NatWest U19 Club T20 Competition Rules

1 Title

The title of the competition shall be the NatWest U19 Club T20.

2 This version of the rules is effective in all matches in the Competition from 1st April 2015 to 30th September 2015. Except as varied hereunder the Laws of Cricket (2000 Code, 5th Edition – 2014) shall apply.

3 Management

The control of the Competition shall be undertaken by the ECB Cricket Partnerships Competition Team and Local County Cricket Board all decisions relating to these rules or to matches played in the Competition shall be final and binding on all concerned. These rules apply to the NatWest U19 Club T20 Competition only.

The ECB may delegate any of their powers and duties.

4 Entry

Entry into the NatWest U19 Club T20 shall be open to all affiliated clubs / teams that are invited into leagues by the participating County Cricket Board's in 2015; otherwise invited by ECB Competitions Department.

Clubs may use fine turf or non-turf pitches for their home matches. Should the umpires report a pitch as being unfit, the CCB shall have the option of ordering the match to be replayed on the opponents ground, if time permits, or of awarding the match to the opposition.

If a club fails to fulfil their administrative responsibilities or any fixture in the competition, other than due to bad weather, there will be process whereby the club may be banned from entering the competition for the following season and the points offered to the opposition.

5 Competition structure

Each County Cricket Board, in partnership with the ECB, will hold their own league competitions. The County winner shall be determined by a County Final.

6 Eligibility and age group definition

Any club that fields an ineligible player shall be penalised and the result of the match overturned in the favour of the opposition.

A cricketer shall only be eligible to play in the NatWest U19 Club T20 Competition if they are 18 or under at midnight on the 31st August in the year preceding the current season. Although there is no minimum age, it is recommended that where possible, players over 15 should be selected.

A cricketer shall only be eligible to play for a club in a NatWest U19 Club T20 Competition if they are a bona fide, fully paid-up member of that club. Clubs may have a special membership for U19 Club T20 members. Clubs with limited number of U19 players can merge with, or invite players from, no more than 2 other clubs from England and Wales to create a squad.

A cricketer shall only be eligible to play in the NatWest U19 Club T20 Competition for one club in any one season.

A cricketer shall not be eligible to play in the NatWest U19 Club T20 Competition if they receive remuneration for playing cricket.

Bona fide club members who are also registered and contracted with a First Class County can play provided they have not played a First Class, T20 Blast or RL50 fixture in the year prior to the season of the Competition and during the current season at the time of the match. If any club fields an ineligible player, they will be penalised as per ruling 6.1.

A cricketer shall only be qualified to play in the NatWest U19 Club T20 if they are qualified to play as a Cat 1 (ordinarily resident, please refer to Generic Rule 3.6.7.1) and Cat 3e (overseas player resident in England & Wales, please refer to Generic Rule 3.6.8). The process of classification is generally carried out by the weekend league that the club is registered to.

All overseas players (Cat 3) are ineligible for the NatWest U19 Club T20.

7 Balls

The Home and Away side shall provide at least one new cricket ball for each match when balls are not provided by the CCB. The ball shall be of the standard laid down by the CCB and shall be given to the umpires prior to the commencement of the match. The Home and Away side will also be responsible for supplying enough spare balls of equal standard for their fielding innings. A new ball must be used at the start of each innings.

If the NatWest U19 Club T20 pink ball is lost during an innings then every effort should be made to play with a similar type of pink ball but red balls may also be used as a spare if needed.

For each County Finals the CCB will supply balls for both sides.

It is recommended that each club uses the Gray Nicolls 'League' pink cricket balls which can be ordered from **www.gray-nicolls.co.uk**

8 Clothing

Players in all matches in the Competition will wear clothing and equipment in accordance with ECB guidelines.

It is recommended that each club purchases a coloured kit, or coloured shirt, for the NatWest U19 Club T20 that can be any colour except pink or red. A selection of coloured kit can be ordered from **www.gray-nicolls.co.uk**

9 Umpires

The home and away side is responsible for appointing one umpire for each fixture. The umpires shall be appointed for the whole match and may not play in the match.

