

Women's Welsh Plate Rules 2025

T20 – Pairs Competition

Introduction

Welcome to the 2025 rules for the Women's Welsh Plate. Any further updates to the rules shall be made prior to the competition and all entrants will be notified via email.

Key Contacts

Claudia Vaughan-Johns: Competition Organiser

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Women and Girls Officers:

South West Wales – Carl Holding Carl.Holding@cricketwales.org.uk 07598298989

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Important Links/Information

Women's Welsh Cup page on Cricket Wales Website [Click Here](#)

Dates

Please note that these dates are subject to change based on entries and may be adjusted before the competition begins. If any changes occur, competition entrants will be notified via email.

Round 1 – 1st June 2025

Round 2 - 29th June 2025

Round 3 - 27th July 2025

Quarter Final - 21st August 2025

Semi Final & Final Scheduled date - 6th September 2025

Each match must be played 'on or before' the designated date above, with exception for the Semi-Final and Final's Day dates where games must be played on the date.

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Eligibility

E1. Entry to the Women's Welsh Cup and Plate is only permitted to those clubs who have entered the Women's Softball League and who are affiliated to and recognised by Cricket Wales.

E2. Players must be a bona-fide member of an entrant club

- a) A player shall be deemed to be bona-fide member of that club if she is eligible to play for that club under the rules of the relevant League

E3. Players selected for Cricket Wales Regional Pathway can play women's softball, they must adhere to the playing priorities set by the pathway team

E4. Player eligibility in the Welsh Cup will be categorised as Category 1, 2 or 3.

Category 1 players are ineligible.

Category 2 players are eligible.

Category 3 Players are eligible to play with restriction – Maximum 2 hardball players eligible to play in the plate competition at any time

Category 4 Players are eligible to play with restriction – Only 2 players may play. *The team must be eliminated from the Cup competition before the players are deemed eligible.*

Category 1) Players selected for any Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3, Academy, EPP or Glamorgan U13,U15 or U18 age group summer squads are not permitted to play any form of women's softball cricket.

Category 2) A player has not played more than 4 games of open age competitive hardball league cricket in the season prior to the current one or in the current season.

Category 3). A Hardball Player. Defined as a player who has:

- a. Played 5 or more competitive Hardball League Fixtures as listed on Play Cricket in the previous season.
- b. A Player who, during the current season, accumulates 5 competitive Hardball League Fixtures as listed on Play-Cricket, after the 5th game that player is classified as a Hardball player.
- c. The 5 games do not include any junior hardball cricket matches.
- d. It is the responsibility of clubs to monitor the hardball matches played to ensure the rule is adhered to.
- e. In the event of a Club fielding an ineligible player, that Club will be removed from the competition and the team it last defeated reinstated in its place. **Clubs cannot play more than 2 hardball players as defined in Category 3 at any point in the competition.**

Category 4) Is a category 2 or 3 player who has played no more than 2 games in the Women's Welsh Cup in the round up to the Cup competition Quarter Finals. If the player has played in the Cup Quarter Final or beyond. They are not eligible to play down in the Plate competition. **Clubs cannot play more than 2 hardball players as defined in**

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Cat3 at any point in the competition. *The team must be eliminated from the Cup competition before the players are deemed eligible.*

E5. Clubs are responsible for ensuring that all players participating in the Competition are eligible to play. In the event of a Club fielding an ineligible player, that Club will be removed from the competition and the team it last defeated reinstated in its place.

E6. Note; If ineligibility is not discovered until after a later round has been played the team last defeated by the offending side will be reinstated in the competition.

E7. The Cricket Wales Disciplinary Memorandum of Understanding from time to time in force applies to all Welsh Cup competitions. No player who is under suspension by her league or club is eligible to play in a Welsh Cup competition during the period of such suspension.

E8. A cricketer shall only be eligible to play in the Women's Welsh Plate for one club in any one season.

E9. If a player's club does not enter either competition, the player is not permitted to play for another club in the Welsh Cup or Plate.

E10. Club amalgamations are not permitted. The use of loan players is prohibited.

E11. Players who transfer from one club to another during the season may be eligible to play for their new club in the Welsh Cup or Plate, provided they have not already participated in either competition earlier in the same season. In this instance, please contact the competition's organiser to confirm the player is eligible.

