

## ECB General Conduct Regulations

### Overview

The document governs the **ECB Indoor 6-a-Side National Club Championship**, covering competition administration, player eligibility, playing conditions, scoring, and conduct requirements.

### Key Governance Rules

#### Competition Structure

- Competitions start at county level and progress through county playoffs, regional rounds, and national finals.
- County Boards run local competitions, while the ECB manages regional and national stages.

#### Player Eligibility

Players generally must have:

- Played at least **6 league matches** for the club in the previous outdoor season.
- University clubs have a reduced threshold of **3 matches** in certain circumstances.
- A player may represent only **one club** in the competition during a season.

#### Exceptions

Clubs may additionally field:

- One player who represented another club during the previous outdoor season.
  - One former indoor player who previously played indoor cricket for the club (subject to specified conditions and membership requirements).
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## Conduct and Discipline

### ECB Conduct Regulations Apply

The document explicitly states:

All players, coaches and match officials are bound by the MCC Spirit of Cricket and ECB General Conduct Regulations.

This means:

- Respect for opponents, officials, and teammates is mandatory.
  - Abuse, intimidation, dissent, discrimination, or behaviour bringing cricket into disrepute can be disciplined under ECB regulations.
  - Conduct issues are dealt with under the wider ECB disciplinary framework, not separate indoor cricket-specific sanctions.
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## Match Format

### Teams and Innings

- 6 players per side.
- One innings per team.
- Maximum of **12 overs** per innings.
- Bowlers may bowl a maximum of **3 overs** each.

### Retirements

- Batters retire at **25 runs**.
  - They may return later if wickets fall.
  - A batter reaching another 25 runs after returning retires again unless they are the final remaining batter.
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### Indoor-Specific Playing Rules

#### No Balls

A ball above shoulder height is automatically a no-ball.

In venues using only a half-mat, any delivery not pitching on the mat is also a no-ball.

#### Wide Balls

Umpires are instructed to apply a **strict interpretation** to prevent negative bowling.

Any ball that does not give the batter a reasonable opportunity to score may be called wide.

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### Winning a Match

1. Most runs wins.
  2. If scores are tied, the team taking more wickets wins.
  3. If still tied, a **bowl-out** decides the winner.
  4. If a bowl-out cannot take place, the result is determined by a coin toss.
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### Unique Indoor Scoring System

#### Boundary Scores

- Directly striking the designated boundary wall behind the bowler = **6 runs**.
- Ball bouncing before reaching that wall = **4 runs**.

#### Walls and Ceiling

- Hitting side walls, back walls, or the ceiling generally scores **1 run**.
- Additional runs can be earned through completed runs.

#### Extras

- Wides and no-balls each carry a **1-run penalty**, plus any additional runs scored under indoor scoring rules.

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## Special Dismissals

In addition to normal cricket dismissals:

- A batter can be caught after the ball hits a wall, ceiling, or netting, provided it has not touched the floor.
- The final remaining batter can be out if the running partner is run out.
- A wicket broken by a ball rebounding off a wall or ceiling without touching a fielder does **not** result in a dismissal.

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## Operational Requirements

- Each team must provide a competent scorer.
- Umpires must be members of the ECB Association of Cricket Officials and hold current DBS clearance.
- Only rubber-soled footwear is permitted; spikes are prohibited.
- Home clubs must arrange appropriate insurance cover.

## Executive Summary

The document's most important points are:

1. ECB General Conduct Regulations and the Spirit of Cricket apply to everyone involved.
2. Teams consist of six players playing a 12-over innings.
3. Batters retire at 25 and may return later.
4. Indoor cricket uses a distinctive wall-and-ceiling scoring system.
5. Tied matches are decided first by wickets taken, then a bowl-out.
6. Player eligibility is tightly controlled to preserve club integrity.

