



Kent Women's Softball Cricket League 2024

Purpose

Kent now has several established Women's Softball Cricket Sections keen to progress to a more competitive format, whilst keeping the **Fun, Fast, Safe & Social** priorities of softball cricket. Therefore, the Kent Women's Softball Cricket League (KWSCCL) was formed, to provide a competitive, festival-league based format, leading to a County Finals Day in September.

Participant Club Teams (25 x clubs, 26 x teams)

Bearsted, Capel, Castle Hill, Chestfield, Cobham, Cowdrey, Farningham, Gravesend, High Halstow, Hythe, Kemsing, Leeds and Broomfield/Linton Park, Lenham, Luddesdowne, Old Wilsonians, Orpington Ocelots, Penshurst Park, Platt, Sevenoaks Vine, Sidcup, Southborough, St Lawrence And Highland Court (x2), The Mote, Town Malling Swans, Whitstable

Eligibility of Players

For the KWSCCL, players should be female and at a minimum in the U13 age group. Please note it is the academic school year only, that determines their age group, so as of 1st September the preceding year. i.e., U13 means the player must be 12 years or above on that date (School Year 8).

Each team should also field at least half a team of adults aged 18 years or above, (as of 1st September 2023) for each fixture. The teams should mainly consist of recreational cricketers (those with limited experience or who play cricket socially) or those who want to use it to help develop towards playing hardball cricket in the future. We at Kent Cricket and the WSCF network, believe it is not the right competition for regular hardball cricketers to participate competitively in.

Teams

Teams can be made up of 6 or 8 players, depending on the decision of the host team. This needs to be decided on in advance, between the festival host and the teams attending.

When?

The softball league will run from the start of May 2024 to the end of August 2024.

League Structure

The league will be run in a festival format. The county will be split into regional groups depending on how many clubs enter, and each group will have their own league, which will all run simultaneously across the summer.

Each team in a regional league will arrange and host one softball cricket festival across the summer (averaging approx. one festival a month from May - August), inviting the other teams in their league



group to participate. The date of each festival is up to the host club, but ideally spread evenly across the 3-month league period (not all in one month). Each club in the group is expected to field a team for each of the other club festivals in their group.

Clubs should feel free to host the festivals how they wish. If they wish to provide music, food, drinks etc. they can, or it can be purely cricket focussed (with the basic facilities available, parking, toilets, drinking water etc.). They must, however, keep within the requirements of the KWSCL rules.

After each team has hosted a festival, the group stages will conclude and there will be a **KWSCL County Final** on **Saturday 28th September 2024** at **Penshurst Park**. This will be a day of celebration for women's softball cricket and will include at the minimum, the group winners from each division.

League Points

To determine your position in the league table, the following will apply,

3 Points - For every game won (within the regional festival)

2 Points - For every game tied/drawn (within the regional festival)

1 Point - For every game lost (within the regional festival)

3 Points - For winning a regional festival overall*

**please note, this tally is kept separately to the Play Cricket league tables and added at the end*

In case of a league table tie on points, it will go down to the result between the two teams involved. If that game happens to be a tied/drawn game, it will go down to the highest number of runs scored across the group stages by either team. All scoresheets / match results from every individual fixture within a festival, should then be uploaded to Play Cricket within 48 hours.

Length of Match

The length of each match can be any of the following, **Recommended**

| Team Size | No. of Overs | Bowling Overs (max) | Batting Overs (per pair) | Individual Game Time (approx..) |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 8-a-side | 8 over innings | 2 | 2 | 45 mins |
| 8-a-side | 12 over innings | 3 | 3 | 65 mins |
| 6-a-side | 6 over innings | 2 | 2 | 30 mins |
| 6-a-side | 9 over innings | 3 | 3 | 50 mins |



Equipment

- BALLS:** Senior Incrediballs
- BATS:** Both Wooden and Plastic bats are permitted
- BOUNDARY:** To be laid out with either rope, cones or flags. The distance we recommend is anything between a **35-40m** boundary. We do, however, understand that it is down to the host club and what is suitable for their venue. It should also be as close to consistent as possible, across all playing fields, for the festival.

Rules

Standard women's softball rules apply as per the [KWSCL Playing Conditions 'Player Guide'](#). However, please note additions below that will overwrite the Player Guide, some tweaks based on club feedback we had from the 2023 Competition.

No extra ball 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 up to **a maximum of 8 balls** in the over.

Any ball that the umpire deems to have been bowled with a **'bent arm'** will be classed as a **'No Ball'** and 2 runs will be awarded to the batting side. If the bowler struggles to bowl overarm with a straight arm, then leniency for underarm bowling will be shown.

If a team are **short sided** for a fixture, they may opt to **select a batter to bat again** (i.e., 5 players in a 6-a-side or 7 players in an 8-a-side festival). However, the selected player must be chosen from the **lowest scoring pair** in the innings, up to that point.

Umpires will have the jurisdiction to give an **LBW wicket** if the following applies...

- The batter does not attempt to play a shot of any kind and the ball is deemed to have gone on to hit the stumps.
- The batter is deemed to have deliberately kicked or moved their legs/body to stop the ball hitting the stumps and the umpire deems that it would have gone on to hit the stumps.

There should be two sets of wickets (stumps), roughly **19 yards (17.4 metres) apart**.