



KENT WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE RULES – 2024 SEASON

1. Management

1.1 The Southern Counties Group is made up of the following participating counties: Essex, Kent, Middlesex, Surrey & Sussex.

The top division in each participating county, feeds into the Southern Counties structure and as such, form part of the same pyramid, providing women's club cricket across the region.

The Southern Counties Management Team are responsible for enabling competitive cricket for women, whilst playing within the playing conditions and general spirit of the game.

Should you need to contact your county representative regarding any of the playing conditions, please see their details as follows:

Name:	Helen Fagg-Lenihan
County and Role:	Kent Cricket – Senior Manager (Female & Disability Cricket)
Email address:	helen.fagg@kentcricket.co.uk
Contact number:	07528 886096

The control of the Kent Women's Premier League (KWPL) and first point of call for all decisions relating to the league, shall be undertaken by your county representative at Kent Cricket. All decisions made shall subsequently be final and binding on all concerned.

1.2 Any reference within these rules to the Southern Counties League Structure or Pyramid, is referring to the league set up in Appendix 1.

2. Spirit of Cricket

2.1 Cricket owes much of its appeal and enjoyment to the fact that it should be played, not only according to the Laws (referred to in these written rules), but also within the 'Spirit of Cricket'. The major responsibility for ensuring fair play rests with the team captains, but extends further, to all players, officials and supporters involved. Respect is central to the 'Spirit of Cricket' and the County expects participating clubs to adhere as much as possible.

2.2 Any breaches of rules, or the spirit of the game, will be dealt with initially by a Kent Cricket Disciplinary Committee, or if required, the Southern Counties Management Group, who shall take such action as appropriate.

2.3 If any club considers that the opposing side has acted unfairly, by breaching the spirit of any of the rules or of the game itself, the aggrieved club must submit details of their complaint in writing to the County Representative of their league, within one week of the date on which the alleged unfair act took place.

2.4 Kent Cricket will follow the ECB General Conduct Regulations with regards to disciplinary action (see appendix 3)



3. Eligibility to Play

League Eligibility

3.1 All players will need to be registered with the KWPL through Play Cricket, prior to the commencement of the league. Should a player join the club during the season, they must, at the very least, have applied for registration, prior to any involvement with a league fixture.

3.2 Any player under the age of 18 may be permitted to play at a club for their junior cricket and then a different club at senior level.

3.3 Should a player be found to have played for more than one club within the structure at senior level, without official transfer approval, they would become an illegal player and their involvement would no longer be permitted for either team. A formal investigation would be carried out and point deductions may occur to the clubs involved. An illegal player may apply to the Southern Counties Management Team to have their status revoked, via their County Representative.

3.4 A club are only permitted to play within one women's county league structure during a season. Any cup competition such as the 'Slam' would sit outside of this criteria, and as such clubs could enter in more than one County Slam competition.

Player Eligibility

3.5 Any club team involved within the Southern Counties' structure (WCSL or County Premier Divisions) MUST provide a list of SIX STAR players* for each individual team, that are ineligible from playing within any lower teams in the same club, or for any other club, in the Southern Counties structure. (**Kent have been gifted a relaxation of this criteria due to the needs of our county, the regional rules dictate seven starred players for 2024*)

3.6 By the 14th July 2024, if a player has represented their 1st XI (WCSL or County Premier Divisions) in the majority of games that squad have played (over 50%), they will at that point, no longer be eligible to play in their 2nd XI for the remainder of the season.

3.7 Exemptions to this rule may be granted by the management team, should a player on this list be coming back from injury. Clubs should do so by contacting their County Representative.

3.8 Should a club have more than one side within the KWPL Divisions, they MUST provide a list of SIX STAR players for each individual team, that are ineligible from playing for their other club team(s) within that division.

3.9 Should a club have a side in the KWPL Divisions and a team(s) in the KWDL, they MUST provide a list of SIX STAR players for each KWPL team(s), that are ineligible from playing in the KWDL team(s)

3.10 A club are permitted to play up to three regionally contracted players, within any one fixture. Should a club be found to have played four or more specific players within a team, the management team would seek to revert the result and deduction of points would be actioned. 'Regionally contracted' refers to all players contracted to a Senior Regional team, either full time, or those on pay as you play, dual-career or part-time contracts

3.11 Performance Players aged U15 and above (Junior & Senior) are permitted to play in lower divisions within the County leagues, if there is a record of them playing, or having an affiliation to the club, for more than two years prior to the player's entry into the league structure.

