



GROUND & FACILITY STANDARDS

GUIDANCE NOTES

Introduction

These guidelines describe ground and facility standards required at NCCA member county clubs from the start of the 2021 season. The Cricket Committee will be responsible for monitoring these standards on a continuing basis, and they will notify Counties of any of their host clubs, who do not meet the necessary standards. Umpires will mark the ground and facilities after each game and they will be asked to comment on any on-field or off-field deficiencies in their on-line match report.

Pitch and Square

The square should be well maintained and in good condition with the whole of it being cut within two days of the start of each match. The pitch should be clearly distinguishable from the remainder of the square and shall be marked and rolled no later than 30 minutes before play commences. The pitch should be appropriate for the specific competition match duration. The bounce of the pitch should be true and predictable throughout the match and should not produce excessive spin or movement off the seam. It shall not have been artificially watered within 48 hours of the scheduled start of the match. The popping crease shall be marked for a minimum of 12 feet in conformity with Law 7.3 and the restricted area for the bowlers' follow-through (Law 41.11) shall be indicated with markings off the playing surface five feet in front of the popping crease and, also, on the bowling crease one foot on either side of the middle stump. In T20 and One Day Cricket, as a guideline to the umpires for the calling of wides on the offside, a line shall be marked in blue on both sides of the wicket at both ends of the pitch. The lines should be marked 17" in from the return crease and they should be marked between the popping crease and the bowling crease. Stumps which should be properly matched sets in good condition and with matching bails, shall be pitched by the groundsmen with holes adequately watered to allow easy re-setting by the umpires. The pitch shall be brushed and re-marked (and rolled if required) during the interval between innings. Two rollers (heavy and light) must be available for use during the match. Any holes or ruts on the square caused by previous matches must be levelled, filled and firmed before a subsequent match.

Outfield	The outfield should be well maintained and adequately drained. It should be closely mown with no noticeable grass cuttings. Balls should be able to run true and the outfield should be free of weeds, ruts and holes or other obstructions that might pose a hazard to fielders.
Boundary	The boundary should be clearly marked by a rope or a white line with markers approximately 20 yards apart. Alternatively, where a gutter is used, the edge shall be cleanly cut; if a picket fence or advertising boards form part or all of the boundary they shall be secure and in good condition. No boundary shall be less than 55 yards or more than 90 yards from the centre of the match pitch unless explicit dispensation is agreed by the Cricket Committee of the NCCA.
Sight Screens	The structure and non-reflective paintwork of the sight screens should be in good condition. They should be of an adequate and appropriate size for the ground and should be situated completely outside the playing area whenever possible. Screens should be properly positioned before the commencement of play. Two screens must be provided at both ends and cover a minimum width of 24 feet unless explicit dispensation is agreed by the Cricket Committee of the NCCA. A rope or boards must be provided to define the boundary if the screens stand within the playing area and the roped/boarded area must be of sufficient size to allow the screens to be moved without adjusting the ropes/boards.
Covers	Covers must be available to protect the pitch, the bowlers' run-ups and the pitches either side of the match pitch from rain both during the match and in the preceding days as appropriate. Arrangements should be made for the groundstaff, players or other helpers to put the covers in place as quickly as possible. Roll-on wheeled covers are mandatory for the match pitch, but plastic sheets/tarpaulins can be used for the bowlers' run-ups and the pitches either side of the match pitch. Clubs with grounds that slope from one side to the other may apply to the Cricket Committee of the NCCA for a dispensation which permits them to double cover the top side of the pitch and leave the bottom side uncovered or apply other combinations that have proved to be efficient in the past. In the interests of time-saving, it is permissible to use flat sheets to cover the pitch during the match at the discretion of the umpires but, if the break in play is likely to be for an extended period, the roll-on wheeled covers, covers for the bowlers' run-ups and side sheets for the pitches either side of the match pitch must be applied. Clubs will be required to demonstrate that their covering arrangements are adequate to protect the pitch and the immediate areas surrounding the pitch (bowlers' run-ups and side sheets) taking into account the contours and draining characteristics of the ground.
Drying Equipment	A sufficient supply of sawdust and cloths should be available to minimise lost playing time due to wet ground conditions. Additional covering for areas likely to cause a delay in play (e.g. the ends of previously used pitches should be

provided whenever possible. The presence of a working water-hog is mandatory and other drying facilities including brushes and forks should be available.

