



The Viking Cricket Cup (Yorkshire Leagues Knock-Out Cup)

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Management. The competition will be jointly owned and managed by the ECB Yorkshire Premier League North (YPLN) and the ECB Yorkshire South Premier League (YSPL). Both leagues will nominate two people to form a committee that will decide on all matters relating to the interpretation of these rules and to matches played in the competition.

Entry. Entry shall be open to all clubs in both leagues, except where a club is excluded for disciplinary reasons. Clubs from outside the member leagues will not be eligible to compete in the competition.

Competition Structure. The competition will be organised on a knockout basis, with the first round being regionally zoned. All subsequent rounds will be on an 'open draw' basis. Clubs finishing in the top four positions in YPLN and YSPL in the previous season will be exempt from the first round.

Eligibility of Players

- i. A player shall only be eligible to play in the competition if they are a bone fide member of their club and are eligible to compete in YPLN or YSPL.
- ii. A player may only play for one club during the competition in any given season. For clarity, this includes Yorkshire Academy players, who would not be eligible to participate for their 'parent club' in later rounds if they have already played for the Academy, and vice versa.
- iii. Overseas players and contracted county staff are eligible to play in the competition, provided that they are registered members of their clubs.
- iv. For the semi-final and final, players who have played at county first team level, or equivalent, during the same season, may play only if they have played a minimum of six matches for their club during the season in any ECB-recognised Saturday league or in this cup competition.
- v. Any questions on eligibility should be addressed to the competition secretary before the semi-final or final.

Balls. For each match throughout the competition, a different ball will be used from each end, which will be new at the commencement of the innings. The type of ball to be used in all matches will be the pink Tiflex Oxbridge Windsor ball. Balls will be pre-ordered by YPLN and YSPL and distributed to clubs beforehand. Other than for the final, when the balls will be provided by the competition, balls will be charged to the clubs at an agreed price.

Sightscreens. As pink balls are being used, clubs may use the normal white sightscreens.

Clothing. Coloured clothing shall be worn by all clubs throughout the competition. For clarification, equipment such as pads and batting gloves are not required to be colour co-ordinated.

Umpires. Umpires will be appointed for all matches by the appointments secretary of the Yorkshire Premier Leagues Umpires Association via 'Who's The Umpire'. Fees shall replicate those of league matches in the relevant season. For the final, umpires' fees shall be the responsibility of the competition. All clubs must submit a report on the umpires for each match they play in the competition by Thursday noon following the game. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action, and persistent offenders may be expelled from the competition. When a match is cancelled before the commencement, it will be the responsibility of the home team to contact umpires to let them know the game will not take place. Where umpires attend the ground, whether the match commences or not, they will be entitled to their full fees. Each club will be responsible for paying one umpire.

Scorers. Clubs must provide a scorer for all matches. Where no scorer is provided, a player must be designated to undertake scoring duties and the side must play with a player short. Matches shall be scored where possible utilising electronic methods with live scoring, to promote the competition. Where electronic scoring is not possible, clubs should give regular score updates via social media.

Fixtures. Except in the final, games will start at 12.30pm. Scheduled dates for each round will be provided by the organising committee prior to the start of the competition. Except in the event of clashes with ECB National Club Championship, these dates shall be fixed and clubs will not be allowed to rearrange the scheduled fixture. Where a match is not completed due to ground or weather conditions, clubs should endeavour to play the match on the reserve date which will be the following Sunday. However, in exceptional circumstances the organising committee will allow the reserve date to be adjusted as long as the tie is completed at least seven days before the scheduled date for the next round. Any rearrangement must be authorised in writing by the organising committee.

Match Results. It is the responsibility of the home side to enter details of the game on Play-Cricket. The result must be entered no later than midnight on the day the match is played, with the full scorecard being entered no later than midnight on the following evening. Where a match is cancelled or abandoned, clubs **should not enter** details onto Play-Cricket, as this prevents a revised date being entered for the match, but instead should email the competition secretary to confirm that the game did not take place.

Code of Conduct. For clarity, this includes social media and the use thereof.

Playing Conditions. The following will apply:

- All matches in the competition will be played in accordance with the Laws of Cricket and rules of the national Royal London Cup
- All ECB Guidance about helmets, faceguards and young players must be adhered to without exception
- All players, team officials, club supporters and umpires will be bound by the MCC Spirit of Cricket and the ECB Code of Conduct

Disputes. All issues in connection with the running of the competition will be decided by the cup committee. In the event of any appeal against any decision of the committee, the grounds for appeal must be notified by email to the secretary within seven days of the notification of the decision in question, and the secretary will arrange for an appeal to be heard by panel made up of three people with no connection with any club involved.