

I ICC Pitch and Outfield Monitoring Process (October 2010)

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

Appeals Commissioner means a person appointed and holding office in accordance with the ICC Code of Conduct and the ICC Code of Conduct Commission Terms of Reference.

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

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

Home Board means the body, whether incorporated or not, of a Member charged with responsibility for the administration of cricket within the relevant Member Country and recognised by the ICC as having such authority.

Host Venue means the venue at which the relevant Match takes place.

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 Code of Conduct means the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, as amended from time to time.

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

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

ICC Head of Legal means the person appointed and holding office from time to time as ICC Head of Legal.

International Cricket means a Men'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.

Substandard means "poor or unfit" as defined in the Guidelines in Appendix C.

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 or Twenty20 International) and send it to the ICC 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 If the Match Referee's pitch and outfield report rates a pitch and/or outfield as Substandard the ICC shall write to the Home Board within 5 days of receipt of the Match Referee's pitch and outfield report, enclosing a copy of such report and asking for a written report on the condition of the pitch and/or outfield including any extenuating circumstances which may have existed. The Home Board report can include comments from the relevant Ground Authority.
- 3.4 The Home Board will be required to submit its report to ICC within 14 days of receipt of the letter from ICC sent in accordance with paragraph 3.3.
- 3.5 The Match Referee's report and the Home Board's report will be passed to the ICC General Manager – Cricket and the ICC Chief Referee (if the ICC Chief Referee was the Match Referee in the first instance then the matter shall be dealt with by the Chairman of Cricket Committee) together with a copy of the video of the Match. Together they will consider the same and make a decision as to whether the pitch and/or outfield was Substandard or not. If they should decide that the pitch and/or outfield was Substandard they shall impose an appropriate penalty in accordance with 4 below.

4. SANCTIONS FOR SUBSTANDARD PITCHES AND/OR OUTFIELDS.

- 4.1 In respect to pitches and/or outfields rated as "poor", the following penalty shall be imposed:

1st occasion – A warning and / or a fine not exceeding USD 15,000 given together with a directive for appropriate corrective action.

2nd or further occasions within a period of 5 years of the previous finding – A fine not exceeding USD 30,000 given together with a directive for appropriate corrective action.

- 4.2 In respect to pitches and/or outfields rated as "unfit", the following penalties shall be imposed:

1st occasion – A suspension of the Host Venue's status to host International Cricket for a period of between 12 and 24 months together with a directive for appropriate corrective action. Following the expiry of the period of suspension, the Home Board shall arrange, at its cost, for the Venue to be inspected by the ICC and re-accredited as a venue capable of hosting International Cricket. No venue shall be permitted to host any International Cricket until such time as it has been so re-accredited.

2nd or further occasion within a period of 5 years of the previous finding – A suspension of the Host Venue's status to host International Cricket for a period of between 24 and 36 months together with a directive for appropriate corrective action. Following the expiry of the period of suspension, the Home Board shall arrange, at its cost, for the Host Venue to be inspected by the ICC and re-accredited as a venue capable of hosting International Cricket. No venue shall be permitted to host any International Cricket until such time as it has been so re-accredited.

5. NOTICE OF DECISION AND PENALTY

Once the ICC General Manager - Cricket and the ICC Chief Referee (or Chairman of Cricket Committee) have made their decision on the rating of the pitch and/or outfield and the penalty to be imposed, the ICC shall inform the Home Board in writing of such decision and penalty.

6. APPEAL AGAINST DECISION AND PENALTY

The Home Board may appeal against the ICC decision and/or penalty in accordance with the process below.

