



ENGLAND AND WALES CRICKET BOARD

PITCH REGULATIONS

2022

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Introduction

These regulations intend to pull together all relevant information that is appropriate to the marking and monitoring of pitches in both international and domestic cricket for the 2022 season.

In respect of domestic cricket, these Regulations shall apply in the following ECB competitions/matches:-

- (i) LV= Insurance County Championship
- (ii) Royal London Cup
- (iii) Vitality Blast
- (iv) Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy
- (v) Charlotte Edwards Cup
- (vi) The Men's Hundred and The Women's Hundred

In addition, where appropriate (for example, the criteria for the rating of pitches):-

- (vii) Second XI Championship
- (viii) Second XI T20
- (ix) Second XI Friendlies
- (x) Matches between First Class Counties and Touring Teams, England Teams

For the avoidance of doubt, liability for pitch preparation is with the relevant Hundred team in that competition and with the County in the First-Class County competition/s.

Any warnings or penalties in respect of pitches in The Hundred shall apply to that Men's or Women's competition only.

No First-Class County or Regional Host warnings or penalties in respect of pitches shall impact on The Hundred or vice versa.

No First-Class County warnings or penalties in respect of pitches shall impact on a Regional Host or vice versa.

Please note that wherever penalties may be applied in domestic cricket, for the avoidance of doubt, if a match is played at an outground or a neutral venue (with particular reference to another County HQ), any resulting pitch penalty is applied to the "home" team and not the County or Regional Host hosting the match.

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES

Test Match, One-Day International and International T20 pitches are included within the protocol below:

Objective

The England Cricket Department will liaise with the home authority regarding the nature of the pitch and the practice facilities required for the international matches at that venue. Any communication from the home authority during the preparation of the pitch will be with the England Cricket Department or the Cricket Operations Department, who will pass on any relevant information as appropriate.

Monitoring Process and Maintenance of Standards

Quality of international pitches and outfielders are monitored via an ICC Pitch and Outfield Report completed by the ICC Match Referee. A report on the preparation of the pitch is also submitted by the Head Grounds Manager.

ICC's Pitch and Outfield Monitoring Process is available [here](#) Additionally, ECB staging agreements lay down requirements for the venue in respect of pitch, outfield and other matters which should be referenced as appropriate.

Cores

Should a core need to be taken for analysis, it should be taken 2ft 6in in from each edge of the pitch, half-way between the two ends of the pitch.

Covering

Covering regulations as laid down by ICC will apply.

Domestic Matches

Rating of Pitches

FIRST CLASS MATCHES (3 DAYS OR MORE)

Objective

Pitches should be prepared to provide an even contest between bat and ball and should allow all disciplines in the game to flourish. In all cases, pitches will be judged on how they play, and not whether they are dry or what colour they are etc.

In matches where a Match Referee is appointed, the Match Referee shall be ultimately responsible for the rating of pitches. In other cases, it shall be the Match Umpires.

Prior to the start of the match, the appointed Match Referee shall obtain pitch preparation information relevant to the match, including moisture and hardness readings.

Pitch Categories and Criteria

In accordance with the objective for the preparation of 3-day/4-day/5-day pitches, the following are the agreed categories and criteria for the rating of first-class cricket pitches.

Fulfilment of the lowest criteria will determine the overall rating for the pitch. For example, if the pitch demonstrates:

No unevenness of bounce at any stage throughout the match, and

At most, occasional seam movement at all stages of the match, and

Moderate turn from the protected area throughout the match BUT

Lacks carry and/or bounce on the first or second playing days of the match,

then it must be rated “Below Average” due to the failure to meet a higher carry and/or bounce criterion.

