

CHESHIRE WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The ECB has announced a significant change to its regulations regarding eligibility for transgender players in women's and girls' cricket. This is based on the updated legal position following the recent Supreme Court ruling.

With immediate effect, only those whose biological sex is female will be eligible to play in women's cricket and girls' cricket matches. Transgender women and girls can continue playing in open and mixed cricket.

ECB regulations for recreational cricket have always been aimed at ensuring that cricket remains as inclusive a sport as possible. These included measures to manage disparities, irrespective of someone's gender, and safeguard the enjoyment of all players. However, given the new advice received about the impact of the Supreme Court ruling, it believes these changes are necessary.

The updated regulations have eligibility based on biological sex, regardless of gender identity. This means that transgender men and non-binary people assigned female at birth are eligible to play in women's cricket.

As regards changing room guidance, The Equality and Human Rights Commission has issued interim guidance which is available here: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/media-centre/interim-updatepractical-implications-uk-supreme-court-judgment>

This states that in workplaces and services that are open to the public, trans women (biological men) should not be permitted to use the women's facilities and trans men (biological women) should not be permitted to use the men's facilities, as this will mean that they are no longer single-sex facilities and must be open to all users of the opposite sex.

Division One – May 5:

Didsbury 108, Leyland 110-3

Leyland decisively recorded their first win as a topflight club here. Holly McCurrie and Kate Chapman took Didsbury to 63-0, but things really did soon turn Leyland's way. A good all-round bowling effort, backed up by some excellent fielding, duly claimed all ten wickets for just 45 more runs.

Stockport Georgians 85, Chester Boughton Hall 87-2

Abbey Mayers took the amazing figures of five wickets for five runs in her opening spell, as well as claiming a run out, leaving Georgians at 26-6. Flo Batey's 34 led a partial recovery, but Georgia Munro's 42 not out led a comfortable Chester run chase.

May 11:

Leigh 169-8, Lindow 170-4

In the first meeting of these two hotly tipped clubs, it was Lindow who struck an early blow. Ellie Mason's 51 was the top score for Leigh, but they failed to really kick on after she was dismissed, with Claire Ashworth taking three wickets. Holly Topp's 83 not out anchored the chase – initially the New Zealander was struggling to attract support from the top order, but from 40-3, Topp was joined by Libby Ackerley (38) to add another 87, before Faye Smith joined her to see it through.

[Nantwich 180-9, Leyland 170-7](#)

Beth Hughes' 33 was the highest of three scores in the 30s as, despite Abi Bates' five wickets, Nantwich posted a competitive total. Leyland were in contention all the way through the reply, but ultimately Hughes delivered the crucial contribution once again with a 3-23 bowling return.

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Division Two – May 4:

[Didsbury 2nd XI 215, Northop Hall 203-5](#)

An exciting high scoring game here began with Holly McCurrie and Helen Johnson rapidly adding 137 for Didsbury's first wicket. After Johnson fell for 58, there was something of a collapse, but with McCurrie continuing to make 88, the final target was a more than challenging one. Poppy Smith's 85 and Laura Nicholls' 75 almost took Northop Hall home though, with their stand of 162 only being broken in the closing overs as the pressure mounted.

May 11:

[Greenfield 153-6, Didsbury 2nd XI 154-4](#)

Didsbury's second team laid down an early marker as they seek to make an impact in their new division. Lily Bailey top scored for Greenfield with 38 not out. Having bowled six overs for just 14 earlier, Abby Nicholson also played the major role in the successful run chase, finishing 59 not out as Didsbury recovered from 48-4. Isabelle Hevican joined her with an unbeaten 32 as an unbroken stand of 106 saw them home.

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Division Three West – May 4:

[Nantwich 156-2, Alvanley 159-1](#)

Nantwich looked to have posted a challenging total in their 30 overs, led by Sophie Winward's unbeaten 71. In the end though, Alvanley made light work of their chase, with an excellent stand between Isla Entwistle (94* in 81 balls) and Lindsey Blain (48*) seeing them home with six overs to spare.

