

# ICC Pitch and Outfield Monitoring Process (effective from 4 January 2018)

## INTRODUCTION

These regulations are introduced to ensure that international cricket is played on pitches and outfields which are maintained by ICC Members to a suitably high standard.

### 1. DEFINITIONS

**Chairman of Cricket Committee** means the person appointed and holding office from time to time as the Chairman of the ICC Cricket Committee.

**Demerit Points** means points which are accrued by a Host Venue pursuant to clause 4 each time the Host Venue receives a rating of Below Average, Poor or Unfit.

**Ground Authority** means the relevant company, organisation, club or association actually responsible for maintaining the pitch and outfield.

**Home Board** means the ICC Member under whose jurisdiction and auspices the relevant Match takes place.

**Host Venue** means the venue at which the relevant Match takes place and which falls within the jurisdiction of the Home Board.

**ICC** means The International Cricket Council, the worldwide governing body for the sport of cricket.

**ICC Chief Executive** means the person appointed and holding office from time to time as Chief Executive of the ICC in accordance with article 3.4 of the ICC's Articles of Association.

**ICC Chief Referee** means the person appointed and holding office from time to time as the ICC's Chief Referee.

**ICC Senior Cricket Operations Manager** means the person appointed and holding office from time to time as the ICC Senior Cricket Operations Manager.

**ICC General Manager – Cricket** means the person appointed and holding office from time to time as ICC General Manager – Cricket.

**ICC General Counsel** means the person appointed and holding office from time to time as ICC General Counsel.

**International Cricket** means a Men's or Women's Test, ODI or Twenty20 International as defined in the ICC regulations titled Classification of Official Cricket.

**Match** means a match which is defined as International Cricket.

**Match Referee** means the official appointed by the ICC to officiate as match referee at the relevant Match.

**Visiting Board** means the ICC Member whose national representative team plays against the national representative team of the Home Board in the relevant Match.

### 2. APPLICABILITY

This Pitch and Outfield Monitoring Process shall apply to all venues hosting a Match.

### 3. REPORT

3.1 At the conclusion of each Match, the Match Referee will complete a Pitch and Outfield Report Form (using the template in Appendix A for a Test Match or the template in Appendix B for an ODI match or Twenty20 International match) and send it to the ICC Senior Cricket Operations Manager.

- 3.2 The Pitch and Outfield Report Form will be compiled using the Guidelines in Appendix C and will include comments on the pitch and outfield from the captains of the two teams who played and the umpires who officiated in the relevant Match.
- 3.3 Within 14 days of receipt, the ICC Senior Cricket Operations Manager will forward the Pitch and Outfield Report Form to the Home Board, with a copy to the Visiting Board.
- 3.4 The ICC Senior Cricket Operations Manager will advise the Home Board of any Demerit Points that have been imposed on a Host Venue in accordance with paragraph 4 below.

#### **4. SANCTIONS FOR PITCHES AND/OR OUTFIELDS RATED BELOW AVERAGE, POOR OR UNFIT**

- 4.1 It is expected that venues that are allocated the responsibility of hosting a Match will present the best possible pitch and outfield conditions for that match.
- 4.2 If the conditions are such that the Match Referee has cause to rate the pitch and/or outfield Below Average, Poor or Unfit, a corresponding number of Demerit Points will be imposed upon the Host Venue as per the table below.

Rating	Pitch	Outfield
Very Good	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>
Good	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>
Average	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>
Below Average	1 Demerit Point	0 Demerit Points
Poor	3 Demerit Points	2 Demerit Points
Unfit	5 Demerit Points	5 Demerit Points

- 4.3 Demerit Points will remain active for a rolling 5-year period.
- 4.4 Where a Host Venue accumulates a total of five (5) or more Demerit Points, the Host Venue will have its accreditation to host International Matches (at the point that the Host Venue first crosses the relevant threshold) suspended as follows.
  - 5 Points – Host Venue accreditation will be suspended for a period of 12 months
  - 10 Points – Host Venue accreditation will be suspended for a period of 24 months
- 4.5 Where a Host Venue has had both its pitch and its outfield in the same match rated Below Average, Poor and/or Unfit, the number of Demerit Points allocated will be the higher number as per the table above. For example, in one match, both the pitch and the outfield were rated as POOR. In accordance with the table above, that venue will be allocated 3 Demerit Points for that match (the maximum of 3 Demerit Points for the pitch, and not the 2 Demerit Points for the outfield).
- 4.6 In the event that a Host Venue has been allocated Demerit Points for the condition of its outfield, and that Host Venue has a number of subsequent fixtures scheduled over a short period of time, the Host Venue will need more time to improve the condition of its outfield than it would to produce a better pitch, so any subsequent Outfield Ratings within a period of 2 months after the initial rating will not add to the active Demerit Points for that Host Venue.

