



# CRICKET EVENTS REGULATIONS

In these Cricket Events Regulations ("**Events Regulations**"), references to "**ECB Member**" shall be defined as each First Class County Cricket Club ("**FCCC**"), each Women's Elite Domestic Structure Senior Team ("**WEDS Senior Team**"), the Marylebone Cricket Club, each Men's Hundred Team, each Women's Hundred Team, each member of the Minor Counties Cricket Association ("**MCCA**") and the MCCA itself. Any additional capitalised terms shall have the meanings as defined in the ECB's other rules, regulations and directives (as applicable).

## MATCHES COVERED

These Events Regulations will apply to any proposal for the staging of an "unauthorised cricketing event" (as defined below) in England and/or Wales (together the "**Territory**"), whether or not staged at a ground used for professional cricket.

An "**unauthorised cricket event**" is one involving one or more matches which will not be promoted, organised or administered by the ECB and which:

- a) involves 10 or more cricketers who, in the season during which the event is first scheduled to take place, are or have been registered with the ECB by an FCCC, WEDS Senior Team, Men's Hundred Team or Women's Hundred Team or registered with another Full Member Board of ICC in the 24 months prior to the event; and/or
- b) where an entry charge will be made for admission to spectators; and/or
- c) which is capable of being classified by the ICC and/or ECB as Official Cricket (as defined under the ICC regulations in force at the time); and/or
- d) is scheduled to be televised and/or publicly broadcast by any other means, whether in whole or in part.

## THE ECB'S OBJECTIVES

The ECB's strategic plan for cricket for 2020-2024 is called "Inspiring Generations" (the "**Strategic Plan**"), the key objectives of which focus on: growing and nurturing domestic cricket; making cricket accessible to more people; engaging children to inspire a new generation of players and fans; and transforming women's' and girl's cricket to progress cricket to becoming a truly gender-neutral sport.

The ECB continues to encourage the ECB Members, beneficiaries, approved charities and good causes in their attempts to maximise their income in a way which fulfils the above objectives, and understands that staging cricket matches and events outside of the official ECB fixture list is one way of doing so.



However such matches and events must not compromise either the reputation of the game or the integrity and appeal of the existing official ECB fixture list, including the provision of sufficient training and recovery time to ensure that the best players are fit and available to play in those fixtures to the best of their abilities.

Furthermore, funds derived from the ECB's commercial contracts and activities, and then disbursed to FCCCs and other ECB stakeholders, underpin the fulfilment of the Strategic Plan. In particular, these funds ensure a vibrant domestic game and enable the ECB to continue to support all FCCCs and other ECB stakeholders fairly. The ECB therefore cannot sanction any proposal whereby the actions of any ECB Member, in seeking to organise, stage or facilitate an unauthorised cricketing event, would either put the ECB in breach of any such commercial contracts or otherwise materially undermine the relationship between the ECB and the commercial partner in question.

### **ECB CRITERIA TO BE APPLIED BY THE UNAUTHORISED MATCHES COMMITTEE ("UMC")**

When considering whether to approve an unauthorised cricket event, account will be taken by the UMC of all relevant factors, including the following criteria (which is not intended to be exhaustive or in any order of priority):

- (1) the extent to which the event can be accommodated within the existing ECB fixture list, without having an adverse effect on existing events;
- (2) the volume of county and international cricket scheduled to be played in the period around the date of the event either at the proposed venue or in the surrounding region (with particular regard to the volume of such cricket which is in the format proposed for the event), and the volume of county and international cricket in the period around the date of the event which is scheduled to be played by registered cricketers in general (and in particular those registered cricketers who are proposed and/or likely to play in the event);
- (3) the extent to which the event compromises the ECB's ability to ensure that the best players are available to play for the England teams and, if the event is likely to involve any centrally contracted England player, the views of the England coaching and management team;
- (4) whether the event would affect the ability of any FCC or WEDS Senior Team to play a full strength team in any existing match or event in accordance with their obligations under Directive 2 of the ECB's Directives;
- (5) the safety, security and suitability of the proposed venue(s) (including but not limited to any necessary local authority and other applicable third party consents);
- (6) the impact of the event on the integrity and reputation of the game of cricket (including but not limited to by reference to whether the event organiser(s) and promoter(s) are deemed fit and proper to have this form of official ECB endorsement);
- (7) whether the event will have any meaningful role in the promotion and development of the game of cricket in the Territory, or have any other charitable or benevolent purpose;