| | Unevenness | Seam Movement | Carry and/or Bounce | Turn |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Very Good | At most, occasional unevenness of bounce at any stage of the match | At most, occasional seam movement at all stages of the match | Good carry and/or bounce throughout the match. | A little or moderate turn from the protected area on the first two days, <u>AND</u> wearing to considerable turn from the protected area on the third and fourth days of play OR moderate turn from the protected area throughout the match. |
| Good | | | Average carry and/or bounce throughout the match. | Moderate turn from the protected area on the third or fourth playing days of the match. |
| Above Average | At most, more than occasional unevenness of bounce on the third or fourth playing days of the match. | At most, regular seam movement (at any stage) on only the first playing day of the match | Lacking carry and/or bounce on the third or fourth playing days of the match. | Little or no turn from the protected area throughout the match OR Considerable turn from the protected area on the first or second playing days of the match OR Excessive turn from the protected area on the third or fourth playing days of the match |
| Below Average | At most, more than occasional unevenness of bounce on the first or second playing days of the match. | At most, regular seam movement (at any stage) on the first AND second OR further playing days of the match | Lacking carry and/or bounce on the first or second playing days of the match. | Excessive turn from the protected area on the first or second playing days of the match. |
| Poor | Excessive unevenness of bounce for any bowler at any stage of the match | Excessive seam movement at any stage of the match | | |
| Unfit | A pitch is rated unfit only if it is dangerous | | | |

Clarifications

- Excessive means “(far) too much”. It is recognised that even on the best pitches a delivery can demonstrate “excessive” behaviour. In assessing a pitch rating therefore, “how often” must be considered along with “how much”.
- It is recognised that a limited amount of seam movement may occur 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” (or where ball is completely dominating the bat)
- When assessing the pitch, Match Referees shall:-
 - consider the balance between bat and ball
 - take into account the type, nature and identity of the bowlers
 - climatic conditions
- 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 expected. 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.
- Assessment of turn is from the protected area. It is impossible to quantify the amount that a ball is “allowed” to turn as bowlers will impart spin on the ball in differing amounts. Match Referees/Umpires shall take into account the type, nature and identity of spin bowlers when assessing the amount of turn that the pitch has demonstrated.
- A 3-day/4-day/5-day pitch must show a minimum of moderate turn at some point in the match to be able to be considered Very Good.

If it is not possible to make a reasonable assessment of turn because insufficient overs of spin have been bowled, then the ‘Turn’ column of the table should be ignored when providing the overall pitch rating.

In no circumstances should the pitch ‘explode’ / ‘go through the top’ though again, “how often” must be considered.

LIMITED OVERS MATCHES

Objective

For the duration of the match, the whole surface of the pitch should be completely dry, firm and true, providing good carry and even bounce throughout. There should be little or no turn and little or no seam movement.

In matches where a Match Referee is appointed, the Match Referee shall be ultimately responsible for the rating of pitches. In other cases, it shall be the Match Umpires.

(Note: The above statement is an *objective* - there is no stipulation that one-day pitches *must* be dry, though it is of course expected that this and the rest of the stated objective should be aspired to in the preparation of all one-day pitches. In all cases, pitches will be judged on how they play, and not whether they are dry or what colour they are etc).

Pitch Categories and Criteria

Fulfilment of the lowest criteria will determine the overall rating for the pitch. For example, if the pitch:

Demonstrates no unevenness, a little seam movement, lacks carry and/or bounce, BUT demonstrates considerable turn,

then it must be rated “Below Average” due to the failure to meet a higher turn criterion.

| | 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 | | | Average | Occasional |
| Above Average | Occasional | Occasional | Lacking | Regular |
| Below Average | More than occasional | Regular | Minimal | Considerable |
| Poor | Excessive | Excessive | Very Minimal | Excessive |
| Unfit | A pitch is rated unfit only if it is dangerous | | | |

Further Guidance for Umpires

As a matter of routine, the Umpires should immediately contact the Match Referee, or if not present, ECB Cricket Operations if at any time they are in any way unhappy with a pitch, regardless of the number of wickets that have fallen, or, when a Match Referee is not appointed, if they are going to or have rated the pitch "Below Average", "Poor" or "Unfit".

Whilst Umpires are encouraged to discuss the overall quality of a pitch, they should provide an overall rating for the pitch independently.

Unfit Pitches

With respect to pitches rated Unfit for being dangerous, please refer to the relevant competition Playing Conditions.

Poor or Below Average Pitches

ECB Directive 11 states:

"Each First-Class County Club or Regional Host, Men's Hundred Team or Women's Hundred Team must comply with the provisions of the ECB Pitch Regulations as applicable to that Team".

For the purpose of maintaining the highest standard of pitches in all matches, the relevant provision is the following:

Each County, Regional Host or Hundred Team shall actively seek to prepare the best quality cricket pitch that it can for the match that it is staging.

For matches in the LV= Insurance County Championship, The Vitality Blast and Royal London Cup, Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy, Charlotte Edwards Cup or The Men's Hundred or The Women's Hundred, a pitch that has caused concern at any stage of the match shall be subject to a full investigation by the Match Referee appointed to the match. If a Match Referee is not present for the match, then a Match Referee shall be appointed to conduct the investigation.

For the avoidance of doubt, a pitch that is rated below average due only to carry and bounce, shall not be subject to an investigation by the Match Referee.

The Match Referee shall seek evidence from (not exhaustive):

- Home team Captain and Coach
- The Head Grounds Manager of the Home County (or ground at which the Regional Host match is being played) and/or Groundsperson of the Outground (interviewed together), or Hundred host venue
- The Umpires
- The Away team Captain and Coach (interviewed together)
- Television coverage

If, subsequent to the investigation, the Match Referee marks the pitch Poor or Below Average (as a result of seam movement, unevenness or turn), the Match Referee shall consider:

- **Whether were any circumstances relating to the preparation of the pitch that were beyond the control of the County, Regional Host or Hundred Team, and,**
- **Whether the County, Regional Host or Hundred Team actively sought to prepare the best quality pitch it could for the match that it was staging.**

in order to assess whether there has been a potential breach of the above provision and therefore Directive 11.

The County, Regional Host or Hundred Team may assert that the condition of the pitch was a result of an attempt or attempts to improve the quality of the pitch, in which case the investigation shall consider –

- **Whether the County, Regional Host or Hundred Team was genuinely attempting to improve the quality of their pitch, and**
- **Whether the County, Regional Host or Hundred Team acted reasonably in all the circumstances in staging the match on the pitch in question.**

If the Match Referee concludes that there has not been a breach of the provision and Directive 11, he shall report accordingly to ECB Cricket Operations.

If the Match Referee is unable, at this stage, to come to a conclusion, then the Pitch and Grounds Advisor or his nominee shall be called to provide the necessary technical input. This shall commence as soon as practicable, but in all cases completed within 5 days of the conclusion of the match. Unless circumstances require otherwise, and only after being approved by the Match Referee or Pitch and Grounds Advisor or his nominee, the pitch being investigated shall not be cut, nor watered and shall be preserved, as far as practicable, with the intention of keeping it in the same state in which it finished the match until the Pitch and Grounds Advisor or his nominee has inspected the pitch.

The Pitch and Grounds Advisor or his nominee shall provide a report to the Match Referee who will then conclude whether there has been a breach of the provision and Directive 11. The Match Referee shall then make a final report to ECB Cricket Operations.

- The question is whether the County, Regional Host or Hundred Team had done everything possible to prepare the best quality pitch. Regard should be had, among other things, to staffing, covering, match scheduling and pitch preparation, and any factors beyond the control of the County, Regional Host or Hundred Team which may have been responsible for the production of the Poor or Below Average pitch. This may include a County or Regional Host citing Hundred impact on the quality of pitch produced, and vice versa.

In all cases of a Poor pitch, or of a Below Average pitch (rated such as a result of seam movement, unevenness or turn), the outcome of the investigation(s) shall be discussed with the ECB Integrity Team who shall determine the course of action in accordance with Cricket Discipline Commission (CDC) Regulations.

CDC Regulations in force from time to time shall apply in respect of procedures, penalties and costs, and appeals.

or the avoidance of doubt:

LV= Insurance County Championship, Royal London Cup, Vitality Blast, Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy or Charlotte Edwards Cup

- **Penalties can only be applied if a pitch has been marked Poor or Below Average (if rated such as a result of seam movement, unevenness or turn), AND ECB Directive 11 has been breached.**
- **It is unlikely that a County or Regional Host will be penalised if a Poor or Below Average pitch results from a genuine and reasonable attempt to improve the quality of its pitch.**
- **If a County or Regional Host has been penalised as a result of a Unfit, Poor or Below Average pitch in the 12-month period prior to a further case of a Poor or Below Average pitch in that competition, the CDC Panel may take into account the previous incident(s) of Unfit, Poor or Below Average pitches.**

The Men's Hundred and The Women's Hundred

- **Penalties can only be applied if a pitch has been marked Poor or Below Average (rated such as a result of seam movement, unevenness or turn), AND ECB Directive 11 has been breached.**
- **It is unlikely that a Hundred Team will be penalised if a Poor or Below Average pitch results from a genuine and reasonable attempt to improve the quality of its pitch.**
- **If a Hundred Team has been penalised as a result of a Unfit, Poor or Below Average pitch in the 12-month period prior to a further case of a Poor or Below Average pitch in that competition, the CDC Panel may take into account the previous incident(s) of Unfit, Poor or Below Average pitches.**

Any warnings or penalties in respect of pitches in The Hundred shall apply to that competition only.

No First-Class County warnings or penalties in respect of pitches shall impact on a Regional Host or vice versa.

No First-Class County warnings or penalties or Regional Host warnings or penalties in respect of pitches shall impact on The Hundred Teams or vice versa.

Cores

Cores shall not be routinely taken. However, should a Match Referee request to see cores, they should be taken 2ft 6in in from the edge of the pitch on a spinner's length at each end. They should be taken on the off-side to a right-handed batsman.

If a Match Referee is appointed to attend after the commencement of a LV= Insurance County Championship match, he may request that two additional cores are taken. This will be done at the Umpires' discretion (the Match Referee should liaise with the Head Grounds Manager to arrange a mutually convenient time). The Umpires shall also be present, and the cores shall be replaced.

Pitch Protocol

The re-use of pitches – 3-day/4-day/5-day pitches

The following guidelines with regard to pitch preparation and the use/re-use of pitches in LV= Insurance Championship matches will apply for the 2022 season:-

(i) One-Day Matches prior to LV= Insurance County Championship Matches

In the 7-day period leading up to a LV= Insurance County Championship match, it is expected that a maximum of **one** one-day match will be played on the same pitch that is to be used for the LV= Insurance Championship match. Ultimately, the choice of pitch remains with the County and it is emphasised that re-using a pitch will not exonerate a County from a possible sanction as detailed in these regulations.

Counties are strongly advised to prepare an alternative pitch for the LV= Insurance Championship match in case the original pitch is damaged.

(ii) Consecutive LV= Insurance County Championship Matches

It is expected that a second consecutive first-class match will not be played on the same pitch as the first within 7 days from the *scheduled* finish of the first. Ultimately, the choice of pitch remains with the County and it is emphasised that re-using a pitch will not exonerate a County from a possible sanction as detailed in these regulations.

Re-use of pitches – limited overs pitches

If possible, a fresh pitch should be used for one-day matches though it is understood that this is not always possible. Ultimately the choice of pitch remains with the County, Regional Host or Hundred Team but it is recommended that only in exceptional circumstances should a one-day match be played on the pitch on which a multi-day match had just been completed (for example where the amount of play in the LV= Insurance Championship match has been severely limited and the pitch used is the best available for the limited-overs match). If this is the case, then the home County, Regional Host or Hundred Team must notify the visiting team for the one-day match.

