

## **PITCH REGULATIONS**



**England and Wales Cricket Board, Lord's Cricket Ground  
St John's Wood, London, NW8 8QZ  
England**

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## DEFINITIONS

In these Pitch Regulations:

**Acts of God** means any accident or event which occurs independently of human intervention and due to natural causes such as a storm, flood, fire, drought or earthquake;

**Coach** means any individual acting as a coach, coaching assistant or consultant or Director of Cricket of a Professional County Club or Hundred Team, whether paid or unpaid, employed or otherwise engaged;

**County** means a Professional County Club, Tier 1 County, Tier 2 County and/or Tier 3 County (as applicable, depending on the Match relevant to the surrounding context in which County appears);

**Cricket Discipline Panel** means the panel of individuals responsible for adjudicating on regulatory cases on behalf of the ECB;

**Cricket Regulator** means the body responsible for investigating and prosecuting breaches of ECB Regulations;

**Disciplinary Procedure Regulations** means the regulations governing the disciplinary procedure for regulatory cases brought before the Cricket Discipline Panel as in force and amended from time to time;

**ECB** means England and Wales Cricket Board Limited;

**ECB Domestic Cricket Operations** means the ECB department responsible for overseeing domestic professional cricket in England and Wales;

**ECB Regulations** means the ECB's rules, regulations, playing conditions and codes as published and in force and amended from time to time;

**Effective Date** means 10 April 2026;

**England Teams** means the men's and women's representative England cricket teams;

**Final** means the following Matches staged at a pre-arranged venue, in respect of:

- (a) the final and the eliminator rounds in the Men's Hundred and the Women's Hundred;
- (b) the semi-finals and the final in the T20 Blast Men's Competition and the T20 Blast Women's Competition; and
- (c) the final in the One Day Cup Men's Competition and the One Day Cup Women's Competition.

**Head Grounds Manager** means the senior grounds person responsible for the preparation of a Pitch;

**Hundred** means the ECB's domestic cricket competition in a hundred-ball format, and references to "**Men's Hundred**" and "**Women's Hundred**" mean the Hundred competition played by the men's Hundred Team and women's Hundred Team respectively;

**Hundred Team** means any of the teams playing in the Men's Hundred or Women's Hundred from time to time;

**ICC** means the International Cricket Council, which is the worldwide governing body for the sport of cricket;

**ICC Member Country** means any full or associate member of the ICC;

**International Match** means any Test Match, One-Day International or Twenty20 International (as designated under the ICC's rules and regulations) played in England and Wales;

**Limited Overs Match** means a Match whose length is determined by the number of overs allocated to each team;

**Loose Material** means loose soil, sand or such other foreign material as may be applied to a Pitch;

**Match** has the meaning given to it in Regulation 1.3;

**Match Referee** means the official appointed by the ECB to officiate as match referee at a Match;

**Multi-Day Match** means a Match whose length is determined by the time allocated to it;

**Pitch** means a cricket pitch used or prepared to be used for a Match (and where reference is to a Pitch used or prepared to be used for a specific Match, that shall be indicated expressly or by the surrounding context);

**Pitch and Grounds Advisor** means the person appointed by the ECB to act as its technical advisor in relation to the preparation and assessment of Pitches;

**Playing Area** means the Pitch, square and outfield at a venue;

**Playing Condition** means the playing condition applicable to a particular Match;

**Professional Conduct Regulations** means the ECB's Professional Conduct Regulations as in force and amended from time to time;

**Professional County Club** means any of the clubs and/or companies listed in Schedule A of the ECB's Articles of Association from time to time and/or any county cricket club from time to time playing in the County Championship and/or Tier 1 Competitions and/or Tier 2 Competitions;

**Recreational Cricket Board** means a body designated as such by the ECB which is responsible for the organisation of recreational cricketing activity and the development of cricket generally within a county and such other areas (if any) as may be agreed by the ECB;

