

Cherwell Cricket League Grounds and Facilities Standards 2027

Last updated October 2026

Introduction

The overarching goal of the Cherwell League is to make the experience of playing cricket the most positive one it can be for all participants. Every aspect of a ground can contribute to this experience. It is recognised of course that all clubs have different resources and perhaps ambitions and so this document seeks to outline what is required at different levels and standards.

The League Grounds and Facilities Standards document sets out the desired and required standards for the various tiers. Some are aspirational but some are required and the League Management Committee (LMC) requires clubs to do whatever is reasonably possible to work towards them. In some cases, the league may stipulate that reasonable improvement is required, and an appropriate timeframe and action plan will be agreed to work towards this.

The League is here to help, in terms of interest-free loans, direction to funding opportunities and throwing their weight behind clubs who need their help developing at venues where landowners are not supportive.

By the start of the 2027 season, we will be 7 years post-merger. During this time the LMC as exercised some discretion under the terms of the merger agreement, but 7 years seems long enough for clubs to have understood what is required and so we will be adopting a slightly different approach hence forward. With around 30 new clubs (over 50 new teams) added since the merger, and increased movement between tiers, it is becoming more important than ever to ensure that there is parity between the standards of grounds and facilities in similar tiers.

The standards in the framework below are not significantly different to what has been in place since the merger and neither are the implications of failing to meet them, but going forward the LMC will apply less flexibility and feels it is important that clubs are aware up front of what is required of them if they wish to progress.

General Requirement

All clubs are required to have security of tenure over their ground (a minimum of 5 years or as leases fall due for renewal, at least 5 years playing history at that venue). They must also have primacy of use of the ground for the duration of the playing season (usually the 2nd week of May to the 1st week of September inclusive). As per General Rule 2.2, the

committee will consider requests for flexibility for 3rd and 4th teams playing at second grounds, however clubs should be aware that these standards apply to all the grounds your teams use as home venues. If one or more of your teams uses an alternative ground for any of its home fixtures, it must meet the required standard for the Tier in which the match is played, and permission must be obtained from the LMC before a match can be moved.

Implications of failing to meet required standards

1. Clubs which achieve a promotion position in a given season, must have the facilities in place for the tier they would potentially move into no later than the 30th September following the season they achieved that position. The judgement of whether they meet the required standard will be based on what they have, **not** what they plan to have by the following May. In other words, if you think you are in contention, you should start assessing your readiness during that season. If the club is deemed not to meet the required standards, promotion will be denied.
2. If a club is already placed in a division but does not meet the required standards for that division, they will not be eligible for promotion even if they would be moving to a division with the same standards (e.g. from T6 to T5). Similarly, a club that does not meet the requirements for the tier they are in that is relegated, cannot be promoted back to that tier until they have met the requirements of that tier. As in Point 1, the judgement will be as at the 30th September following the relevant season and will be based on what they have, not what they plan to have.
3. Any club that has still not achieved the required standards for the tier that they are in by the end of the 2028 season, will be relegated to the highest tier for which they are compliant, irrespective of their finishing position in that year. As outlined above, 7 years seems long enough.
4. Where standards are consistently not met, the LMC reserves the right to deduct points in line with the admin compliance monitoring scheme, or in extreme cases not covered there, to make additional points deductions.

Please note: It is the responsibility of all clubs to self-assess their ground and facilities and remedy issues of compliance. It is not the responsibility of the LMC to give uninvited advance notice that they are not meeting them. The committee is happy to accept an invitation to advise and work with you towards achieving what is required during the course of the season however any such requests for a preliminary assessment must be made before week 13 of the season.

The standards are laid out below and are categorised as follows:

Gold Standard

What clubs **could** be aspiring to in the Tier they are in.