Competition Draw

For the 2025 season Cricket Wales will make the draw for the first and second round and publish via a Power Point Presentation on the Cricket Wales website as well as informing clubs directly and placing all fixtures on Play Cricket.

The draw for the subsequent rounds will be made as soon as possible after the previous round and published on the Cricket Wales website as well as informing clubs directly and placing all fixtures on Play Cricket.

Fixtures

F1. Both clubs to contact each other once the draw is known and agree a date (and a reserve date) to play the match before the round end date. NB: reasons for not playing MUST be limited to CRICKET RELATED issues e.g. clash with another competition as opposed to random non-cricket matters. If a club wishes to concede they must contact the opposing club and the organiser must also be informed. In the event of clubs failing to agree a date then this matter must be referred back to the competition organiser asap for adjudication.

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F2. Saturdays, Sundays, midweek (which may be a reduced over game) may also be used in order to complete the fixture (in the spirit of Get The Game On)

F3. If bad weather prevents play or a result, the match will be rearranged on a mutually agreed date.

F4. If bad weather prevents a match of even the minimum number of overs being played, then clubs will toss up for the right to continue in the Competition, with either a Qualified Umpire or the Competition Organiser present. Zoom or video conferencing can be used to gather all parties together, if more convenient.

F5. If a rearranged date can't be agreed on, the club who couldn't fulfil the original fixture on the agreed date must concede the match. If both clubs are unable to fulfil the original fixture and can't agree on another date a coin toss will be the final resolution. Any disagreement as to the format, time and location of a reduced over match is to be referred to the Competition Organiser.

F6. If the 'Home' club are unable to host the original fixture the 'away' club will have the option to host the match. If both clubs' grounds are unavailable, then an alternative date will have to be agreed upon.

F7. Matches may not be postponed for any reason other than inclement weather or Covid related local lockdown restriction, unless by mutual agreement. Should there be no such agreement and there is a clash with another competition (other than an ECB competition) then the Welsh Cup takes precedence over other competitions.

F8. From the Quarter Final onward the games MUST be played on the scheduled date, or on the Reserve date(s). Exceptionally* these games may be played in mid-week but only if the former has been exhausted and is with BOTH teams' agreement [Note*: with the Competition Organiser's agreement]

F9. If the match has not been played 'on or before' the designated date then the Organiser shall arrange a 'coin toss' to decide the winner subject to any claims from the clubs to be adjudicated by the Organising Committee (see Rule 12). There will be no exceptions Junior Welsh Cup Rules 2024 to this except, possibly, in a case of prolonged inclement weather which has had a widespread effect on matches being played.

Disputes

U1. Difficulties or appeals from clubs shall be referred to the Competitions Organiser Clubs

U2. In the event of any dispute arising during and affecting the course of the Competition, clubs must contact the Competitions Organiser, by telephone, within 1 day of the dispute, confirming

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the protest in writing via email within 3 days, and also sending a copy of the protest to any other club involved within 3 days

U3. Following any response from the other club, the matter will be determined by a special committee under the chairmanship of the Competitions Organiser.

U4. Cricket Wales is entirely responsible for the organisation and administration of the Competition

Match Day Rules

P1. All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of Cricket (2017 Code 2nd Edition - 2019) except for the specific provisions in these rules.

P2. Black fibreglass Softball cricket bats will be the equipment used in the competition (not wooden or plastic bats).

P3. Each home club must provide a pink incrediball in good condition, for each match. Cricket Wales will provide match balls from the Quarter Final stage onwards.

P4. The pitch shall be 19 yards for all softball divisions with games played on a grass wicket/artificial - recommendation of 35/40 yard boundaries.

P5. Host team is required to provide at least one standing umpire for each match and a scorer. If the away team can provide an umpire/scorer then this is acceptable

P6. Matches shall consist of one innings per side.

P7. Each innings shall be of 20 overs duration. Each team shall commence its innings with a score of 200 runs. 5 runs shall be deducted from a team's overall score for each wicket lost.

P8. Each team shall comprise of 10 players. Teams must consist of at least 9 players otherwise the match cannot go ahead. The batting side shall be divided into pairs. Each pair shall bat for 4 overs. Pairs shall change at the end of the 4th, 8th, 12th and 16th overs. If a team is ready to play the match with one player short, see rule P16 below.

P9. A minimum of 7 players on the fielding side must bowl, this can include the wicket keeper. No player shall bowl more than 3 overs in a match. Bowling must be overarm. If a player fails to attempt to bowl overarm it will be both of the umpires decision to speak to the fielding captain and therefore the bowler can be removed from the bowling quota and another player may complete the over.

