

# DEVON CRICKET LEAGUE GROUND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

## GROUNDS AND FACILITIES

It is recognized that there is a wide range of playing standards, facilities and incomes across the more than eighty clubs that currently form the Devon Cricket League. It therefore goes without saying that not all clubs will wish, or should be required, to provide grounds and facilities to Minor Counties standard!

However, there are minimum standards to which all clubs in the DCL must adhere, largely related to common sense safety and comfort requirements. These minimum standards are set out below.

Following extensive discussion it has been decided that the ground grading sub-committee will be replaced with a Grounds Advisory and Assessment Committee (GAAC).

The Ground Grading minimum standards will still apply as a guideline for the Clubs, Umpires and the League Assessment Panel. Failure to comply with acceptable standards will be dealt with initially by the Sub-Committee. In the event of failure to obtain agreement, the issue would then be referred to the LMC for appropriate action.

In future the decision to carry out a club inspection will be based upon receipt by the DCL of reports from appointed Umpires, Captains, Club Executives or other interested parties.

The procedure will be very simple: Upon receipt of a report from any source the GAAC will discuss it.

If an inspection is deemed necessary, this will be arranged in full co-operation with the Club concerned. Furthermore we will offer the services of our grounds advisor to visit your ground, meet with your groundsmen, and advise on ways in which the best possible playing conditions may be produced.

There will be a nominal charge for this service simply to cover the costs of the advisor. You are encouraged to contact our advisor directly for any advice you may feel necessary.

### Minimum Standards

To be adhered to by **all** member clubs (See also 'Supporting Notes' below)

#### General Notes

**1) Where a facility is provided, it must be in safe condition and, where necessary, fulfil all legal requirements relating to such things as hygiene, health and safety.**

Examples include (but are not limited to): Seating, ground and other equipment, practice nets, toilet, shower and kitchen facilities.

**2) Rooms provided must be clean, in a good state of decoration, have adequate lighting and ventilation and, during the season, must not be used for storage of items not relevant to their function.**

Examples include (but are not limited to): Bar, tea area, kitchen, toilets, shower rooms, changing rooms, scoreboard.

**3) Pitch, square, outfield and surrounds (including boundary fences, walls etc.) must exhibit no features which could be hazardous to players or others.**

Examples include (but are not limited to): Holes, ruts, ditches, obstructions (other than those, such as trees, covered under 'local rules'), abrupt changes of level, stones protruding through the ground surface.

**If clubs are in any doubt about the compliance of any facility, room or feature relating to items 1) to 3) above, they should ask the GAAC for an assessment.**

## Minimum Standards

These minimum standards are to be met by **all** clubs in the League.

Refer also to The MCC Official Laws of Cricket where, amongst other things, basic pitch and wicket dimensions are laid down.

Please note the use of the words **must** and **should**:

'**Must**' indicates that the condition is mandatory. '**Should**' indicates that it is desirable.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Condition</b>
<b>Square</b>	<b>Must</b> be clearly distinguishable from the outfield and with a smooth surface. <b>Must</b> show evidence of care & maintenance (including weed control) and repair. <b>Should</b> be suitable for 100 over matches.
<b>Pitch</b>	<b>Must</b> be clearly distinguishable from the square. <b>Must</b> show evidence of care, maintenance (including weed control), and preparation. <b>Must</b> be rolled and correctly marked shortly before the <b>scheduled toss</b> . <b>Must</b> not exhibit dangerous bounce. <b>Should</b> not give excessive spin or movement off the seam.
<b>Outfield</b>	<b>Must</b> show evidence of care & maintenance. <b>Should</b> allow the ball to run freely and evenly.
<b>Boundary</b>	<b>Must</b> be continuously or frequently marked.
<b>Surrounds</b>	<b>Should</b> be maintained by regular cutting. Fences and walls <b>must</b> be well maintained. Suitable measures <b>should</b> be taken to limit wasted playing time due to lost balls.
<b>Roller</b>	A light (preferably not > 5cwt) roller <b>must</b> be available for use during matches.
<b>Drying Equipment</b>	An adequate supply of suitable sawdust and drying cloths <b>must</b> be available during matches to minimise loss of playing time in wet conditions.
<b>Players Changing</b>	A covered, weatherproof changing area of adequate size, preferably with separate rooms for home and away teams, <b>must</b> be provided for players and umpires.
<b>Toilets</b>	A minimum of one WC, in full working order with an adequate supply of consumables <b>must</b> be available to players, officials and spectators.
<b>First Aid</b>	A First Aid Kit / Box, complying with Devon Cricket League requirements, <b>must</b> be kept fully stocked and <b>must</b> be easily accessible during play. Emergency Procedures <b>must</b> be clearly displayed in pavilion
<b>Scoring Facilities</b>	An adequate covered area <b>must</b> be provided for two scorers with sufficient table space and two chairs. Umpires <b>must</b> be able to see scorers' signals clearly and vice versa. A scoreboard, clearly visible from the field, showing Total Runs, Total to Win, Wickets, and Overs Remaining <b>must</b> be provided. During matches, the scoreboard display <b>should</b> be updated at least every two overs.
<b>Umpires</b>	Bowlers' markers, cloths, umpires' coats, bails and spare stumps <b>should</b> easily and quickly be available.