- 6.1 The relevant Home Board seeking to appeal against a decision and/or penalty (the appellant) shall lodge with the ICC Head of Legal written notice of appeal setting out the grounds of the appeal within 24 hours of receipt of notification to the Home Board of the ICC decision and penalty.
- 6.2 Within 48 hours of receiving the appellant's notice of appeal, the ICC Head of Legal shall appoint a member of the ICC Code of Conduct Commission (the Appeals Commissioner) to hear and determine the appeal. The Appeals Commissioner shall not be domiciled in either of the countries which the teams playing in the relevant Match represent.
- 6.3 The ICC General Manager – Cricket and ICC Chief Referee (or Chairman of Cricket Committee) shall provide a joint written statement to the ICC Head of Legal setting out all relevant circumstances within 48 hours of a notice of appeal being lodged. A copy of this statement shall be forwarded to the appellant within 24 hours of its receipt by the ICC Head of Legal.
- 6.4 The Appeals Commissioner shall hear and determine the appeal within 14 days of his appointment by the ICC Head of Legal.
- 6.5 The process for conducting the appeal shall be left in the discretion of the Appeals Commissioner. He will make his 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
 - e. The joint statements of the ICC General Manager – Cricket and ICC Chief Referee (or the Chairman of Cricket Committee as the case may be).
- 6.6 Where the Appeals Commissioner decides that a hearing is necessary, it shall be conducted in accordance with the principles of natural justice. The appellant and ICC General Manager – Cricket and ICC Chief Referee (or Chairman of Cricket Committee) shall be given the opportunity to listen to all of the evidence and to question any witnesses.
- 6.7 The Appeals Commissioner shall provide a written decision to ICC which shall be forwarded to the appellant, ICC General Manager – Cricket, ICC Chief Referee (or Chairman of Cricket Committee) and the ICC Chief Executive.
- 6.8 The Appeals Commissioner shall have the power to amend the decision and/or to increase, decrease, amend or otherwise substitute the penalty from that of the ICC General Manager – Cricket and ICC Chief Referee (or Chairman of the Cricket Committee) if he thinks appropriate so to do.
- 6.9 The decision of the Appeals Commissioner shall be final and binding.

APPENDIX A

Test Match Pitch and Outfield Report 2010

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Test Match:

Teams:	v.	Dates:	2010
Venue:			

1 Did the pitch have a uniform covering of grass along its entire length ?	Yes		No *	
If uniform, was the grass cover :	Light		Medium	
			Heavy	

* If grass cover not uniform, please give details :

2 Did the pitch appear completely dry at the commencement of the match ? :	Yes		No	
From examining pitch core, was there moisture below the surface ?	Yes		No	
			Didn't see core	

3 Please comment if pitch and ground covering did **not** meet minimum Playing Conditions requirement :

4 Use of the heavy roller	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
a. Please state if a heavy roller was used, and if so, on which days ? :					
b. Please state if a heavy roller was used, did it affect the pace of the pitch ? :					

5 Assess the bounce of the pitch :	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Low					
Medium / low					
Medium					
Medium / high					
High					

6 Assess the consistency of bounce :	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Consistent					
Variable					
Highly variable					
Excessive unevenness					

7 Assess the seam movement :	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Little or no					
Occasional					
More than occasional					
Excessive					

8 Assess the amount of turn :	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Little or no turn					
Moderate turn					
Considerable turn					
Excessive turn					

9 According to the guidance for rating Test Match Pitches, rate the pitch as providing the right conditions for this match :

Very good		Good		Above Average		Below Average		Poor		Unfit	
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10 According to the guidance for rating outfields, rate the outfield as providing the right conditions for this match :

Very good		Good		Above Average		Below Average		Poor		Unfit	
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11 General comments on the pitch and its effect on the quality of play in the match**(Referee MUST complete this section in full, including relevant comments from captains and umpires)**

Referees name:		Signature:	
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Please send this form to clive.hitchcock@icc-cricket.com at the ICC immediately after the match.

APPENDIX B

ODI Pitch and Outfield Report 2010

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ODI Match:**Teams:** v. **Dates:** 2010**Venue:**1 Did the pitch have a uniform covering of grass along its entire length ? Yes No * If uniform, was the grass cover : Light Medium Heavy

* If grass cover not uniform, please give details :

2 Did the pitch appear **completely dry** at the commencement of the match ? : Yes No From examining pitch core, was there moisture below the surface ? Yes No Didn't see core 3 Please comment if pitch and ground covering did **not** meet minimum Playing Conditions requirement :

4 Use of the heavy roller Day 1

a. Please state if a heavy roller was used, and if so, on which days ? :

b. Please state if a heavy roller was used, did it affect the pace of the pitch ? :