P10. Teams will bowl from one end only during an innings. Alternatively, if both teams agree, bowlers can switch ends at the change of batting pairs (every 4 overs) provided both teams agree.

P11. Crease markings are to be clearly visible for umpires and players to see. Where possible lines on the off/leg side should be made to guide the umpire/players in relation to wide balls. Flat marker discs are also acceptable to use (No cones) - also where possible a line marking the middle stump for batters to use as a guide should also be.

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P12. Each pair on the batting side will face four overs and will change ends at the end of an over.

P13. A batter may be out in the following ways:

- Bowled
- Caught
- Run out
- Stumped
- Hit wicket

P14. Leg Before Wicket (LBW) is to be used if the batter deliberately uses their leg to stop the ball from hitting the wickets without playing a shot. It will be the standing umpire's decision. The umpire is within their right to advise the batter if they are standing in front of the wickets and should the fielding team appeal for an LBW decision then it is the standing umpires decision to decide whether they feel the ball was going to hit the stumps following the LBW rule.

P15. Batters must swap ends when a wicket is lost unless taken on the last ball of the over.

P16. If either side appears with 9 players, the names of those present in the short-handed side will be placed in a "hat" from which the opposing captain will draw the name of the player to complete the prerequisite number of pairs. The named player batting twice is allowed to bat as normal and may face balls within their pairing.

P17. The allotted overs must be bowled in each innings. The match does not finish when the total runs from the first innings have been passed.

P18. Two runs will be awarded to the batting team for each wide.

P19. Two runs will be awarded for a no-ball – where the ball bounces twice or more before reaching the crease, or arrives with the batter above waist height without bouncing.

P20. No extra balls will be allocated for wides or no balls, except in the final over of each innings when, in addition to the two runs, an extra ball will be bowled.

P21. In all matches no fielder, except the wicket-keeper, shall be allowed to field nearer than 8 yards, measured from the middle stump, except behind the wicket on the offside.

P22. In cases where last minute illness/injury occurs a team is allowed to field a team of 9 players. If either side appears with 9 players, the names of those present in the short handed side will be placed in a "hat" from which the opposing captain will draw the name of the player to complete the prerequisite number of pairs. The named player batting twice is allowed to bat as normal and may face balls within their pairing. If a team has less than 9 players then the team must concede or rearrange in line with all fixture rules

P23. Any over(s) which would have been bowled by the injured player shall be shared between the other 9 fielders without exceeding their allocation.

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A) Umpires and any club officials involved in matches are expected to be impartial and treat both teams fairly ensuring that any guidance given does not impede the progress of the match.

B)Gloves and Pads are not allowed to be used for batting unless there is a medical exemption which should be made aware to the competition organiser.

P24. Wicket Keeping protective equipment is optional.

Inclement Weather

There is a general presumption that in the event of inclement weather, common sense and agreement between the clubs will prevail to ensure that the safety of players is upheld.

a) It will be the responsibility of the host team club to decide whether the match should start if the playing area has been affected by inclement weather. If the first game is off then all other games will also be cancelled.

b) The number of overs will not be reduced until 30 minutes has been lost.

c) Weather interference before the match – 2 overs will be taken from the aggregate overs for every 6 minutes lost after the initial 30 minutes.

d) A minimum of 10 overs per team shall constitute a game.

e) If 8 overs in the 2nd innings have passed and weather was to intervene - Scores would be based on run rate (Runs / Overs Bowled) to determine the winner. If this is equal for both teams then wickets lost would be used followed by boundaries scored.

f) The number of overs allowed by each bowler and faced by each batting pair will be reduced in proportion to the total number of overs agreed.

Unfair and Dangerous Bowling

B1. Law 41.6 (dangerous and unfair short-pitched deliveries) and Law 41.7 (dangerous and unfair non-pitching deliveries or “beamers”), including the warning and suspension provisions are to be strictly applied provided that

B2. There shall be no more than one delivery per over which after pitching passes or would have passed over shoulder height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease.

B3. A second such delivery bowled in the same over is unfair and dangerous and shall be called as a No Ball and the procedures in Law 41.6.3 and 41.6.4 must be followed (A first and final warning for the first offence and suspension of the bowler for the second offence).