## Devon Cricket League

### Ground Grading Criteria (Revised February 2005)

(To be read in conjunction with the supporting notes that follow)

Facility	Condition	DIVISION		
		P	A	B
<b>Square</b>	Slope: <b>Minimal</b> <b>Slight</b> <b>Acceptable</b>	M	S	A
	Changes in level: <b>None</b> <b>Acceptable</b>	N	A	A
	Grass Mixture: <b>Good</b> <b>Acceptable</b>	G	G	A
	Root Growth: <b>Good (3.5+ ins)</b> <b>Medium (3+ ins)</b>	G	M	M
	Depth of Compaction: In Inches	2+	2+	2
	Weed Growth: <b>Minimal</b> <b>Acceptable</b>	M	M	A
	Whole square cut within 48 hours of start of match	Y	D	D
<b>Pitch in Use</b>	Spin or Seam movement: <b>Medium</b> <b>Acceptable</b>	M	M	A
	Bounce height: <b>Medium</b> <b>Acceptable</b>	M	M	A
	Brushed and re-marked between innings	Y	Y	Y
	Properly matched sets of Stumps & Bails in place	Y	Y	Y
	Not Artificially Watered within 36 hours of start of match	N	N	N
<b>Outfield</b>	Overall Slope(s): <b>Minimal</b> <b>Acceptable</b>	M	M	A
	Major changes in level: <b>Minimal</b> <b>Acceptable</b>	M	M	M
	Surface roughness: <b>Minimal</b> <b>Acceptable</b>	M	M	A
	Weed Growth: <b>Minimal</b> <b>Acceptable</b>	M	M	A
	Mowing: <b>Close</b> <b>Acceptable</b>	C	A	A
	Grass Cuttings on surface: <b>Minimal</b> <b>Acceptable</b>	M	M	A
	Adequate drainage to allow swift drying	Y	D	D
<b>Boundary</b>	Clearly marked by continuous rope or white line.	Y	Y	Y
	Minimum Boundary distance ( <b>\$</b> ): <b>50 yds, 40 yds</b>	50	50	40
	Clearly visible from umpiring positions.	Y	Y	D
<b>Sight Screens</b>	At least one (preferably 2) both ends. Non-reflective, adequate & appropriate size for ground. Properly positioned before start of play.	Y	Y	D
	Boundary adjusted to allow sight screens outside	Y	Y	Y
<b>Scoring Facilities</b>	Scorebox with 'table' & 2 chairs, fully weatherproof and having an integral, internally operated scoreboard in full working order.	Y	Y	Y*
<b>Covers</b>	Effective, for pitch & run-ups, preferably wheeled	Y	Y	Y*
	If present, easily accessible for use during match	Y	Y	Y
	Sheets or tarpaulins, if used, laid on hessian underlay	Y	Y	Y
<b>Drying Tools</b>	Equipment (forks, brushes, squeegees etc.) available	Y	D	D
<b>Rollers</b>	Heavy Roller (min 30cwt) available	Y	D	D
<b>Practice Facilities</b>	At least 1 grass/artificial net available to both sides (Grass nets showing true & predictable bounce)	Y	Y	Y*

