



**2026**

**SENIOR WELSH CUP**

**Rules and Regulations**

## 1. Contents

Competition Dates	P2
Coloured Kit & ball guidance	P3
Competition Organisation	PP3-5
Player Eligibility	PP5-6
Disputes	PP6-7
Timings	P7-8
Delays and Interruptions	PP8-10
Bowling & Fielding Restrictions	PP11-13
Bowl Out Rules	PP13-14
Disciplinary Process	PP14-15
Match Day Manager Roles & Responsibilities	PP15-16

### Key Contacts:

#### Competition Organiser

Mark Dixon, *Competitions Coordinator*

Email: [Competitions@Cricketwales.org.uk](mailto:Competitions@Cricketwales.org.uk)

#### Umpire Appointments

Bob Szpadt, *Wales ACO*

Phone Number: 07974 386318

Email: [bobszpadt@aol.com](mailto:bobszpadt@aol.com)

## 2. Competition Dates

No. teams	Round	Scheduled Date	Absolute Deadline Date*
Greater than 64	Preliminary	10th May	15th May
64	1 <sup>st</sup> Round	17th May South/North 24th May East/West	19th June
32	2 <sup>nd</sup> Round	21st June	10th July
16	3 <sup>rd</sup> Round	12th July	31st July
8	Quarter Final	2nd August	14th August
4	Semi Final	16th August	28th August
2	Final	TBC	N/A

\* = the last Friday before the scheduled date for the next round

### 3. Coloured Kit and Ball Guidance

- a. Some Clubs now wear coloured clothing rather than 'whites'.
- b. In parallel to this clothing change is the move away from a red ball towards other coloured balls (usually pink or orange).
- c. No white balls are permitted.
- d. Clubs may need to liaise to agree which colour of balls to use.
- e. In all rounds up to but not including the Quarter-Finals, the Home team must provide two identical make and colour balls, which may be red, pink, or orange.
- f. If new balls are not used, the Home team must provide used balls in good condition. In all matches, the visiting Captain shall choose which ball his team shall use to bowl. The Home team should provide sufficient spares.
- g. Cricket Wales will provide 2 x orange balls for Quarter Finals onwards.
- h. Any 'on the day' disputes will be resolved by the Appointed Umpires.

### 4. Competition Organisation

- a. Entry Process
  - i. Entry to the Welsh Cup is open to all clubs who are affiliated to and recognised by Cricket Wales and have paid their affiliation fees for the current year. The fees must be paid before a club plays its first match in the competition.
  - ii. A club wishing to enter or be re-admitted into the Competition must give written notice to that effect to the Competition Organiser
  - iii. In the case of a club failing to fulfil any fixture, or its administrative responsibilities future inclusion will be reviewed by the Competition Organiser
- b. Draw & Match Dates
  - i. The early stage of the competition is organised in four zones, arranged geographically.
  - ii. From the Quarter-Finals onwards, there will be an open draw.
  - iii. Matches are normally expected to be played on the Scheduled Date as set out in the table in Paragraph 2 above.
  - iv. By agreement between the teams concerned, matches may be played on any Sunday prior to the Scheduled Date for the next round or as a last resort in midweek (which may be a reduced over match) in order to complete the fixture. The venue may be reversed by mutual agreement.
  - v. Matches played on a Sunday may not be reduced over matches unless the Delay and Interruption Rules apply.
  - vi. If bad weather prevents a match being played or completed on the Scheduled Date or any other agreed date, the venue is reversed for each subsequent attempt to play the match unless the Clubs otherwise agree
  - vii. Except as provided by these rules, matches may not be postponed for any reason other than inclement weather or *force majeure*. If there is a

ground availability clash with another competition, the following order of priority shall apply and clubs must fulfil fixtures in that order:

1. ECB National Competitions
2. Village Cup
3. Cricket Wales Women's League fixtures
4. Senior Welsh Cup
5. All other fixtures

In the event of a clash, the lower priority fixture must be re-arranged in accordance with the provisions of paragraph iv above