**Substandard Pitch** means a Pitch which is rated Below Average, Poor or Unfit by a Match Referee (or, if not present or appointed, the Umpires) pursuant to Regulation 7;

**Surface Stabilisation Agents** means enzymes, PVA glue (or similar) or such other substances as may be used to stabilise the surface of a Pitch;

**Tier 1 County** means a Professional County Club that participates in Tier 1 Competitions;

**Tier 1 Competitions** means any women's domestic cricket competitions designated by the ECB as being a "Tier 1" competition, which, as at the Effective Date, includes the T20 Blast Women's Competition and the One Day Cup Women's Competition;

**Tier 2 Competitions** means any women’s domestic cricket competitions designated by the ECB as being a “Tier 2” competition, which, as at the Effective Date, includes the T20 Blast Women’s League 2 and the One Day Cup Women’s League 2;

**Tier 2 County** means a Professional County Club that participates in Tier 2 Competitions;

**Tier 3 Competitions** means any women’s domestic cricket competitions designated by the ECB as being a “Tier 3” competition, which, as at the Effective Date, includes the T20 Blast Women’s League 3 and the One Day Cup Women’s League 3;

**Tier 3 County** means a Recreational Cricket Board which (i) operates in a county without a Professional County Club and (ii) runs a team which participates in the Tier 3 Competitions.

**Touring Teams** means any representative team from another ICC Member Country;

**Umpire** means an official appointed to officiate as an umpire at a Match; and

**Women’s T20 County Cup** means the T20 knockout cup competition which Tier 1 Counties, Tier 2 Counties and Tier 3 Counties participate in.

Unless the context otherwise requires, words in the singular include the plural and vice versa.

## **1 APPLICATION**

1.1 These Pitch Regulations come into full force and effect on the Effective Date.

1.2 Regulations 1 to 12 consolidate all the requirements relevant to the marking and monitoring of pitches in domestic Matches. The requirements relevant to International Matches are set by the ICC and therefore regard should be had to relevant ICC rules and regulations.

1.3 These Pitch Regulations apply to Counties and Hundred Teams participating in the following ECB competitions/matches:

1.3.1 County Championship;

1.3.2 One Day Cup Men’s Competition;

1.3.3 One Day Cup Women’s Competition;

1.3.4 T20 Blast Men’s Competition;

1.3.5 T20 Blast Women’s Competition;

1.3.6 Women’s T20 County Cup;

1.3.7 The Men’s Hundred and The Women’s Hundred;

1.3.8 matches involving Touring Teams or England Teams that are not International Matches (to all of which only Regulations 4 and 5 will apply); and

1.3.9 the Tier 2 Competitions, Tier 3 Competitions, men’s county second XI championship, men’s county second XI T20 and any men’s county friendly organised as part of the official ECB county second XI fixture list (to all of which only Regulations 4 and 5 will apply),

(each a **Match**).

## **2 GENERAL**

- 2.1 The County or Hundred Team that is designated as the “home” team for a particular Match, regardless of whether they are the legal owner of the host ground, is responsible for complying with these Pitch Regulations.
- 2.2 5A County or Hundred Team’s liability under these Pitch Regulations is not affected if they delegate, outsource or assign (or similar) responsibility for the preparation of a Pitch to a third party.
- 2.3 Any penalty or other sanction imposed on a County or Hundred Team for a breach of these Pitch Regulations will only apply to the team that was playing (or due to be playing) in the Match in relation to which the breach occurred. For example, if a County receives a points deduction for preparing a Substandard Pitch in a County Championship Match, that penalty shall not impact the County’s position in the Tier 1 Competitions (and vice versa). Any penalty received in respect of Pitches in The Hundred will apply to that Men’s or Women’s Hundred competition (as applicable) only.