Time

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T1. All sides are expected to be in position to bowl the first ball of the last over within 75 minutes playing time. In the event of their failing to do so, one fewer fielder shall be permitted outside the fielding restriction area than would normally be the case for all the remaining deliveries in the innings. This penalty will be imposed immediately the ball first becomes dead after 75 minutes of playing time has elapsed.” The interval between innings shall be 10 minutes.

T2. When computing time for the purpose of this Paragraph, umpires shall make due allowance for injury, frequent movement of sightscreens, Strategic Timeouts, and any other unforeseen circumstances, including time wasting by the batting side or failure to comply with the next sub-paragraph.

T3. The incoming batter should be in position to take guard or for their partner to be ready to receive the next ball within 60 seconds of the fall of the previous wicket or the retirement of a batter. The incoming batter is expected to be ready to make his way to the wicket immediately and should jog to the wicket. Umpires will strictly apply Law 41.10 (Batter wasting time).

T4. If the overs for either side are reduced, the time allowed for the innings shall be reduced in accordance with Table 2 below:

Table 2	
Overs in innings	Time to start final over
19	63
18	60
17	57

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16	54
15	51
14	47
13	44
12	41
11	38
10	35

Delays and interruptions

I1. The scheduled finishing time (SFT) for the purpose of this paragraph is 2½ hours after the scheduled start time.

I2. If the start is delayed, compute the time between the revised start time and the SFT and deduct 10 minutes for the interval. The number of overs allocated to each side is as set out in Table 3 below:

Table 3

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Total playing time available (minutes)	Overs per side
130 or more	20
126	19
120	18
114	17
108	16
102	15
94	14
88	13
82	12
76	11

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70	10
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13. If the first innings is interrupted,

- A) Compute the time taken between the start and the interruption.
- B) Add the time available between the resumption and the SFT and deduct 10 minutes for the interval. The number of overs allocated to each side is as set out in Table 3 above.

14. If the start of the second innings is delayed compute the time available between the revised start time of the innings and the SFT. The number of overs in the innings is as set out in Table 4 below:

Table 4	
Total playing time available (minutes)	Overs
65 or more	20
63	19
60	18

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57	17
54	16
51	15
47	14
44	13
41	12
38	11
35	10

I5. If the second innings is interrupted,

- A) Compute the time taken between the start of the innings and the interruption.
- B) Add the time available between the resumption and the SFT. The number of overs allocated to the innings is as set out in Table 4 above.

Target

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G1. Where the number of balls available to both sides remains equal, the team scoring the greater number of runs shall be the winner.

G2. Subject to Paragraphs I3 and I4, if the scores are tied the team losing fewer wickets shall be the winner. Should these be equal, then the team with the higher score after 5 overs shall be the winners. If the scores after 5 overs are equal, the team with the higher score after 6 overs shall be the winners. If the scores after 6 overs are equal, the team with the higher score after 7 overs shall be the winners and so on up to the end of the penultimate over.

G3. If the team batting second has not had the opportunity to receive the same number of overs as the team batting first and has not been dismissed, the following shall apply:

- a) If, due to delay or interruption, the number of overs in the innings of the team batting second is reduced, their target score shall be calculated by multiplying the reduced number of balls available to them by the average run rate of the side batting first and rounding up to the next whole number. If the calculation involves a fraction of a run, the final scores cannot be equal, and the result cannot be a tie.
- b) If the match is abandoned before the Close of Play but after the team batting second has received at least 10 overs, the result shall be decided on higher average run rate throughout the innings.

G4. A team's average run rate is calculated by dividing the number of runs scored in its innings by the number of legitimate balls received during that innings.

- a) If the team batting first is dismissed in fewer than the number of overs allocated for their innings, the calculation will be based on the number of balls that the team was scheduled to receive and not on the number actually received.
- b) If the team batting second is unable to receive all their allocated overs, the calculation of their average run rate will be based on the number of legitimate deliveries actually received by them during their innings.

G5. The average run rate can be calculated to any number of decimal places and a tie can only be achieved if the average run rates are identical.

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Results

The winner is the team scoring the most runs. In the event of the scores of each team being equal the winner shall be determined as follows:

The game will be decided by a Super Over. Super Over Rules : A coin toss determines which team bats first (winner of the coin toss can decide). 3 bowlers each bowl 2 legitimate deliveries (extra's bowled again) until the team bowls 6 legitimate balls. There is no limit on the number of batsmen. The team that scores the most runs in the over win the game. If scores are equal, additional Super Over's will be played until there is a winner.