*NB: The re-arrangement priority rules apply only to clashes between the originally scheduled dates of the fixtures in question. If a higher priority fixture is postponed from its original date for any reason, this rule vii shall not apply.*

- viii. If bad weather prevents a match of even the minimum number of overs being played, the tie may be decided by the bowl out (details of which are in Paragraph 10 below).
  - ix. If all these alternatives fail, then clubs will toss up for the right to continue in the Competition, with either a Qualified Umpire or the Competition Organiser present.
  - x. The Competition Organiser must be promptly informed of fixture re-arrangements.
  - xi. If clubs are unable to agree a date, format, time or location of a match, the matter is to be referred to the Competition Organiser, whose decision shall be final.
  - xii. The draws for all rounds will be published on the Cricket Wales website and on the Cricket Wales play-cricket site. Clubs will be notified when the draws are published.
  - xiii. A Match Day Manager will be nominated for the Final. They will be drawn from Cricket Wales staff &/or Wales ACO and will manage all matters between teams, host club and umpires that arise on the match day. Their rulings on disputed matters will be final.
- c. Officials
- i. For all matches independent umpires will be arranged by Wales ACO.
  - ii. Before (and not including) the quarter-finals, clubs will share the cost of umpires (a flat fee of £55 each).
  - iii. In the quarter-finals, semi-finals and final, Cricket Wales will bear the cost of umpiring. From the quarter-finals, the umpires (and the Match Day Manager for the final) will each be paid a flat fee of £65 (reflecting potential increases in travelling costs).
  - iv. The umpires are the sole judges of the fitness of the ground, weather, and light for play.
- d. Results

- i. The winning team must text/email the result of the match, including the team scores, to the Competition Organiser at [Competitions@Cricketwales.org.uk](mailto:Competitions@Cricketwales.org.uk), immediately after the match has been played.
- ii. The winning team is requested to process the score sheets for both innings of the match on their Play Cricket website within 24 hours of close of play. The losing team is requested to check and confirm the information entered and make any necessary amendments within 48 hours.
- iii. Where the number of overs remain unaltered once the match has started the team scoring the higher number of runs shall be the winner.
- iv. If the scores are equal or, if Paragraph 8 applies, the team batting second has scored one run fewer than the DLS target, the winner will be the team which has lost fewer wickets. Should this be equal, the winner will be the team with the higher score after
  - (1) 30 overs or if still equal
  - (2) after 20 overs or if still equal
  - (3) after 10 overs.
- v. If no result can be obtained through these methods, a bowl-out as set out in Paragraph 10 (conducted either outdoors or indoors) shall be used to determine the outcome.

## 5. Player eligibility

- a. Players must be a bona-fide member of an entrant club
- b. A player shall be deemed to be bona-fide member of that club if he/she is eligible to play for that club under the rules of the relevant League.
- c. Player eligibility in the Welsh Cup will be categorised as Category 1, 2 or 3.
  - i. Category 1 players are eligible to play without restriction.
  - ii. Category 2 players are ineligible.
  - iii. Only one Category 3 player may be played in any particular match.
  - iv. Category 1:
    - (1) Qualification
      - (a) are either
        - (i) British or Irish citizen; or
        - (ii) an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen, with settled or pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme; or
        - (iii) have been resident in England and Wales for a minimum of 210 days in the 12-month period up to and including 31 March before the season of their participation in the Welsh Cup
    - (2) Restriction