Until the County Finals stage, umpires are to be arranged locally by the two playing clubs. From County Finals appointments will be made by the local CCB.

10 Scorers and match result

Each team shall provide their own competent, non-playing scorer in all matches. If a team fails to provide a scorer a player has to be nominated from the team to take up the duty for the entire duration of the match.

If possible, scorers should endeavour to score the match electronically via laptop, smart phone or tablet device. ECB recommend Total Cricket Scorer or Cric HQ as these applications connect to **Play-Cricket.com**.

It is the responsibility of the Home side to enter the result and full scorecard details onto the appropriate side on **Play-Cricket.com** within 24 hours of the match being completed. The Away side should confirm that the summary result has correctly entered within the next 24 hours. Both sides must ensure that their squad details have been entered into **Play-Cricket.com** prior to each match they play.

11 Fixtures

All matches are to take place on or before the dates prescribed in the table below, dependent on the number of teams in your league.

Stage	Date
First League Fixtures	Determined by CCB
Final League Fixtures	By 23 August
County Finals Day	By 27 September

League fixture – Matches can only be played after the prescribed date if changed by mutual agreement of the clubs and the CCB and must be within the time-scale for the County Final Day. Any rearrangement must be with the agreement of the local CCB beforehand. Matches where no result can be achieved on the scheduled date can be re-arranged to be played by the closing date for that Round. The re-arranged fixture must be agreed within 1 week of the first match. In the event of no decision being reached in the match because of inclement weather, inability to re-arrange a fixture before the deadline date or for another reason, then the result shall be determined as a 'non-played draw' (refer to Playing Conditions).

County Finals – Matches can only be played on or before the date prescribed in this document as there are no reserve dates for weather affected matches.

In the event of no decision being reached in the match because of inclement weather it is suggested that rather than the tossing of a coin, Clubs should play a match for even a minimum of 5 overs per team, wherever possible, according to the time still available or have a bowl out (refer to Playing Conditions). In the last resort, the decision shall be made by the toss of a coin.

12 Team sheets

Each side must provide the umpire with a team sheet before the start of the match identifying any player who has not reached the age of 18 on the date of the match and showing the specific age group of all players.

It is recommended that the ECB Team Sheet card (available from the local County Boards) is used whenever possible.

13 Helmets and/or face guards

Any player under the age of 18 playing in the NatWest U19 Club T20 Competition shall be bound by the ECB Directive (see section 19 of the current Non First Class Regulations and Playing Conditions).

14 Code of Conduct

All players, team officials, club supporters and umpires shall be bound by the MCC Spirit of Cricket and the ECB Code of Conduct.

15 Blast Points

In the NatWest U19 Club T20 Competition there are points available for each Home side relating to the Match Day Experience encountered by the Away side. Away side captains must offer points ranging from 0–5 to the Home side at the end of a completed fixture as follows. (These points are not allocated to league points, but to a separate competition)

5 points – T20 Blast atmosphere! Fantastic!
4 points – Great effort made to replicate T20 Blast atmosphere
3 points – Good attempt to generate a lively atmosphere
2 points – Some effort made to generate atmosphere
1 point – Match was played with a pink ball, but no other difference
0 points – Match was exactly the same as a traditional fixture

All 'Blast points' must be added to www.ecb.co.uk/blastpoints. County and National Prizes will be awarded to the sides that accumulate the highest average Blast Points. The National Winner will be decided by an independent panel, and the prize will be awarded at the NatWest OSCAs in October. In addition, every time an away side awards Blast Points, they will be entered into a draw to win a spot prize. One club will be selected at random once the competition is complete.

Playing Conditions

1 Duration

1 innings per side, each limited to a maximum of 20 overs and a minimum of 5 overs.

2 Hours of play

2.1 Start times are to be agreed by participants during league fixtures and County Finals.

2.2 Teams have 1 hour 15 minutes to bowl 20 overs. (This is a guide)

3 Rearrangement of overs due to inclement weather

The objective of rearranging overs is to give the greatest opportunity for a match of equal overs without reverting to a bowl out.

