

ICC MEN'S CRICKET WORLD CUP 2023 QUALIFICATION PATHWAY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT DOES THE NEW QUALIFICATION PATHWAY FOR THE ICC MEN'S CRICKET WORLD CUP 2023 LOOK LIKE?

LEAGUE QUALIFICATION STRUCTURE FOR ICC MEN'S CWC 2023			
Category	CWC Super League	CWC League 2	CWC Challenge League
No. of teams	13 (12 Full Members and Netherlands)	7 (Associate Members ranked in 14-20 in current WCL structure)	12 (Associate Members ranked 21-32 in current WCL structure)
Start date and duration	May 2020 2 years	August 2019 2.5 years	September 2019 2.25 years
Format	Bilateral series	Tri-series	Two leagues – A and B Six-team tournament format per league
Number of series played in the competition	8 bilateral series per team in total 4 bilateral series per team annually 2 Home and 2 Away bilateral series per team annually	9 tri-series per team in total 3 tri-series per team annually 1 Home and 2 Away tri-series per team annually	3 six-team tournament format per league in total 1 six-team tournament format per league annually
Total number of matches	156 ODIs in total in the League 24 ODIs per team in the League 3 ODIs in each bilateral series	126 ODIs in total in the League 36 ODIs per team in the League 6 ODIs in each tri-series	90 List A matches in total across League A and B 15 List A matches per team across League A and League B
Qualification pathway	Host and 7 teams to CWC 2023 Bottom 5 teams to CWCQ 2022	Top 3 teams to CWCQ 2022 Bottom 4 teams to CWCQ Play-off 2022	Top team from League A and B to CWCQ Play-off 2022 Bottom 2 teams in League A and B to CWC Challenge Play-off
League Status and rankings	ODI status All Members on ODI team rankings table	ODI status All Members on ODI team rankings table	List-A status

WHAT IS THE ICC MEN'S CRICKET WORLD CUP (CWC) SUPER LEAGUE?

This is a 13-team tournament played over two years (2020-2022) comprising 12 Full Members and the Netherlands, which won the ICC World Cricket League Championship 2015 – 2017.

Over the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League two-year cycle, each side will play eight bilateral series against eight out of the 12 Members only. Each series comprising three ODIs. The Members have chosen their opponents with mutual understanding and agreement, [click here to see the FTP](#).

This means each Member will play 24 ODIs as part of the CWC Super League over a two-year period, meaning a total of 156 CWC Super League ODIs will be played from 2020-2022.

Following the conclusion of 156 CWC Super League ODIs, India (as host of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023) plus the next seven highest-placed sides will progress automatically for the ICC's pinnacle 50-over competition.

The remaining five sides will have a second chance to qualify for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 when they will feature in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Qualifier (CWCQ) 2022.

WHAT IS THE ICC MEN'S CRICKET WORLD CUP QUALIFIER (CWCQ)?

This will be a 10-team tournament taking place in 2022. Comprising five sides from the CWC Super League, three sides from the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2 and two sides from the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Qualifier Play-Off.

This event provides two significant opportunities to the 10 competing sides:

- i) The top two will progress to the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023
- ii) Then, one place will be up for grabs in the next edition of the CWC Super League:
 - a. This will be decided only between two sides i.e 13th-ranked team from CWC Super League 2020-2022 and the table-topper of the CWC League 2 2019-2021
 - b. The side that finishes the higher from (a) above will feature in the next edition of the CWC Super League
 - c. The side that finishes the lower of the two will play in CWC League 2 for the next edition

This tournament will have ODI status.

WHAT IS THE ICC MEN'S CRICKET WORLD CUP LEAGUE 2?

The reincarnated ICC World Cricket League Championship will now feature seven sides, as the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2 2019-2021. Three sides – Scotland, Nepal and the United Arab Emirates qualified by virtue of their finishing positions in the ICC Cricket World Cup Qualifier Zimbabwe 2018. The remaining four participants are the teams that finished in the top four of the ICC World Cricket League Division 2, namely Nepal, Namibia, PNG and the USA.