- (a) have not played cricket as a local/domestic player in any ICC Full Member Country(except England & Wales) in the 12-month period up to and including 31 March before the season of their participation in the Welsh Cup, or at any time after being registered as a Category 1 Player.
    - (3) All women and girls who comply with sub-paragraph iv (1) above, irrespective of their playing history and any other provision, are Category 1 players
    - (4) Players recruited into the Glamorgan CCC academy will be permitted to play in the Welsh Cup and classed as Category 1 provided they comply with sub-paragraph iv (1) above. If they do not, they will be classed as Category 3.
    - (5) A cricketer shall only be eligible to play in the Welsh Cup for one club in any one season.
  - v. Category 2: COUNTY STAFF CRICKETER
    - (1) Any player who holds any form of PCA recognised contract with a first-class county is not eligible to play
  - vi. Category 3: ALL OTHERS
    - (1) all players who are not Category 1 or Category 2 are Category 3
- d. 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.
- e. Player ineligibility will be dealt with as a Disciplinary matter using the procedure in Paragraph 11 below.
- f. Note; If ineligibility is not discovered until after a later round has been played the team last defeated by the offending team will be reinstated in the competition.
- g. The Cricket Wales Disciplinary Memorandum of Understanding from time to time in force applies to the Welsh Cup. No player who is under suspension by his/her league or club is eligible to play in the Welsh Cup during the period of such suspension.
- h. A player shall be deemed ineligible to participate in the Welsh Cup if their visa or immigration status is revoked, cancelled, or curtailed by the Home Office. It is the responsibility of the club to ensure compliance with all immigration requirements.

## **6. Disputes**

- a. Difficulties or appeals from clubs shall be referred to the Competitions Organiser

- b. Clubs who withdraw or fail to raise a team or who show unwillingness to continue in the Competition are liable to a fine of £25 and their entry for the following year shall be a matter for the Competitions Organiser to rule upon
- c. 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 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
- d. Following any response from the other club, the matter will be determined by the Competitions Organiser in such manner as he/she prescribes.
- e. Cricket Wales is entirely responsible for the organisation and administration of the Competition

## 7. Timings

- a. Matches played on a Sunday (“full length matches”) shall consist of 40 overs per innings and the scheduled finishing time shall be six hours after the scheduled start time. Unless both teams agree otherwise, the scheduled hours of play for a full length match shall be 1.00 pm until 7.00 pm.
- b. The national semi-finals and final will commence at 12:00 pm and the finishing time shall be 6.00 pm.
- c. There shall be one interval of thirty minutes duration between innings, during which tea may be taken. In the event of delay or interruption, the interval may be reduced in duration with the agreement of both captains, provided that the minimum duration shall be 15 minutes.
- d. Matches may start at an earlier time by agreement between the respective clubs provided that in the absence of agreement otherwise by noon on the day preceding the match, the default start time of 1.00 pm shall apply.
- e. If the teams agree that the start time is varied agreement must also be reached as to the absolute finishing time of the match which, for a full length match, shall be 6 hours after the agreed start time.
- f. In the case of a midweek reduced overs match, the start time shall be agreed by the respective clubs by noon on the day preceding the match. The finishing time shall be calculated as  $((\text{Number of Overs in the match} \times 3\frac{1}{2}) + 10)$  minutes from the agreed start time, rounded up to the nearest 5 minutes.
- g. In every case, it is the duty of the home club to notify the appointed umpires by 6pm on the day preceding the match of the intended start time.
- h. All teams are expected to be in position to bowl the first ball of the last of their overs within 2 hours 20 minutes of playing time in a full length match. In a reduced overs match, each team must be ready to bowl the first ball of the penultimate over within playing time calculated at the rate of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  minutes per over, rounded up to the next full minute
- i. In the event of their failing to comply with the preceding sub-paragraph the fielding team will be allowed one fewer fielder outside the circle for the remainder of the innings. All penalties in this regard will be imposed immediately the ball first becomes dead after the scheduled or re-scheduled completion time for the innings.
- j. In determining whether the time limit has been breached the umpires will make appropriate allowance for drinks intervals, unscheduled stoppages of play, time spent in moving sightscreens, replacement of balls etc.
- k. Regardless of over rate, the full quota of overs must be completed unless the batting team has been dismissed even though the scheduled finishing time has passed.