## **3 ROLE OF MATCH REFEREES, UMPIRES AND MATCH REPORTS**

- 3.1 In Matches where a Match Referee is appointed, the Match Referee is responsible for the rating of Pitches; in other cases, it is the Umpires (and references to “Match Referee” throughout these Pitch Regulations shall be construed as referring to “Umpires” where no Match Referee has been appointed).
- 3.2 Prior to the start of the Match, the appointed Match Referee must obtain Pitch preparation information relevant to the Match, including (where available):
  - 3.2.1 moisture and hardness readings;
  - 3.2.2 uniformity of grass cover;
  - 3.2.3 height of cut of grass;
  - 3.2.4 colour of the Pitch;
  - 3.2.5 use of rollers; and
  - 3.2.6 weather conditions.
- 3.3 Match Referees and the Head Grounds Manager (or their nominee) must complete a Pitch report in respect of every Match to which they are appointed or Pitch used in a match that they are responsible for, respectively. The report must be completed as soon as possible after the end of the match using the ECB match reporting system. ECB Domestic Cricket Operations will send a copy of that report to the Cricket Regulator without delay if it concerns a Substandard Pitch.
- 3.4 Notwithstanding Regulation 3.3, Match Referees must contact ECB Domestic Cricket Operations as soon as possible if they have concerns about a Pitch at any stage of a Match, regardless of the number of wickets that have fallen. ECB Domestic Cricket Operations must notify the Cricket Regulator of any such report as soon as practicable.

### Cores

- 3.5 Cores will not be routinely taken. However, prior to the start of a Match should a Match Referee request to see cores, they must be taken 2ft 6in in from the edge of the Pitch on a spinner's length at each end. They must be taken on the off-side to a right-handed batsman.
- 3.6 If a Match Referee is appointed to attend after the commencement of a County Championship Match, they may request that two additional cores are taken. This will be done at the Umpires' discretion (the Match Referee will liaise with the Head Grounds Manager to arrange a mutually convenient time). The Umpires must also be present, and the cores must be replaced.

## **4 RATING OF PITCHES – MULTI-DAY MATCHES (3 DAYS OR MORE)**

### Objective

- 4.1 Pitches must be prepared to provide an even contest between bat and ball and must 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.

### Pitch Categories and Criteria

- 4.2 In accordance with the objective at Regulation 4.1, the following are the agreed categories and criteria for the rating of Pitches used for Multi-Day Matches.

	<b>Unevenness</b>	<b>Seam Movement</b>	<b>Carry and/or Bounce</b>	<b>Turn</b>
<b>Very Good</b>	At most, occasional unevenness of bounce at any stage of the Match	At most, occasional seam movement at all stages of the Match	Very good carry and/or bounce throughout the Match.	A little or moderate turn from the protected area on the first two days, AND wearing to considerable turn from the protected area on the third and fourth days of play  <b>OR</b>  Moderate turn from the protected area throughout the Match.
<b>Good</b>			Good carry and/or bounce throughout the Match.	Moderate turn from the protected area on the third or fourth playing days of the Match.

<b>Above Average</b>	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  <b>OR</b> Considerable turn from the protected area on the first or second playing days of the Match  <b>OR</b> Excessive turn from the protected area on the third or fourth playing days of the Match
<b>Below Average</b>	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.
<b>Poor</b>	Excessive unevenness of bounce for any bowler at any stage of the Match	Excessive seam movement at any stage of the Match		
<b>Unfit</b>	<b>A Pitch is rated unfit only if it is dangerous</b>			

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

- 4.3.1 no unevenness of bounce at any stage throughout the Match; and
- 4.3.2 at most, occasional seam movement at all stages of the Match; and
- 4.3.3 moderate turn from the protected area throughout the Match; but
- 4.3.4 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.

