

THE HYDERABAD CRICKET ASSOCIATION

C-DIVISION - ONE 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 C-Division One Day League 2026-27.

1. Group Structure

- 112 teams are divided into 8 groups - 14 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 112 teams were ranked from 1 to 112 based on the above logic, they were divided into 8 groups using a zigzag seeding pattern to ensure balanced groups. However, the last 2 groups - Group G & H, consist of teams which showed willingness to play only on Sunday's / Saturday's & Sunday's / All days of the week. Post this division of teams, the ranking structure was applied.

Hence, the below table is for reference/illustration purpose only to indicate how the zig-zag method is used. Please refer to the section “**Group Formation Methodology and Match-Day Allocation**” further below to get a clear understanding of how the teams were split for C-Division One-day league 2026-27.

Slot	Group A (14 Teams)	Group B (14 Teams)	Group C (14 Teams)	Group D (14 Teams)	Group E (14 Teams)	Group F (14 Teams)	Group G (14 Teams)	Group H (14 Teams)
1	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3	Rank 4	Rank 5	Rank 6	Rank 7	Rank 8
2	Rank 16	Rank 15	Rank 14	Rank 13	Rank 12	Rank 11	Rank 10	Rank 9
3	Rank 17	Rank 18	Rank 19	Rank 20	Rank 21	Rank 22	Rank 23	Rank 24
4	Rank 32	Rank 31	Rank 30	Rank 29	Rank 28	Rank 27	Rank 26	Rank 25
5	Rank 33	Rank 34	Rank 35	Rank 36	Rank 37	Rank 38	Rank 39	Rank 40
6	Rank 48	Rank 47	Rank 46	Rank 45	Rank 44	Rank 43	Rank 42	Rank 41
7	Rank 49	Rank 50	Rank 51	Rank 52	Rank 53	Rank 54	Rank 55	Rank 56
8	Rank 64	Rank 63	Rank 62	Rank 61	Rank 60	Rank 59	Rank 58	Rank 57
9	Rank 65	Rank 66	Rank 67	Rank 68	Rank 69	Rank 70	Rank 71	Rank 72
10	Rank 80	Rank 79	Rank 78	Rank 77	Rank 76	Rank 75	Rank 74	Rank 73
11	Rank 81	Rank 82	Rank 83	Rank 84	Rank 85	Rank 86	Rank 87	Rank 88
12	Rank 96	Rank 95	Rank 94	Rank 93	Rank 92	Rank 91	Rank 90	Rank 89
13	Rank 97	Rank 98	Rank 99	Rank 100	Rank 101	Rank 102	Rank 103	Rank 104
14	Rank 112	Rank 111	Rank 110	Rank 109	Rank 108	Rank 107	Rank 106	Rank 105

Any new teams that were not in C-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

- One Day Format - Limited 50 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 8 groups will be combined and ranked overall as follows:

1. Since all the groups have equal number of teams, the team with the higher number of points at the end of the league stage is ranked higher on the overall ranking table of C-Division One Day league 2026-27.
2. Net Run Rate (NRR) - if the number of points at the end of the league stage 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 C-Division One 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 C-Division One day ranking.

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 8 teams that qualify for the Quarter Finals.
- These 8 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 - H
Topper from Group - B	Vs	Topper from Group - G
Topper from Group - C	Vs	Topper from Group - F
Topper from Group - D	Vs	Topper from Group - E

- The 4 winners of the above knockout matches will advance to the next stage and will play the semi final based on their ranking.
- The structure of the quarter final, semi finals and final can be seen below.

Match Stage	Match Between		
Semi Final -1	Team Standing No.1	Vs	Team Standing No.4
Semi Final -2	Team Standing No.2	Vs	Team Standing No.3
Final	Winner of Semi Final 1	Vs	Winner of Semi Final 1

- 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 of Teams

- The top 2 Ranked teams (the 2 teams that reach the final) in the C-Division 2-Day League season 2026-27 will be promoted to B-Division for the HCA League season 2027-28.