## 8. Delays and Interruptions

- a. Rearrangement of the number of overs may be necessary due to a delayed start or one or more interruptions in play as a result of adverse ground, weather or light conditions or for any other reason.
- b. The timing and duration of all suspensions of play (including all intervals) or delays during the match will be taken into account when calculating the length of time available for either innings. The object shall always be to rearrange the number of overs so that, if possible, both teams have the opportunity of batting for the same number.
- c. The calculation of the number of overs to be bowled shall be based on a rate of one over every 3½ minutes in the total time available for play up to the scheduled finishing time and in accordance with the table below. Fractions are to be ignored in all calculations regarding the number of overs to be played.
- d. If an interruption in the first innings is such that the batting team has already received more than 50% of the overs to be bowled then the first innings will be at an end. The second innings overs will be calculated on the time left between commencement of the innings and the scheduled close of play at the rate of 3½ minutes per over.
- e. If a reduction of the number of overs is required, any recalculation must not cause the match to be rescheduled to finish earlier than the original finishing time. If an interruption occurs part way through an over and the delay allows time for the same innings to resume, but with reduced overs, the part over must be completed on resumption and does not count as one of the overs still to be bowled.
- f. If, owing to a delayed start to the second innings or a suspension of play during the second innings, there is insufficient time for the team batting second to have the opportunity of batting for the same number of overs as the team batting first, they will bat for a number of overs to be calculated as above.
- g. If the team fielding second fails to bowl the required number of overs by the scheduled finishing time, the hours of play shall be extended until the overs have been bowled or a result achieved.
- h. The team batting second shall not bat for a greater number of overs than the team batting first unless the latter has been all out in less than the agreed number of overs.
- i. The minimum number of overs for a valid Welsh Cup match is 10 overs for each innings. If this is not possible the match is abandoned.
- j. If any match is interrupted after it has started such that the number of overs available to be faced by either team is reduced from that determined when the match started, the revised target shall be computed using the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern method (“DLS”) in accordance with instructions issued from time to time by the Competition Organiser.

Playing time left table									
Overs left in	Mins Left	HH	MM	Overs	Overs left in	Mins Left	HH	MM	Overs each
80	280	4	40	40	49	171	2	51	
79	277	4	37		48	168	2	48	24
78	273	4	33	39	47	164	2	44	
77	269	4	29		46	161	2	41	23
76	266	4	26	38	45	157	2	37	
75	262	4	22		44	154	2	34	22
74	259	4	19	37	43	150	2	30	
73	255	4	15		42	147	2	27	21
72	252	4	12	36	41	143	2	23	
71	248	4	8		40	140	2	20	20
70	245	4	5	35	39	136	2	16	
69	241	4	1		38	133	2	13	19
68	238	3	58	34	37	129	2	9	
67	234	3	54		36	126	2	6	18
66	231	3	51	33	35	122	2	2	
65	227	3	47		34	119	1	59	17
64	224	3	44	32	33	115	1	55	
63	220	3	40		32	112	1	52	16
62	217	3	37	31	31	108	1	48	
61	213	3	33		30	105	1	45	15
60	210	3	30	30	29	101	1	41	
59	206	3	26		28	98	1	38	14
58	203	3	23	29	27	94	1	34	
57	199	3	19		26	91	1	31	13
56	196	3	16	28	25	87	1	27	
55	192	3	12		24	84	1	24	12
54	189	3	9	27	23	80	1	20	
53	186	3	6		22	77	1	17	11
52	182	3	2	26	21	73	1	13	
51	178	2	58		20	70	1	10	10
50	175	2	55	25					