## Clarifications

- 4.4 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”.
- 4.5 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 must not develop to a point where they would be described as “excessive” (or where ball is completely dominating the bat).
- 4.6 When assessing the Pitch, Match Referees must:
- 4.6.1 consider the balance between bat and ball;
  - 4.6.2 take into account the type, nature and identity of the bowlers; and
  - 4.6.3 climatic conditions.
- 4.7 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.
- 4.8 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 must take into account the type, nature and identity of spin bowlers when assessing the amount of turn that the Pitch has demonstrated.
- 4.9 A Pitch used in a Multi-Day Match must show a minimum of moderate turn at some point in the Match to be able to be considered Very Good.
- 4.10 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 must be ignored when providing the overall Pitch rating.
- 4.11 Pitches should not ‘explode’ or ‘go through the top’, although again the question of “how often” must be considered in order to rate the Pitch.

## **5 RATING OF PITCHES – LIMITED OVERS MATCHES**

### Objective

- 5.1 For the duration of the Match, the whole surface of the Pitch must be completely dry, firm and true, providing very good carry and even bounce throughout. There must be little or no turn and little or no seam movement. In all cases however, Pitches will be judged on how they play, and not whether they are dry or what colour they are.

### Pitch Categories and Criteria

- 5.2 In accordance with the objective at Regulation 5.1, the following are the agreed categories and criteria for the rating of Pitches used for Limited Overs Matches.

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

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.

#### Clarifications

**5.3** The same clarifications as are contained at Regulations 4.4, 4.6, 4.8, 4.10 and 4.11 apply to the assessment of Pitches for Limited Overs Matches.

## **6 THE RE-USE OF PITCHES**

**6.1** The following guidelines with regard to Pitch preparation and the use/re-use of Pitches used in County Championship and Limited Overs Matches apply. Where a County or Hundred Team fails to follow these guidelines and subsequently receives a Pitch rating of Below Average, Poor or Unfit, this can be taken into account in determining whether or not they sought to prepare the best quality Pitch that they could for the Match they were staging:

### **6.1.1** Limited Overs Matches prior to County Championship Matches

In the 7-day period leading up to a County Championship Match, it is expected that a maximum of one Limited Overs Match will be played on the same Pitch that is to be used for the County 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 charge or sanction as detailed in these Pitch Regulations.

Counties are recommended to prepare an alternative Pitch for the County Championship Match in case the first-choice Pitch is damaged.

### **6.1.2** Consecutive County Championship Matches

It is expected that a second consecutive County Championship 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 charge or sanction as detailed in these Pitch Regulations.

#### 6.1.3 Re-use of Pitches — Limited Overs Matches

It is recommended that a fresh Pitch is used for Limited Overs Matches although it is understood that this is not always possible. Ultimately the choice of Pitch remains with the relevant County or Hundred Team but it is recommended that only in exceptional circumstances should a Limited Overs Match be played on the Pitch on which a Multi-Day Match has just been completed (for example where the amount of play in the County 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 or Hundred Team must notify the visiting team for the Limited Overs Match.

## 7 SUBSTANDARD PITCHES

- 7.1 A County or Hundred Team must not prepare a Substandard Pitch. A County or Hundred Team that prepares a Substandard Pitch will be in breach of these Pitch Regulations unless they can demonstrate that they sought, acting reasonably, to prepare the best quality Pitch that they could for the Match they were staging.

### Referral to the Cricket Regulator

- 7.2 Where a Match Referee rates a Pitch as Below Average, Poor or Unfit, they must report this to ECB Domestic Cricket Operations immediately who in turn will refer the matter to the Cricket Regulator without delay so that it may start an investigation in accordance with the Disciplinary Procedure Regulations.

- 7.3 The Cricket Regulator may investigate the matter as it sees fit pursuant to the Disciplinary Procedure Regulations, including by conducting such of the following steps as it considers necessary:

- 7.3.1 seeking evidence from any persons it considers necessary, including (but not limited to):

- (a) the Match Referee and Umpires;
- (b) the Head Grounds Manager of the home County (or ground at which the Match is being played) and/or grounds person of the outground, or Hundred host venue;
- (c) the home team captain and Coach; and/or
- (d) the away team captain and Coach,

all of whom must cooperate with the Cricket Regulator's investigation; and

- 7.3.2 instructing the Pitch and Grounds Advisor (or their nominee) to inspect the Pitch in question and to produce a report detailing their findings.