3.12 Should a performance player wish to join your club and play for a team for which they do not meet the requirements above, a formal request should be submitted to your County Representative for discussion.

3.13 Overseas players are permitted to play within the County and WCSL Leagues. For detailed information on the restrictions involved, please see guidance below.



Age Eligibility:

3.15 After several discussions regarding the safety of young players, the following has been agreed, regarding the age of players eligible to play within each division:

- **WCSL Premier Division** – U14 permitted or an U13 Performance Player, with written permission
- **County Premier Division(s)** – U14 permitted or an U13 Performance Player, with written permission
- **County Development Division(s)** – U13 permitted or an U12 Performance Player, with written permission

3.16 Written permission must be submitted by the parent/guardian and their county performance coach for management approval. Please note it is the academic school year only, that determines their age group, as of 1st September the preceding year. i.e., U14 means the player is 13 years or above on that date (School Year 9), U13 means the player is 12 years or above on that date (School Year 8) and U12 means the player is 11 years or above on that date (School Year 7).

3.17 Further age-related ECB requirements are referred to in the Playing Conditions below.

Restricted Players

3.18 No Club shall permit more than one overseas player per team in any League match.

3.19 A player will not be classified as an overseas player if the following conditions are met:

- a) The player is a British Citizen and was born in England or Wales; or
- b) The player has been resident in England or Wales for a minimum period of 210 days since 1st April of the preceding year AND the player has not played as a 'home', 'local' or 'non-overseas' player in an overseas league in the 12-month period up to and including 31st March of the current or preceding year.

3.20 The Management Committee shall, in addition, have the power to grant status to players who would otherwise be classified as overseas players, where in its unfettered discretion, the Committee believes a relaxation of the rule to be appropriate.

3.21 In addition to the foregoing eligibility rules, a player who has played in a recognised Test Match, One Day International or T20 International for their country, which is a full member of the International Cricket Council, (other than England), will be ineligible to play in the League during that calendar year, and for the next three full seasons.

3.22 In the event of any doubt or dispute as to the status of a player, there shall, wherever possible, be prior consultation with the Management Committee. In any event, that Committee shall be notified of all relevant facts and its decision shall be final.

WCSL Premier Pre-Requisites

3.19 To participate, clubs must meet a minimum of two of the following criteria:

1. A women's/U15 girls' development side or women's softball section, entering and evidencing on Play Cricket, a minimum of three external playing opportunities per season.
2. A junior girls' section, offering training and competitive fixtures for girls up to U14, including a pathway into senior cricket.
3. An evidenced link partnering a nearby club, that shows alliance between a junior section and senior section.

County Premier (KWPL Divisions) Pre-Requisites

3.20 For the opportunity for promotion or to participate into your County Premier Division, you must have evidence of a developing girls' section. For example, a girls' only All Stars or Dynamos, or girls' team playing within a county organised offer.