Rollers

Light (250 kilos to 500 kilos) and heavy (minimum 1500 kilos) rollers should be available for use on the pitch before and during the match.

Practice Facilities

Clubs should ensure that they have access to good quality practice facilities. Net practice facilities should be available for use by both sides (a minimum of two nets) before matches whenever possible. Grass nets must be in good condition with true and predictable bounce. Artificial net pitches should be maintained and rolled regularly when appropriate to maintain true and predictable bounce.

Scorebox

The numbers on the scoreboard should show the following: - Total, Wickets, Individual score of each batsman, Overs bowled, First/Second innings total, Last man's individual score, Side batting (Home/Away) and the provision for DLS score at the end of each over in the 2nd innings of 50 over and T20 matches; and be of adequate size to be visible from the far side of the ground. The scorebox should be visible from the pavilion and the players' viewing area. Umpires should be able to see the scorers' signals clearly and the scorers should be able to see the whole of the playing area. The scorebox should be clean, tidy and reasonably comfortable with adequate tables and chairs and full protection from the weather. The system for changing the numbers should be easily accessible to the scorers, simple to operate and in full working order.

Ground Surrounds

The surrounds should be maintained by regular cutting. Fences and walls should be well maintained, and suitable measures must be in place to ensure that lost balls cause minimum delay. The entrance(s) to the ground should be clearly signed, showing the name of the club. Seating for spectators should be in good condition.

Dressing Rooms

Dressing rooms should be well ventilated, well-lit and decorated with heating whenever possible. Separate changing facilities should be provided for both teams and for the umpires. The changing rooms should be of sufficient size for 12 players and a team coach with suitable seating, tables or shelving for bags and equipment, a mirror and at least one hook per player for clothes. Changing rooms should be easily accessible from the playing area whilst preserving the privacy of the players and umpires and should allow viewing of the playing area whenever possible. If spectators can see directly into the dressing rooms, blinds or a translucent screen must be provided to maintain the privacy of players and umpires. Flooring should be suitable for bare feet. The changing rooms should be clean and safe with adequate facilities to ensure the security of equipment and possessions.

* Government and ECB Guidance should be followed at all times, dependent on the restrictions in place at the time of each match.

Umpires Room

Separate and secure accommodation should be provided for the umpires of a similar standard to the players including a mirror and a minimum of two hooks

per umpire for clothes. Bowlers' markers, drying cloths, spare stumps and ordinary and heavy bails should be available before the start of the match.

Viewing Area	A seated area, covered and sheltered, should be provided for the batting side to view the match.
Clock and Bell	A large working clock should be sited so it can be seen from the playing area. A bell to allow the umpires to signal the start and resumption of play must be provided.
Showers	Clean and hygienic showers should be available and conveniently located to allow private access by players and umpires. * Government and ECB Guidance should be followed at all times, dependent on the restrictions in place at the time of each match.
Toilets	Clean and hygienic toilet, washing and hand-drying facilities (including mirrors) must be available for both males and females. Access for spectators must be consistent with the security and privacy requirements of players and umpires. All facilities must be properly equipped and serviced, must meet all legal requirements and should account for the needs of the disabled.
Kitchen	The kitchen should meet all legal health and safety requirements and provide hot and cold water, washing facilities, sufficient worktops in clean and hygienic condition and suitable storage space including a refrigerator and appropriate crockery and cutlery in good condition.
Hospitality	Catering should be of a good standard and the bar and surrounding area should have suitable facilities for players, supporters and families, including proper heating and seating arrangements. The bar should be staffed and open during the hours of play, whenever possible, and at the end of the game. The area for serving meals should be adjacent to the playing area, of sufficient size to accommodate players, officials and spectators and should be in a clean decorative condition. A separate tea table must be laid for umpires and scorers. * Government and ECB Guidance should be followed at all times, dependent on the restrictions in place at the time of each match.
First Aid	A well-stocked first aid box must, always, be available for the treatment of minor injuries. A person qualified in first aid should be available at all times.
Car Parking	Every effort should be made to provide safe car parking for players, officials and spectators either within the ground or immediately adjacent to the ground. The approaches to the car park and the car park area itself should be suitably surfaced without potholes or other hazards. Clubs should make suitable provision for disabled access to the ground and social areas.