#### **5. NOTICE OF DECISION AND PENALTY**

The ICC shall inform the Home Board in writing when a Host Venue has its accreditation to host International Matches suspended in accordance with paragraph 4.4 above.

#### **6. APPEAL AGAINST DECISION AND PENALTY**

The Home Board may appeal against the rating assigned by a Match Referee in accordance with the process below. An appeal may only be lodged against a pitch or outfield rating that incurs demerit points for a venue.

- 6.1 The relevant Home Board seeking to appeal against the rating assigned by the Match Referee, shall lodge with the ICC General Counsel written notice of appeal setting out the grounds of the appeal within 14 days of receipt of notification to the Home Board of the

imposition of Demerit Points and/or the imposition of a suspension in accordance with paragraph 4.6.

- 6.2 Within 14 days of receiving the appellant's notice of appeal, the ICC General Manager – Cricket and Chairman of Cricket Committee (or his nominee if the appeal is from the same country as the Chairman) shall hear and determine the appeal.
- 6.3 ICC General Manager – Cricket and Chairman of Cricket Committee (or his nominee if the appeal is from the same country as the Chairman) shall make their decision on the basis of the following:
  - a) The Match Referee's report (including the captains' and umpires' comments)
  - b) The report from the Home Board including any relevant submissions from the relevant Ground Authority.
  - c) The video of the match
  - d) The grounds for appeal as submitted by the Home Board
- 6.4 The ICC General Manager – Cricket and Chairman of Cricket Committee (or his nominee if the appeal is from the same country as the Chairman) shall provide a written decision to ICC which shall be forwarded to the appellant and the ICC Chief Executive.
- 6.5 The decision of the ICC General Manager – Cricket and Chairman of Cricket Committee (or his nominee if the appeal is from the same country as the Chairman) shall be final and binding.

## APPENDIX A

### GUIDANCE FOR RATING PITCHES

#### Categories and Criteria

ICC acknowledges the skills and complexities involved in the preparation of pitches.

It is understood that conditions may vary considerably from country to country, venue to venue and even from match to match depending on prevailing weather conditions and that this will have an impact on the nature of pitches produced. ICC recognises these variations are part of the unique nature of the sport.

All pitches will be judged on how they play, although the rating can also be positively influenced by the quality of the contest and of the individual performances produced during the match.

#### TEST MATCH PITCHES

##### General Comments

The objective of a Test pitch shall be to allow all the individual skills of the game to be demonstrated by the players at various stages of the match. If anything, the balance of the contest between bat and ball in a Test match should slightly favour the bowling team,

A pitch should be expected to deteriorate as the match progresses, and as a consequence the bounce could become more inconsistent, and the ball could deviate more (seam and spin) off the wearing surface.

##### Specific Ratings

TEST PITCH RATING		DEMERIT POINTS
<b>Very Good</b>	Good carry, limited seam movement and consistent good bounce early in the match and as the pitch wears as the match progresses, with an acceptable amount of turn on the first two days but natural wear sufficient to be responsive to spin later in the game.	<b>None</b>
<b>Good</b>	Average carry, moderate seam movement and consistent bounce both early in the match and as the pitch wears as the match progresses, natural wear sufficient to be responsive to spin from day 1, though not quite meeting the criteria for carry and bounce for a "very good" pitch.	<b>None</b>
<b>Average</b>	Lacks carry, and/or bounce and/or occasional seam movement, but consistent in carry and bounce. A degree of turn, but with average bounce for the spinner. Falling significantly short of "very good" with respect to carry, bounce and turn.	<b>None</b>
<b>Below Average</b>	Either very little carry and/or bounce and/or more than occasional seam movement, or occasional variable (but not excessive or dangerous) bounce and/or occasional variable carry. If a pitch demonstrates these features, then the pitch cannot be rated in a higher category regardless of the amount of turn the pitch displays at any stage of the match.	<b>1 point</b>
<b>Poor</b>	<p>A Poor pitch is one that does not allow an even contest between bat and ball, either by favouring the batters too much, and not giving the bowlers (seam and spin) from either team sufficient opportunity to take wickets, or by favouring the bowlers too much (seam or spin), and not giving the batters from either team the opportunity to make runs.</p> <p>If <u>any</u> of the following criteria apply, a pitch may be rated "poor":</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The pitch offers excessive seam movement at any stage of the match</li><li>- The pitch displays excessive unevenness of bounce for any bowler at any stage of the match</li><li>- The pitch offers excessive assistance to spin bowlers, especially early in the match</li><li>- The pitch displays little or no seam movement or turn at any stage in the match together with no significant bounce or carry, thereby depriving the bowlers of a fair contest between bat and ball.</li></ul>	<b>3 points</b>

