

ECB Yorkshire South Premier League



Ground facilities standards

1 Introduction

An ECB Premier League constitutes the highest standard of recreational cricket in its area. It follows therefore, that the facilities should be of the highest standard. All Premier League clubs are responsible for ensuring that their facilities are maintained in accordance with these standards. It is expected that all clubhouse and dressing room facilities will be in good clean decorative condition.

Grounds should be owned, leased or subject to other long term agreement (which should be for a minimum 25 years). They must be available for use on 21 Saturday dates when fixtures are scheduled between April and September and the second May Bank Holiday. Grounds must have a clubhouse and there must be full access to the ground and clubhouse on match days.

The standards set out below are derived from published ECB guidelines. They must be adhered to by all clubs in the Yorkshire South Premier League unless explicit dispensation is given by the League Management Committee.

2 Playing area

Pitch and Square

The square must be well maintained and in good condition with the whole of it being cut within two days of the start of each game. The square must include six pitches that can be used for Premier League games. Any holes or ruts on the square caused by previous games must be levelled, filled and firmed before each game.

The pitch should be clearly distinguishable from the remainder of the square and must be marked and rolled before play. The pitch must be appropriate for games of at least 100 overs duration. The bounce of the pitch should be true and predictable throughout the game, and should not produce excessive spin or movement off the seam. It shall not have been artificially watered within 24 hours of the scheduled start of a game.

The popping crease must be marked for a minimum of twelve feet and the protected area for the bowlers' follow-through 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 centre of the middle stump.

Stumps, which should be properly matched sets in good condition and with matching bails, must be pitched by the groundsman with holes adequately watered to allow easy resetting by the umpires. The pitch holes must be positioned on the back edge of the bowling crease.

The pitch must be brushed and re-marked (and rolled if required) during the interval between innings. At least one roller must be available for use during the game.

Outfield

The outfield must 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 holes, ruts or other obstructions that might pose a hazard to fielders. Fielding circles must be provided in accordance with playing conditions.

Boundary

The boundary must be clearly marked either by a rope, gutter or wall/fence, or by a white line with markers approximately 20 yards apart. Where a gutter is used the edge shall be cleanly cut; if a fence or advertising boards form part or all of the boundary they shall be secure and in good condition. The recommended minimum boundary length is 40 yards, from the nearer middle stump on the pitch being used, over at least 75% of the total boundary. The maximum boundary length is 90 yards.

Sightscreens

The structure and non-reflective paintwork of the sightscreens must be in good condition. They should be of an adequate and appropriate size for the ground and should be completely outside the playing area whenever possible. Either a double-size screen or two screens must be provided at each end of the ground in order that there is no need for movement of the screens when a bowler is bowling both over and round the wicket.

Screens should be properly positioned before the commencement of play. A rope or boards should be provided to define the boundary if the sight screen(s) stand within the playing area, and the roped/boarded area must be of sufficient size to allow screens to be moved from side to side during the game without adjusting the ropes/boards.

Practice Facilities

Clubs must provide net practice facilities for use by both sides (a minimum of one net) before games. These may be either fixed or roll on/roll off nets. Any grass nets must be in good condition with true and predictable bounce. Artificial net pitches should be regularly maintained and rolled where appropriate to ensure true and predictable bounce.

Decision-making

Decisions on the specification for the preparation of the pitch, and of the fitness of the ground and pitch for play prior to the arrival of the umpires, must be under the club's control.

3 Equipment

Scorebox

An enclosed and separate scorebox must be provided that is visible from the pavilion and players viewing area. It must be of adequate size to be visible from the far side of the ground. Umpires should be able to see the scorers' signals clearly, and the scorers should be able to see at least 90% of the playing area. The scorebox must be clean, tidy and reasonably comfortable, with adequate table and chairs and full protection from the weather.

The scoreboard must be electronic, and should show at least the current total and wickets; both current batsmens' scores; the complete overs remaining in the innings; the first Innings total; and the DLS par score in the second innings when requested. There should be a light to acknowledge umpires' signals.

