

The master fixture list for Divisions 1 to 4 of the CWCL in 2026, and also for the associated T20 competitions that are administered by the league has been issued to club representatives. All fixtures have been uploaded to Play Cricket.

Matches will take place on the default dates shown unless re-arranged as permitted under league regulations. In divisions 1 and 2, any re-arrangements under the 'mutual consent' regulation will need to be finalised by April 12.

Please advise me as soon as possible of any agreed re-arrangements in division 1, 2, 4 West or 4 East, and in the T20 Championship and Knockout Cups.

Jane Williams - janeparties21@gmail.com - will be the fixture contact for Division 4 SE.

Nichola Halford - nichola.halford@googlemail.com - will be the fixture contact for Division 3 W & E

For the time being, I am acting as the fixture contact for Divisions 4 West and East, although any volunteers to take on this task for the other divisions are very welcome. I will explain what is required and remain available to help these volunteers over the course of the season.

Teams not shown in the fixtures list include Woodley, who have resigned from the league; Hawk Green, who have voluntarily relegated themselves to the new division 5 (hardball pairs); and Wistaston Village, who will not field a team in their own right, but will support the new hardball team at neighbours Aston.

Six of the eight Division 1 teams, plus several from the second and third divisions, will compete in external competitions this year. Didsbury, Leigh, Leyland, Lindow and holders Stockport Georgians will again compete in the Thunder Cup alongside three teams from the Lancashire League. Lindow, Leyland, Nantwich and Northop Hall have entered the main draw of the National Knockout, with Lindow and Didsbury's second teams and Whalley Range going straight into the Plate. Several all-CWCL ties can once again be expected in this competition.

The results of the votes on the proposals tabled at the 2026 Rules Meeting are now available. Some fairly significant changes lie ahead as a result, especially in the higher divisions.

The following regulation changes have been adopted:

1. (Division 1) All deliveries that pass to the leg side of the batter - based on her normal stance – and which do not touch the batter's bat or person, shall be called 'wide'
2. (All T20 competitions) Other than in the final over, the maximum number of deliveries in any over - including any no balls and wides - shall be eight
3. (Division 1, Senior Knockout, T20 Championship) The Duckworth-Lewis-Stern method shall be used to decide the results of weather affected matches (*Note: the pure run rate method will still be used to decide weather affected matches in divisions 2-4 and in the Development Knockout*)
4. (Senior Knockout, T20 Championship) There will now be no compulsory retirement score for batters
5. (Division 2) Matches will now be played as 40 overs per side (*Note: this means Division 2 will also adopt some key elements of the Division 1 regulations, such as the batting bonus point system, a maximum of eight overs per bowler, additional fielding restrictions for the first eight overs and 12.30 starts for September matches*)

6. (Division 2) Teams will play each other twice, home and away
7. (Division 2) One team will be provisionally relegated to Division 3 (*Note: this could mean Division 2 expanding to eight teams in 2027 should both of the Division 3 champions take up their right to promotion*)
8. (All competitions) There is now no 'first warning' for breaching the regulations relating to starred players. Any team which fields an ineligible player under this regulation will forfeit the match, unless their opponents agree to a replayed fixture
9. (Division 1) Umpires for all matches shall be appointed centrally, from the members of the league's umpires panel. Clubs will need to pay the necessary expenses (and mileage allowance for matches where the home club is not affiliated to the Cheshire Board) (*Note: the league has also committed to providing financial support for clubs to aid this transition*)
10. (Divisions 2-4) Any loan player who is playing in a lower division from that of their parent club shall be subject to the following restrictions:
 - The opposition shall be informed of the player's presence in the team well before the game
 - If the player is a recognised batter, they shall not bat in the top four positions
 - If the player is a recognised bowler, their overs should be used appropriately to the spirit of the game, and they should not be used as an opening bowler

The following proposals were not adopted:

1. (Senior Knockout & T20 Championship) Removal of the regulation where all leg side deliveries are called as wides
2. (All competitions) A proposal for a system whereby the batting bonus points were calculated based on increased run rates, and for teams batting second, based on them reaching a percentage of the target score. (*Note: this proposal did not receive majority support in any of the four divisions*)

The results of the following votes will be disregarded as they were dependent on the outcomes of other votes:

1. A proposal to raise the senior T20 retirement score from 40 to 50 (*Note: this was only ever a fallback proposal should the proposal to scrap the retirement score entirely have failed*)
2. (All competitions) A proposal that would allow the league to appoint umpires for selected matches (*Note: this would only have been considered had the proposal relating to panel umpires in division 1 been rejected*)

The revised regulations are available [here](#), with the changes for 2026 highlighted in red.