- 7.4 The Pitch being investigated must not be cut or watered, and as far as practicable must be preserved in order to keep it in the same state in which it finished the Match, until the Pitch and Grounds Advisor (or their nominee) (if applicable) has inspected the Pitch and the Cricket Regulator has confirmed otherwise.
- 7.5 A Pitch that is rated Below Average due only to carry and bounce will not be subject to an investigation by the Cricket Regulator or the provisions of this Regulation 7.

Referral to the Cricket Discipline Panel

- 7.6 If the Cricket Regulator decides to bring a charge, the Cricket Regulator will refer the matter to the Cricket Discipline Panel for determination in accordance with the Disciplinary Procedure Regulations, as supplemented by the following provisions. The burden is on the relevant County or Hundred Team to show that (a) the Pitch was not a Substandard Pitch and/or (b) that they sought, acting reasonably, to prepare the best quality Pitch that they could for the Match they were staging. Factors relevant to the assessment at (b) include, but are not limited to:
- 7.6.1 whether the County or Hundred Team are able to demonstrate that there were any circumstances relating to the preparation of the Pitch that were beyond their control;
- 7.6.2 whether the condition of the Pitch was a direct result of any genuine and reasonable measure(s) taken to improve its quality;
- 7.6.3 covering, match scheduling and Pitch preparation; and/or
- 7.6.4 whether Regulation 6 was complied with.
- 7.7 Without prejudice to the Cricket Discipline Panel’s general powers of sanction under the Disciplinary Procedure Regulations, if the relevant County or Hundred Team cannot discharge the burden referred to in Regulation 7.6, an automatic points deduction will apply in accordance with the following table:

<b>Pitch Rating</b>	<b>County Championship</b>	<b>T20 Blast Men’s Competition &amp; One Day Cup Men’s Competition</b>	<b>T20 Blast Women’s Competition &amp; One Day Cup Women’s Competition</b>	<b>The Hundred</b>
Below Average	8	2	2	2
Poor	16	3	3	3
Unfit	24	4	4	4

- 7.8 Any automatic points deduction will apply in the competition in which the relevant Pitch rating was given, as follows:

- 7.8.1 any points deduction arising from a Match in the County Championship will be applied to a County's total points for that season of the competition; and
- 7.8.2 any points deduction arising from a Match (excluding a Final) in competitions other than the County Championship will be applied to a County's or Team's (as applicable) total points for the group stage of that competition for the following season.
- 7.9 For the avoidance of doubt, an automatic points deduction shall not apply if the rating was given to a Pitch used in the following Matches, in such case the Cricket Discipline Panel may apply such sanction as it considers appropriate:
- 7.9.1 a Final; or
- 7.9.2 a Match played in the Women's T20 County Cup.
- 7.10 The Cricket Discipline Panel may increase or reduce any points deduction specified in Regulation 7.7 to take account of any applicable mitigating and aggravating factors, including but not limited to:

*Mitigating Factors*

- 7.10.1 Early admission by the relevant County or Hundred Team that the Pitch was a Substandard Pitch and/or that they did not seek to prepare the best quality Pitch that they could for the Match they were staging; and/or
- 7.10.2 First rating of Below Average, Poor or Unfit received by the relevant County or Hundred Team in the last 24 months.

*Aggravating Factors*

- 7.10.3 Whether the County or Hundred Team that prepared the Pitch in breach of these Pitch Regulations:
- (a) won the Match the affected Pitch was played on; and/or
- (b) has previously received a rating of Below Average, Poor or Unfit in the last 24 months.

**8 APPLICATION OF LOOSE MATERIAL TO PITCHES**

- 8.1 A County or Hundred Team must not apply Loose Material to the Pitch used for any Match. A County or Hundred Team that applies Loose Material to a Pitch will be in breach of these Pitch Regulations.
- 8.2 It shall be no defence for the County or Hundred Team to assert that the application of Loose Material was a result of their attempt(s) to improve the quality of the Pitch.