- (8) the impact of the event on any of the ECB's rights and obligations under existing commercial, staging or other agreements;
- (9) the likely impact of the event on the level of the payments made by the ECB to the FCCCs to ensure a vibrant domestic game; and
- (10) any proposed broadcast arrangements for the event (and in particular the impact of such proposed arrangements on the ECB's contractual obligations to and working relationships with its contracted broadcasters).

## **PROCEDURE**

Requests for approval of unauthorised cricket events will be considered by the UMC whose members will be appointed by the ECB Board.

ECB Members need only apply for approval in respect of events which are taking place with their involvement or approval and/or which are proposed at venues that are either permanently under their control or in respect of events at venues for which they will assume any control for a specific period.

All proposals should be made by the event organiser in writing to the UMC at least 8 weeks before the scheduled start of the event. In particular, the proposal should set out full and detailed information relating to the following:

- (i) date and timing;
- (ii) format;
- (iii) names of participating teams/players;
- (iv) proposed venue(s), including written confirmation of the venue owner's approval and appropriate certification that all applicable security and health & safety requirements will be met;
- (v) copies of any relevant local authority and other applicable third party consents;
- (vi) projected income of any ECB Member involved in the event;
- (vii) details of how the integrity of the event will be controlled; and
- (viii) details as to how the event will contribute financially and otherwise to the development of cricket in the Territory (including grass roots cricket) and the objectives of the Strategic Plan.

Confidentiality of any commercially sensitive information will be maintained by the UMC save, for the avoidance of doubt, where any such information needs to be disclosed to professional advisors and other relevant third parties for the purposes of these Events Regulations or the operation of the event.

The approval of the UMC may be subject to conditions including but not limited to:



- an abatement of all or part of the ECB's annual fixed fee payment to an ECB Member to maintain the solidarity principle; and/or
- amendments to the relevant ECB Member's staging agreement with the ECB; and/or
- warranties and undertakings from the relevant ECB Member that they will not do or omit to do anything which puts the ECB in breach of any of its commercial contracts; and/or
- compliance with any broadcasting or other conditions which are deemed necessary to protect the ECB's contractual position and/or working relationships with its broadcasters and other commercial partners; and/or
- compliance with any conditions which are deemed necessary to satisfy any one or more of the ECB's Strategic Plan objectives and/or UMC criteria referenced above; and/or
- compliance with any applicable ICC or ECB regulations.

The UMC will endeavour to complete its assessment of a proposal promptly, provided that it has all the necessary information. If it deems it necessary, the UMC will set out the reasons for its final decision in writing.

## **SANCTIONS**

If any ECB Member or any other person who is subject to the jurisdiction of the Cricket Discipline Commission from time to time participates in, stages or has any involvement in (as the case may be) a cricket event for which approval should have been sought under these Events Regulations and where UMC approval has not been granted, or fails to comply with one or more of the conditions of approval which are imposed by the UMC, then the matter may be referred by the ECB to the Cricket Discipline Commission for disciplinary action in accordance with the Cricket Discipline Commission Regulations.

For the purposes of such a reference the Cricket Discipline Commission may, in addition to their usual range of sanctions under the Cricket Discipline Commission Regulations, also impose any of the conditions which could have been imposed by the UMC as specifically listed above.

Any reference to the Cricket Discipline Commission shall be in addition, and without prejudice, to any contractual or other rights or remedies which the ECB may have, including without limitation under relevant staging agreements.