

1. TITLE

The title of the competition will be SOUTHERN COUNTIES SENIORS CHAMPIONSHIP

2. MANAGEMENT

The control of the competition shall be undertaken by the officials of each participating county. The Championship Organiser's decision shall be final on all matters.

3. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

An AGM shall be held in November each year. The Championship Organiser shall be appointed at each AGM and shall act as Chairman and have a casting vote in the event of a tie. All decisions shall be by a simple majority.

4. CHANGE OF RULES

Any amendment to Rules and Playing Conditions shall only be made at an AGM. A county may propose an amendment for consideration at the AGM. Notice of any such amendment must be submitted to the Championship Organiser no later than 30th September for consideration at the AGM in the following November.

5. ENTRY

The competition shall be open to the counties of Bedfordshire, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Oxfordshire, Somerset, Surrey, Sussex, Wiltshire and Wales. Each county may enter one team only. Counties who participated in the competition in the previous year shall automatically be included for the following year unless written notification to the contrary is given by 30th September.

6. STRUCTURE

The Counties shall be divided into two groups which will be determined by consultation each year. Counties in each group shall play each other twice on a home and away basis. Games shall be played on a league basis and the top two teams in each group shall play in the Semi-Finals of the Championship with the winners playing in the Championship Final. The date for completion of Group matches, Championship Semi-Finals and Final shall be laid down at the AGM prior to the current season. Any group match not completed by the date laid down for completion of Group matches shall be declared a "No Result". (See Playing Condition 8.3). The winner of each group shall be drawn at home in the Championship Semi Final to the runner-up of the opposite group.

7. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

7.1 At least 9 players in each team must be aged 50 years as at the date of the game being played. A maximum of 2 players may be aged 49 years as at the date of the game being played.

7.2 Players must be bona-fide members of a club situated in the County they are representing and the club must be affiliated to the ECB through the County Board.

7.3 Players shall represent only one county in the competition in any one season.

7.4 Players must have been resident in the UK for the two years prior to the start of the current season.

7.5 When players have played three completed matches in the ECB 50+ County Championship in the current season they shall become ineligible to play in the Southern Counties Seniors Championship in the current season. Counties struggling to field a team of 2nd/3rd team players may include player(s) deemed ineligible under the rule but subject to consultation and agreement with the opposing county at least 24 hours before matches are due to be played. The opposing county shall also have the right to stipulate the level of involvement that such player(s) may have such as their batting position and/or number of overs allowed to be bowled.

Note: All counties participating should accept that it is a 50+ County 2nd XI Championship and it should not be considered as a Plate Competition nor should it be used as a means of giving 1st XI players additional games. Only by giving genuine 2nd XI players the opportunity to participate will counties ensure their pool of 50+ players increases.

8. CRICKET BALLS

Each county shall provide two new balls for each home match, the balls being identical and the make approved at the AGM.

9. UMPIRES AND SCORERS

Each county shall provide an umpire for each match and those umpires shall be a full ECB ACO Member. Each county shall provide a scorer for each match.

10. MATCH ARRANGEMENTS

The home county shall be responsible for all match arrangements and should offer its opponents at least 3 dates for any proposed match within the laid down schedule. The away team shall be equally responsible for seeing that fixtures are arranged.

11. MATCH RESULTS

9.1 Home counties shall enter match scorecards on the play-cricket website within 48 hours and email a Result Return Form to the Championship Organiser within 48 hours.

9.2 Both Home and Away counties shall inform each other of any player aged 49 and any ECB 50+ team player for each match for inclusion on the Result Return Form.

12. FAILURE TO FULFILL A MATCH

Any county not fulfilling a fixture shall be liable to meet the expenses incurred by the opposing county (see also Playing Condition 8.5)

13. BREACH OF CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

Any breach of the Championship Rules by a county shall incur a penalty which may include the deduction of points.

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