

THE HYDERABAD CRICKET ASSOCIATION

B-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 B-Division Two-Day League 2026-27.

1. Group Structure

- 64 teams are divided into 10 groups - 4 groups of 7 teams and 6 groups of 6 teams each.
- All teams will play every team in their group in the league stage, regardless of which group they are in.

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 matches 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 some groups in the previous season had more teams and therefore each team in those particular groups played more matches, winning percentage was 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 64 teams were ranked from 1 to 64 based on the above logic, they were divided into 10 groups using a zigzag seeding pattern to ensure balanced groups:

Group A (7 Teams)	Group B (7 Teams)	Group C (7 Teams)	Group D (7 Teams)	Group E (6 Teams)	Group F (6 Teams)	Group G (6 Teams)	Group H (6 Teams)	Group I (6 Teams)	Group J (6 Teams)
Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3	Rank 4	Rank 5	Rank 6	Rank 7	Rank 8	Rank 9	Rank 10
Rank 20	Rank 19	Rank 18	Rank 17	Rank 16	Rank 15	Rank 14	Rank 13	Rank 12	Rank 11
Rank 21	Rank 22	Rank 23	Rank 24	Rank 25	Rank 26	Rank 27	Rank 28	Rank 29	Rank 30
Rank 40	Rank 39	Rank 38	Rank 37	Rank 36	Rank 35	Rank 34	Rank 33	Rank 32	Rank 31
Rank 41	Rank 42	Rank 43	Rank 44	Rank 45	Rank 46	Rank 47	Rank 48	Rank 49	Rank 50
Rank 60	Rank 59	Rank 58	Rank 57	Rank 56	Rank 55	Rank 54	Rank 53	Rank 52	Rank 51
Rank 61	Rank 62	Rank 63	Rank 64	—	—	—	—	—	—

Any new teams that were not in B-Division in the previous season were added at the end of the list in alphabetical order.

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

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 the 10 groups will be combined and ranked overall as follows:

1. Winning Percentage - the team with the higher winning percentage is ranked higher on the overall ranking table of B-Division 2-Day league 2026-27. Winning percentage is considered as not all teams are playing the same number of matches in the league stage since few groups have more number of teams than other groups. The formula to calculate winning percentage can be seen above.
2. Net Run Rate (NRR) - if winning percentage is equal, then the 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/No result, then the total runs scored across all league stage matches played (not Knockout matches) 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 B-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 season's B-Division Multi day ranking and new teams placed in alphabetical order at the bottom of the table.

6. Knockout Qualification

- Teams are ranked within their group using the below order:
Points → If Points are same then NRR → If NRR same then Head to Head → If Head to Head was a tie/no result then Total Runs Scored in all the league stage matches will be considered.
- The top 1 team from each group qualifies for the knockout stage and hence there will be a total of 10 teams that qualify for the knockouts.
- These 10 teams will play the first round of the knockout matches in the below order:

Knockout Phase

MATCH BETWEEN		
Topper from Group - A	Vs	Topper from Group - J
Topper from Group - B	Vs	Topper from Group - I
Topper from Group - C	Vs	Topper from Group - H
Topper from Group - D	Vs	Topper from Group - G
Topper from Group - E	Vs	Topper from Group - F

- The 5 winners of the above knockout matches will advance to the next stage and will either play the quarter final or directly the semi final based on their ranking.
- The ranking of the 5 winners will be based on the net run rate of the first round of knockout matches that they played. In case the Net run rate of any teams among the 5 is the same then they will be ranked based on their ranking in the overall B-Division 2-Day league stage matches 2026-27 table (not their specific group).
- The structure of the quarter final, semi finals and final can be seen below.

Match Stage	Match Between		
Quarter Final	Team Standing No.4	v/s	Team Standing No.5
Semi Final 1	Team Standing No.1	v/s	Winner of Quater Final
Semi Final 2	Team Standing No.2	v/s	Team Standing No.3
Final	Winner of Semi Final 1	v/s	Winner of Semi Final 2

- In case of a tie or No result for a match in the knockout / final stages seen above, the team that ranks higher in the overall ranking table at the end of the league stage will be adjudged the winner of the match.

7. Promotion & Relegation of Teams

- The top 2 Ranked teams (the 2 teams that reach the final) in the B-Division 2-Day League season 2026-27 will be promoted to A-Division for the HCA League season 2027-28.
- The bottom ranked 2 teams from B-Division, based on the overall rankings as per the logic defined in this document for season 2026-27, will be relegated to C-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 B-Division 2026-27 and has conceded all their matches as Walkovers, then all those teams will be relegated to C-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 C-Division 1-day league 2026-27.

For example: If there are 3 such teams then all those 3 will be relegated to C-Division and the top 3 teams (instead of top 2) from C-Division 1-day league 2026-27 will be promoted to B-Division.

8. Season Rankings - 2026-27

The final season rankings for all 64 B-Division teams will be determined as follows:

- Rank 1 - Tournament Winner
- Rank 2 - Runner-up
- Ranks 3 onwards - All remaining knockout matches 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 for the 2-Day league season 2026-27 will be used to determine their relative ranking.
- 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.