Silver Standard

What clubs **should** have or be working towards at their relevant Tier

Bronze Standard

What clubs **must** be providing at their relevant Tier

Ground Standards

Category	Criteria	1-2	3-4	5-7	8-9
Pitch	Able to support games of given no. of overs	100	100	90	80
	True, safe and predictable bounce	Must	Must	Should	Should
	Predictable bounce & carry throughout the match	Must	Must	Should	Should
	No excessive spin or movement off the seam	Must	Must	Should	Should
	Correctly marked, including wide lines in dark paint	Must	Must	Must	Must
	Swept and remarked between innings	Must	Must	Should	Should
Square	Well maintained and in good condition	Must	Must	Must	Must
	Cut before each match	Must	Must	Must	Must
	Previously used wickets made good/safe	Must	Must	Must	Must
Outfield	Well maintained	Must	Must	Must	Must
	Well drained	Should	Should	Should	Should
	Closely mown with no noticeable grass cuttings	Must	Must	Should	Should
	No holes*, ruts or other hazards. (*must be filled)	Must	Must	Must	Must
Boundary	Clearly marked (line or rope) & markers every 20 yds	Must	Must	Must	Must
	Minimum 40 yards (measured as per 30 yd circle)	Must	Should	Could	Could
Sight Screens	No. of screens provided at both ends of the ground	2	2	1	1
	Suitable size, good condition and easy to move	Must	Must	Must	Should
	Positioned before start of play	Must	Must	Must	Must
	Completely outside the boundary (movable rope)	Must	Must	Must	Must
Scoring Area	Type of dedicated area, protected from elements	Score Box	Score Box	Other	Other
• Score Box	Clean, tidy and adequate for purpose	Must	Must	Must	Must
• Gazebo	Good communication between umpires & scorers	Must	Must	Must	Must
• Indoor area	Displays all the required information	Must	Must	Must	Must
• etc.	Displays Duckworth/Lewis par score	Must	Should	Should	Could
	Manual - numbers accessible and in working order	Must	Must	Must	Must
	Electronic - operating instructions readily available	Must	Must	Must	Must
	Electricity available	Must	Must	Should	Should
	Wi-Fi available	Must	Should	Should	Should
	Visible from pavilion / players viewing area	Must	Must	Must	Must
Covers	Adequate covers available to cover pitch	Dome	Dome	Sheet	Sheet
	Adequate covers available to bowler run-ups	Must	Should	Should	Could
	Sawdust / towels available	Must	Must	Must	Must
	Mop up machine in good condition available	Should	Should	Should	Should
	Creases re-marked at rain intervals if requested	Should	Should	Should	Should
Rollers	Roller available for use during match	Should	Should	Should	Should
	Light and heavy rollers available	Should	Should	Should	Should
Surrounds	Well maintained	Should	Should	Should	Should
	Ground clearly signed	Should	Should	Should	Should
	Seating for spectators in good condition	Should	Should	Should	Should
Car Parking	Free-of-charge parking on-site or very nearby	Must	Must	Must	Must
	Enough spaces for all visiting players, umpires & scorers	Must	Must	Must	Must
	Car park and approaches in good condition	Should	Should	Should	Should
Nets	Net available for each side before the match	Must	Should	Could	Could
	Nets regularly maintained and safe	Must	Must	Must	Must

Facility Standards

Category	Criteria	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-9
Changing	Separate facilities for visiting team	Must	Must	Must	Must
	Separate facilities for female players	Should	Could	Could	Could
	Separate facilities for under 18 players	Should	Could	Could	Could
	Maintained in a good clean condition	Must	Must	Must	Must
	Adequate size and facilities	Must	Should	Should	Should
	Suitable security and privacy	Must	Must	Must	Must
	Easy access from playing area	Must	Must	Should	Should
Showers	Showers clean, hygienic and with suitable privacy	Must	Must	Must	Must
	Minimum 4 communal or 2 per changing room	Should	Should	Should	Should
	Both Male and Female facilities available	Should	Should	Should	Should
Toilets	Toilets clean, hygienic and with suitable facilities	Must	Must	Must	Must
	Both Male and Female facilities available	Must	Must	Must	Must
	Separate public toilets	Should	Should	Should	Should
	If no public toilets, then accessible by spectators	Must	Must	Must	Must
Umpires	Separate and secure room	Must	Must	Should	Should
	Adequate size and facilities	Must	Must	Should	Should
	Maintained in a good clean condition	Must	Must	Should	Should
	Private access to showers	Should	Should	Should	Should
Hospitality	Meal areas adequate and in good condition	Must	Must	Must	Must
	Adequate bar facilities	Should	Should	Could	Could
	Bar staffed and open	Could	Could	Could	Could
Kitchen ***	Separate room for food preparation	Should	Should	Should	Should
	Clean, hygienic and meets legal requirements	Must	Must	Must	Must
	Adequate crockery and cutlery in good condition	Should	Should	Should	Should
	Suitable storage and food preparation facilities	Should	Should	Should	Should
First Aid	Well stocked first aid box available	Must	Must	Must	Must
	Qualified first aider available	Must	Must	Must	Must
General	Access to ground & changing facilities prior to start	1.5 hr	1 hr	1 hr	1 hr
	Phone (with signal) available for emergencies	Must	Must	Must	Must
	Public telephone in working order	Could	Could	Could	Could
	Large working clock suitably sited/read from square	Must	Must	Must	Must
	Bell available to signal start and resumption of play	Could	Could	Could	Could
	Seating area for players use	Should	Should	Should	Should

*** The provision of teas is optional for clubs, but when done, these requirements should be followed.

Any changes to this document will be advised well in advance to give clubs the opportunity to make necessary preparations.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to get in touch with the League Secretary (secretary@cherwellcricketleague.com) or any of our Grounds & Facilities Sub-Committee:

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