applicable, the venues for matches replayed due to inclement weather shall also be the responsibility of the Home County. Where Counties agree to play at a ground organised midway between the Counties, the costs shall be shared equally.

8.4 The Home County is responsible for contacting the representative of the away County if the fixture is affected or likely to be affected by inclement weather. The contact must be by word of mouth at the earliest possible time to avoid unnecessary travel.

In the Phase two stages where the away team may have to travel greater distances than usual, communication may need to be made on the evening prior to the fixture date.

8.5 In the event of a County not fulfilling a match arrangement for any reason other than weather or severe health and safety reasons that County will be deemed to have conceded the match. Notification of the concession should be made at the earliest opportunity by the county representative to the competition organiser and the opponents.

The Non Defaulting County shall then be awarded 20 match points. The Defaulting County shall have a 20 match points deduction.

An investigation into the reason behind the default situation will be carried out by the Competition Organiser and reported back to the Disciplinary Committee for possible further action.

- 8.6 If a county has insufficient players to honour all their scheduled fixtures on the day, higher team matches must take priority and the cancellation applied to the lower team(s) – this is applicable to both League and Knockout phases of the competition.
- 8.7 The Championship match fixtures shall take priority over any other fixture that the County has organised in the form of friendly or tour matches.
- 8.8 Should the AWAY team in any Knock Out match travel AND the fixture is incomplete or not commenced the HOME team will then travel AWAY to fulfil the fixture.  
If however the AWAY team decides to travel (or continue to travel if contact is made en route) when advised by the HOME team that play will probably be unlikely and the match is incomplete or not commenced the AWAY team will travel again for the replay.
- (Guidance note: if the match called off is later than 10.30 a.m. and the majority of the AWAY team has travelled more than half way of their journey the AWAY team will normally be considered to have travelled)*
- 8.9 When booking home grounds against non adjacent counties the home team must make every effort to minimise the travelling distances of the opposition. As a guide Counties should endeavour to host a game within 120 miles of the County town of their opponent.
- 9 **MATCH RESULTS**
- 9.1 Full results of the match fixture must be E Mailed by the Home County to the Website Administrator on The Championship standard results form by 12 noon of the following day from the match finish. The Home County is responsible for updating the Play Cricket Website with the full match scorecard details within 72 hours of the match finish.
- 9.2 Failure to comply with either of the two match result dead - lines will in the first instance result in the offending County receiving a written warning. If the offence is repeated a penalty deduction of 2 points will be given followed by a penalty deduction of 2 points on every other occasion that the County fails to comply with either deadline.
- 9.3 Counties must establish their Website on Play - Cricket with the full information of the teams they have entered into The Championship. Advice will be available through the Website Administrator to assist Counties in the compliance of this rule.
- 9.4 Any County wishing to lodge a protest regarding the outcome of their match against another County must in the first instance write to the Competition Organiser with details of their protest. The protest must be received within 48 hours of the match finish from the official representative of the County concerned.

Date 30/11/2022