In the event of a rain curtailed match, where each team has not bowled a minimum of ten overs, the match should be rearranged if both sides can mutually agree a date before the 'scheduled' reserve date for that round. If not it is to be decided by a Super Over or by the toss of a coin.

Notification of Results

N1. It will be the responsibility of the host team to enter the result of the match within 24 hours and full scorecard on Play-Cricket within 72 hours of the game completing.

N2. Full details of notable performances including full names should be included.

Safeguarding

S1. Please read the below information regarding safeguarding and player eligibility.

S2. All Captains must be DBS checked

S3. Making the step up from junior to open age group cricket is an important event in any player's cricket experience. The player's safety, personal development needs and overall cricket experience must be considered, their welfare is paramount.

S4. Players who are selected in Wales Age group squads in Spring for a Summer squad for that season are NOT eligible to play Women's softball cricket.

S5. Players who are selected in Regional squads in spring for a summer squad for that season are eligible to play Women's Softball cricket. That is providing they are at least 11 years old, are in School Year 7 on 1st September in the year preceding the season and have written parental consent to play. This means children who are in Regional squads, are able to play Women's Softball cricket if they are in an U12 age group and are a minimum of 11 years old on 1st September of the year preceding the season.

S6. Club cricketers who are not in Regional squads must wait until they reach the U13 age group, be in Year 8 and be 12 years old on 1st September of the preceding year before being able to play in any Women's Softball cricket. As before, written parental consent is required for these players.

S7. To be clear, selection of a child of tender age to adult cricket is a potential risk and such a decision should not be taken lightly. Each case must be determined on an individual basis

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taking into account the players ability and stage of cognitive and emotional maturity to take part in Women's Softball cricket.

S8. Children who are in Year 9 and 13 years of age on 1st of September of the preceding year are eligible to play without written parental consent and this form need not be completed.

S9. Written consent forms must be completed in advance. This can be found [here](#).

S10. The minimum age restrictions MUST be followed.

Disciplinary Process

Disciplinary Procedure

1. Cricket Wales adopts the ECB Recreational Conduct Regulations (RCR), which cover both on- and off-field offences
2. The Umpires will fully apply the provisions of the Laws of Cricket (2017 Code – 3 rd Edition) including Law 42
3. In addition, the umpires inform captain(s) at the end of the match that they are making a report.
4. The offending player and his/her captain are on report.
5. The umpires write their report using the ECB pro forma and indicate their view whether the offence is Level 1/2/3 or 4 or a breach of another Law or Laws.
6. The report is to be submitted to the Competition Organiser within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match.
7. The RCR procedure will be followed subject to such amendments as the Competition organiser shall determine

Disciplinary Offences as set out in Law 42

Level 1

- Wilfully mistreating any part of the cricket ground, equipment or implements used in the match
- Showing dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action
- Using language that , in the circumstances, is obscene, offensive or insulting
- Making an obscene gesture
- Appealing excessively

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- Advancing towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing
- Any other misconduct, the nature of which is, in the opinion of the umpires, equivalent to a Level 1 offence

Level 2

- Showing serious dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action
- Making inappropriate and deliberate physical conduct with another player
- Throwing the ball at a player, umpire or another person in an inappropriate and dangerous manner
- Using language or gesture to another player, umpire, team official or spectator that, in the circumstances, is obscene or of a seriously insulting nature
- Any other misconduct, the nature of which is, in the opinion of the umpires, equivalent to a Level 2 offence

Level 3

- Intimidating an umpire by language or gesture
- Threatening to assault a player or any other person except an umpire

Level 4

- Threatening to assault an umpire
- Making inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with an umpire
- Physically assaulting any other person
- Committing any other act of violence

Further Disciplinary Offences

The following will be treated as Law 42 Level 3 offences:

- Using language or gestures that offend, insult, humiliate, intimidate, threaten, disparage or vilify another person on the basis of that person's race, religion, sexual orientation, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin
- The deliberate bowling of any dangerous and unfair non-pitching delivery contrary to Law 41.7

The following will be treated as a Law 42 Level 4 offence:

- Using language or gestures that seriously offend, insult, humiliate, intimidate, threaten, disparage or vilify another person on the basis of that person's race, religion, sexual orientation, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin