

# GMCL

**GREATER MANCHESTER CRICKET LEAGUE**



## **GROUND AND FACILITIES**

**A Plan of Action 2021**

**Accreditation Scheme for Grounds and Facilities**

GMCL Board

GtrMcrCricket@mail.com

## 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 twofold

- To promote continuous improvement by recognising those clubs that continue to develop their ground and facilities irrespective of the level at which they are playing. This will be recognised by accrediting each club competing in the GMCL at the end of each season. Clubs will be accredited as Gold, Silver or Bronze.
- Clubs must achieve the minimum standards relevant for the tier that they are playing in or be working and making progress towards that standard.

Participation in the Scheme is a condition of membership of the GMCL.

## Standards

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

- A1. The standards for Pitches, Outfield/Boundary and First Impressions, which are supported by performance criteria and a rating scale.
- and
- A2. Ground and Facilities.

# Assessment Procedures

## A1 Pitches, Outfield/Boundary and First Impressions

The Umpires will, after each match, complete a standard marking sheet and these 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 on a monthly basis 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.

## A2 Ground and Facilities

Standards will be identified as either assessed at pre-season or determined on a weekly game basis by the following methods:

- All grounds will be inspected by members of the GMCL Grounds and Facilities team prior to the commencement of the 2021 season.
  - This inspection will use the standards set out in A2 as a measure of a club's position for the Division that they are playing in.
  - This will be noted as requirements present or not and will serve as an action list for those clubs who do not meet the desired standard for the level that the club is playing at.
  - The inspection team will consist of appropriate people with appropriate knowledge and with no vested interest in the club inspected.
- Ground markings report, which are completed at the end of each match by the Umpires.

## Monthly 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.

	Gold Standard	Silver Standard	Bronze Standard
<b>Pitches and Outfield/Boundary</b>	70% of available marks achieved.	60% of available marks achieved.	50% of available marks achieved.
<b>First Impressions</b>	70% of available marks achieved.	60% of available marks achieved.	50% of available marks achieved.
<b>Ground and Facilities</b>	All divisional requirements met	All divisional requirements met	All divisional requirements met

## Accreditation

**At the end of the season each Club will be accredited Gold, Silver or Bronze (or unaccredited) by using the information measured over the season.**

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? In Year 1 to be built up for the season and then subsequently moving to a trend over several seasons

**Accreditation is only given when consistency has been demonstrated.**

Once given, grading is not normally lowered or withdrawn based on 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.

Prior to full accreditation, Clubs will be given interim grading levels for example: Silver with Gold potential or Bronze with Silver potential for Grounds & Facility grading only.

## Publication

This accreditation scheme is used to provide clubs with a position of their relative and overall position and is to be seen as an incentive to improve. It is intended to publish this information widely and to reward those clubs who have made significant progress in achieving these standards.

Going forward we expect that the decisions around the allocation of Cup Final venues will take into account the ground standards of the clubs applying to host any cup final or representative game.

## Governance

The Standards are set by the GMCL and are heavily influenced by the Standards set for Premier League Clubs by the ECB. The Board of the GMCL manages and monitors the Grounds and Facilities Standards. Any disputes over matters of fact are open to review through the Leagues normal mechanisms.

A system of early warnings based on the match reports will be instigated to enable Clubs to remedy deficiencies against the standards.

External assessors will be appointed who will be available to the Board and the Clubs to agree any remedial actions.

## Promotion & Relegation

As previously stated, clubs must achieve the minimum standards relevant for the tier that they are playing in and this scheme provides the GMCL and its member clubs with a clear mechanism to understand what is required at each level. The League understands that to achieve these standards will, in some cases, involve a level of expenditure that requires budgeting for and to ensure clubs have time to plan, the scheme introduces a timeframe for improvement.

Nonetheless the GMCL are committed to applying these standards for the betterment of the game and as a result the following standards will apply across the GMCL:

- Premier 1 and Premier 2 – Gold Standard
- Championship & Division 1 – Silver Standard or Above
- Div 2A and 2B – Minimum Bronze Standard & Moving to Silver
- Div 3W, 3E, 4N, 4S&W, 4E – Bronze Standard or Above

If a Club's grading is lower than the standard set for each tier as detailed above, then Club's must make progress towards the relevant standard or risk being relegated or not promoted.

At the end of the current season, relegation to the next lower division can be imposed unless the Club submits a letter, by 1st September in that season, signed by the Club's Chairman and Treasurer, as well as any relevant documentary and/or financial evidence, confirming that the requirements for a grading relevant to the tier will be in place before the start of the following season or if agreed by the GMCL Board a longer period of improvement may be granted.

The above arrangements will be subject to confirmation by the Management Board of GMCL, who may confirm or vary the outcome, following the right of the Club to appeal. However, Clubs should not assume that leniency would be shown, where the raising of standards is concerned.

More details relevant to promotion and relegation are shown in the GMCL 2021 Season Information document updated 31st December 2020.