Each team will play 36 ODIs over a two-and-a-half year period, meaning a total of 126 ODIs will be played in the CWC League 2. This consists of 21 sets of tri-series, each involving six matches. Each Member will host one tri-series each season.

WHAT IS ICC MEN'S CRICKET WORLD CUP CHALLENGE LEAGUE A AND B?

This league takes place from September 2019-2021 includes sides ranked from 21st to 32nd.

In Challenge League A the six sides will be Canada, Denmark, Malaysia, Qatar, Singapore and Vanuatu.

In Challenge League B the six sides will be Bermuda, Hong Kong, Italy, Jersey, Kenya and Uganda.

Each league will play in a six-team tournament format each year, meaning each team will play five matches annually. These will both be classified as List-A leagues and matches played will have List-A status.

WHAT IS THE ICC MEN'S CRICKET WORLD CUP QUALIFIER PLAY-OFF?

This six-team event takes place in 2022. Comprising the bottom four sides from the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2 and the two table-toppers of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Challenge Leagues A and B.

This event provides two significant opportunities to the six competing sides:

- i) The top two progress to the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Qualifier 2022.
- ii) Then, two places will be up for grabs in the next edition of the CWC League Two:
 - a. This will be decided between four sides, comprising the sixth and seventh ranked teams from CWC League Two 2019-2021 and table-toppers from CWC Challenge League A and B 2019-2021
 - b. The top two sides from this group of four will feature in the CWC League 2 in the next edition
 - c. The bottom two sides from this group will play in CWC Challenge League A and B for the next edition

This tournament will have ODI status.

WHAT DOES THE STATUS MEAN FOR EACH OF THE LEAGUES AND EVENTS?

- All 13 teams in CWC Super League have ODI status.
- All 7 teams in CWC League 2 now have ODI status, taking the total number of teams with ODI status to 20.
- The CWC Qualifier event will have ODI status, meaning all matches will have ODI status, even if the teams do not.
- The CWC Qualifier Play-Off event will have ODI status, meaning all matches will have ODI status, even if the teams do not.
- The CWC Challenge Leagues will have List A status, therefore the competition itself has List-A status.

HOW DO TEAMS OUTSIDE OF THE TOP-32 ENTER THE QUALIFICATION PATHWAY FOR THE ICC MEN'S CRICKET WORLD CUP 2027?

For CWC 2027 qualification, teams outside of those already in the pathway must meet the following entry requirements:

- (i) The Member must have a minimum of eight unique teams playing a minimum of five 40+ over matches in a year over two previous years
- (ii) The Member must be ranked in the top 40 of the MRF ICC Men's T20I Team Rankings as of 31 December 2022.

The top four Members, which meet the above criterion, will compete along with the bottom two sides each from Challenge League A and Challenge League B in an eight-team ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Challenge Play-Off (Date TBC).

The top four sides from the CWC Challenge Play-Off 2022 will be equally divided into the two CWC Challenge Leagues for the next edition, while the bottom four sides will drop out of the top 32.

WHAT OTHER PLAYING OPPORTUNITIES ARE THERE FOR MEMBERS OUTSIDE OF THESE TEAMS?

The Members can organise bilateral 50-over fixtures with mutual agreement and understanding.

That said, there will be more competition opportunities than ever before as the ICC has introduced sub-regional tournaments as part of the ICC T20 World Cup Qualification pathways for the 2020 event. To understand the Men's T20 World Cup 2020 pathway structure [please click here](#).

WHAT IS THE ICC DOING TO MAKE THE ICC T20 WORLD CUP PATHWAYS MORE ACCESSIBLE FOR MEMBERS?

The qualification for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 and the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2022 has become more accessible for Members following the October 2018 meetings, in which the ICC Board agreed to:

- (i) reduce the criteria of 10 unique teams to eight. These unique teams will still have to play five matches in a two-year cycle;
- (ii) abolish the USD\$10,000 participation fee