

# ANNEXE D

## DEVON CRICKET LEAGUE GROUND GRADING 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 which 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 League must adhere, largely related to common sense safety and comfort requirements. These minimum standards are set out below.

In addition, any member club of the League may apply for and, upon satisfying the Ground Grading Committee (GGC) that club facilities reach the required level, be awarded one of three higher grades - Bronze, Silver or Gold. The requirements for these grades are set out in table form on the following pages and are **in addition to the Minimum Standards**.

The **Gold** award (G) is based on current guidance notes issued by ECB, while **Silver** (S) and **Bronze** (B) levels have been assessed to be reasonable requirements for the relevant level of cricket.

For the season 2005, all clubs in, or being promoted to, the top three Divisions will be required to hold the following Certificates:

Premier Division	Gold Award
A Division	Silver Award
B Division	Bronze Award

Qualification for 2005 must have been achieved by 31st August 2004 and, for future years, by 31st August of the season preceding that to which the Award will apply.

See the Supporting Notes and Definitions for details of inspection and grading procedures. A club which has been inspected during or since 2001 will be graded on the basis of that inspection.

Where a club fails to achieve the required level, the LMC, upon advice from the GGC, may bar promotion to a higher division or enforce relegation to a division for which a certificate is held.

Under circumstances where a club can show that enforcement of the criteria by the required date will cause undue financial strain or that the time available for improvements to be made is insufficient, **and** that every effort is being made to comply, the LMC shall have the power to allow additional time for compliance to be achieved.

### Minimum Standards

To be adhered to by **all** member clubs (See also 'Supporting Notes' on page 5)

#### 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 Ground Grading Committee 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><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Condition</u></b>
<b>Square</b>	Must be clearly distinguishable from the outfield and with a smooth surface. Must show evidence of care & maintenance (including weed control) and repair.
<b>Pitch</b>	Must be clearly distinguishable from the square Must show evidence of care, maintenance (including weed control), and preparation. Must be rolled and correctly marked shortly before the <b>scheduled toss</b> . Should not give excessive spin or movement off the seam. Must not exhibit dangerous bounce. Should be suitable for 100 over matches.
<b>Outfield</b>	Must show evidence of care & maintenance. Should allow the ball to run freely and evenly.
<b>Boundary</b>	Must be continuously or frequently marked.
<b>Surrounds</b>	Should be maintained by regular cutting. Fences and walls must be well maintained. Suitable measures should be taken to limit wasted playing time due to lost balls.
<b>Roller</b>	A light (preferably not > 5cwt) roller must be available for use during matches.
<b>Drying Equipment</b>	An adequate supply of suitable sawdust and drying cloths must 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, must be provided for players and umpires.
<b>First Aid</b>	A First Aid Kit / Box, complying with Devon Cricket League requirements, must be kept fully stocked and must be easily accessible during play.
<b>Scoring Facilities</b>	An adequate covered area must be provided for two scorers with sufficient table space and two chairs. Umpires must 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 must be provided. During matches, the scoreboard display should be updated at least every two overs.
<b>Umpires</b>	Bowlers' markers, cloths, umpires' coats, bails and spare stumps should be easily and quickly available.

## Devon Cricket League

### Ground Grading Criteria (Revised November 2002)

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

Facility	Condition	G	S	B
<b>Square</b>	Slope: <u>S</u> light, <u>A</u> cceptable	S	A	A
	Changes in level: <u>N</u> one, <u>A</u> cceptable	N	A	A
	Grass Mixture: <u>G</u> ood, <u>A</u> cceptable	G	G	A
	Root Growth: <u>G</u> ood (3.5+ ins), <u>M</u> edium (3+ ins)	G	M	M*
	Weed Growth: <u>M</u> inimal, <u>A</u> cceptable	M	M	A
	Whole square cut within 48 hours of start of match	✓	D	D
<b>Pitch in Use</b>	Bounce medium height & predictable throughout match	✓	✓	D
	Compaction to extend to at least 3 inches	✓	✓	D
	To be marked as on page 70 of League Handbook	✓	✓	✓
	Brushed, re-marked & rolled if required between innings	✓	✓	✓
	Able to support 120 - over matches	✓	D	D
	Properly matched sets of Stumps & Bails in place	✓	✓	D
	Not Artificially Watered within 36 hours of start of match	✓	✓	D
<b>Outfield</b>	Slope(s) gentle (not excessive)	✓	✓	✓
	Major changes in level: <u>N</u> one, <u>G</u> entle	N	G	G
	Surface roughness: <u>N</u> one, <u>M</u> inimal	N	M	M
	Weed Growth: <u>M</u> inimal, <u>A</u> cceptable	M	M	A
	Mowing: <u>C</u> lose, <u>A</u> cceptable	C	C	A
	Grass Cuttings on surface: <u>N</u> ot noticeable, <u>L</u> ight only.	N	N	L
Adequate drainage to allow swift drying	✓	D	D	
<b>Boundary</b>	Not <50yds nor >90yds from nearer middle stump. §	✓	D	D
	Clearly marked by continuous rope or white line.	✓	✓	✓
	Marked so as to be visible from umpiring positions.	✓	✓	D
	If sight screens would otherwise be in playing area, to be marked by rope or boards with sufficient room to allow screen movement without adjustment of boundary	✓	✓	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.	✓	✓	D
<b>Scoring Facilities</b>	Scorebox with 'table' & 2 chairs, fully weatherproof and having an integral, internally operated scoreboard in full working order.	✓	✓	✓*
		✓	✓	✓*
<b>Covers</b>	Effective, for pitch & run-ups, preferably wheeled	✓	✓	D
	If present, easily accessible for use during match	✓	✓	✓
	Sheets or tarpaulins, if used, laid on hessian underlay	✓	✓	✓
	Used on days preceding a match as appropriate.	✓	D	D
<b>Drying Tools</b>	Equipment (forks, brushes, squeegees etc.) available	✓	D	D
<b>Rollers</b>	Heavy Roller (min 30cwt) available	✓	D	D

