

Marking Conventions & Guidance

The assessment system and scoring regime is divided into three sections: -

1. Mandatory Criteria
2. Detailed Marking
3. Overall Assessment

A ground has to satisfy all the elements of Section 1, before marking and assessment under sections two and three can be undertaken. The results of the marking under sections 2 and 3 are expressed as a percentage of the total marks available and this percentage determines the grade awarded. Marks are awarded by inspection, but some elements are continually reviewed by means of reports from umpires.

Elements subject to continuous assessment by Umpires are indicated thus:- **Question ?**

Awarding of Marks

- Criteria are addressed by questions in the text. The response to these questions, which is determined either by observation and/or by measurement, determines the marks awarded. Some questions have an optional award of marks within strictly defined limited (see below). Response indicated by RFI = “room for improvement”
- A response will often have an optional award of marks, with either two options (e.g. 10/9) or three options (e.g. 6/5/4). The standard mark will be the lower of the two options or the median where there are three options. Where the higher or lower mark is awarded the inspectors will have a defined reason for awarding it.
- Some responses have cumulative marks. This category is indicated where a plus sign (+) appears before a mark (e.g. +5). Each individual cumulative mark category contributes to compliance. The marks for the element consists of the total of all the former categories held to be in compliance.
- 86½% of the marks available are awarded via the marking as above. The remainder of the marks are awarded by overall assessment in four sectors. These are “Below Average | Average | Above Average | Excellent”. Average is taken as average across the league. This allows scope for the additional award of marks, for grounds which not only satisfy the criteria but satisfy them handsomely because it is obvious that efforts at present and over the years have contributed to the realisation of “A cricket ground” rather than “a ground upon which cricket is played”.

Thresholds and Gradings

Unclassified	-	Not all the mandatory criteria in Section 1 have been met.
Grade M	-	All the mandatory criteria have been met: Allows admission to the League.
Grade 1	-	75% marking achieved: Allows admission to Division 1
Grade P	-	85% marking achieved: Allows admission to the Premier Division.

Note: All mandatory criteria must continue to be met if a Grade 1 or Grade P assessment is to be awarded.

OTHER POINTS TO NOTE

- The final date for inspections/re-visits is the last Saturday of the season.
- No provision exists for assessment based on future plans – where major projects are concerned some latitude is allowed provided work has started and it can be demonstrated that it is ongoing and will be completed before the start of the following season. – In normal circumstances the Inspectors can ONLY make assessments on the basis of that which is actually in place at the time of the visit.

Section 1 – Mandatory Facilities

All elements within each of the mandatory criteria must be satisfied. Satisfaction of all the mandatory criteria within this section will qualify a ground for admission to the League. To advance through the divisions requires the continued satisfaction of all mandatory criteria plus attainment by detailed marking of the marks required in sections 2 and 3. Note also that in all the mandatory criteria below, that all elements within an individual criterion must be satisfied in order to pass that criterion. (E.g. In M8, if no first aid box is present, or is poorly stocked, then the whole of M8 will not be satisfied)

M1 Boundaries:

- All boundaries should be of 50 yards (measured from the middle stump at both ends of pitches used for 1st XI matches). One straight boundary can be between 45 and 50 yards as can one square boundary.
- **Complies: YES / NO**

M2 Outfield:

- Grass on the outfield must be cut short and receive its final mow on the match day or on the day immediately before the match. Where a winter sport is played on an outfield, then it must be quickly and thoroughly reinstated so that it is not noticeably different from any other outfield of a high standard where winter sport is not played.
- The boundary must be clearly marked. Rope or line markings to be enhanced by line markers at intervals of no more than 15 yards
- **Complies: YES / NO**

M3 The Square

- The square must have at least a 50 feet wide area that allows the boundaries as laid down in M1. Footmarks etc. from previous weeks' matches must have been repaired and an adequate means of watering the square be available.
- **Complies: YES / NO**

