



LCF Knock Out Cup Competition 2026

Guidelines

Cricket Clubs from the following Leagues who are affiliated to the Lancashire Cricket Foundation (LCF) are eligible to qualify to enter the LCF Knock Out Cup Competition in 2026.

- 6- Liverpool & District Cricket Competition with Southport & District Amateur Cricket League*
- 6- Northern Premier League & Palace Shield Competition*
- 5 - Greater Manchester Cricket League
- 5- Lancashire League
- 5 - North West Cricket League
- 2 - Westmorland Cricket League
- 1 - Greater Manchester Amateur Cricket League
- 1- Winner of KO Cup 2025
- 1- Runner up of KO Cup 2025

A club shall only be allowed to enter a County Knockout Competition in one County in any season. The league can choose to use all their spaces based on league position or a cup winner plus top league finishing positions to decide entries. Should the cup winner be the same as the one of the league places, the next league place down will represent

Clubs with dual affiliation will need to let their respective leagues know by April of each season if they wish to enter the LCF Knockout Cup Competition for the following season (If they were to qualify).

Draw

An open draw will take place.

The LCF Recreational Cricket Committee shall agree and set the dates that each round shall be played. There will be no extension to the 'default' set play on dates (see draw).

R1 Sunday 17th May

R2 Sunday 7th June

QF-Sunday 28th June

SF- Sunday 19th July

Final- Sunday 30th August (The final will be held at Farington)

Reserve Final Date- Sunday 6th September

In the event of rain, provision has been made within the competition playing conditions.

Should there be no result achieved on the date arranged for the Final, there is a reserve date of Sunday 7th September. If no result can be achieved after this the trophy will be shared.

Where a team agrees to play away, having been originally drawn at home, it then gives up all advantages applicable to the team drawn at home. Similarly, the club taking over the home draw accepts all the responsibilities and duties of the home club. Clubs that cannot provide a facility other than a parks pitch, or playing field must play on their opponents' ground, except when they are drawn against a club with similar facilities. Where the venue is reversed, the cost of ground hire and provision of refreshments between the innings will be split between the two clubs. (The cost of ground hire is only to be split if the club has to hire a ground in order to reverse the fixture.)

In all cases games shall be of 45 overs per innings.

Admission / Match Expenses

The admission charge (if taken) shall be according to the custom of the ground where the match is being played.

The Away Club shall be responsible for their own travelling expenses. The Home Club shall be responsible for providing 13 x teas (12 Players + Scorer) free of charge to the visiting Club. In addition, 2 x teas will be provided for the Umpires.

Umpires

Each League represented shall nominate umpires as advised by the Lancashire Association of Cricket Officials (ACO). The Umpires will be appointed to officiate in each match shall each receive Expenses of £60, fixed annually by the LCF Recreational Cricket Committee, which will include travelling expenses. The cost of the fees will be shared by the two clubs and must be paid to the Umpires no later than the tea interval. The umpires for the final will be appointed by the Lancashire ACO.

Contact for LCF Association of Cricket Officials rhales100@btinternet.com.

Clubs Conceding Games

Any Club that concedes a game will not be eligible to play in the LCF Knock Out Cup Competition the next time they are eligible to qualify. The team who finished below them in the League shall replace them.

Players

Only 1 Overseas Player (not qualified to play for England) may be registered and play in any game in the LCF Knock Out Cup Competition as per the definition provided by the ECB in its Generic Rules. Such a person must be registered with the LCF as below.

- ❖ The Club should complete the Non-UK Residents Vetting Form, have it signed by the Club Welfare Officer, log with ECB prior to the start of the season and send copies to their league.
- ❖ A cricketer shall only be eligible to play for a club in the LCF Knock Out Cup Competition if he is a bona fide, fully paid-up member of that club and is registered to play within the League in which they play.
- ❖ A cricketer shall be deemed to be a bona fide member of a club if he is eligible to play for that club under the rules of that league in which they play.
- ❖ A maximum of 2 x County Contracted Players are able to play at any time but need to have played 2 x League (or equivalent) Matches for that club that season, before they can play in the LCF Knock Out Cup Competition.
- ❖ No new 'Registrations' will be accepted once a club has been successful in obtaining a place in the last 16 clubs of the competition, even if such a registration is accepted by the league in which they play.
- ❖ A player may only play for one club in the competition in any one season.
- ❖ Any player banned by a Club or League shall not be eligible to play in the LCF Knock Out Cup Competition for the duration of that ban.
- ❖ Substitute professionals or replacement overseas players will not be permitted.
- ❖ Clubs can enquire about their own players' eligibility (with supporting evidence) by writing to the competition lead and secretary at least 5 working days before the scheduled fixture.