Referral to the Cricket Regulator

- 8.3 If it is alleged that Loose Material has been applied to the Pitch, the Match Referee must report this to ECB Domestic Cricket Operations immediately, who in turn will refer the matter to the

Cricket Regulator without delay so that it may start an investigation in accordance with the Disciplinary Procedure Regulations.

- 8.4 If the Pitch in question is subsequently marked Below Average, Poor or Unfit (except in relation to Pitches rated Below Average as a result of carry and bounce as set out in Regulation 7.5), it will be subject to a further investigation by the Cricket Regulator to determine whether a referral for the preparation of a Substandard Pitch should also be made to the Cricket Discipline Panel, as per the process set out in Regulation 7.

## **9 SURFACE STABILISATION AGENTS**

- 9.1 Surface Stabilisation Agents must not be applied to a Pitch prepared for a County Championship Match. Any Pitch that has had a Surface Stabilisation Agent applied at any stage during the season (e.g. for use in other matches) must not be used for a County Championship Match until 42 days after the conclusion of the match in which the Surface Stabilisation Agent was used.
- 9.2 Surface Stabilisation Agents may be applied during the preparation of a Pitch for a limited overs Match. However, any such Surface Stabilisation Agents must be applied uniformly across the length and breadth of the Pitch.
- 9.3 A County or Hundred Team that does not comply with the requirements of Regulations 9.1 or 9.2 will be in breach of these Pitch Regulations unless they are able to show that there were sufficiently extenuating circumstances relating to the use of the Surface Stabilisation Agent(s).

### Referral to the Cricket Regulator

- 9.4 If it is alleged that a Surface Stabilisation Agent has been applied to a Pitch in breach of Regulations 9.1 or 9.2, the Match Referee must report this to ECB Domestic Cricket Operations immediately, who in turn will refer the matter to the Cricket Regulator without delay so that it may start an investigation in accordance with the Disciplinary Procedure Regulations, taking into account the following considerations:
- 9.4.1 The burden is on the relevant County or Hundred Team to demonstrate that there were sufficient extenuating circumstances relating to the use of any Surface Stabilisation Agents.
- 9.4.2 If the Pitch in question is subsequently marked Unfit, Poor or Below Average (except in relation to Pitches rated Below Average as a result of carry and bounce as set out in Regulation 7.5), it will be subject to a further investigation by the Cricket Regulator to determine whether a referral for the preparation of a Substandard Pitch should also be made to the Cricket Discipline Panel, as per the process set out in Regulation 7.

## **10 CONDITION OF PLAYING AREA**

- 10.1 Each County and Hundred Team must ensure that nothing is done either before or during the scheduled period of any Match that results in any part of the Playing Area being unfit for play. If anything is done which results in any part of the Playing Area being unfit for play, the relevant County or Hundred Team will be in breach of these Pitch Regulations unless they are able to show that the act(s) in question were outside their control.

## Referral to the Cricket Regulator

- 10.2 If the Umpires decide that any part of the Playing Area is unfit to play on and that this may be attributable to something done before or during the scheduled period of play, they must report this to ECB Domestic Cricket Operations immediately who in turn will refer the matter to the Cricket Regulator without delay so that it may start an investigation in accordance with the Disciplinary Procedure Regulations, taking into account the following considerations:
- 10.2.1 the burden is on the relevant County or Hundred Team to demonstrate that the act(s) which resulted in any part of the Playing Area being unfit to play on were outside their control.
- 10.2.2 acts that would be outside a team's control include (but are not limited to) extreme weather events and Acts of God. Acts that are deemed to be within a team's control include, amongst things, the staging of events other than a Match, and the use of any covering that does not meet the minimum requirements of the relevant Playing Condition in each of the respective competitions to which these Pitch Regulations apply.
- 10.2.3 if the Pitch in question is subsequently marked Unfit, Poor or Below Average (except in relation to Pitches rated Below Average as a result of carry and bounce as set out in Regulation 7.5), it will be subject to a further investigation by the Cricket Regulator to determine whether a referral for the preparation of a Substandard Pitch should also be made to the Cricket Discipline Panel, as per the process set out in Regulation 7.

