

THE HYDERABAD CRICKET ASSOCIATION

A-DIVISION - TWO DAY LEAGUE

Tournament Guidelines - Season 2026-27

This document supersedes all other documents or guidelines issued previously in relation to the tournament guidelines for the HCA A-Division Two-Day League 2026-27.

1. Group Structure

- 22 teams are divided into 3 groups - 2 groups of 7 teams and 1 group of 8 teams.
- All teams will play exactly 6 matches in the league stage, regardless of which group they are in.
- In the group of 8 teams, each team will not play against one specific team which will be the team ranked immediately after them in that particular group's ranking.

For example: In this group if the top team is Rank 1 and the next best team is Rank 6, then Rank 1 will not play against Rank 6 and if the next two best teams in the group are Rank 7 and Rank 12, then Rank 7 will not play against Rank 12 and so on.

This ensures all teams across the A-Division play an equal number of league matches in this tournament.

2. Group Split Logic - How Teams Have Been Divided into Groups for Season 2026-27

Teams have been divided into groups for this season (2026-27) based on their final overall rankings from the previous season (2025-26) in the multi-day format league. The grouping has been done using the logic below to ensure that the groups are as balanced as possible.

2.1 Previous Season Overall Rankings

The previous season's overall rankings were determined as follows:

- Rank 1 - Tournament Winner
- Rank 2 - Runner-up
- Ranks 3 onwards - All remaining knockout participants ranked by the stage at which they were eliminated. Teams eliminated at a later stage are ranked higher

- If two or more teams were eliminated at the same knockout stage - their league stage ranking from the previous season was used to determine their relative ranking

2.2 Previous Season League Stage Rankings

Since there are cases where one or more group in the previous season had more teams and therefore each team in that group played more matches, winning percentage is used instead of just points to ensure a fair comparison across all groups.

Winning Percentage = (Matches Won ÷ Matches Played) × 100

Example:

Team A won 5 out of 7 matches (71.4%)

Team B won 5 out of 6 matches (83.3%)

Team B is ranked higher despite both teams winning 5 matches, as Team B has a higher winning percentage.

If any two teams had the same winning percentage, the following tiebreaker order was applied:

1. Net Run Rate (NRR) - team with better NRR ranked higher
2. Head to Head - if NRR is equal, result of the head to head match between the tied teams is considered
3. Total Runs Scored - if head to head was not played or if it was a tie, total runs scored across all league stage matches is considered

2.3 Group Ranking Method

Once all teams in the Division are ranked based on the above logic, they are divided into groups seen below using a snake/zigzag seeding pattern to ensure balanced groups.

Any new teams that were not in the previous season will be added at the end in alphabetical order as mentioned in the Annual calendar sent earlier.

This ensures that no single group has a disproportionate concentration of stronger or weaker teams.

Group A (7 Teams)	Group B (7 Teams)	Group C (8 Teams)
Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3
Rank 6	Rank 5	Rank 4
Rank 7	Rank 8	Rank 9
Rank 12	Rank 11	Rank 10
Rank 13	Rank 14	Rank 15
Rank 18	Rank 17	Rank 16
Rank 19	Rank 20	Rank 21
—	—	Rank 22

3. Match Format

- Two-Day format - maximum 90 overs per innings
- All other playing conditions will be covered in a separate Playing Conditions document

4. Points System

Result	Points Awarded
Win	2 points
Tie	1 point each
No Result	1 point each
Loss	0 points
Walkover	0 points to any team that does not turn up to play the match

5. League Stage Rankings Logic - Current Season 2026-27

All teams across all 3 groups will be combined and ranked overall as follows:

1. Points - the team with higher points is ranked higher.
2. Net Run Rate (NRR) - if points are equal, team with better NRR is ranked higher

3. Head to Head - if NRR is also equal, the result of the head to head match between the tied teams is considered.
4. Total Runs Scored - if head to head was not played or if it was a tie, total runs scored across all league stage matches played (not Knockout) will be considered.
5. In case there are multiple teams which have not played a single match and have conceded all their matches as Walkovers, then their ranking in the overall points table for A-Division 2-Day league 2026-27 will be decided based on their ranking in the overall ranking table that was considered for Group Split this season which was the previous seasons A-Division Multi day ranking and new teams placed in alphabetical order at the bottom of the table.

6. Knockout Qualification

- The top 1 team from each group qualifies for the knockout stage
- Team Rank 1 will play against Rank 2 in the Qualifier. The winner of this match will go to the final and the loser will play the eliminator against team Rank 3.
- The winner of the eliminator will go through to the final.
- Teams are ranked within their group using the same order as Section 5 above.

Points → If Points same then NRR → If NRR same then Head to Head → If Head to Head same/not played/no result then Total Runs Scored in all the league stage matches

Qualifier

MATCH BETWEEN		
Topper Rank - 1	Vs	Topper Rank - 2

Eliminator

MATCH BETWEEN		
Topper Rank - 3	Vs	Losser of Qualifier

Final

MATCH BETWEEN		
Winner of Qualifier	Vs	Winner of Eliminator

7. Promotion & Relegation of Teams

- The bottom ranked 2 teams from A Division, based on the overall rankings as per the logic defined in this document for season 2026-27, will be relegated to B-Division for the season 2027-28.
- In case there are more than 2 teams which have not played a single match in the 2-Day league in A-Division 2026-27 and has conceded all their matches as Walkovers, then all those teams will be relegated to B-Division and the additional number of teams above 2 that have been relegated will be replaced by the same number of top ranked teams from B-Division.

For example: If there are 3 such teams then all those 3 will be relegated to B-Division and the top 3 teams (instead of top 2) from B-Division 2-day league 2026-27 will be promoted to A-Division.

8. Season Rankings - 2026-27

The final season rankings for all 22 A-Division teams for 2-League 2026-27 will be determined as follows:

- Rank 1 - Tournament Winner
- Rank 2 - Runner-up
- Rank 3 - The 3rd team that qualified for the knockouts but did not qualify for the final.
- All teams that did not qualify for the knockouts will be ranked after the knockout participants, based on their overall league stage ranking as per Section 5.

All other rules relating to playing conditions will be covered in a separate Playing Conditions document.