4. Umpires, Scorers & Play Cricket

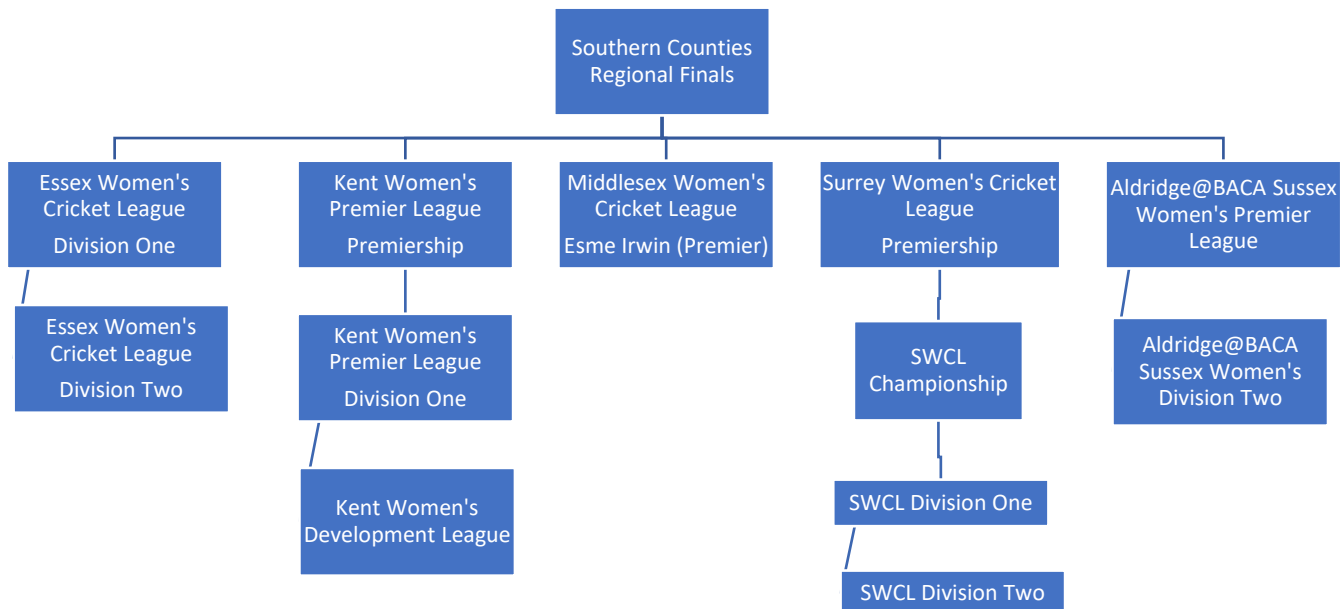
- 4.1. Each club must provide one umpire for every match, home and away.
- 4.2 These individuals should be registered members of the ACO (Association of Cricket Officials) with an up to date DBS and Safeguarding qualification.
- 4.3 It is the responsibility of the clubs to ensure your umpire is made aware of the specific match rules in good time before the game (ideally a week before).
- 4.4 If clubs struggle to get a qualified umpire, they should have someone in place to perform the square leg umpire role only, who is of as high a level of competence as the club can obtain and is deemed to be adequately competent to perform the role.
- 4.5 The umpire is not allowed to coach or play during the game, just to umpire the game fairly.
- 4.6 Each club must supply a scorer. A side that fails to provide a scorer shall ensure that they nominate a person to oversee the scoreboard, or scoring table, throughout the innings of their own side.
- 4.7 ALL players involved are to be uploaded and identified on Play Cricket, to avoid any “Unsure” players on the scorecard.
- 4.8 The winning team is required to input the result directly onto Play Cricket, within 24hrs. The full scorecard is required to be loaded, no later than 48hrs after the fixture.
- 4.9 In the event of an abandoned, cancelled or conceded fixture, the home team is required to input the result. Please note that cancelled games are those that do not start, abandoned games are to be recorded if the game is partially played, but cannot be completed.
- 4.10 A team sheet must be loaded onto Play Cricket at least an hour before the fixture.

5. Pitches and Grounds

- 5.1 Home teams are expected to provide well prepared pitches, suitable for a good standard of hardball cricket. Fresh pitches are not a minimum requirement, but teams must be preparing pitches that do not show excessive signs of wear from prior use. League teams can request support from Kent Cricket with pitch assessments and preparation guidance, and if pitch performance is repeatedly flagged to the county representative at a particular venue, then the league reserve the right to request the club to commission a formal pitch assessment from a County Pitch Advisor.
- 5.2 The home team are responsible for ensuring that pitches are covered during any rain interruption and during intervals if there is rain or the threat of rain. The home team must therefore have covers available that are fit for the purpose and must put them on, should either the umpires or the away team so request. If the home team consider such a request to be unreasonable, the umpires shall be the sole arbiters. Failure to comply with this regulation will incur a penalty of ten points deducted.
- 5.3 The home team are responsible for ensuring that white sightscreens are available that are fit for purpose with a pink match ball.



Appendix 1 – Southern Counties League Structure



Appendix 2

40 Over Powerplay Reductions

Innings duration	Powerplay 1	Powerplay 2	Powerplay 3
20	4	12	4
21	4	13	4
22	5	13	4
23	5	14	4
24	5	14	5
25	5	15	5
26	5	16	5
27	6	16	5
28	6	17	5
29	6	17	6
30	6	18	6
31	6	19	6
32	7	19	6
33	7	20	6
34	7	20	7
35	7	21	7
36	7	22	7
37	8	22	7
38	8	23	7
39	8	23	8
40	8	24	8

20 Over Powerplay Reductions

Total Overs	No. of overs (for which fielding restrictions apply)
5 – 6	1
7 – 9	2
10 – 13	3
14 – 16	4
17 – 19	5

Appendix 3 – [ECB General Conduct Regulations](#)