Rule 14 of the Indoor Cricket regulations incorporates the ECB's **General Conduct Regulations (GCR)**. Those regulations classify misconduct into four escalating levels and provide sanction ranges that disciplinary panels can apply depending on seriousness, aggravating factors, and prior offences. ([resources.ecb.co.uk](https://resources.ecb.co.uk))

### Level 1 Offences (Lower-Level Misconduct)

Examples include:

- Abuse of cricket equipment or ground facilities.
- Dissent at an umpire's decision.
- Using obscene, offensive, or insulting language.
- Excessive appealing.
- Sending-off gestures or minor unsporting behaviour. ([Scribd](https://www.scribd.com))

**Typical sanctions:**

- Warning or reprimand.
  - Fine (where competition rules permit).
  - Suspension from 1–2 matches in more serious cases. ([resources.ecb.co.uk](https://resources.ecb.co.uk))
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**Level 2 Offences (Serious Misconduct)**

Examples include:

- Serious dissent.
- Showing serious disrespect to an umpire.
- Inappropriate physical contact with a player, official, or spectator.
- Repeated Level 1 behaviour.
- Deliberate intimidation. ([Scribd](https://www.scribd.com))

**Typical sanctions:**

- Suspension of approximately 3–8 matches.
  - Additional conditions, such as education or conduct requirements, may be imposed. ([resources.ecb.co.uk](https://resources.ecb.co.uk))
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**Level 3 Offences (Major Misconduct)**

Examples include:

- Threatening another participant.
- Intimidation involving threats of violence.
- Serious abuse of officials or participants.
- Deliberate physical intimidation. ([Scribd](https://www.scribd.com))

**Typical sanctions:**

- Significant suspension, often measured in months rather than individual matches.
  - Potential exclusion from multiple competitions. ([resources.ecb.co.uk](https://resources.ecb.co.uk))
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**Level 4 Offences (Most Serious)**

Examples include:

- Physical assault or attempted assault.
- Violent conduct.
- Serious discriminatory behaviour.

- Conduct bringing cricket into serious disrepute. ([resources.ecb.co.uk](https://resources.ecb.co.uk))

### **Typical sanctions:**

- Long-term suspension.
  - Multi-year bans.
  - In the most serious cases, permanent exclusion from cricket activities. ([resources.ecb.co.uk](https://resources.ecb.co.uk))
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### **Off-Field Misconduct**

The GCR extends beyond matches and covers:

- Social media posts.
- Discriminatory comments.
- Harassment, bullying, or victimisation.
- Criminal conduct relevant to participation in cricket.
- Behaviour likely to damage the reputation of cricket. ([resources.ecb.co.uk](https://resources.ecb.co.uk))

Sanctions for off-field misconduct are determined using the same disciplinary framework and can be as severe as on-field offences if the conduct is sufficiently serious. ([resources.ecb.co.uk](https://resources.ecb.co.uk))

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### **Aggravating Factors**

Panels may increase sanctions where:

- The participant has previous disciplinary findings.
  - The offence involves discrimination.
  - There is a lack of remorse.
  - The participant abuses a position of trust or authority.
  - The conduct was deliberate or premeditated. ([resources.ecb.co.uk](https://resources.ecb.co.uk))
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### **Mitigating Factors**

Panels may reduce sanctions where:

- The participant admits the offence early.
  - There is genuine remorse.
  - The participant has a previously good disciplinary record.
  - There is cooperation with the investigation. ([resources.ecb.co.uk](https://resources.ecb.co.uk))
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### **Important Practical Point for Indoor Cricket**

Because Rule 14 directly applies the ECB GCR, an indoor cricket player who:

- swears at an umpire,
- makes discriminatory comments,
- threatens another player,
- physically confronts an opponent, or
- abuses someone on social media in connection with cricket

can face sanctions ranging from a warning to a lengthy suspension from **all cricket**, not just indoor cricket, unless the disciplinary body specifically limits the scope of the ban. Sanctions generally take effect immediately and remain on the participant's disciplinary record for 24 months.

([resources.ecb.co.uk](https://resources.ecb.co.uk))