Application of loose material to pitches

ECB Directive 11 states:

“Each First Class County Club or Regional Host, Men’s Hundred Team or Women’s Hundred Team must comply with the provisions of the ECB Pitch Regulations as applicable to that Team”.

For the purpose of maintaining the highest standard of pitches in all matches, the relevant provision is the following:

Each County, Regional Host or Hundred Team shall actively seek to prepare the best quality cricket pitch that it can for the match that it is staging.

For the purposes of this section of the Regulations, this provision means that loose material (soil or sand) is not permitted to be applied to the pitch. For the avoidance of doubt it shall be no defence for the County, Regional Host or Hundred Team to assert that the application of loose material was a result of an attempt or attempts to improve the quality of the pitch.

If it is alleged that loose material has been applied to the pitch, this shall be subject to an investigation by the Match Referee appointed to the match. If a Match Referee is not present for the match, then a Match Referee shall be appointed to conduct the investigation.

The Match Referee shall seek evidence from the following persons (which is not an exhaustive list):

- Home team Captain and Coach
- The Head Grounds Manager of the Home County (or ground at which the Regional Host and/or Groundsperson of the Outground (interviewed together, wherever possible), or Hundred host venue
- The Umpires
- The Away team Captain and Coach (interviewed together, wherever possible)

The Match Referee investigation shall consider whether loose material had been applied to the pitch in order to assess whether there has been a potential breach of the above provision and therefore Directive 11.

If the Match Referee does not consider that there has been a breach of the provision and Directive 11, they shall report accordingly to ECB Cricket Operations.

If the Match Referee is unable, at this stage, to come to a conclusion, then the Pitch and Grounds Advisor or their nominee shall be called to provide the necessary technical input. This shall commence as soon as practicable, but in all cases completed within 5 days of the conclusion of the match. Unless circumstances require otherwise, and only after being approved by the Match Referee or Pitch and Grounds Advisor or their nominee, the pitch being investigated shall not be cut, nor watered and shall be preserved, as far as practicable, with the intention of keeping it in the same state in which it finished the match until the Pitch and Grounds Advisor or their nominee has inspected the pitch.

The Pitch and Grounds Advisor or their nominee shall provide a report to the Match Referee who will then consider whether there has been a breach of the provision and Directive 11. The Match Referee shall then make a final report to ECB Cricket Operations.

The outcome of the investigation(s) shall be discussed with the ECB Integrity Team who shall decide whether to bring a charge in accordance with the Cricket Discipline Commission (CDC) Regulations.

The CDC Regulations in force from time to time shall apply in respect of procedures, sanctions, costs and appeals.

If the pitch in question is subsequently marked Poor or Below Average (as a result of seam movement, unevenness or turn), it shall be subject to an investigation by the Match Referee appointed to the match, as per the investigation process set out in the Poor or Below Average Pitches section above.

Surface Stabilisation Agents (SSAs)

ECB Directive 11 states:

“Each First Class County Club or Regional Host, Men’s Hundred Team or Women’s Hundred Team must comply with the provisions of the ECB Pitch Regulations as applicable to that Team”.

In respect of Surface Stabilisation agents, the provisions that refer are as follows:

Subject to the remainder of this paragraph, the application of Surface Stabilisation Agents (enzymes, PVA glue or similar) during the preparation of a LV= Insurance County Championship pitch is not permitted. Further, any pitch that has had the agent applied at any stage during the season in question (e.g. for use in other matches) may not be used for a LV= Insurance County Championship match until 42 days after the conclusion of the match in which the SSA was used.

The application of Surface Stabilisation Agents (enzymes, PVA glue or similar) during the preparation of a 1-day pitch is permitted. However, the SSA must be applied uniformly across the length and breadth of the pitch. ECB Cricket Operations must be informed if a SSA is to be used.

Any pitch that is alleged to have been in breach of the above provision shall be subject to an investigation by the Match Referee appointed to the match. If a Match Referee is not present for the match, then a Match Referee shall be appointed to conduct the investigation.