**Devon Cricket League - Ground Grading Criteria (Continued)**

Facility	Condition	DIVISION		
		P	A	B
<b>Players' Changing Rooms</b>	Two, separate & lockable, with adequate tables, shelving or under-seat storage for bags & equipment, a mirror & at least 1 coat-hook per player.	Y	Y	Y
	Flooring to be suitable for bare feet.	Y	Y	D
	Minimum area to be 180 square feet each (\$)	Y	D	D
<b>Umpires' Room</b>	Separate from players' rooms, lockable. Minimum 30 sq ft. with carpet or vinyl floor. To contain table, 2 chairs, mirror & coat hangers.	Y	Y	D
	If room present, wash basin with hot & cold water.	Y	Y	Y
<b>Showers</b>	Minimum 2 per team, with hot & cold water.	Y	Y	Y
<b>Toilets</b>	<b>Gents:</b> Minimum 2 urinals & 1 WC. Hand washing & drying facilities, mirror. Access for spectators consistent with security and privacy of players & umpires.	Y	Y	Y
	<b>Ladies:</b> Minimum 1 WC. Hand washing & drying facilities, mirror. Separate access.	Y	Y	Y
<b>Hospitality</b>	All food of good standard.	Y	Y	Y
	Food serving area to be near playing area with adequate seating for players, officials and a few spectators.	Y	Y	Y
	Kitchen to have adequate equipment, storage & surfaces to provide teas for players, officials & spectators.	Y	Y	Y
	Bar, where present, to be adequately staffed & open before the close of play.	Y	Y	Y
<b>Ground Surrounds</b>	<b>Entrance</b> to ground clearly signed with name of club	Y	Y	Y
	Adequate seating for the usual number of spectators.	Y	Y	D
	Measures taken to prevent delay through lost balls.	Y	Y	Y
<b>Car Parking &amp; Access</b>	Every effort should be made to provide adequate parking for players, officials and spectators either within the ground or immediately adjacent to it.	Y	Y	D
	Disabled Access to ground and social areas	D	D	D
<b>Telephone</b>	A telephone (public phone or designated mobile), in working order, <b>must</b> be available for emergency use by players, officials and spectators.	Y	Y	Y

## Devon Cricket League Ground Grading Criteria

(Revised February 2005)

### Supporting Notes & Definitions

#### Minimum Standards

Use of the terms 'safe' and 'safety' refers to normally accepted standards. It is recognized that cricket is, per se, a potentially dangerous sport. This does not excuse failure to reduce or eliminate hazards.

A simple measure of the 'safety' of a particular feature might be an assessment by the club management of the likelihood of a charge of negligence being brought in the event of injury being sustained by a player, official, spectator or passer-by.

#### Square, Pitch, Outfield & Surrounds

##### Evidence of care & maintenance, preparation:

The results of activities such as cutting, rolling, clearing of debris (cuttings, brushings etc.), control of weeds and repair of damage, appropriate to the relevant area of the ground, must be evident.

##### Excessive spin or movement off the seam, Suitability for 100 over matches:

In the interests of enjoyable and competitive cricket, pitches should be prepared using adequate watering and rolling, to eliminate violent or grossly inconsistent movements of the ball. Similar methods must be used in an attempt to ensure that the pitch does not start to break up during a match.

**Boundary:** 'Frequent' marking is usually taken to mean 20 yard intervals.

#### Key to Tables

A 'Y' indicates that a Condition is mandatory, a 'D' that it is desirable. Other letters are emboldened initials of the relevant Conditions.

Use of words such as 'Minimal', 'Slight', 'Good', 'Acceptable', 'Medium', 'Gentle', 'Close' etc. refers to judgments to be made by Inspectors during their inspection. Inspectors will have a wide knowledge of conditions throughout the County for comparison purposes. 'Acceptable' is to be judged in relation to the standard of cricket currently being played.

Other symbols used: § - unless explicit dispensation is given by the LMC.

\* - Condition to become a requirement in 2006

#### Grading Procedure:

Inspections will take place by arrangement between the Club and the GAAC.

The DCL Grounds Inspector will always inspect matters relating to the Pitch and Square. A member or members of the GAAC, or their representatives, either during a notified match day inspection or on other occasions throughout the season, may inspect all other facilities and features.

Inspectors will complete a confidential report to be discussed in detail at the next available meeting of the GAAC. Based on this report and discussion, the GAAC will assess the findings and advise that a club's ground and facilities do, or do not, comply with the minimum requirements for entry to or continued membership of the League. Advice relating to compliance or other improvement of ground and/or facilities will accompany the decisions reached and is always available by application to the GAAC.

#### Appeal:

Any member club is entitled to appeal if its management feels that grading of its facilities is unreasonable or unfair. To do so, the club must write to the DCL Secretary stating the basis upon which such appeal is made and, where re-inspection is required, the Chairman of the GAAC will then appoint two senior members of the LMC, neither of whom has previously inspected the club in question, to carry out an inspection and report back to him.

The GAAC will, together with the appointed inspectors, evaluate their report and rule on the grading to be applied. The ruling, under these circumstances, shall be final and binding on the club, which may not be regraded within twelve months of the date of this ruling.