M4 The Pitch

- The pitch must be of a high standard and receive its final preparation preferably on the day of the match, but at least on the day before the match. It must be clearly and properly marked out in accordance with the laws and during intervals in play it must be brushed and re-marked. A roller must be available for rolling if required during intervals.
- **Complies: YES / NO**

M5 Sightscreens

- There must be effective and well-maintained sightscreens, and these must be at least 14 feet high and 12 feet wide. If the outfield slopes adversely they must be higher so as to compensate and they can be lower if the converse is the case.
- **Complies: YES / NO**

M6 Covers

- Adequate covering equipment, leak-free and well-maintained and capable of covering the whole of the pitch must be available.
- **Complies: YES / NO**

M7 Scoring & Timekeeping

- A scoreboard is required. This must show detail of the Total Score, wickets down, overs bowled and target runs. A clock of a minimum of 18 inches diameter must be prominent and clearly visible. An adequate time bell for use by umpires is obligatory. For first eleven matches a scorer must be provided.
- **Complies: YES / NO**

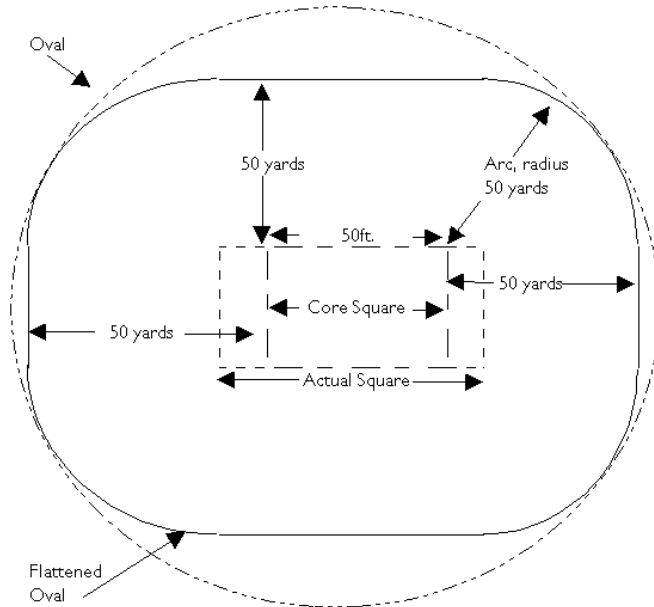
M8 Pavilion

- A pavilion is to be provided contiguous with the ground on which the match is played. It is required to have three changing rooms, one each for the teams (each of 120ft² minimum) and one for the umpires (30ft² minimum), and must contain hot showering facilities with at least six working showerheads. Toilet facilities (2 WC's and 2 urinals) must be provided either within the pavilion or within 25 yards of it. There must be a properly stocked and readily available first aid kit.
- **Complies: YES / NO**

In addition, when assessing grounds for admission into the League, the Inspectors must consider that it is reasonably possible for a ground to at least attain the standard required for admission to Division 1 before admission will be allowed.

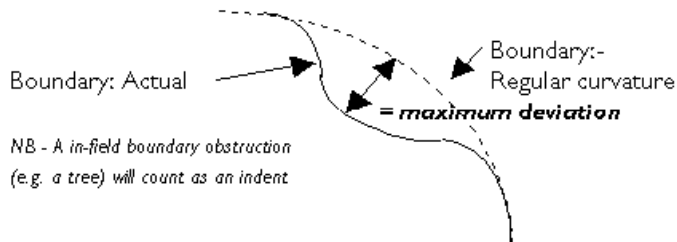
Section 2 – Detailed Marking

Part 1 – THE GROUND



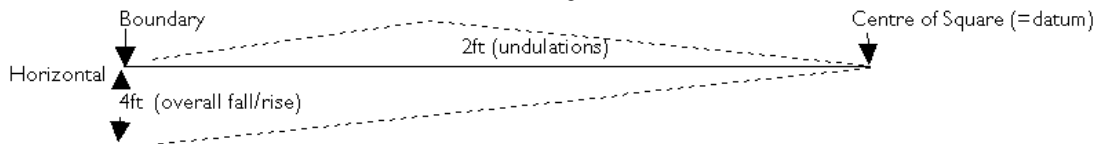
Boundaries are measured from the middle stumps of the pitches at each side of the core square.