The Match Referee shall seek evidence from (not exhaustive):

- Home team Captain and Coach
- The Head Grounds Manager of the Home County and/or Groundsperson of the Outground (interviewed together wherever possible),
- If necessary and at the discretion of the Match Referee/Head of Operations (First-Class Cricket) or their nominee, the Umpires
- If necessary and at the discretion of the Match Referee/Head of Operations (First-Class Cricket) or their nominee, the Away team Captain and Coach (interviewed together)
- Television coverage

The Match Referee investigation shall consider:

- **Whether an SSA had been applied to the pitch at any stage of the season in question and if so what was the date of the conclusion of the match for which such SSA application was made, and**
- **If an SSA had been applied to the pitch in respect of a match that had concluded within the 42-day period prior to the commencement of the LV= Insurance County Championship, whether the County had established on the balance of probabilities that there were sufficient extenuating circumstances relating to the use of the SSA.**

in order to assess whether there has been a potential breach of the above provision and therefore Directive 11.

If the Match Referee concludes that there has not been a breach of the provision and Directive 11, they shall report accordingly to ECB Cricket Operations.

If the Match Referee is unable, at this stage, to come to a conclusion, then the Pitch and Grounds Advisor or their nominee shall be called to provide the necessary technical input. This shall commence as soon as practicable, but in all cases completed within 5 days of the conclusion of the match. Unless circumstances require otherwise, and only after being approved by the Match Referee or Pitch and Grounds Advisor or their nominee, the pitch being investigated shall not be cut, nor watered and shall be preserved, as far as practicable, with the intention of keeping it in the same state in which it finished the match until the Pitch and Grounds Advisor or their nominee has inspected the pitch.

The Pitch and Grounds Advisor or their nominee shall provide a report to the Match Referee who will then conclude whether there has been a breach of the provision and Directive 11. The Match Referee shall then make a final report to ECB Cricket Operations.

The outcome of the investigation(s) shall be discussed with the ECB Integrity Team who shall determine the course of action in accordance with Cricket Discipline Commission (CDC) Regulations.

CDC Regulations in force from time to time shall apply in respect of procedures, penalties and costs, and appeals.

If the pitch in question is subsequently marked Poor or Below Average (as a result of seam movement, unevenness or turn), it shall be subject to an investigation by the Match Referee appointed to the match, as per the investigation process set out in the **Poor or Below Average Pitches** section above.

Covering the pitch and surrounding areas

Playing Condition 10 in each of the respective competitions refers.

Whales / Blotters

All Counties, Regional Hosts and Hundred Teams must have available at least one fully operational sit-on whale machine or Blotter at any venue at which they are hosting a match. If this level of cover is not available, then both the opposition and ECB must be informed with reasons given.

Changing Venues

Playing Condition 2.6 in each of the respective competitions refers.

Condition of playing area (includes pitch, square, outfield)

(Refer also respective competition Playing Condition 2.6)

ECB Directive 11 states:

“Each First Class County Club or Regional Host, Men’s Hundred Team or Women’s Hundred Team must comply with the provisions of the ECB Pitch Regulations as applicable to that Team”.

In respect of the condition of the playing area, the relevant provisions are as follows:

It is the onus of the County, Regional Host or Hundred Team to ensure that no actions either prior to or during the scheduled period of the match shall materially adversely impact upon the condition of the playing area including pitch, square and outfield such that the possibility of play is substantially reduced.

- Actions that would be outside the County, Regional Host or Hundred Team venue’s control would include the weather and other Acts of God. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list.

Actions that would be within the County, Regional Host or Hundred Team venue’s control would include the staging of events other than the International, County First XI, Regional Host, County Second XI, The Hundred fixture programme and covering that does not meet the minimum requirement (Refer Playing Condition 2.6 in each of the respective competitions). This is not intended to be an exhaustive list.