	- The pitch displays excessive moisture making its playing characteristics unpredictable, or excessive dryness leading to the surface to deteriorate.	
<b>Unfit</b>	A pitch may be rated 'unfit' if it is dangerous.	<b>5 points</b>

### Clarifications

- Excessive means “too much”.
- It is recognised that a limited amount of seam movement is acceptable early in the match and that a pitch may develop some unevenness of bounce for seam bowlers as the match progresses. This is acceptable, but should not develop to a point where they would be described as “excessive”.
- It is acceptable for a pitch to offer some degree of turn on the first day of a match, particularly in the sub-continent, though anything more than occasional unevenness of bounce at this stage of the match is not acceptable. It is to be expected that a pitch will turn steadily more as a match progresses, and it is recognised that a greater degree of unevenness of bounce may develop.
- It is impossible to quantify the amount that a ball is “allowed” to turn as bowlers will turn the ball differing amounts. The type and identity of bowler shall be taken into account when assessing this factor.
- In no circumstances should the pitch 'explode'.

### ONE DAY - INTERNATIONAL AND TWENTY20 INTERNATIONAL PITCHES

The objective shall be to provide a pitch that is more favourable to the batsmen by providing a surface for good shot-making, and behaves consistently throughout the course of the match so as to provide an even contest for both teams.

Fulfilment of the lowest criteria will determine the overall rating for the pitch. For example, if the pitch demonstrates no unevenness, is just lacking in carry and/or bounce and more than occasional turn, then it must be rated “Below Average”.

Referees should take into account the nature and identity of spin bowlers when assessing the amount of turn that the pitch has demonstrated.

ODI/T20I PITCH RATING	Unevenness	Seam Movement	Carry and/or Bounce	Turn	DEMERIT POINTS
	<b>Very Good</b>	Little or no unevenness	Little or no seam movement	Good	
<b>Good</b>	Little or no unevenness	Little or no seam movement	Just lacking	Little or no turn	<b>None</b>
<b>Average</b>	Occasional	Occasional	Lacking	Occasional	<b>None</b>
<b>Below Average</b>	More than occasional	More than occasional	Minimal	More than occasional	<b>1 Point</b>
<b>Poor</b>	Excessive	Excessive	Very Minimal	Excessive	<b>3 Points</b>
<b>Unfit</b>	A pitch is rated unfit only if it is dangerous				<b>5 Points</b>

### OUTFIELDS

The assessment of the outfield should take into account a number of factors:

- Appearance
  - The evenness of the surface
  - The evenness of the grass cover
- Performance
  - The speed with which the ball travels across the outfield (fast / medium / slow)

- The evenness with which the ball bounces on/across the outfield
- Safety
  - The predictability of bounce for fielders
  - The freedom of movement of the bowlers and fielders.
- Recovery
  - How quickly the outfield is ready for play to resume after a rain interruption

The guidance referees should consider when rating outfields is tabled below.

<b>OUTFIELD RATING</b>		<b>DEMERIT POINTS</b>
<b>Very Good</b>	Well grassed, even covering, no bare patches, no irregularity of bounce, fast/medium pace.	<b>None</b>
<b>Good</b>	No bare patches, no irregularity of bounce, medium/fast pace.	<b>None</b>
<b>Average</b>	Predominantly well grassed, even covering, occasional irregularity of bounce, medium pace.	<b>None</b>
<b>Below Average</b>	Uneven covering of grass. Some irregular bounce. Medium/slow pace. Slow drainage of outfield, resulting in an unreasonable reduction in the available playing time. In judging whether the drainage is slow, the match referee shall consider the amount and timing of the rain / water, and the amount of time available for the outfield to drain/dry.	<b>None</b>
<b>Poor</b>	Excessive bare patches, excessive irregular bounce, slow (heavy) pace. Inadequate drainage of outfield, causing the abandonment of a match or an unacceptable reduction in the available playing time. In judging whether the drainage is inadequate, the match referee shall consider the amount and timing of the rain / water, and the amount of time available for the outfield to drain/dry.	<b>2 points</b>
<b>Unfit</b>	Dangerous to bowlers and/or fielders.	<b>5 points</b>