- | | | |
|-------|------------------------|---|
| 1.1 | GROUND SIZE | A=135,000ft ² ; B=125,000ft ² ; C=110,000ft ² ; D=smaller
A=10/9 B=7 C=5 D=0 |
| 1.2 ¶ | BOUNDARIES | A=all 50 yards min; B=1 not less than 45 yards; C=all => 45 yards
A=20 ¶ B=15 ¶ C=10 0 |
| 1.3 | SHAPE
of the ground | A=Symmetric Oval; B= Flattened oval; C= Asymmetric oval or flattened oval in one quadrant
A=10/9 B=7 C=5 0 |
| 1.4 | REGULARITY | Are there any indents/outdents of the boundary where a reverse curve results in a 10 feet or greater deviation from regular curvature ? |



None=10/9 | Less than 10ft deviation = 5 | Greater than 10ft deviation = 0

- | | | |
|-----|------------|---|
| 1.5 | LEVELNESS. | Is the ground horizontal? If not horizontal in all quadrants indicate in how many quadrants are there rises/falls of 4ft or greater. NB The ground should be quartered so as to localise the areas of falls/rises (See also diagram in 1.6) |
|-----|------------|---|



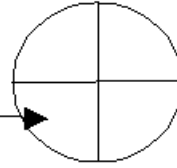
Horizontal= 10 | 4ft fall/rise in 1 quadrant= 7 | 4ft fall rise in 2 quadrant= 5 | 0

- | | | |
|-----|--------------|--|
| 1.6 | UNDULATIONS. | Are there significant undulations in the outfield? Undulations are uneven areas of the outfield where the level of the outfield varies by 2ft or more about datum. Indicate in how many quadrants of the ground there are undulations. (See also diagram below and also diagram in 1.5)
No Undulations= 10/9 Undulations in 1 quadrant= 7 Undulations in 2 quadrants= 5 0 |
|-----|--------------|--|

Undulations are areas where the level of the outfield varies by 2ft or more about datum.

"One quadrant of the ground"

NB the ground can be quartered to localise undulations



- 1.7 ¶ SURFACE **Is outfield rolled flat over 99% of surface, and closely cut?**
Good = 15/14¶ | Average = 10/9¶ | Poor = 0
- 1.8.1¶ BOUNDARY Is a white line/rope with markers at 15 yard intervals and/or boundary fencing/walling provided if not the former?
Good = 15/14¶ | Average = 10/9¶ | Poor = 0
- 1.8.2. DISCS Is there an adequate supply of 30-yard discs.
Yes = 5 | No = 0
- 1.9.1 NET AREAS. Are there grass net(s) on ground, well maintained and netted
Good = 10/9/8 | Average = 7/6/5 | Extant = 4/3/2 | None = 0
- 1.9.2. Are there all-weather net area(s), well maintained and netted
Good = 10/9/8 | Average = 7/6/5 | Extant = 4/3/2 | None = 0
- 1.10.1¶ PREPARATION When does the outfield receive its final mow (assuming match is on a Saturday) ?
Saturday = 15¶ | Friday = 10¶ | Before Friday = 0
- 1.10.2 **Is the outfield free of coagulated grass cuttings (apply leniency if wet conditions prevail) ?**
Yes = 15 | A few = 10 | No = 0
- 1.10.3¶ If part of the outfield is used for winter sports, does relevant surface receive special and effective treatment to make suitable for cricket?
NB – If winter sports are played on an outfield a club is required to demonstrate that it has the capacity and an ongoing plan in place to restore the outfield to the standard required for cricket. The reinstatement work should be undertaken before the start of the League season. As a minimum the restitution process should consist of dressing, re-seeding and rolling. Whilst some allowance will be made in the first few weeks of the season, after that point the reinstated outfield must not be discernibly different from that of any other high quality fielding surface. Slide marks, footprints etc. should not be evident in any properly reinstated outfield.
Yes (also if no winter sport played on ground) = 15 | Some = 8 | Little = 4 | None = 0
- 1.11 PRESENTATION. **Is the outfield cut neatly in well defined lanes with visible nap**
Yes = 5/4 | No = 0

