



THE CHESHIRE COUNTY KNOCKOUT COMPETITIONS 2024



Competitions Secretary
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Dear Cheshire Clubs,

Entries are now being accepted for the Cheshire Cup and Cheshire Shield knockout competitions for 2024. In 2023, 31 clubs entered the Cup and 18 entered the Shield, 6 less than in 2022. The cup was won by Hyde who beat New Brighton in the Final. The Shield was won by North East Cheshire who beat Marple. Both Finals were well supported with large crowds enjoying the matches.

The closing date for entries: Cup 1 March; Shield 31 March

The eligibility criteria as follows:

The **Cheshire Cup** is open to all clubs in Cheshire. The **Cheshire Shield** is not open to clubs in the Premier Division or First Divisions of the following Leagues:

- Cheshire County League
- Liverpool Competition
- North Staffs and South Cheshire League

Notes on 2024 competition:

Premier League clubs will be seeded. However, in an attempt to encourage more lower league clubs to enter the Cheshire Cup, Cheshire County League Division 2 or 3 clubs, Cheshire Cricket League Division 1 clubs (or below) and clubs in other leagues below Premier and Division 1 level will receive a home draw in Round 1. If they lose their Round 1 game they will then be entered into Round 1 of the Cheshire Shield.

The future of the Cheshire Shield is uncertain due to the dwindling numbers of clubs entering; only 18 in 2023 of which only 13 entered directly as 5 clubs entered the Cup and dropped into the Shield after they lost their Round 1 game. Only 3 Cheshire League clubs (out of 36) entered the competition and 2 of those conceded their Round 1 game. The Competition will run in 2024 but if numbers do not increase this might be its last season.

All 31 clubs who entered the Cheshire Cup last season were consulted in the autumn of 2023 to gauge opinion on switching to coloured clothing/ pink ball for 2024. There were 12 responses - 7 were in favour of switching to coloured clothing, 4 against and 1 abstention. Although a majority of the responses were in favour of a switch, 7 out of 31 is not enough to change. **Consequently, the Cheshire Cup and Cheshire Shield will both remain as 40 overs per side played in white clothing with a red ball in 2024.**

As per entries last year, clubs can confirm their entries online via the following links:

Cheshire Cup: <https://booking.ecb.co.uk/d/w1qs56>

Cheshire Shield: <https://booking.ecb.co.uk/d/w1qs5y>

Entry is free as we wish to encourage all affiliated clubs to participate in either the Cup or Shield. However, if a club fails to honour a fixture there will be a fine of £50 which must be paid by the club to the Cheshire Clubs' Cricket Committee before the end of the season. To assist clubs with planning their diaries, the provisional dates for the Cheshire Cup and Shield are as follows:

Cheshire Cup		Cheshire Shield
May 19	Round 1	June 16
June 2	Round 2	July 14
June 30/ July 7	Round 3	
July 28/August 11	Semi Final	August 4
September 1	Final	August 18

The provisional Cheshire Cup dates above were chosen to avoid Cheshire fixture dates, the first three rounds of the National Knockout Cup and County League T20 Finals Day as far as possible. For clubs progressing further in the National Knockout, if there is a fixture clash the Cheshire Cup game may be rearranged with the agreement of the Competition Secretary. In the event that Cheshire progress beyond the group stages in the 20 or 50 over competitions there may be unavoidable fixture clashes with Cheshire Cup rounds. If this happens the Cheshire fixture will take precedence and any Cheshire Cup fixture involving clubs with two or more players selected for Cheshire will be rearranged by the Competition Secretary to avoid Cheshire or the club playing understrength sides.

We look forward to receiving your entry,
 Kind regards
 David Gane
 Competitions Secretary – Cheshire Clubs’ Cricket Committee

Any clubs wishing to enter by post should return the slip below to Competitions Secretary David Gane (address at the top of this letter) or email the details below to davidjgane@btinternet.com

Name of Club:
Competition you wish to enter (delete as appropriate): Cheshire Cup Cheshire Shield
Club representative:
Email:
Telephone Contact:
Match day contact and phone number (if different from the above):.....