If in the view of the Umpires – bearing in mind the prevailing ground, weather and light conditions – it is considered to be most unlikely that the full quota of overs will be bowled in any match; it is recommended that a pre-emptive decision is made to reduce overs in both innings equally. The level of the reduction will be made at the discretion of the umpires.

4 Fielding restrictions

Power play fielding restrictions with 30 yard circle required for each match.

4.1 For the first 6 overs of each innings only two fielders are permitted to be outside the field restriction marking at the instant of delivery.

4.2 For the remaining overs of each innings only five fieldsmen are permitted to be outside the fielding circle at the instant of delivery.

4.3 In circumstances when the number of overs of the batting team is reduced, the number of Fielding Restriction Overs shall be reduced in accordance with the table below. For the sake of clarity, it should be noted that the table shall apply to both the 1st and 2nd innings of the match.

Total overs	No. of overs for which fielding in innings restrictions in clauses above shall apply
5–6	1
7–9	2
10–13	3
14–16	4
17–19	5

5 Boundaries

Boundaries should be a minimum of 50 yards, where possible.

6 Bowling and batting restrictions

6.1 Bowlers may bowl a maximum of 4 overs or, if the total number of overs is reduced, no bowler may bowl more than one-fifth of the amount of overs scheduled for the innings.

6.2 When a batsman reaches or passes the personal total of 50 runs they must 'retire' and will not be allowed to return. A batsman can continue their innings beyond 50 if their 'retirement' would end the innings before the agreed number of overs have been bowled.

7 The result (League / Group stage)

7.1 When there is no interruption after play has commenced and when both sides have had the opportunity of batting for the same agreed number of overs, the team scoring the higher number of runs shall be the winner.

The points for the NatWest U19 Club T20 are:

5 for a win
4 for a tie
3 for a loss
2 for a cancellation due to inclement weather, where both teams failed to bat for 5 overs.
1 for a cancellation due to inclement weather, where no play occurred and the match could not be rescheduled.

7.1.1 For League matches, if tied at the completion of a match, the match shall be deemed a tie and each team shall receive four points.

7.1.2 For League matches, if the match begins but cannot be completed for any reason, the match shall be deemed a tie and each team shall receive two points.

7.1.3 For League matches, where a team concedes the match for any other reason apart from weather, the opponents will be awarded 5 points. The team that concedes will receive no points.

7.2 In the event of the side in the 1st innings batting for longer than the side in the 2nd innings the target score shall be decided by average run rate based on the number of legitimate balls faced.

7.3 In the group stages, if teams are tied at the top of the league, the team that won the head-to-head fixture will progress through to the next stage of the competition. If teams are still tied then the team with the highest net run rate will progress through to the next stage of the competition.

8 The result (County Finals Day stage)

8.1 For County Finals, if a match is abandoned before it had been played to a conclusion and before the team batting second has received its allocated number of overs (providing that it has received not less than 5 overs), the result shall be decided by a bowl out.

Five players from each side will bowl two overarm deliveries each at a wicket (conforming to Law 8) from a wicket pitched at a distance of 22 yards with, if practicable, bowling, popping and return creases marked (conforming to Law 9). The side, which bowls down the wicket (as defined in Law 18.1a) the most times, shall be the winner. If the scores are equal, the same players will bowl one ball each alternatively to achieve a result on a 'sudden death' basis.

If a bowler bowls a No ball it will count as one of the two deliveries but will not count towards the score of the team. Players included in the bowl out may only be selected from the 11 players selected to play the match.

If a bowl out is not possible, the result will be determined by the toss of a coin, with both captains present. In the event of the captains not being able to be present, the tossing of the coin shall be referred to the CCB.

8.2 In the event of the scores being tied in a County Final, the teams shall compete in a one over per side eliminator to determine the winner. The following procedure will apply should the provision for a one over per side eliminator be adopted in any match.

8.2.1 Subject to weather conditions the one over per side eliminator will take place at a time to be determined by the umpires. In normal circumstances it shall commence 10 minutes after the conclusion of the match.