PART 2 – THE SQUARE

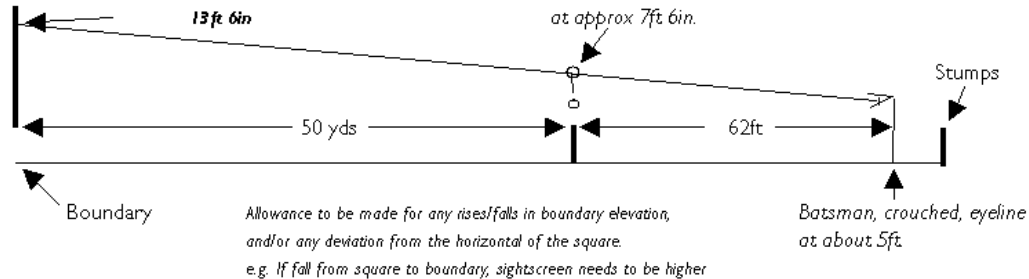
- 2.1.1¶ CORE SQUARE. Is the core square at least 50 feet wide?
100 ft wide = 15¶ | 50 ft wide = 10¶ | under 50ft wide = 0
- 2.1.2 Is the core square horizontal on all the planes indicated?
North South = +5 | East West = +5 | Diagonally = +5
- 2.2.1 SURFACE. Was surface dressed and re-seeded during the close season?
Yes = 10 | RFI = 7/6/5 | No = 0
- 2.2.2. ¶ Does surface appear to be capable of sustaining play to a high standard over 2 days?
NB “Proven” is awarded only if ground has a recent record of staging competitive multi-day matches at a high level, such as staging 2nd XI county championship matches or equivalent in the last 3 years
Proven = 30¶ | Probable = 20¶ | No = 0
- 2.3.1¶ PREPARATION. Is there a convenient method of watering the pitch/square?
Yes = 15¶ | No = 0
- 2.3.2¶ **Have footmarks etc. in pitches from previous matches been repaired?**
Yes = 15/14¶ | RFO = 10/9/8¶ | No = 0
- 2.3.3¶ **Are pitches marked strictly in accordance with the Laws?**
Yes = 15/14¶ | No = 0
- 2.3.4 Is the final cut/roll/markings undertaken on day of or day preceding match?
Yes = 15 | Mostly = 10 | Sometimes = 5 | Seldom = 0
- 2.3.5. ¶ **Are pitches brushed and creases re-marked at tea interval?**
Yes = 15¶ | No = 0

2.3.6. ¶ Is a roller available for use during intervals?
Yes = 15¶ | No = 0

2.4 PRESENTATION. **Is the square neatly defined and the square itself cut in "Lanes"?**
Yes = 5 | No = 0

PART 3 – FIXTURES, FITTINGS & EQUIPMENT

3.1.1¶ SIGHTSCREENS. Are there sightscreens at both ends?
Yes = 15¶ | No = 0



3.1.2. ¶ Are the sightscreens well painted and free from repair requirements?
Yes = 10¶ | No = 0

3.1.3. ¶ Are the sightscreens in compliance with the minimum size requirements?
15' high x 16' wide = 15¶ | 14' high x 12' wide = 10¶ | Under 14' high = 5 | None = 0

3.1.4. Can the screens be easily repositioned during a match – how many people does it take to move them?
1 person = 10 | 2 persons = 7 | 3 persons = 3 | more than 3 = 0

3.2.1. ¶ COVERS. Is covering equipment capable of covering the pitch available?
Portable Wheeled Type = 20¶ | Tarpaulins or similar = 15¶ | None = 0