[Oakmere 2nd XI 86-9, Chester Boughton Hall 2nd XI 87-4](#)

3-6 and 23 from Shree Dayama played a key role in getting Chester's second team season off to a good start.

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Division Three East – May 4:

[Heaton Mersey & Cheadle 95, Macclesfield 82](#)

For the second week running, Heaton Mersey & Cheadle recorded a narrow win. Ann Tomi and Saydee Gomes were the top scorers in each innings, both making 26, but with the bowlers on top, Ellie Pagan and Ruby James took three wickets each to see the Stockport team to victory. Anna Tunnicliffe had earlier taken three scalps in the first innings.

May 11:

[Buxton 95, Stockport Georgians 2nd XI 98-0](#)

Hannah Wilke's three wickets for five runs helped dismiss Buxton cheaply, and this was followed by both Gracie Whittle and Esme Halford scoring at around one run per ball to quickly complete the win.

[Lindow 2nd XI 124, Macclesfield 104](#)

In this low scoring contest that featured a number of impressive bowling figures, Jo Seddon's 3-7 from six overs in the second innings was perhaps the most crucial. Anna Tunnicliffe had earlier taken 4-9 for Macclesfield, supported by Milli Vickerstaff's 3-14, but Alison Hodge held firm for Lindow with a vital knock of 58.

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Division Four West – May 11:

[Elworth 170-1, Grappenhall 148-6](#)

A genuine run fest here as Verity Hickman was the highest of three Elworth players to reach the retirement score of 30. She made her runs off 19 balls and was even able to retire on 35 courtesy of striking her last ball for six.

[Lymm Oughtrington Park 88-4, Kingsley 90-4](#)

Something of a contrast here as Ellie Keenan's 24 was the highest individual score on either side, guiding Kingsley home to a fairly comfortable win.

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Division Four East – April 27:

[Langley 87-8, New Mills & High Peak North 88-2](#)

A comfortable win for New Mills – after Kate Higgins' three wickets, Rachel Monteath, Hannah Rowe and Jill Langton all scored rapidly to see them home with 34 balls to spare.

May 4:

[Whalley Range 112-4, Stockport 63-8](#)

Whalley Range continued the trend of the division 4 newcomers getting off to winning starts. Hannah Price made 31 retired and Noreen Latif took three for nine runs as the South Manchester club won with room to spare.

[Didsbury 3rd XI 93-6, Brooklands 94-1](#)

It was also an emphatic first match for Brooklands. Emily Hillier's miserly four overs, followed up by 20 runs, was perhaps their best performance.

May 11:

[Lindow 3rd XI 116-1, Didsbury 3rd XI 117-3](#)

Lindow lost just a single wicket, with Suzy Ryder top scoring on 30, but Didsbury got home with room to spare. Sophie Davies made the top score there with 32 retired.

[Brooklands 106-4, Stockport 84-5](#)

Anna Howells' 2-8 in four overs dented Stockport's reply and ensured the points went to Brooklands, for whom Lily Robinson top scored with 33 not out.

Fixtures awaiting possible re-arrangement:

Stockport v Toft – Toft unable to fulfil fixture on original date of 27/4

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Division Four South East – May 4:

[Lindow Development XI 115-3, Hawk Green 113-3](#)

Richmal Giles top scored for Hawk Green with 30 retired, but they were just unable to get over the line against a Lindow side for whom Alison Hodge had also made an unbeaten 30 in the first innings.

Fixtures awaiting possible re-arrangement:

Buxton 2nd XI v North East Cheshire – NE Cheshire unable to fulfil fixture on original date of 4/5

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A reminder that, as the number of matches in the league increases every year, the League Executive does not have the time and resources to enter bonus points for each match. The home team must check the [relevant division regulations](#) and enter the appropriate batting and bowling bonus points, and the away team is expected to check that this has been done correctly.