## 9. Bowling and Fielding Restrictions

- a. The ECB Recreational Cricket Safety Regulations shall apply
- b. No bowler shall bowl more than 8 overs. In a match curtailed by the weather no bowler shall bowl more than one-fifth of the total number of overs agreed at the start of the match, except that the total is not divisible by 5, an additional over shall be allowed to the minimum number of bowlers necessary to make up the balance. If an interruption occurs mid-over and on resumption the bowler has exceeded the new maximum allocation, they will be allowed to finish the incomplete over.
- c. OFF-SIDE WIDES: An additional line parallel to the return crease and running between the bowling crease and the popping crease shall be marked with its inside edge 17 inches from the return crease. Any ball passing outside the offside wide line not having previously been in contact with the batter, their bat, or their clothing shall be called wide if, in the opinion of the umpire, the batter is unable to play a normal cricket stroke.
- d. LEG-SIDE WIDES: Umpires shall call a ball wide if it passes both outside the batter and outside the line of leg stump, regardless of any movement by the batter.
- e. SHORT PITCHED BOWLING:
  - i. Regardless of how wide of the striker a delivery is, there shall be no more than two deliveries per over that after pitching pass or would have passed clearly over shoulder height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease.
  - ii. The umpire shall make it clear to the bowler (and any bowler called upon to complete an over) and the batters at the wicket when a delivery within the limit has been bowled. It is unfair if the limit is exceeded, and the umpire shall call and signal No ball on each such occasion and consider it as part of the warning sequence in Laws 41.6.3 and 41.6.4.
  - iii. If a bowler is “No Balled” a second time in the innings for an offence under Paragraph 9e the umpire is to invoke Law 41.6.4 and the bowler shall be removed forthwith and shall not be allowed to bowl again in that innings.
- f. FREE HITS:
  - i. The delivery following a No ball shall be a free hit for whichever batter is facing it.
  - ii. If the delivery for the free hit is not a legitimate delivery (i.e. any kind of No ball or a Wide ball), then the next delivery shall become a free hit for whichever batter is facing it.
  - iii. 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.
  - iv. Field changes are not permitted for free hit deliveries unless there is a change of striker, or the No Ball was the result of a fielding restriction

breach in which case the field may be changed to the extent of correcting the breach. However, in all circumstances, any fielder within 15 yards of the striker may retreat to a position on the same line no more than 15 yards from the striker.

g. FIELDING LIMITATIONS:

- i. At the instant of delivery, there may not be more than 5 fielders on the leg side.
- ii. Two semi-circles shall be drawn on the field of play. The semi-circles shall have as their centre the middle stump at either end of the pitch. The radius of each of the semi-circles shall be 30 yards (27.43 metres) The semi-circles shall be linked by two parallel straight lines drawn on the field. The fielding restriction areas should be marked by continuous painted white lines or discs at 5 yard (4.57 metres) intervals
- iii. At the instant of delivery:
  - (1) Powerplay 1 – no more than two fielders shall be permitted outside this fielding restriction area. In an innings of 40 overs, these are overs 1 to 8 inclusive.
  - (2) Powerplay 2 – no more than four fielders shall be permitted outside this fielding restriction area. In an innings of 40 overs, these are overs 9 to 32 inclusive.
  - (3) Powerplay 3 – no more than five fielders shall be permitted outside this fielding restriction area. In an innings of 40 overs, these are overs 33 to 40 inclusive.
- iv. In circumstances when the number of overs of the batting team is reduced, the number of overs within each phase (Powerplay) of the innings shall be reduced in accordance with the table below.
- v. If play is interrupted during an innings, overs are reduced and the table below is applied, the revised Powerplay overs take immediate effect. For the avoidance of doubt this applies even if the interruption has occurred mid-over.
- vi. Example: A match starts at 40 overs but is interrupted by rain after 6.3 overs. The delay means that the innings is reduced and there is only time for a further 22 overs. The innings is now 29 overs in total, so the Powerplay split is 6-17-6. The over in progress has to be completed but the first Powerplay is over and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Powerplay will commence immediately the 7th over is resumed.