3.2.2. Can the bowlers run-up areas (10ft beyond the bowling crease) be covered?
Yes = 10 | No = 0

3.2.3. Does all the covering equipment appear to be leak-free and well maintained?
Yes = 15/14 | No = 0

3.3.1 SCORING. **What is displayed on the scoreboard?** (Minimum = Score, Wickets, Overs & Target)
NB - Scoreboards must be updated at least at the end of every over. A comprehensive display includes batsman's totals, but these totals must also be continually updated for the full mark to be awardable.
Comprehensive = 20 | Minima = 15 | 0

3.3.2. In what size of numbers are the score, wickets and overs displayed?
12in. high = 10 | 10in. high = 7 | Smaller = 0

3.3.3. Do the scorers have adequate visual facilities?
NB - Both scorers must be able to see both umpires and both batsmen simultaneously. Both scores must be able to observe the bowlers through the whole of their run-ups.
Always = 10 | Mostly = 7/6/5 | 0

3.3.4. Is the scoreboard (or scoring position) clean and tidy?
Yes = 10 | RFI = 7/6/5 | No = 0

3.4.1. ¶ CLOCK. Is a large diameter clock positioned prominently?
NB – Digital clocks can be provided instead of an analogue clock, and will be marked as a 24in clock provided that it is clearly readable from all of the field including the furthest point of the playing area. If it is only clearly readable from points where the umpires are likely to stand then it will be marked as an 18in clock. Otherwise a digital clock will not comply.
24in. Dia. = 10/9¶ | 18in. Dia. = 7/6¶ | Other = 4/3 | 0

3.4.2. Is the clock face clear and visible from all parts of the playing area?
Yes = 10/9 | 0

3.5.1. STUMPS/BAILS. Is a matching set of stumps and a matching set of bails used?
Yes = 5 | 0

3.5.2. Is a heavyweight set of bails available?
Yes = 5 | 0

PART 4 – PAVILION & CHANGING ROOMS

- 4.1.1. ¶ LOCATION. Is the pavilion contiguous with the ground?
NB – Pavilions should be adjoining the field of play, be demonstrably for cricket and be conveniently usable in all weather conditions
Yes = 10/9/8¶ | No = 0
- 4.1.2. Does the pavilion open frontally to the ground?
Yes = 10/9/8 | No = 0
- 4.1.3. Is there external shelter for spectators and players in the case of rain?
Yes = 5/4 | No = 0
- 4.2.1 ¶ CHANGING ROOMS Does each team have separate changing rooms?
NB – Facilities provided in a building not adjoining the field of play cannot be marked, although they can be considered to satisfy a mandatory requirement
Yes = 10 ¶ | 0
- 4.2.2 ¶ Is each changing room larger than the 120 square feet?
NB – Facilities provided in a building not adjoining the field of play cannot be marked, although they can be considered to satisfy a mandatory requirement
Yes = 20/19¶ | 0
- 4.2.3. Are the changing rooms adequately maintained, with no obvious repair work needed?
NB – Facilities provided in a building not adjoining the field of play cannot be marked.
Yes = 10/9/8 | 0
- 4.2.4. Are the changing rooms clean and tidy
NB – Facilities provided in a building not adjoining the field of play cannot be marked.
Yes = 10 | RFI = 6/5/4 | 0
- 4.2.5 Does each changing room front onto the ground with an easy view from the room of the field?
NB – Ideally the frontage of changing rooms should parallel a line drawn at 90° to another line drawn from the centre of the changing rooms to the centre of the field. (22½° either side of the ideal is acceptable). It should always be possible for a player standing up in the changing rooms to look out through a window and see most of the field of play.
NB – Facilities provided in a building not adjoining the field of play cannot be marked.
Yes = 10/9/8 | 0
- 4.3.1. ¶ UMPIRES Do the umpires have a separate changing room?
NB – Facilities provided in a building not adjoining the field of play cannot be marked, although they can be considered to satisfy a mandatory requirement
Over 30sq.ft = 15¶ | Under 30 sq ft = 8 | 0
- 4.3.2¶ Is there an adequate time bell for the umpires to use?
Yes = 15¶ | RFI = 10/9/8¶ | 0
- 4.3.3. Is the umpires' room free of unnecessary clutter?
NB – The Umpires' room should not be used as a general store room
NB – Facilities provided in a building not adjoining the field of play cannot be marked.
Yes = 10/9/8 | 0
- 4.3.4. Are coats provided for umpires, and are they clean and in good repair?
Yes = 10 | RFI = 6/5/4 | 0
- 4.3.5. Are the umpires provided with separate washing and/or showering facilities?
Yes = 5 | 0
- 4.4.1¶ TOILETS Male Toilets: Are 2 urinals and 2 WC's provided?
NB – Male Toilets should be within pavilion or if separate no more than 25 yards from changing rooms (if within a pavilion adjoining the ground), otherwise within 25 yards of field of play.
Yes = 20¶ | Less 15/10/5 | None = 0
- 4.4.2 Female Toilets: Is at least one separate WC provided?
NB – Facilities provided in a building not adjoining the field of play cannot be marked.
Yes = 10 | 0
- 4.4.3. Are the toilets clean, tidy and supplied with toilet paper?
Yes = 10 | RFI = 6/5/4 | 0
- 4.5.1. ¶ SHOWERS. Are there showering facilities with at least six working showerheads?
8 or more = 20¶ | 6 or 7 = 15¶ | < 6 = 10 | None = 0
- 4.5.2 Is the showering facilities for each team separate?
Yes = 5 | 0