Electric sockets and internet access must be provided. Scoring at all games must be completed on Play Cricket Pro and scores must be linked to the live score service. A working printer must be available to provide information to captains about DLS target scores.

Covers

Covers must be available to protect the pitch and the bowlers' run-ups from rain both during the game 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.

Wheeled covers are preferred, although plastic sheets/tarpaulins may be used, provided that they are well maintained, to cover bowlers' run ups. The covers must be able to protect an area of at least 80 feet by 12 feet and clubs are encouraged to protect a larger area whenever possible.

Clubs will be required to demonstrate that their covering arrangements are adequate to protect the pitch, taking into account the contours and draining characteristics of the ground.

Drying Equipment

An adequate supply of sawdust and cloths must 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. Other drying facilities, including brushes, forks, squeegees, etc, must be available.

Rollers

Light (5 to 10 cwt) and heavy (minimum 30 cwt) rollers should be available for use on the pitch. A light roller must be available for use during the game.

4 Outside the playing area

Clock

A large working clock must be sited so that it can be seen from the playing area.

Viewing area

A separate, seated area must be provided for players and officials to view the game.

Ground surrounds

The main entrance to the ground must be clearly signed, showing the name of the club. Fences and walls should be well maintained and surrounding grass should be maintained by regular cutting.

Seating for spectators should be in good condition.

Measures should be taken to ensure that lost balls do not delay play, including the use of ball-stop netting to prevent balls being lost in ditches, hedge bottoms and neighbouring properties.

Car parking

Adequate car parking for both sets of players, officials and disabled people must be provided within the ground or immediately adjacent to the ground. Where under the control of the club, the approaches to the car park, and the car park area itself, should be suitably surfaced without potholes or other hazards.

Parking facilities for spectators, including enabling them to watch the game from their cars, should be provided whenever possible.

5 Clubhouse facilities

Changing facilities

Dressing rooms must be well ventilated, lit and decorated, with heating whenever possible, and lockable. Separate changing facilities must be provided for visiting sides and for the umpires. The changing rooms must be of a minimum 20m² in order to adequately cater for a full adult team with suitable seating; tables or shelving for bags and equipment; a mirror; and at least one hook per player for clothes. Changing rooms must be adjacent to the playing area, whilst preserving the privacy of the players, and should allow a view of the playing area whenever possible. Flooring should be suitable for bare feet.

Separate facilities for female players must be arranged as necessary.

Separate and secure accommodation must be provided for the umpires, of a similar standard to the players' dressing rooms. Bowlers markers, drying cloths, ordinary and heavy bails and spare stumps should be available.

Adequate clean and hygienic showers must be available (minimum four showers per team) and located to allow private access by players and umpires directly from the dressing rooms.

A minimum of two toilets and two urinals in total, in clean and hygienic condition, must be available to players and officials. These must provide washing and hand-drying facilities and mirrors. Toilet facilities must be located to allow private access by players and umpires from the dressing rooms.

Clubhouse

Clubhouse facilities must be adequate for players, supporters and families, including proper heating and seating arrangements. The bar should be adequately staffed and open before the close of play.

A separate, adequately-sized area in the clubhouse must be provided for serving meals to players and officials. Teas must be of a good standard and reasonably priced.

The kitchen must meet all legal health and safety requirements and provide hot and cold water, washing facilities, adequate worktops in clean and hygienic condition, suitable storage space including a refrigerator and sufficient crockery and cutlery in good condition. The kitchen must have a current hygiene certificate.

Separate toilet facilities for spectators (male, female and disabled) must be provided in or immediately adjacent to the clubhouse.

A well-stocked first aid box must be available at all times for the treatment of minor injuries. It is recommended that a person qualified in First Aid must be available during games.

A public address system should be provided whenever possible.

6 Reporting non-compliance

Visiting captains and umpires are responsible for reporting on the ground and facilities at the end of the game. They should include in their reports details of any aspect of these standards that are unmet.