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.

Any club hiring or sharing a ground will be held to the standards of the ground at which they play. It is our belief that there should be a shared responsibility for the ground development so we would expect that the hiring club should at the very least support ground improvement events such as Cricket Force held by the host club and we will take into account the contributions made by hiring clubs.

## Appendix A1 -Standards for Pitches, Outfield/Boundary and First Impressions

GMCL – Umpires Pitch Marking Table				
Pitch/Grading Criteria	Unevenness of Bounce	Mark	Carry & Bounce	Mark
Very Good	None	5	Good	5
Good	Little	4	Just lacking	4
Improvement Needed	More than occasional	2	Minimal	2
Poor	Excessive	1	Very minimal	1
Unfit	A pitch is only rated unfit if it is <u>dangerous</u>			0
Umpires must make allowance for the abilities of the bowlers and wear and tear of the pitch during the afternoon				

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

GMCL – First Impressions							
Outer areas cut and well tended to aid the finding of balls	Mark	Covers in use if necessary and available	Mark	Umpires room to be clean and tidy and not used as a storeroom.	Mark	Wickets pitched, sightscreens in place and all other game preparations	Mark
Outstanding	5	In place and effective	5	Outstanding	5	Outstanding	5
Generally Good but some areas untended	3	In place but less than effective	3	Clean and tidy but also used for storage	3	Generally Good but some areas untended	3
Very poor	0	Very poor	0	Very poor	0	Very poor	0

## Appendix A2 - Ground and Facilities Standards

Item	Descriptor	Notes	Premier and Premier 2 Gold	Championship and Division 1 Silver Standard or Above	Divisions 2a and 2b Minimum Bronze Standard & Moving to Silver	Divisions 3 and 4 Bronze Standard or Above
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 once appropriate boundary markers are in place.	Twin screens at each end required in Premier 1. This will be required in Premier 2 in season 2023	Yes	No	No	No
Sight Screen	One 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 once appropriate boundary markers are in place.		No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Scoreboard/ Scoring Facilities	Electronic or manual. Must be able to display minimum of total runs, target 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. Wi-Fi or 4G/5G signal for both scorers.		Yes	Yes	No	No
Scoring facilities	Separate area to accommodate two scorers either 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		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Item	Descriptor	Notes	Premier and Premier 2 Gold	Championship and Division 1 Silver Standard or Above	Divisions 2a and 2b Minimum Bronze Standard & Moving to Silver	Divisions 3 and 4 Bronze Standard or Above
Covers	Mobile covers to cover the match pitch with the appropriate 'drain off' capacity. Covers should be 'fit for purpose' free from punctures and leaks.		Yes	No	No	No
	Flat sheet covers	Flat sheet covers should also be available to cover the bowlers run ups in Premier 1 and in Premier 2 by season 2023.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Main Clock	A clock that can be viewed from the match pitch, mounted externally either on the clubhouse or the score box	Must be in good working order	Yes	Recommended but not mandatory	Recommended but not mandatory	Recommended but not mandatory
Match Stumps and Bails	Should be properly matched sets in good condition and with matching bails	See 'umpires kit' below	Yes	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.	Bowdry ground drying machine or similar	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Umpires communication	Premier and Premier 2 Walkie Talkies for use by Umpires to contact scorers during the game.		Yes	Recommended but not mandatory	Recommended but not mandatory	Recommended but not mandatory
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 Gold	Championship and Division 1 Silver Standard or Above	Divisions 2a and 2b Minimum Bronze Standard & Moving to Silver	Divisions 3 and 4 Bronze Standard or Above
Players Changing Rooms	Two separate rooms. Changing rooms should be lockable should include coat hooks for 12 players with bench (or similar) seating	To provide suitable changing facilities for women's and girls cricketers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Showers	Two shower heads as a minimum		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
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	This room not to be used as a storeroom or other purpose when umpires in attendance.	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	A separate table to be provided for the Umpires and Scorers.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kitchen and Serving Area	Clubs to ensure they follow all statutory requirements.		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Telephone	A telephone (either landline or designated mobile) must be available for (emergency) use by players, officials and spectators. Information should be displayed in the clubhouse relating to the location of, and telephone numbers for the local GP surgery and hospital		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Item	Descriptor	Notes	Premier and Premier 2 Gold	Championship and Division 1 Silver Standard or Above	Divisions 2a and 2b Minimum Bronze Standard & Moving to Silver	Divisions 3 and 4 Bronze Standard or Above
Ladies and gents Toilets	Separate ladies and gent's toilet facilities. WC and hand basin with mirror above. Hot and cold running water. Disabled access facilities to be available.		Yes	Yes	Yes	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. . Clubs to consider the availability of a defibrillator and its safe use.		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 arrangements for car parking. The appropriate insurance disclaimer should be displayed as appropriate		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Disabled Access	Clubs should consider disabled access to key areas of the ground and clubhouse. Where the pavilion/scorebox 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