8. Season Rankings - 2026-27

The final season rankings for all 112 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 One 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.

Group Formation Methodology and Match-Day Allocation

The groups for the HCA C-Division One Day League 2026-27 have been formed based on the following methodology:

Club Willingness + 2025-26 Club Ranking + Zig-Zag Seeding Method

The following explains the methodology used for the formation of the groups and the allocation of playing days.

1. H Group – Sunday Only

A total of 6 teams gave their willingness to play only on Sundays.

To complete the H Group with 14 teams, 8 additional teams were required from the Saturday & Sunday category.

The 8 lower-ranked teams from the Saturday & Sunday category, based on the 2025-26 Club Ranking, were included to complete the H Group.

- Sunday-only teams: 6
- Saturday & Sunday teams: 8
- Total: 14 teams
- Playing day: Sunday only

2. G Group – (Week Days) and Saturday & Sunday

A total of 13 teams gave their willingness to play on Saturday and/or Sunday.

After allocating 8 teams from this category to the H Group, 5 teams remained in the Saturday & Sunday category.

To complete the G Group with 14 teams, 9 teams were required from the **Monday to Sunday (All Days) category**.

The 9 teams from the All Days category were identified based on the 2025-26 Club Ranking.

- Remaining Saturday & Sunday teams: 5
- All Days teams: 9
- Total: 14 teams
- Playing days: Saturday, Sunday and for All Days teams, few matches are scheduled on weekdays as well

3. Groups A to F – Two Matches per Week

After the formation of the H Group and G Group:

112 – 28 = 84 teams

The remaining 84 teams were divided equally among Groups A to F, with 14 teams in each group, and were split using the Zig-zag ranking methodology as seen above.

The groups were allocated playing days as follows:

Groups	Playing Days	Frequency
A to C	Tuesday & Thursday	2 matches per week
D to F	Wednesday & Friday	2 matches per week

Each team in Groups A to F therefore has two scheduled playing days per week, with one intervening day between the two matches.

4. Overall Group Structure

Group	Teams	Playing Days	Group Formation Basis
A Group	14	Tuesday & Thursday	Ranking + Willingness + Zig-Zag
B Group	14	Tuesday & Thursday	Ranking + Willingness + Zig-Zag
C Group	14	Tuesday & Thursday	Ranking + Willingness + Zig-Zag
D Group	14	Wednesday & Friday	Ranking + Willingness + Zig-Zag
E Group	14	Wednesday & Friday	Ranking + Willingness + Zig-Zag
F Group	14	Wednesday & Friday	Ranking + Willingness + Zig-Zag
G Group	14	9 Teams – Monday to Saturday and 5 Teams – Saturday Only	Ranking + Willingness + Zig-Zag
H Group	14	Sunday Only	Ranking + Willingness + Zig-Zag
Total	112	—	—

5. Match-Day Allocation

The playing-day allocation for the groups is as follows:

- Groups A to C: Tuesday & Thursday – two matches per week.
- Groups D to F: Wednesday & Friday – two matches per week.
- Group G: Weekdays & Saturday
- Group H: Sunday only.

The detailed fixtures, including the match dates, venues and opponents, are provided along with the tournament schedule.

6. Club Ranking and Group Formation

The 2025-26 Club Ranking List was used as the ranking basis wherever ranking-based selection was required.

For the H Group, the 8 lower-ranked teams from the Saturday & Sunday category were included along with the 6 Sunday-only teams.

For the G Group, the 5 remaining Saturday & Sunday teams were combined with 9 teams from the All Days category, identified based on the 2025-26 Club Ranking.

The remaining teams were distributed among Groups A to F using the applicable ranking and Zig-Zag Seeding Method, while taking the submitted playing-day willingness into account.

Accordingly, the group formation methodology used for the 2026-27 season was:

1. Club Willingness
2. 2025-26 Club Ranking
3. Zig-Zag Seeding Method

This methodology was used to form the 8 groups of 14 teams each, comprising all 112 teams participating in the HCA C-Division One Day League 2026-27.

Thanks – HCA