

Ground and Facilities A Plan of Action



Greater Manchester Cricket League Accreditation Scheme For Grounds and Facilities

Introduction

This paper provides a guide to the background, purpose, operation, and governance of the Greater Manchester Cricket League (GMCL) Accreditation Scheme for Grounds and Facilities. The GMCL Board will update the contents of the paper to incorporate future changes to the scheme.

Brief History

At the inception of the Greater Manchester Cricket League, and indeed contained within the Prospectus which was published prior to the formation of the League there was and remains a desire to improve standards of Grounds and Facilities in line with the vision of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) for the recreational game. All member clubs signed up to this approach as a condition of membership and by adopting the measures contained within the recently issued Memorandum of Understanding.

Purpose Of The Scheme

The purpose of this Accreditation Scheme is to promote continuous improvement, whilst ensuring that minimum standards continue to be satisfied. Participation in the Scheme is a condition of membership of the GMCL, and levels of accreditation are built into the eligibility criteria for entry to each of the GMCL Divisions.

Registering For Participation In The Scheme

All GMCL Clubs will register for participation in the scheme.

Standards

The Accreditation Standards are set out in Appendix 'A' and are in two parts,

- The standards for Pitches and Outfield/Boundary, which are supported by performance criteria and a rating scale.
- The Ground and Facilities. A standard marking sheet is available for this purpose.

Assessment Procedures

Ground and Facilities

Grading of grounds and facilities is determined by the following:

- Ground markings report, which is applied at the end of each match by the Umpires
- Ground Assessors reports, where available

Facilities are checked on physical evidence by Umpires and Grounds Assessors on the basis of 'present/not present' and reported accordingly.

Pitches and Outfield/Boundary

- Umpires and Captains pitch and ground markings

These reports will be submitted to a designated person appointed by the GMCL who will collate all the scores and information relevant to individual Clubs. This detailed information will be provided to all Clubs throughout the season with the intention of allowing clubs to improve as the season progresses and to set plans for the medium and long term.

Performance

The GMCL will use the information from the Assessment reports to create an overall score for a monthly period, which will be reported month on month. Set out below is an example of an overall score matrix, which is used for illustrative purposes only.

Club:			
Month:			
Ground and Facilities	Gold Standard All divisional requirements met over the month	Silver Standard 80% of the divisional requirements met over the month	Bronze Standard 60% of the divisional requirements met over the month
Pitches and Outfield/Boundary	Gold Standard Marks Pitch: 29.00 Outfield: 7.50 Total: 36.50	Silver Standard Marks Pitch: 26.00 Outfield: 7.00 Total: 33.00	Bronze Standard marks Pitch: 23.00 Outfield: 6.50 Total: 29.50

Accreditation

At the end of the season each Club will be accredited Gold, Silver or Bronze by using the information measured over the season. In particular, three questions are addressed within each tier of Accreditation:

- Is the standard met consistently over the season?
- Is there the capability and capacity in groundsmanship to maintain the standard?
- What is the trend over several seasons?

Accreditation is only given when consistency has been demonstrated. Once given, grading is not normally lowered or withdrawn on the basis of a single season of lesser standard. It follows that grading is not normally improved or restored until consistency is proved over two or more seasons. However, exceptions may occur based on better or worse performances as may arise.

Clubs may be given interim Grading levels namely, Silver with Gold potential or Bronze with Silver potential for Grounds & Facility grading only.

A system of early warnings from the GMCL will be instigated to enable Clubs to remedy deficiencies, based on recommendations from the Chairman of the GMCL Accreditation sub - committee which is made up of a team of internal and external ground staff who are recognised as experts in their field. External assessors will be appointed from the LCF Grounds Staff Association and finally approved by the GMCL Board.

Governance

The Accreditation Standards are set by the GMCL, and particularly for the Gold Standard are heavily influenced by the Standards set for Premier League Clubs by the ECB.

The Greater Manchester Cricket League Board manages and monitors the Grounds and Facilities Standards. Any disputes over matters of fact are open to review through the Leagues normal mechanisms.

Promotion & Relegation

If a Club's grading is Silver or lower for its present division at the end of the current season, relegation to the next lower division will be imposed unless the Club submits a letter, by 30th September of that year, signed by the Club's Chairman and Treasurer, as well as any relevant documentary and/or financial evidence, confirming that the requirements for a Silver with potential for Gold grading (or higher) for the higher division will be in place before the start of the season or if agreed by the GMCL Board a longer period of improvement may be granted.