## **11 CHANGING VENUES**

- 11.1 Any County or Hundred Team that wishes to change the venue for a Match at short notice may only do so with the prior consent of ECB Domestic Cricket Operations. An application must be made in writing giving details of the proposed substitute venue and confirming that the three conditions in Regulation 11.2 are satisfied.
- 11.2 Consent for a short notice change of venue under Regulation 11.1 will only be granted if:
- 11.2.1 the change will significantly improve the prospects of play, or there is a genuine concern over the original venue producing a Substandard Pitch; and
- 11.2.2 the proposed substitute venue is suitable for staging the level of cricket that is expected from the Match in question; and
- 11.2.3 the substitute venue is within the same geographic county or region as the original venue. Where no such venue is available, approval may be given for a neutral venue located further away provided that it would not impose an unreasonable burden on the team designated as the away team for the Match.
- It is unlikely that any request to change venue made on the day of a Match itself will be approved.
- 11.3 If 72 hours prior to the scheduled start of a Match there is a material likelihood that the host venue will be unable to stage any play over the scheduled term of the Match then the relevant County or Hundred Team that is designated as the home team must:

- 11.3.1 procure an alternative venue to host the Match and notify the away team and ECB Domestic Cricket Operations as soon as possible;
  - 11.3.2 apply for and obtain consent for a short notice change of venue in accordance with Regulation 11.1 above on the basis that the alternative venue will significantly improve the prospects of play; and
  - 11.3.3 make the alternative venue ready to host the Match in case conditions at the original venue do not improve.
- 11.4 If a County or Hundred Team:
- 11.4.1 changes venue at short notice and does not apply for consent in accordance with Regulation 11.1; and/or
  - 11.4.2 fails to comply with any refusal of consent sought under Regulation 11.1; and/or
  - 11.4.3 fails to procure and, if necessary, make ready an alternative venue to host a Match in accordance with Regulation 11.3,
- they will be in breach of these Pitch Regulations except that in relation to Regulation 11.4.3 the relevant team will not be in breach where they can demonstrate that no alternative venue was available which would have (i) significantly improved the prospects of play; (ii) been suitable for staging the level of cricket expected from the Match in question; and (iii) which would not have imposed an unreasonable burden on either the home or the away team.
- 11.5 Any alleged breach of this Regulation 11 will be referred to the Cricket Regulator to investigate in accordance with the Disciplinary Procedure Regulations.
  - 11.6 Where consent for a short notice change of venue under Regulation 11.1 is refused, that will not prevent a County or Hundred Team from being in breach of Regulation 7 or this Regulation 11.

## **12 WHALES / BLOTTERS**

All Counties and Hundred Teams must have available at least one ride-on water soaker or two motorised pedestrian water soakers at any venue at which they are hosting a Match. If this level of cover is not available, then both the opposition and ECB Domestic Cricket Operations must be informed in advance of the Match with reasons given. Unless the reasons given clearly relate to circumstances which could not reasonably be expected to be within a County or Hundred Team's control, the County or Hundred Team will be in breach of this Regulation 12 and ECB Domestic Cricket Operations will refer the matter to the Cricket Regulator to investigate in accordance with the Disciplinary Procedure Regulations.

## **13 BREACHES OTHER THAN SUBSTANDARD PITCHES**

Where the Cricket Regulator brings charges in respect of a breach of any of Regulations 8, 9, 10, 11 or 12, the Cricket Regulator will refer the matter to the Cricket Discipline Panel for determination in accordance with the Disciplinary Procedure Regulations.