

President's Plate - Rules and Playing Conditions

1. Only ESCA registered sides competing in Divisions 5 to 9 of the current season will be eligible to compete in the competition together with invited non-league clubs. No club may enter more than 1 team in the competition.
 - a. ESCA clubs competing in Divisions 1 to 4 may enter the competition with a non-league XI however entry player eligibility criteria will apply as in rule 7.
2. Except where modified by these Rules, all matches shall be played in accordance with the latest MCC Laws of Cricket, and applicable ESCA rules for the East League. In particular, East League Rules regarding player eligibility will apply.
3. The Competitions shall be under the control of the ESCA Competitions subcommittee, which shall have the power to levy an entry fee, administer the competition, award prizes to successful teams and individuals and amend these Rules as it sees fit.
4. The competition shall be organised on a knock-out basis with the draw made by the Competitions sub-committee. If byes are appropriate given the number of teams entering the Competition, these shall be made by a draw.
5. Matches shall generally be played on a Sunday, but may be played on any other day by agreement between the sides concerned. When the draw is published, a list of dates for the completion of each round shall also be published. All matches must be played on or before these dates.
6. The side listed first in the draw shall be the home side, and shall have the choice of ground. The home side must contact the away side at the earliest possible date, and offer as many dates as possible for the match to be played - the away side shall have the choice of dates. The final shall be played at a neutral venue, on a date to be determined by the Competitions sub-committee. Matches shall normally start at 1pm, but clubs may agree to vary this on an individual basis.
7. Player eligibility and registration requirements will apply as in the East League or equivalent. In addition no player, whether senior or junior, who has played more than 3 games in the CSL (including Scottish Cup) or in ESCA Divisions 1 to 4 in the 12 months prior to the date of the game shall be eligible to play in the President's Plate. Similarly players playing more than 3 games within WDCU Premiership or Reserve League and the Strathmore Premier League will also be ineligible.
 - a. For a club whose side have been relegated to ESCA Division 5, rule 7 will not apply in terms of playing Division 4 games.

8. No player registered with any league in Scotland as an overseas player, professional, or overseas amateur, shall be eligible to play in the competition.
9. Matches shall be of one innings per side, and each innings shall be limited to no more than 30 overs. No bowler may bowl more than one fifth of the overs in an innings.
10. The side scoring more runs shall win the game. If the scores are equal, the side losing fewer wickets shall win the game. If this does not separate the teams, a bowl-out under the provisions of Rule 12 below shall be used to determine a winner.
11. It is the responsibility of the home side to inform the Competition Convener of the date arranged for the playing of each tie. The winners of each match should note the result on the ESCA website forum within 24 hours.
12. If conditions of ground, weather or light result in a delayed start, captains and umpires may agree to reduce the number of overs to be played, subject to a minimum of 10 overs per innings. If a match in progress is interrupted due to ground, weather or light and not resumed the game will be void. In this instance a bowl-out shall be held to determine the winners. If a bowl out is not possible, the winners shall be determined by the toss of a coin.
13. Where a bowl out is prescribed, 5 bowlers from each side shall bowl 2 deliveries at a full set of stumps and bails alternately (eg, Bowler 1 from side A bowls 2 balls, Bowler 1 from side B bowls 2 balls, Bowler 2 from side A bowls 2 balls etc.). A hit shall be scored when a fair ball (not a no-ball) puts the wicket down as defined in the Laws. The winning side shall be the team with most hits from their 10 balls.
 - a. If after 10 balls per side the total of hits is equal, the same 5 bowlers shall repeat the process, bowling one ball only instead of two. The first team that leads when both sides have bowled the same number of balls shall be the winner.
14. Each side shall have the right to appoint an umpire to stand at one end throughout the match. There shall be no right of objection to the appointment of any individual as an umpire.
 - a. Umpires are instructed to apply a consistent interpretation of the Wide Ball law, such that every delivery may be hit with the bat by means of a normal cricket stroke. The strict "one-day" interpretation shall not apply.