5 Assess the bounce of the pitch :	
	Day 1
Low	
Medium / low	
Medium	
Medium / high	
High	

7 Assess the seam movement :	
	Day 1
Little or no	
Occasional	
More than occasional	
Excessive	

6 Assess the consistency of bounce :	
	Day 1
Consistent	
Variable	
Highly variable	
Excessive unevenness	

8 Assess the amount of turn :	
	Day 1
Little turn	
Moderate turn	
Considerable turn	
Excessive turn	

9 According to the guidance for rating One Day Match Pitches, rate the pitch as providing the right conditions for this match :

Very good Good Above Average Below Average Poor Unfit

10 According to the guidance for rating outfields, rate the outfield as providing the right conditions for this match :

Very good Good Above Average Below Average Poor Unfit

11 General comments on the pitch and its effect on the quality of play in the match

(Referee MUST complete this section in full, including relevant comments from captains and umpires)**Referees name:** **Signature:****Please send this form to clive.hitchcock@icc-cricket.com at the ICC immediately after the match.**

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 as part of the unique nature of the sport .

TEST MATCH PITCHES

ALL PITCHES WILL BE JUDGED SOLELY ON HOW THEY PLAY. THE OBJECTIVE SHALL BE TO PROVIDE A BALANCED CONTEST BETWEEN BAT AND BALL OVER THE COURSE OF THE MATCH, ALLOWING ALL THE INDIVIDUAL SKILLS OF THE GAME TO BE DEMONSTRATED BY THE PLAYERS AT VARIOUS STAGES OF THE MATCH.

Very Good

Good carry, limited seam movement and consistent bounce throughout, little or no turn on the first two days but natural wear sufficient to be responsive to spin later in the game.

Good

Average carry, limited seam movement, consistent bounce throughout, natural wear sufficient to be responsive to spin later in the game, though not quite meeting the criteria for carry and bounce for a “very good” pitch.

Above Average

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.

Below Average

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 can not be rated in a higher category regardless of the amount of turn the pitch displays at any stage of the match.

Poor

If any of the following criteria apply, a pitch may be rated “poor”:

- a. The pitch offers excessive seam movement at any stage of the match
- b. The pitch displays excessive unevenness of bounce for any bowler at any stage of the match
- c. The pitch offers excessive assistance to spin bowlers, especially early in the match
- d. 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.

Unfit

A pitch may be rated ‘unfit’ if it is dangerous.

Operating Manual**Clarifications**

- a. Excessive means “too much”.
- b. 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”.
- c. There is nothing wrong with a pitch that affords some degree of turn on the first day of a match 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.
- d. 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.
- e. In no circumstances should the pitch ‘explode’.

ONE DAY MATCH PITCHES

ALL PITCHES WILL BE JUDGED SOLELY ON HOW THEY PLAY. THE OBJECTIVE SHALL BE TO PROVIDE A PITCH THAT IS FAVORABLE TO GOOD SHOT MAKING AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, PERFORMS IN A CONSISTENT MANNER THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF THE MATCH SO AS TO PROVIDE A FAIR CONTEST TO 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.

	Unevenness	Seam Movement	Carry and/or Bounce	Turn
Very Good	Little or no unevenness	Little or no seam movement	Good	Little or no turn
Good	Little or no unevenness	Little or no seam movement	Just lacking	Little or no turn
Above Average	Occasional	Occasional	Lacking	Occasional
Below Average	More than occasional	More than occasional	Minimal	More than occasional
Poor	Excessive	Excessive	Very Minimal	Excessive
Unfit	A pitch and is rated unfit only if it is dangerous			

Operating Manual

GUIDANCE FOR RATING OUTFIELDS

Very Good

Well grassed, even covering, no bare patches, no irregularity of bounce, fast/medium pace.

Good

No bare patches, no irregularity of bounce, medium/fast pace.

Average

Predominantly well grassed, even covering, occasional irregularity of bounce, medium pace.

Poor

Excessive bare patches, excessive irregular bounce, slow (heavy) pace.

Unfit

Dangerous to fielders.