Code of Conduct

All Players, Team Officials, Club Supporters and Umpires shall be bound by the MCC Spirit of Cricket and the ECB Code of Conduct

ECB Code of Conduct and Spirit of Cricket

1. The ECB is committed to maintaining the highest standards of behaviour and conduct. This Code of Conduct incorporates the Spirit of Cricket, as set out below. It applies to all matches played under the auspices of the ECB and may be applied to cricket in general.
2. The Captains are responsible at all times for ensuring that play is conducted within the Spirit of Cricket as well as within the Laws.
3. Players and Team Officials must at all times accept the Umpire's decision. Players must not show dissent at the Umpire's decision or react in a provocative or disapproving manner towards an Umpire at any time.
4. Players and Team Officials shall not intimidate assault or attempt to intimidate or assault an Umpire, another Player or a Spectator.
5. Players and Team Officials shall not use crude and/or abusive language (known as "sledging") nor make offensive gestures or hand signals nor deliberately distract an opponent.

- 6 Players and Team Officials shall not make racially abusive comments nor indulge in racially abusive actions against fellow players, officials, members and supporters. Clubs must operate an active open door membership policy whilst respecting player qualification regulations and welcome players/members irrespective of ethnic origin.
- 7 Players and Team Officials shall not use or in any way be concerned in the use or distribution of illegal drugs.
- 8 Clubs must take adequate steps to ensure the good behaviour of their members and supporters towards players and Umpires.

Cricket is a game that owes much of its unique appeal to the fact that should be played not only within its Laws, but also within the Spirit of the Game. Any action, which is seen to abuse this spirit, causes injury to the game itself. The major responsibility for ensuring the spirit of fair play rests with the Captains.

There are two Laws, which place the responsibility for the team's conduct firmly on the Captain

Responsibility of the Captains

The Captains are responsible at all times for ensuring that play is conducted within that Spirit of the Game as well as within the Laws.

Players' Conduct

In the event that any Player failing to comply with the instructions of the Umpire, criticising his decision by word or action, or showing dissent, or generally behaving in a manner which might bring the game into disrepute, the Umpire concerned shall in the first place report the matter to the other Umpire and to the Player's Captain requesting the latter to take action.

Fair and Unfair Play

According to the Laws the Umpires are the sole judges of Fair and Unfair play. The Umpires may intervene at any time and it is the responsibility of the Captain to take action when required.

Note that the GCR – General Conduct Regulations will be used during the competition. Players/Clubs reported under the GCR will have their case dealt with by the respective League or Competition to which they belong. The relevant version of the ECB GCR adopted by that League/Competition will therefore apply.

You can view the ECB GCR here however note each League has their own version so you may also wish to refer to that as well.

[ECB-Competitions-General-Conduct-Regulations.pdf](#)

Protest & Appeals Procedure

If a protest is received regarding a player's status under ECB Generic Rule 3 (Qualification of Players) under any section of the LCF KO regulations, the protesting club must provide as much information to the LCF as they are able, including time spent outside the UK. The club protested against will be asked to provide evidence of the player's residency. Acceptable documentation includes; playing evidence data from overseas website(s), evidence that the player is on the electoral register, bank statements, proof of income or education and utility bills.

Regardless of the nature of the protest, it must be received within 5 full days of the match's conclusion, i.e., by midnight on the Friday following a Sunday match. Protests will only be accepted from club officials.

A club shall have the right of appeal to the Appeals Committee. Notice of Appeal setting out the grounds must be given in writing to the Secretary of the LKO Cup. The protest must be received within 5 full days of the conclusion of the match e.g. by midnight on the Friday following a match on a Sunday. Protests will only be accepted from a club official.

The composition of the Committee shall be at the discretion of the competition lead and shall consist of not less than three persons, none of whom shall be connected with the player, the Club or their opponents at the time of the alleged breach. The club shall have the same rights of attendance and representation, and to call witnesses.

Decisions of the Appeal Panel shall be by majority vote; where necessary, the competition lead shall have a casting vote.

The decision of the Appeal Panel and if appropriate the penalty should be communicated to the club in writing within 21 days.

The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding.

