

NORTHERN CRICKET UNION OF IRELAND

CRITERIA FOR GROUNDS

IN

FIRST DIVISION PREMIER LEAGUE AND SECTION I

1 SQUARE

- 1.1 Must be well maintained and in good condition with whole cut prior to each match.
- 1.2 Holes or ruts from previous matches must be levelled, filled and firm before each match.
- 1.3 Facilities for watering the square must be available.

2 PITCH

- 2.1 Pitch must be clearly distinguishable from remainder of the square.
- 2.2 Pitch must be rolled and properly marked before play.
- 2.3 Markings must include minimum 15 ft popping crease, bowlers' protected area marked 5 ft in front of the popping crease and 1 ft either side of the centre of the middle stump on the bowling crease, and stumps properly positioned on the bowling crease in holes adequately watered for ease of positioning.
- 2.4 Facilities must be available for brushing, re-marking (and rolling if required) during the interval between innings.
- 2.5 Pitch should give true and predictable bounce, and not produce excessive seam movement or spin.

3 OUTFIELD

- 3.1 Outfield must be well maintained and properly drained.
- 3.2 Balls should be able to run true, and outfield should be free of holes, ruts and other obstructions that might pose a hazard to fielders.
- 3.3 Grass on outfield should be closely mown with little, or no, grass cuttings.

4 BOUNDARY

- 4.1 Boundary must be clearly marked by rope or white line.
- 4.2 Boundary must be clearly marked by markers set approximately 20 yds apart.

5 SIGHTSCREENS

- 5.1 Sightscreens must be available at both ends, of sufficient height and width, painted with non-reflective paint and in good condition.
- 5.2 Sightscreens must be easily portable, if movement is required for different bowling actions.

6 SCOREBOARD / SCOREBOX

- 6.1 At a minimum, scoreboard must show total, wickets, total overs, individual bowlers' overs, first innings total, last man's score, the side batting (home/away) and the individual batsmen's scores. The numbers should be easily accessible, simple to operate and in full working order.
- 6.2 The board should be easily seen from at least 90% of the playing area.
- 6.3 The scorebox must be clean, reasonably comfortable with adequate chairs and tables, and offer full protection from the weather.
- 6.4 Umpires must be able to clearly see the scorers' signals.

7 COVERS

- 7.1 Wheeled covers which are easily portable and have water-tight joints and long hoses are required.
- 7.2 Covers must be available to protect the pitch and bowlers' run ups from rain before and during a match and must protect at least 80 ft x 12 ft, taking into account the contours and drainage of the ground.
- 7.3 Plastic sheets and/or tarpaulins must be used to protect the bowlers' run-ups and areas on each side of the wicket which are not already protected by the wheeled covers. These must be capable of being fastened down to prevent seepage and must cover an area of 80 ft x 12 ft on each side of the wicket. If the bowlers' run-ups can be protected by longer coverage, that is strongly recommended.

8 DRYING EQUIPMENT

- 8.1 A 'water hog' must be available.
- 8.2 An adequate supply of sawdust and cloths must be available to minimise lost time due to wet ground.
- 8.3 Other drying equipment including brushes, forks and squeegees must be available.

9 MOWERS

9.1 A good quality cylinder mower must be used to cut the pitches and square.

10 ROLLERS

10.1 A 2 – 3 cwt roller must be available during each match.

10.2 A 1.5 – 2.5 ton roller must be available during each match.

11 GROUND SURROUNDS

11.1 The field surrounds must be maintained by regular cutting.

11.2 Fences, walls and spectators' seating should be well maintained and in good condition.

12 DRESSING ROOMS

12.1 Dressing rooms should be of adequate size, well lit and ventilated, decorated and, if possible, heated.

12.2 Suitable seating and sufficient clothes hooks (2 per player) must be available.

12.3 Flooring should be suitable for bare feet.

12.4 Dressing rooms should be easily accessible from the playing area, be private and allow viewing of the playing area, if possible.

12.5 Dressing rooms must provide security of clothing, valuables and equipment.

12.6 Dressing rooms must not be used for other purposes e.g. storage of non-playing equipment or materials.

13 SHOWERS

13.1 Showers must be clean and hygienic and conveniently located for players and umpires.

13.2 There must be at least two showers per team with an adequate supply of hot water, and floors must be non-slip.

14 TOILETS

14.1 Dressing room and Clubhouse toilets must be clean and hygienic, with washing and hand drying facilities.

14.2 Dressing Room toilets must provide privacy and security for players.

14.3 Clubhouse toilets must meet the needs of women and the disabled.

15 UMPIRES' ROOM

15.1 The Umpires' Room should be of a similar standard to that of the players' dressing room.

15.2 The Umpires' Room should be separate and secure.

15.3 The Umpires' Room should contain bowlers' markers, clean umpires' coats, drying cloths, ordinary and heavy bails, and spare stumps.

16 FIRST AID

16.1 A well-stocked First Aid box must be available at all times for the treatment of minor injuries.

17 PUBLIC / MOBILE TELEPHONE

17.1 A public / mobile telephone, in working order, must be available at all times for emergency purposes.

18 CLOCK AND BELL

18.1 A large working clock stating the correct time must be sited so that it can be seen from all parts of the ground.

18.2 A bell to allow the umpires to signal the start or resumption of play must be available.

19 CAR PARKING

19.1 Adequate car parking for players, officials and spectators.