Subsequent to a verbal or written report from the Match Umpires immediately that any part of the playing area is unfit for play and which the Umpires and/or Match Referee believe maybe a consequence of actions within the County’s, Regional Host’s or Hundred Team’s control and materially reduced the possibility of play, a full investigation shall be conducted by the Match Referee appointed to the match. If a Match Referee is not present for the match, then a Match Referee shall be appointed to conduct the investigation.

The Match Referee shall seek evidence from (not exhaustive):

- Home team Captain and Coach
- The Head Grounds Manager of the Home County (or ground at which the Regional Host^[OBJ] and/or Groundsperson of the Outground (interviewed together, wherever possible), or Hundred host venue
- The Umpires (who shall provide a written statement regarding the condition of the playing area and the circumstances surrounding it)
- If necessary and at the discretion of the Match Referee (or Head of Operations (First-Class Cricket) or Head of Women's Domestic Cricket, or their nominee), the Away team Captain and Coach

The Match Referee investigation shall consider:

- **To decide whether the condition of any part of the playing area was legitimately judged as being unfit for play. In doing so, Law 2.7 should be strictly adhered to.**
- **If the answer to the above question is yes, it must be determined whether, on the balance of probabilities, any action taken by the County, Regional Host or Hundred Team relating to the condition of the playing area had a material adverse effect on the possibility of play.**

in order to assess whether there has been a potential breach of the above provision and therefore Directive 11.

If the Match Referee concludes that there has not been a breach of the provision and Directive 11, he shall report accordingly to ECB Cricket Operations.

If the Match Referee is unable, at this stage, to come to a conclusion, then the Pitch and Grounds Advisor or his nominee shall be called to provide the necessary technical input. This shall commence as soon as practicable, but in all cases completed within 5 days of the conclusion of the match. Unless circumstances require otherwise, and only after being approved by the Match Referee or Pitch and Grounds Advisor or his nominee, the pitch being investigated shall not be cut, nor watered and shall be preserved, as far as practicable, with the intention of keeping it in the same state in which it finished the match until the Pitch and Grounds Advisor or his nominee has inspected the pitch.

The Pitch and Grounds Advisor or his nominee shall provide a report to the Match Referee who will then conclude whether there has been a breach of the provision and Directive 11. The Match Referee shall then make a final report to ECB Cricket Operations.

The outcome of the investigation(s) shall be discussed with the ECB Integrity Team who shall determine the course of action in accordance with Cricket Discipline Commission (CDC) Regulations.

CDC Regulations in force from time to time shall apply in respect of procedures, penalties and costs, and appeals.

If the pitch in question is subsequently marked Poor or Below Average (as a result of seam movement, unevenness or turn), it shall be subject to a full investigation by the Match Referee appointed to the match, as per the investigation process set out in **Poor or Below Average Pitches** section above.

Report Forms

Match Referees will complete a pitch report in respect of every match that they visit. The report will be forwarded to ECB Cricket Operations as soon as possible after the end of the match. This report will include information provided by the Head Grounds Manager relating to the pitch and its preparation.

Should a Match Referee not be present at a match, Umpires will complete report forms for each match. Umpires should agree how the pitch has performed in each of the four categories (unevenness, seam movement, carry and/or bounce, turn) **but they should provide an overall rating for the pitch independently.**

Match Referees

Personnel

The following individuals will be acting as Match Referees in 2022:

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|-----|-----------------|
| 1. | Dean Cosker | 9. | Phil Whitticase |
| 2. | Stuart Cummings | 10. | Dean Headley |
| 3. | Steve Davis | 11. | Devon Malcolm |
| 4. | Simon Hinks | 12. | Helen Pack |
| 5. | Wayne Noon | 13. | Mike Smith |
| 6. | Will Smith | 14. | Alec Swann |
| 7. | Peter Such | 15. | Jason Swift |
| 8. | James Whitaker | | |

Should any technical advice be required by a Match Referee, this shall be provided by the ECB Pitch and Grounds Advisor or his nominee.

Appointments

All Match Referee appointments will be made by ECB Cricket Operations.