Clubs aspiring to be promoted will be not be promoted unless at the end of the current season their grading meets at least Silver with potential for Gold status for the next division (or if they do not meet that grading, the Club submits a letter, by 30th September of that year, signed by the Club's Chairman and Treasurer, as well as any relevant documentary and/or financial evidence, confirming that the requirements for a Silver with potential for Gold grading (or higher) for the higher division will be in place by the start of the season or if agreed by the GMCL Board a longer period of improvement may be granted.

The above penalties will be subject to confirmation by the Management Board of GMCL, who may confirm or vary the penalty, following the right of the Club to appeal. However, Clubs should not assume that leniency will be shown, where the "Raising of Standards" is concerned.

It is not expected that the above criteria will apply to relegation from Division 2 or to promotion/relegation in lower divisions than Division 2

If a Club is relegated by reason of the above criteria from its current division it will be relegated instead of the best placed club in that division's league table (who meets the criteria) that would otherwise have been relegated by virtue of league placings.

If a Club(s) is prevented from being promoted by reason of the above criteria, then only the one next best placed team in the division by league standings will be considered for promotion (and then only if it meets the criteria). If the application of this paragraph leaves a place(s) still to be filled in the higher division, then such place(s) will be filled by not relegating the best placed club or clubs in the higher division who would otherwise have been relegated by virtue of league placings

It will always be our intention to provide a promotion route for teams who are successful on the field, but we will make sure that those Clubs that are progressing are aware of the standards required for them to climb the league and play at a higher level.

These revised arrangements and standards will be applied at the end of the 2020 season and as such will influence the promotion or otherwise of individual Clubs and Teams.

Appendix A –Standards

A1. The Standards for Pitches and Outfield/Boundary

GMCL – Umpires Pitch Marking Table					
Pitch/Grading Criteria	Unevenness of bounce	Seam Movement	Carry & Bounce	Turn	Mark
Very Good	None	None/very little	Good	None/very little	5
Good	Little	Little	Just lacking	Little	4
Average	Occasional	Occasional	Lacking	Occasional	3
Below Average	More than occasional	More than occasional	Minimal	More than occasional	2
Poor	Excessive	Excessive	Very minimal	Excessive	1
Unfit	A pitch is only rated unfit if it is <u>dangerous</u>				0

In the event of a 'spinner' not bowling in the match and it is not possible to score 'Category – Turn', an average of the marks for the other three categories should be given to enable the calculation of the Total Pitch Score. If unsure leave blank and make a suitable comment.

A minimum of 50% of the initially scheduled overs at the start of a days play must be bowled for the Total Pitch Score to be used in the season's records.

Umpires must make due allowance for the abilities of the bowlers and wear and tear of the pitch during the afternoon.

The scores are to be entered on the Umpires Report Card). Umpires must include a comment on the Report Card for a score of 2 or less for any of the four criteria or for a total score of 12 or less.

GMCL – Umpires' Outfield/Boundary Marking				
Grading Criteria	Appearance / Grass Length	Unevenness	Boundary markings (Question	Marks
Very Good	Cut & striped Below 3/4" (20mm)	None	Rope or fence in good condition.	5
Good	Cut &/or striped Below 3/4" (20mm)	Little	Rope or fence in good condition.	4
Average	Cut &/or striped Below 3/4" (20mm).	Slightly uneven	Rope or fence in reasonable condition	3
Below Average	Cut longer than 3/4" (20mm).	Very uneven	Condition less than above Markings not clear	2
Poor	Long Grass. Impairs free ball movement	Excessive unevenness	No Clear Markings	1
Unfit	An outfield is only rated unfit if it is <u>dangerous</u>			0

Appendix A –Standards

A2. Ground and Facilities.

Item	Descriptor	Notes	Premier and Premier 2	Championship and Division 1	Divisions 2a and 2b	Divisions 3 and 4
Sight Screen	Two at each end/moveable/ non-reflective/must be in good condition and adequate and appropriate for the size of ground. They should stand outside the playing area.		Yes	No	No	No
Sight Screen	One at either end/moveable/ non-reflective/must be in good condition and adequate and appropriate for the size of ground. They should stand outside the playing area.		No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Scoreboard/ Scoring Facilities	Electronic or manual. Must be able to display minimum of total runs, total to win, wickets down, overs remaining, current individual batsman's score, last man's score, Duckworth-Lewis- Stern score	Duckworth-Lewis- Stern required in all Divisions.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Internet connection	Premier and Premier 2 must provide a Wi-Fi signal for both scorers	Yes	No	No	No
Item	Descriptor	Notes	Premier and Premier 2	Championship and Division 1	Divisions 2a and 2b	Divisions 3 and 4

