

SCC Facilities and Grounds Guidelines – DRAFT 2.0

League Structure (as per SCC Constitution)

Tier 1 – Premier Level and Level 1 (ECB Premier League regulations apply)

Tier 2 – Levels 2 to 5

Tier 3 - Levels 6 to 9

Tier 4 - Levels 10 and below

1. Background

Developing and maintaining the best possible facilities for clubs is a key factor in driving an enjoyable experience for players, officials and spectators. As such, SCC encourages all Member Clubs to seek to provide the best possible facilities for their members.

The requirements at the higher end of the structure are in place to facilitate some of the highest levels of recreational cricket played in the country, with the very top level is played to ECB Premier League standard with overseas and contracted players participating in games alongside strong domestic players and hence the quality of the playing surfaces need to be as high as possible. SCC encourages clubs to focus on a ‘Get The Game On’ approach to facilities further down the structure, being flexible and pragmatic where necessary to enable games to be played in an enjoyable but safe manner.

2. Facilities for All

Member Clubs should be aware of their on-going duties under the Equality Act 2010, including to make reasonable adjustments to services so that employees, members and guests (including all players, official and spectators) have access to their grounds, facilities and social spaces, irrespective of social status, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender reassignment, marital or civil partnership status, pregnancy, maternity, race, religion or belief.

For guidance on how Member Clubs can meet these duties in relation to their facilities, please see:

<https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/accessible-inclusive>

<https://resources.ecb.co.uk/ecb/document/2021/07/02/e8310e83-4df5-4f76-8c97-064baeae0a19/Creating-Welcoming-Environments-Guide.pdf>

3. Meeting the Requirements

As required in the SCC constitution, all Member Clubs must meet and maintain the minimum accreditation criteria as specified in this document. Failure to meet these standards may result in a team not being granted promotion into the next Level.

Many requirements are mandatory for teams playing in Tiers 1 & 2, whilst teams participating in Tiers 3 & 4 are encouraged to work towards meeting many of the recommendations.

Teams seeking to progress between Tiers should review the requirements, identifying any key areas that require action in order for a club to be permitted promotion into the next Tier up. Teams participating in Level 2 (at the top of Tier 2) and Level 6 (at the top of Tier 3) of the structure in any given year may be assessed so they are aware of any work that is required to meet the standards at the next Level so that steps can be taken to address any outstanding elements ahead of a possible promotion.

4. Use of Grass/Hybrid and/or Artificial Pitches

All games played in Tiers 1 and 2 must be played on grass or hybrid pitches.

At Tier 3, the use of grass or hybrid pitches is strongly encouraged, though consideration will be given to clubs seeking to play on an artificial pitch. Clubs seeking to do this should write to the SCC Co-ordinator to request permission to do this before 1st April of any given season.

At Tier 4, teams are permitted to use non turf pitches, but this must be declared to the SCC Coordinator in writing before 1st April of any given season.

5. Requirements

Requirements are listed in the following table. Any applications for exceptions must be made to the SCC Coordinator in writing before 1st April of any given season.

M = Mandatory; O = Optional; NA = Not applicable

	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3 & 4
The Pitch and Square			
Square and pitch adequate size to support 9 home fixtures per team at the site, supporting game lengths for the level a team is playing at.	120 Overs	100 Overs	80-90 Overs
Square and pitch to be cut within 2 days of match	M	M	O
Pitch should have true and predictable bounce and no excessive spin or movement off the seam. Pitches should be correctly marked.	M	M	M
Pitch covers available	M	M	O
Use of Non Turf Pitches	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	T3 By Exception T4 Permitted

	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3 & 4
Outfield and Surrounds			
Outfield to be well maintained	M	M	M
No boundary shall be less than 45 yards or more than 90 yards from the nearer middle stump on the match pitch.	M	M	O
Boundary clearly marked by a rope, fence or continuous boundary board, otherwise:	M	O	O
Boundary marked with white line and/or markers	NA	M	M
Sightscreens at both ends to cover at least 8 metres width by 3.66m high, positioned outside the boundary, otherwise:	M	O	O
Single sightscreen at each end of the ground positioned outside the boundary	NA	M	O
Access to two pre match practice nets plus outfield/warm up area	M	O	O
Service access points, hard bases within the playing area must be below ground level and covered with artificial turf or carpet	M	M	M
Ground and Equipment			
Access to efficient grounds maintenance equipment	M	O	O
Ground drying equipment (e.g. Bowdry) available	M	O	O
Scoring Facilities			
A scoreboard showing running total, wickets, first innings total (or target score if Duckworth Lewis) and overs bowled/to be bowled. Additional information such as individual totals for batters, fall of last wicket etc would be preferred where ever possible.	M	M	M
A designated sheltered area must be provided to comfortably accommodate two scorers giving both clear visibility of the pitch and surrounds. This-area is to be clean and tidy and fitted with sufficient tables and suitable chairs for extended use.	M	O	O
A power supply to be available	M	O	O
Internet connection available	M	O	O
Changing Rooms and Showers			
Separate and secure changing rooms for both teams. Clean and of adequate size (approx. 20m2) with seating and room for kit bags	M	M	O
Showers with non slip flooring and ideally at least 4 shower heads per changing room	M	M	O
Umpire Facilities			
Secure umpire facilities, separate from the player changing rooms	M	M	O
Pavilion and Social Area			
Pavilion should be adjacent to the playing area	M	O	O
Toilets should be adjacent to the playing area	M	O	O
Pavilion should have a designated area of a suitable size to accommodate and seat players and officials at intervals.	M	M	O
External seating available for players and spectators	M	M	O
Access and circulation space should take into account the needs of people with disabilities	M	M	O

	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3 & 4
Toilets provided separately from the players changing areas for non-players. A clearly identified toilet/s should be made available & should be suitable for use by other genders and disabled people.	M	M	O
Large working clock clearly visible to players and officials	M	O	O
Well stocked and 'in date' first aid kit	M	M	M
Any food preparation areas onsite must meet all current Food Standards Guidelines	M	M	NA