



Cheshire ACO providing umpires to the Cheshire County and Cheshire Cricket Leagues

Grounds & facilities and Fair Play markings – guidance for umpires

Pitch markings

Aspect	Description	Markings
Unevenness of bounce	This mark relates only to the consistency of the height of the bounce, i.e., whether the ball is sometimes keeping low or bouncing up higher than would be expected, taking into account the bowler's length and pace.	5 – the bounce is consistently even throughout the game 4 – the bounce is generally even throughout the game with just two or three balls in the whole game either keeping a bit low or bouncing a bit more than expected 3 – acceptable – all pitches not covered by 1,2, 4 or 5 markings 2 – balls have regularly bounced inconsistently throughout the game – more so than acceptable at this level 1 – the consistency of the bounce has been totally unacceptable and not fit for the standard of the game
Seam movement	This mark relates to lateral movement of the ball off the seam after pitching. A good seam bowler will expect to get some movement off the seam, and the pitch should not be marked down for that.	5 – a good seam bowler, pitching the ball on a good line and length, is able to gain a small amount of lateral movement off the seam 4 – seam bowlers, pitching the ball on a good line and length, are able to gain regular lateral movement off the seam 3 – acceptable – all pitches not covered by 1,2, 4 or 5 markings 2 – balls have frequently moved off the seam throughout the game and made it more difficult for the batsman to play than acceptable at this level 1 – the exaggerated amount of seam movement has been totally unacceptable for the standard of the game
Carry and/or bounce	This mark relates only to the carry of the ball through to the wicket-keeper; the keeper, standing in his normal position for that bowler, should be able to take the ball at waist level.	5 – the keeper is able to take the ball at waist level consistently throughout the game 4 – only very occasional balls have failed to carry through at a normal height for the keeper to take 3 – acceptable – all pitches not covered by 1,2, 4 or 5 markings 2 – even after adjusting his position, the keeper has struggled to take deliveries because they have not carried to him/her 1 – the carry has caused the keeper considerable difficulty even after altering his position and is clearly unacceptable at this level
Turn	This mark relates to lateral turn obtained by a spin bowler after pitching. A good spin bowler will expect to get some turn, and the pitch should not be marked down for that.	5 – a good spin bowler, pitching the ball on a good line and length, is able to gain a small amount of turn off the pitch 4 – spin bowlers, pitching the ball on a good line and length, are able to gain regular turn off the pitch 3 – acceptable – all pitches not covered by 1,2, 4 or 5 markings 2 – balls have frequently moved off the seam throughout the game and made it more difficult for the batsman to play than acceptable at this level 1 – the exaggerated amount of turn has been totally unacceptable for the standard of the game Notes: award a mark of 4 where: i) no slow bowler is used ii) a slow bowler is used but does not turn the ball

Notes:

- Please mark on the pitch as it is on the day, and indicate in the notes box any mitigating factors, e.g., bad weather reducing pitch preparation time or weather on the day damp and overcast
- Please indicate in the notes box any game where fewer than 50 overs are bowled
- Please include a comment for a score of 2 or less for any of the four criteria or for a total score of 12 or less is awarded

Outfield markings (Note Change this year to a single score of 1-5)

The outfield should be well-maintained and drained; closely-mown before each game with no excessive grass cuttings; with no holes, ruts or other hazards. Boundaries should be clearly marked with a rope or a white line and flags at a spacing of no more than fifteen yards. Award a point for each of the criteria below that can be ticked off:

- adequate boundary markings
- closely-mown without excessive grass cuttings
- freedom from ruts or holes
- freedom from ungrassed, muddy or undrained areas
- two sight screens (or one large screen that covers both sides of the pitch) that do not need to be moved for bowler's action and/or batsman's stance.