- 4.5.3 Are the showers clean, tidy and in good working order?
Yes = 10 | RFI = 6/5/4 | 0
- 4.5.4 When the match is finished is there an adequate supply of hot water?
Yes = 10 | 0
- 4.6¶ FIRST AID. Is there a well-stocked first aid box?
Yes = 15/14¶ | 0
- 4.7.1 KITCHEN/DINING. Is there private seating accommodation for 30 people in the dining area?
Yes = 10 | 0
- 4.7.2. Are the officials (Umpires/Scorers etc) offered a separate table for catering purposes?
Yes = 10 | 0
- 4.7.3. Is the Dining Room and Kitchen area clean, tidy and hygienic?
Yes = 10 | RFI = 6/5/4 | 0

PART 5 – MISCELLANEOUS.

- 5.1 Is there adequate seating and separate toilet facilities for spectators?
Yes = 10 | 0
- 5.2. Are bowlers run-up markers/discs provided?
Yes = 5 | 0
- 5.3 **Is there an adequate and easily obtainable supply of sawdust?**
Yes = 10 | 0
- 5.4. Is a scorer normally provided for 1st XI matches?
Yes = 15/14 | 0
- 5.5 Is adequate car parking both for teams and officials provided contiguous with the ground?
Yes = 10 | 0
- 5.6. Does the club run properly organised and supervised youth section(s)?
Under 11 = +10 | Under 13 = +10 | Under 15 = +10

Section 3 – Overall Assessment

NB - Excellent = "a compleat cricket ground" Below Average = "a ground on which cricket is played"

	Excellent	Above Average	Average	Below Average
GROUND	35	25	15	0
PITCH	40	30	20	0
FACILITIES	30	20	10	0
PAVILION	30	20	10	0

SUMMARY

Were all the criteria in SECTION 1 passed? YES/NO
If YES

TOTAL MARKS FOR Section 2, PART 1 _____

TOTAL MARKS FOR Section 2, PART 2 _____

TOTAL MARKS FOR Section 2, PART 3 _____

TOTAL MARKS FOR Section2, PART 4 _____

TOTAL MARKS FOR Section2, PART 5 _____

TOTAL MARKS FOR SECTION 3 _____

TOTAL MARKS AWARDED _____ = _____ %