Scoring facilities	<p>Separate area to accommodate two scorers either</p> <p>As an integral part of the score box with a clear view of the playing area. Comfortable place for two scorers or as a separate area (or room) away from the main scoreboard. Must have the capacity to update the scoreboard either manually or electronically. Adequate space for two seated scorers and a clear view of the ground</p>		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Covers	<p>Ideally these should be mobile covers to cover the match pitch with the appropriate 'drain off' capacity. Covers should be 'fit for purpose' free from punctures and leaks.</p>	<p>It is recognised that some grounds are more suitable to flat sheet covering. The League should be consulted.</p>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	<p>Flat sheet covers should be available to cover the bowlers run ups</p>	<p>Option of flat sheet covers from Championship and Division 1 and below.</p>	Yes	No	No	No
Main Clock	<p>A clock that can be viewed from the match pitch, mounted externally either on the clubhouse or the score box</p>	<p>Must be in good working order</p>	Yes	Recommended but not mandatory	Recommended but not mandatory	Recommended but not mandatory
Match Stumps and Bails	<p>Should be properly matched sets in good condition and with matching bails</p>	<p>See 'umpires kit' below</p>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Item	Descriptor	Notes	Premier and Premier 2	Championship and Division 1	Divisions 2a and 2b	Divisions 3 and 4

The Boundary	The boundary should be clearly marked by a rope or white line or suitable equivalent with markers approximately 20 yards apart.		The boundary should be clearly marked by a rope or equivalent.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Drying Equipment	The club should have the ability to remove either manually or mechanically, areas of surface water after rain. Sawdust for damp ground/pitch areas. Cloths for drying the ball	Bowdry ground drying machine or similar	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Umpires 'Kit'	Bowler's markers, bails, match stumps and spares. Full set inner field discs and spares	Premier and Premier 2 Walkie Talkies for use by Umpires to contact scorers during the match	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Practice facilities	Two bay outdoor net facility (either grass or artificial). Where space permits these should be a permanent facility. All surfaces should be well maintained. Artificial surfaces should be free of holes or tears. Where possible netting should be full length and should incorporate roof netting. Nets should be in a good state of repair	<i>Note: From Championship down minimum of one outdoor net – either mobile or fixed</i>	Yes	See note	See note	No
Item	Descriptor	Notes	Premier and Premier 2	Championship and Division 1	Divisions 2a and 2b	Divisions 3 and 4
Players Changing Rooms	Two separate rooms. Changing rooms should be lockable should include coat		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

	hooks for 12 players with bench (or similar) seating					
Showers	Three shower heads as a minimum		Three shower heads	Two shower heads	Two shower heads	Two shower heads
Toilets for Players	Ideally with convenient access from changing rooms. One WC and hand basin with mirror above (minimum)		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Changing for Umpires	Separate from the players with access to a WC and hand basin with mirror. Lockable room with seating, coat and towel hooks adequate for two umpires		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bell	A bell for umpires to declare innings commencement		Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Social and Dining / Tea Room	Dual purpose room for social functions and to accommodate players and umpires for lunch and tea breaks		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kitchen and Serving Area	Either commercial or domestic operation. Commercial operation has separate requirements from domestic. Environmental health regulations require separate wash/hand basin in food preparation areas.		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Item	Descriptor	Notes	Premier and Premier 2	Championship and Division 1	Divisions 2a and 2b	Divisions 3 and 4

Telephone	A telephone (either landline or designated mobile) must be available for (emergency) use by players, officials and spectators	<i>Information should be displayed in the clubhouse relating to the location of, and telephone numbers for the local GP surgery and hospital</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ladies and gents Toilets	Separate ladies and gent's toilet facilities. WC and hand basin with mirror above. Hot and cold running water		Yes	Yes	Separate toilet facility and hand basin. WC with hot and cold running water	Access to toilets with hand washing
First Aid Box	A fully stocked First Aid Box must be available at all times when the club is being used.		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Signage	Entrance to the ground to be clearly signed in the name of the club		Yes	Yes	Yes	Where applicable
Seating	Adequate external seating for players and spectators		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Car parking	Adequate car parking for players, officials and spectators – at or reasonably adjacent to the club or other appropriate facility for car parking.	<i>The appropriate insurance disclaimer should be displayed as appropriate</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Item	Descriptor	Notes	Premier and Premier 2	Championship and Division 1	Divisions 2a and 2b	Divisions 3 and 4

Disabled Access	Every effort should be made to ensure disabled access to all areas of the ground and clubhouse. Where the pavilion/score box is on more than one level consideration needs to be given as to how, for example, a wheelchair user would get access to floors either above or below ground level		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
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