Innings Duration (Overs)	Powerplay 1	Powerplay 2	Powerplay 3	Innings Duration (Overs)	Powerplay 1	Powerplay 2	Powerplay 3
39	8	23	8	24	5	14	5
38	8	23	7	23	5	14	4
37	8	22	7	22	5	13	4
36	7	22	7	21	4	13	4
35	7	21	7	20	4	12	4
34	7	20	7	19	4	11	4
33	7	20	6	18	4	11	3
32	7	19	6	17	4	10	3
31	6	19	6	16	3	10	3
30	6	18	6	15	3	9	3
29	6	17	6	14	3	8	3
28	6	17	5	13	3	8	2
27	6	16	5	12	3	7	2
26	5	16	5	11	2	7	2
25	5	15	5	10	2	6	2

## 10. Bowl Out Rules

- a. In the event of no result being obtained by other methods a bowl out (outdoors or indoors) will take place to achieve a result.
- b. Each Captain will nominate five bowlers and confirm to the umpires the order in which those bowlers will bowl.
- c. The captains toss for choice of who bowls first. Each bowler has two deliveries overarm in a legal style from the same end and from a legal run up, at the wickets pitched at 22 yards with popping and bowling crease marked and with no batter in front of them. A wicket keeper, stood back, may be in place.
- d. For every legal ball which first pitches and then hits the wicket, two points shall be scored. Only one point is scored if the wicket is hit by a full toss.
- e. A legal ball is as defined in the Laws. All No ball Laws apply.

- f. The umpires appointed for the match shall supervise the running of the competition standing in their normal positions (at the Bowler's end and at the Striker's end.
- g. The winner is the team scoring more points.
- h. In the event of the scores finishing level, a further five bowlers shall be nominated to continue the competition as above.
- i. If after the two rounds the scores are still level, the bowl out will continue as "sudden death" with the each of the previously nominated ten bowlers bowling a single ball in the same order until a result is achieved.

## **11. Disciplinary Procedures**

- a. Cricket Wales adopts the current edition of the ECB General Conduct Regulations (GCR) which cover both on- and off-field offences and will apply sanctions in accordance with the GCR's provisions
- b. The Umpires will fully apply the provisions of the Laws of Cricket (2017 Code – 3rd Edition) including Law 42
- c. If a Disciplinary Report is being made, the umpires must inform the relevant team captain or other club official at the end of the match that they are making a report.
- d. The offending player and his/her captain are on report.
- e. 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.
- f. The report is to be submitted to the Competition Organiser within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match.
- g. The offences set out in Law 42 are;
  - i. Level 1
    - (1) Wilfully mistreating any part of the cricket ground, equipment or implements used in the match
    - (2) Showing dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action
    - (3) Using language that , in the circumstances, is obscene, offensive or insulting
    - (4) Making an obscene gesture
    - (5) Appealing excessively
    - (6) Advancing towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing
    - (7) Any other misconduct, the nature of which is, in the opinion of the umpires, equivalent to a Level 1 offence
  - ii. Level 2
    - (1) Showing serious dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action
    - (2) Making inappropriate and deliberate physical conduct with another player

- (3) Throwing the ball at a player, umpire or another person in an inappropriate and dangerous manner
- (4) Using language or gesture to another player, umpire, team official or spectator that, in the circumstances, is obscene or of a seriously insulting nature
- (5) Any other misconduct, the nature of which is, in the opinion of the umpires, equivalent to a Level 2 offence
- iii. Level 3
  - (1) Intimidating an umpire by language or gesture
  - (2) Threatening to assault a player or any other person except an umpire
- iv. Level 4
  - (1) Threatening to assault an umpire
  - (2) Making inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with an umpire
  - (3) Physically assaulting any other person
  - (4) Committing any other act of violence
- v. In addition, the following will be treated as Law 42 Level 3 offences:
  - (1) 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
  - (2) The deliberate bowling of any dangerous and unfair non-pitching delivery contrary to Law 41.7
- vi. In addition, the following will be treated as a Law 42 Level 4 offence:
  - (1) 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

## **12. ECB Regulations**

- a. Cricket Wales adopts and all clubs and umpires are required to comply with all relevant ECB Regulations from time to time in force including, but not limited to
  - i. The Recreational Cricket Safety Regulations
  - ii. The Safeguarding Regulations
  - iii. The Disparity Regulations
  - iv. The Player Gender Eligibility Regulations