8.2.2 The one over per side eliminator will take place on the pitch allocated for the match (the designated pitch) unless otherwise determined by the umpires in consultation with the ground authority and the umpires.

8.2.3 The umpires shall stand at the same end as that in which they finished the match.

8.2.4 In both innings of the one over per side eliminator, the fielding side shall choose from which end to bowl.

8.2.5 Only nominated players in the main match may participate in the one over per side eliminator. Should any player (including the batsmen and bowler) be unable to continue to participate in the one over per side eliminator due to injury, illness or other wholly acceptable reason, the relevant Laws and Playing Conditions as they apply in the main match shall also apply in the one over per side eliminator.

8.2.6 Each team's over is played with the same fielding restrictions as apply for a non-Field Restriction Over in a normal NatWest U19 Club T20 match.

8.2.7 The team batting second in the match will bat first in the one over eliminator.

8.2.8 The Umpires shall select a ball from the box of spare balls which shall be used for both overs of the one over per side eliminator. The ball to be used shall not be a new ball and should have the apparent wear characteristics of a ball that has had between 5 and 20 overs of usage. For the avoidance of doubt, a ball used in the main match shall not be used in the one over per side eliminator.

If the ball needs to be changed, then playing conditions as stated for the main match shall apply.

8.2.9 The loss of two wickets in the over ends the team's one over innings.

8.2.10 In the event of the teams having the same score after the one over per side eliminator the team whose batsmen hit the most number of boundaries combined from its two innings in both the main match and in the one over per side eliminator shall be the winner.

8.2.11 If the number of boundaries hit by both teams is equal, the team whose batsmen scored more boundaries during its innings in the main match (ignoring the over per side eliminator) shall be the winner.

8.2.12 If still equal, a count-back from the final ball of the one over eliminator shall be conducted. The team with the higher scoring delivery shall be the winner. If a team loses two wickets during its over, then any unbowled deliveries will be counted as dot balls. Note that for this purpose, the runs scored from a delivery is defined as the total team runs scored since the completion of the previous legitimate ball, i.e. including any runs resulting from wides, no ball or penalty runs.

Example:

Runs scored from:	**Team 1**	**Team 2**
Ball 6	1	1
Ball 5	4	4
Ball 4	2	1
Ball 3	6	2
Ball 2	0	1
Ball 1	2	6

In this example both teams scored an equal number of runs from the 6th and 5th ball of their innings. However, team 1 scored 2 runs from its 4th ball while team 2 scored a single so team 1 is the winner.

8.2.13 If still equal, then another one over per side eliminator shall be played in accordance with rule 8.2

9 Free hit after a foot-fault no ball

9.1 The delivery following a no ball called for a foot fault shall be a free hit for whichever batsman is facing it.

9.2 If the delivery for the free hit is not a legitimate delivery (any kind of no ball or a wide ball), then the next delivery shall become a free hit for whichever batsman is facing it.

9.3 For any free hit, the striker can be dismissed only under the circumstances that apply for a no ball, even if the delivery for the free hit is called wide ball.

9.4 Field changes are permitted for free hit deliveries providing all effective fielding restrictions are adhered to.

9.5 The umpires shall signal a free hit by (after the normal no ball signal) extending one arm straight upwards and moving it in a circular motion.

10 Law 25 – Wide Ball – Judging a Wide
Please refer to Generic Playing Condition 7.

11 Law 42.6 – Dangerous and Unfair Bowling
Law 42.6 (i) (a) Bowling of Fast, short-pitched balls, will apply.

12 Law 42.6 (b) Bowling of high full pitched balls, to be amended to read as follows:

Any high full pitched ball (regardless of its pace) which passes or would have passed above waist height of the striker standing upright at the crease shall be called and signalled No ball by the umpire at the bowler's end.

In addition, if the high full pitched ball is fast, it shall be deemed dangerous and unfair and the umpire at the bowler's end, in addition to the call and signal of No ball, will adopt the procedures of Law 42.7.

13 Law 42.7 – Dangerous and Unfair Bowling – action by the umpire

Law 42.7 applies except that the reference to Law 42.6 is the amended Law 42.6 as above.