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KNOCKOUT CUPS

Development Knockout Round One – May 5:

[Wistaston Swans 55-8, Oakmere 2nd XI 58-3](#)

Maddi Lawson followed up her four wickets for three runs with an unbeaten 30 as she was the star performer in Oakmere's comfortable passage.

May 6:

[Alvanley 114-7, Grappenhall 61-8](#)

Alvanley's batters didn't entirely cut loose against their division 4 opponents, but Alvanley's bowlers kept an even tighter rein in the second innings, with Ellinor Powell taking 3-9.

Nantwich 2nd XI w/o Lymm Oughtrington Park

May 7:

[Whalley Range 133-5, Macclesfield 67](#)

Whalley Range have already suggested they could make an impact in division 4 in their first season and this result suggests they may also be able to have an effect in this cup. They achieved a rare win by a division 4 side over a division 3 club as Nafeesa Haddad and Hannah Price led the way to a big total.

Lindow 2nd XI w/o New Mills & High Peak North

May 8:

[Stockport Georgians 2nd XI 157-3, North East Cheshire 82](#)

Gracie Whittle got Georgians off to a rapid start, and further contributions from Lucy Brindle and Neve Boon took them to a big total. North East kept up a good scoring rate for the first half of the reply, before losing a flurry of wickets to Boon and Blythe Beckett.

Round Two – May 4:

Oxton w/o Elworth

Fixtures awaiting possible re-arrangement:

Kingsley v Runcorn – Kingsley unable to fulfil fixture on original date of 4/5

EXTERNAL COMPETITIONS**National Knockout Round One North – May 4:**

[Stockport Georgians 155-7, Hightown St Mary's 46](#)

Hannah Wilke (55 from 35 balls) and Gracie Whittle (34 from 21) fired Georgians to a huge total that proved way too much for the team from Merseyside. Flo Batey and Neve Boon each took three wickets in the reply.

[Leyland 135-8, Ramsbottom 138-3](#)

One CWCL club exiting the main competition is Leyland, although they now have the opportunity to play in the Plate. Their seemingly competitive total – with Hannah Snape top scoring with 37 – was passed by Ramsbottom with some comfort.

Lindow w/o Llandudno

REPRESENTATIVE CRICKET

Vitality County T20 Round One – May 5:

[Cheshire 120-8, Lincolnshire 110-5](#)

Cheshire dug deep to pull off this win, which certainly didn't look likely as they slipped to 55-5. Lauren Tuffrey took 3-6 in her opening spell to leave Cheshire reeling, but Gaby McKeever's crucial 36 from 31 balls ensured Lincolnshire would need to chase six per over.

At 77-1, you would normally expect a team to be well placed to pass a target of this size, but Cheshire had done a fine job in restricting the scoring rate. Alicia Shaw, with 55 from 36 deliveries, was the only batter to really break the shackles and they eventually fell 10 runs short. Amy Seddon, Ellie Mason, Hannah Marshall and Roshini Prince-Navaratnam all kept their personal economy rates below the crucial one run per ball.

Round Two - May 10:

[Cheshire 93, Leicestershire 94-3](#)

Just five days later in the 'FA Cup of women's cricket', it was on to Leicestershire's Grace Road county ground, where the home side from Tier 2 prevailed. Gaby McKeever's 21 was the top score for Cheshire in what was the team's first ever match to be covered by the BBC Sport website.

OTHER NEWS

The Cheshire County League – the top-ranked men's league in the county – has published its 50th anniversary book, containing a wealth of information about the history of the league since its foundation in 1975. It includes honourable mentions for women players in Cheshire where they have been involved in significant men's league milestones, e.g. Sarah Collyer's international appearances, Lauren Griffiths' appearances for Chester BH alongside other members of her family, Sophie Ecclestone's five-wicket hauls for Alvanley men's 1st XI and Vicky Downes' hat-trick for Bredbury St Mark's. A number of women who have played in this league and who have represented their country are also named in the Internationals section. Order your copy [here](#).

SENIOR WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Cheshire continues to offer its wide range of [umpiring and scoring courses](#).