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

<b>Practice Facilities</b>	At least 1 grass/artificial net available to both sides (Grass nets showing true & predictable bounce)	✓	✓	✓*
<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.	✓	✓	✓
	Flooring to be suitable for bare feet	✓	✓	D
	Heating provided.	D	D	D
	Minimum area to be 180 square feet each §	✓	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.	✓	✓	✓
	Wash basin with hot & cold water.	✓	D	D
<b>Showers</b>	Minimum 2 per team, with hot & cold water.	✓	✓	✓
<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.	✓	✓	✓
	<b>Ladies:</b> Minimum 1 WC. Hand washing & drying facilities, mirror. Separate access.	✓	✓	✓
<b>Hospitality</b>	All food of good standard. Food serving area to be near playing area with adequate seating for players, officials and a few spectators.	✓	✓	✓
	Kitchen to have adequate equipment, storage & surfaces to provide teas for players, officials & spectators.	✓	✓	✓
	Bar, where present, to be adequately staffed & open before the close of play.	✓	✓	✓
<b>Ground Surrounds</b>	<b>Entrance</b> to ground clearly signed with name of club	✓	✓	✓
	Adequate seating for the usual number of spectators	✓	✓	D
	Measures taken to prevent delay through lost balls	✓	✓	✓
<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	✓	✓	✓
	Suitable provision for spectators to watch from cars	D	D	D
	Disabled access to ground and social areas	D	D	D
<b>Telephone</b>	A telephone (public phone or designated mobile), in working order, must be available for emergency use by players, officials and spectators	✓	✓	✓

# Devon Cricket League

## Ground Grading Criteria (Revised December 2002)

### 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 unnecessary 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.

#### The Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards

A tick indicates that a Condition is mandatory, a 'D' that it is Desirable. The significance of other letters is indicated by emboldened and underlined initials of the relevant Conditions.

Use of words such as 'Minimal', 'Slight', 'Good', 'Acceptable', 'Medium', 'Gentle', 'Close' etc. refers to judgements to be made by Inspectors during their inspection. Inspectors will have a wide knowledge of conditions throughout the County for comparison purposes.

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

\* - Condition to become a requirement in 2006

#### Grading Procedure:

The LMC will ensure that between ten and fifteen clubs are inspected each season. Inspection will take place on a match day and will normally, though not necessarily, be notified to the club. If such notification is given, it shall be no earlier than two days beforehand.

Matters relating to the Pitch and Square will always be inspected by the DCL Grounds Inspector. All other facilities and features may be inspected by a member or members of the GGC, either during a notified match day inspection or on other occasions throughout the season.

Inspectors will complete a confidential report to be discussed in detail at the next available meeting of the GGC. Based on this report and discussion, the GGC will award and issue the appropriate certificate or, where applicable, certify 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 GGC.

The Ground Grading Certificate must be displayed prominently in the Club Pavilion and is valid until reviewed by the GGC.

#### Appeal:

Any member club is entitled to appeal if its management feels that grading of its facilities, other than that determined by the Grounds Inspector, is unreasonable or unfair. To do so, the club must write to the League Secretary stating the basis upon which such appeal is made and, where re-inspection is required, enclosing a non returnable cheque (made out to The Devon Cricket League) for £50.00 towards the costs incurred.

The Chairman of the GGC will then appoint two senior members of the League Management Committee, neither of whom has previously inspected the club in question, to carry out an inspection and report back to him.

The GGC 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.