

2 January 2018

MCG PITCH RATED AS “POOR”

- ***Review to be carried out under the current ICC Pitch and Outfield Monitoring Process; new rating system comes into effect from 4 January***

The International Cricket Council today announced that the pitch for the fourth Test between Australia and England at the Melbourne Cricket Ground has been rated as “poor” under the [ICC Pitch and Outfield Monitoring Process](#).

ICC Match Referee Ranjan Madugalle submitted his report to the ICC expressing the concerns of the match officials over the performance of the pitch which saw Australia scoring 327 and 263 for four declared, and England scoring 491 in their only innings.

This report has been forwarded to Cricket Australia, who now have 14 days to provide their response.

Mr Madugalle said: “The bounce of the MCG pitch was medium, but slow in pace and got slower as the match progressed. The nature of the pitch did not change over the five days and there was no natural deterioration. As such, the pitch did not allow an even contest between the bat and the ball as it neither favoured the batsmen too much nor it gave the bowlers sufficient opportunity to take wickets.”

The MCG Test was the last Test to be rated under the current ICC Pitch and Outfield Monitoring Process, with a revised process coming into effect in men’s and women’s international cricket from Thursday, 4 January 2018, following the conclusion of the New Zealand versus Windies T20I series which ends in Mount Maunganui on Wednesday.

The major change in the revised ICC Pitch and Outfield Monitoring Process is to the sanctioning system for venues which present substandard conditions for international matches. If a pitch or outfield is rated as being substandard, that venue will be allocated a number of demerit points.

One demerit point will be awarded to venues whose pitches are rated by the match referees as *below average*, while three and five demerit points will be awarded to venues whose pitches are marked as *poor* and *unfit*, respectively.

When a venue accumulates five demerit points, it will be suspended from hosting any international cricket for a period of 12 months, while a venue will be suspended from staging any international cricket for 24 months when it reaches the threshold of 10 demerit points.

Demerit points will remain active for a rolling five-year period.

The new ICC Pitch and Outfield Monitoring Process will be released on 4 January and will be available on the ICC website [here](#).

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FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT

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ABOUT THE ICC

The ICC is the global governing body for cricket. Representing 104 members, the ICC governs and administrates the game and is responsible for the staging of major international tournaments including the ICC World Cup and Women's World Cup, ICC Champions Trophy and the ICC Men's and Women's World T20.

The ICC presides over the ICC Code of Conduct which sets the professional standards of discipline for international cricket, playing conditions, bowling reviews and other ICC regulations. The Laws of the game remain under the auspices of the MCC.

The ICC also appoints the umpires and referees that officiate at all sanctioned Test matches, One Day International and Twenty20 Internationals. Through the Anti-Corruption Unit it coordinates action against corruption and match fixing.

The ICC Development department works with associate members to improve the quality of international cricket, build better cricket systems, get more people playing cricket and grow the game.