Scoring facilities (Score 1-5)

In Premier and Division 1 (CCCL)

1. The scoreboard must be
 - electronic and display minimum required information (runs, wickets, overs bowled, first innings total, DLS par score)
 - visible from pavilion/players' area

In all other divisions of the CCCL and CCL

The scoreboard must be

- display minimum required information (runs, wickets, overs bowled, first innings total, DLS par score)
- visible from pavilion/players' area

2. The scorebox must:
 - be positioned to allow a clear line of sight to the whole playing area
 - have an acknowledgement light or other suitable signalling device that can be clearly seen
 - must provide clean, tidy and adequate separate accommodation for scorers with heating and lighting

Award a point for each of the criteria below that can be ticked off, consulting the scorers as necessary:

- scoreboard with minimum required information as per above
- scoreboard visible from pavilion/players' area
- acknowledgement light or other suitable signalling device
- clean, tidy and adequate separate accommodation with heating and lighting
- clear line of sight from scorebox to the whole of the field of play

Umpires' facilities (Score 1-5)

Must be a separate and secure room of similar standard to players' rooms; clean and good state of décor; with private access to hand wash basin with hot & cold water; adequate lighting; minimum recommended size 20 ft²

Award a point for each of the criteria below that can be ticked off:

- a separate and secure room with a key
- clean and good state of décor
- private access to shower(preferably)/ wash basin with hot & cold water
- sufficient seating for two umpires
- sufficient bag storage area and clothes hooks

A comments box is provided for you to provide any additional relevant information to the match played:

e.g.No scorer provided by Team A, Scorer for Team B was a junior and failed to provide assist to scorer of Team A. Potential safeguarding breach

For Premier games umpires to record start and finish time together with any additional allowances for stoppages.

You are welcome to comment on the pitch / outfield / weather and their effect on the quality of the match. No access to mopping up equipment, sawdust etc

Fair Play marking – guidance for umpires (unchanged from previous seasons)

		The Spirit of the Game requires all players to respect their opponents, their own captain and players, the role of the umpires and the game and its traditional values		Although captains and umpires together set the tone for the conduct of the game, captains are at all times responsible for ensuring play is conducted within the Spirit of the Game as well as The Laws	
		Team Marks		Captains' Marks	
Marking criteria	Mark	Respect for Opponents	Respect for Umpires	Team Management	Cooperation with Umpires
Exceeded expected standard	5	There are numerous examples of behaviour that exceeds the required standard in each of these groups. For example; players showing genuine warmth and congratulations to their opponents or both sides working to get the covers on/off, withdrawing an appeal to assist the umpire.			
Attained expected standard	4	Little or no public comment on opponents' technique, shot making, bowling, fielding, method of dismissal etc	Nothing other than acceptance of umpires' decisions (doesn't exclude players asking umpires for clarification on decisions)	Players satisfactory reaction and compliance with captain's requests for improved behaviour	Captain dealing with an unacceptable situation without being prompted by the umpires
Acceptable	3	No more than a few comments made about opponents or behaviour exhibited towards them that causes a reaction	No behaviour that exceeds genuine disappointment when a decision goes against a player/team	Players reluctance to accept captain's requests for improved behaviour	Captain satisfactorily dealing with umpires' requests to deal with unacceptable situations
Short of expected standard	2	Umpires required to intervene and ask a captain to deal with players whose behaviour towards their opponents was considered unacceptable	Excessive and/or unnecessarily aggressive appealing and/or obvious dissent when a decision goes against a player/team	Players ignoring captain's requests for improved behaviour and continuing to act as before; captain losing control	Captain dealing with umpires' requests to deal with unacceptable situations in a reluctant or dismissive manner
Significantly below expected standard	1	Obvious attempts to distract or disturb the concentration of an opponent by word or action	Obvious attempts to intimidate an umpire and/or refusal to accept a decision	Players' behaviour worsening rather than improving following their captain's requests	Captain ignoring umpires' requests to deal with unacceptable situations
Compromised the umpires' ability to officiate	0	Any score of 0 should be regarded as totally unacceptable and would result from behaviour worse than that identified above			
A score of 2 or below must result in a formal report of the captain or players involved					
Fair Play evaluation commences from the time the umpires arrive at the ground until the time they leave. It includes pre match discussions, issues related to ground, weather and light and the readiness of sides to get play started and restarted. It includes all issues that take place during the game, both on and off the field of play and any that might linger on in the period after the game has finished. Umpires shall consider all aspects of their involvement with the captains and the teams in preparing their marks. Umpires have different tolerance level for many issues, but all need to have a clear recognition of what is, and is not, acceptable and to ensure the captains and players understand this. A quiet word should not, in general, constitute grounds for a mark lower than 4 but unless this is appropriately responded to, a second quiet word should.					