Overseas player registrations:

Nantwich: Sarah Nettleton (South Africa), UK passport

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Divisions 5, 6 and 7 and Junior Girls' Divisions

For the 2026 season, the following competitions will be available:

CWCL (Women's League)

- Hardball Pairs – a new format designed to provide more opportunities for batting and bowling in pairs.
- Softball Formats – including both the “Out = Out” version and Softball Pairs, offering accessible and enjoyable options for women's teams.

CGCL (Girls League)

- League Fixtures – providing structured competition across the season.
- Knockout Cup – an exciting competition giving girls' teams the chance to compete in a cup format alongside league play.

These competitions are designed to ensure variety, inclusivity, and progression opportunities for players at all stages — whether transitioning into hardball cricket or enjoying the competitive and social aspects of softball and cup matches.

We look forward to welcoming entries from clubs across Cheshire and continuing to build strong, inclusive pathways for women and girls in cricket.

Key Dates

Please note the key dates that are relevant to you. Links and reminders will be sent closer to the time.

- CGCL Fixture Release – Friday 6th March
- CGCL Rules Meeting – Thursday 19th March, 7pm (online)
- CWCL Planning Meeting – Tuesday 10th February, 7pm (online). This is for hardball pairs, softball "out= out" and softball pairs leagues.
- CWCL Softball Fixture Release – Friday 27th February
- CWCL Rules Meeting – Tuesday 17th March, 7pm (online) This is for hardball pairs, softball "out= out" and softball pairs leagues.

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Clubs that offer women's and/or girls' cricket can receive priority when it comes to applying for money from the [ECB County Grants Fund](#).

Get Set Weekend returns on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th March as clubs seek to get their grounds ready for another season.

New Laws have been introduced for the recreational club game only, relating to the composition of bats. Laminated bats - known as Type D bats - made with up to three wooden pieces, can now be used in adult club cricket.

The ECB was deeply saddened by the recent death of a young cricketer in Australia after being struck by a ball from a ball thrower. Following this tragedy, the ECB has updated its safety guidance:

- It is now strongly advised that neck protectors are worn whenever helmets are worn.
- New Safety Guidelines for Training Environments include the use of ball throwers and bowling machines, as well as net setup.
- Please read the [updated documents](#) carefully to ensure the safety of participants.

REPRESENTATIVE CRICKET

Cheshire Women's first action of the season will be in the T20 competition, known as Vitality Blast Women's League 3 Division 1B, when they play a double-header away to Staffordshire on April 19. A home double-header with Buckinghamshire follows on May 10, followed by Hertfordshire away on May 24. Finals Day in this competition is on June 28.

The following Sunday, April 26, sees Cheshire travel to Tier 2 county Derbyshire in the Vitality knockout – the competition styled as the 'FA Cup of women's cricket' that involves counties from all three tiers.

The 50 over competition, the Metro Bank Women's One Day Cup Tier 3 Division 1, starts on May 31 at home to Wiltshire. This is followed by Staffordshire at home on July 12, Berkshire away on July 26, Buckinghamshire away on August 2, Cambridgeshire at home on August 9, Devon at home on August 16 and Shropshire away on August 30.

All home matches will once again be played at Warrington CC.

The Cheshire Women's league XI hosts MCC on Thursday August 27, venue to be confirmed. The match is likely to be played over 45 overs per side this year and will start at the earlier time of 1100.

OTHER NEWS

In November, the ECB published its *State of Equity in Cricket Report*, providing a comprehensive update on progress happening across the sport to make it more equitable, accessible and inclusive. The report highlights the progress being made but also reiterates the areas that require further ongoing work. It covers a number of key areas in cricket, such as the game's culture, people and leadership; broadening access to talent pathways; state school support; work to engage ethnically diverse communities; and action to tackle discrimination. For further information and to read the full report, head to the ECB website [here](#).

On Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th March 2026 the East Midlands Conference Centre hosts Network Live 2026, a national conference for those delivering, administrating and leading the future of recreational cricket for women and girls. Hosted by the Metro Bank Girls in Cricket Fund, the event will feature practical coaching workshops, leadership sessions and keynote speakers. The speakers include Cheshire's Amy Jones, who will be talking about her cricket coaching journey – see her blog [here](#). It's designed to celebrate the vital role of volunteers in expanding opportunities to grow the game for women and girls, while empowering grassroots leaders to drive cultural change and shape the future of the game. As part of the conference, a celebration evening on the Saturday will mark 100 days until the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026, with special guests sharing their excitement and anticipation. A wellness morning will take place on the Sunday to mark International Women's Day. Tickets can be purchased [here](#).

Expressions of interest are welcome from anyone wishing to be considered for selection for England in the Masters Women's World Cup, to be held in England and Wales this summer, where there will be teams at Over 40 level through to Over 70. Contact [this address](#) to register your interest.