

VENUES, GROUNDS, GRADING AND STANDARDS

The grading and standards of all Member Clubs grounds and their facilities is deemed necessary to maintain the status of the TVCL, which is overseen by a sub-committee created by the Management Committee, known as Grading and Standards Sub Committee (“GSSC”).

1. DESIGNATED VENUES

- 1.1) All TVCL Matches shall be played at a Venue that has been designated to a specific Team by Member Clubs by the **31st October** prior to the next TVCL Season (the “**Designated Venue**”).

Where there is more than one ground at a Venue, a specific oval must be allocated to each Home Team

- 1.2) Any current Teams planning to change their Designated Venue from the recently completed TVCL Season, shall require the approval of the GSSC before the new Designated Venue will be accepted for the following season.
- 1.3) Any New Teams looking to enter the TVCL for the following season, must submit their application to the TVCL Secretary, along with their proposed venue by this **31st October** deadline and it shall require the approval of the GSSC before that New Team can be accepted into the TVCL.
- 1.4) Should the GSSC not approve any proposed or subsequently proposed venue by the **30th November**, the Team(s) will be withdrawn / not accepted into the TVCL for the following season.
- 1.5) All Member Clubs 2nd/3rd Venues shall only be within a 5-mile radius of their Primary Venue, unless prior approval has been given by the Management Committee.
- 1.6) Any newly constructed grounds are required to have experienced a minimum of one full growing season before they can be graded or to be deemed acceptable for use within the TVCL.

2. CHANGES TO THE DESIGNATED VENUE

- 2.1) In the event that the Designated Venue is not available for a scheduled fixture, the Home Team shall be deemed to have forfeited the TVCL Match.
- 2.2) However only in accordance with either 2.3, 2.4 or 2.5 shall it be permitted for TVCL Matches to be moved from their Designated Venue. The GSSC and the Management Committee is not bound to grant permission to a change to the proposed Alternative Designated Venue a) if it is not be suitable for hosting TVCL Matches and b) will only do so where such a change does not affect the playing arrangements for another TVCL Match scheduled to be played at the same Venue on the same day.
- 2.3) Any Home Team wishing to play any TVCL Matches at an Alternative Designated Venue must first obtain permission from the Management Committee. Such requests are expected to be submitted to the TVCL Secretary normally no later than **1st April** in order that the GSSC may have the opportunity to consider the suitability of the proposed alternative venue and if there is any effect of the change to other TVCL Matches.

- 2.4) In exceptional circumstances only, a late application for a change of Designated Venue may be made, which should in any event be received and addressed to the TVCL Secretary by no later than **10:00pm on Tuesday** preceding that TVCL Match.

In the event that an Alternative Designated Venue cannot be agreed by **10:00pm on Wednesday** preceding that TVCL Match, it shall cause for that TVCL Match to be forfeited by the Home Team.

- 2.5) Whereas, in the event of a Home Team being unable to play a TVCL Match at their Designated Venue owing to external restrictions being imposed, for example because of foot and mouth disease, no postponements shall be permitted but the fixture will not be deemed to be a forfeit.

In such cases, it is permitted for a late change to the Designated Venue of any TVCL Match that would otherwise have to be 'Cancelled' due to the imposition of such restrictions. Member Clubs are expected to make every effort to find a suitable Alternative Designated Venue in such emergency cases. The Alternate Designated Venue must be acceptable to both Teams, and any additional ground hire costs, beyond those normally incurred by the Home Team, shall be shared equally by both Member Clubs.

3. FACILITY STANDARDS

- 3.1) All Member Clubs are expected to ensure that their Designated Venue is prepared and fit to play TVCL Matches, including the pitch, outfield and surrounds.

- 3.2) The pitch must be fully prepared and correctly marked as per the Laws.

Note: extending the length of the popping crease, on both sides of the pitch, may assist Umpires for any run-out appeals.

- 3.3) Home Teams are expected, where possible, to refresh the pitch markings between innings.

- 3.4) Boundaries must be clearly defined with a rope or markers.

- 3.5) Sightscreens must be positioned outside of the boundary at all times. The boundary may not be changed after the commencement of play.

- 3.6) A working Scoreboard must be available, alongside a scoring area which has adequate light, is comfortable and clean, and has adequate cover in the event of inclement weather.

- 3.7) A detailed list of all the specific Gradings & Standards required for the respective Divisions of the TVCL, shall be published on the TVCL Website as endorsed by the Management Committee.

- 3.8) The GSSC or the Management Committee shall have the right to visit any Designated Venue to inspect the facilities and to make a recommendation report as it considers appropriate.

4. THE PITCH

- 4.1) All TVCL Matches in Divisions 1-4 shall always be played on grass pitches.

- 4.2) All TVCL Matches, in Divisions 5 & below, shall always be played on a grass pitch, unless such a pitch is already known to be unfit or unavailable by the Wednesday preceding that fixture.

In such case, the Home Team shall advise the Management Committee of the issue, and further must advise the Away Team before 10:00pm on the Wednesday prior to that TVCL Match, that it will instead be played on an artificial surface and advise of any restrictions on the use of normal cricket footwear. Failure to do so will result in a penalty being imposed by the Management Committee.

- 4.3) However, in Divisions 8 & below, Teams, may be permitted by the Management Committee to regularly use an artificial surface (subject to a review by the GSSC). However, it is still mandatory for the Home Team to advise/remind the Away Team each week by the Wednesday Deadline of any restriction on footwear.

5. GRADING OF DESIGNATED VENUES

- 5.1) No pitch shall be used which is considered dangerous, or of very unsatisfactory standard for a TVCL Match. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in a penalty being imposed by the Management Committee.

POST-MATCH MARKS

- 5.2) Panel Umpires and Captains are to provide marks on the pitch and outfield, which the GSSC shall use to consider their own assessments, and identify any trends, areas of concern or recommendations for improvement.

Note: The primary purpose of these pitch and ground gradings is not to acquire kudos for a particular ground, excuse poor performance, nor settle grudges, but is to help raise facility standards, so please try to provide objective responses.

- 5.3) Penalties based on Panel Umpire reports only:
- A) Any Team incurring marks that falls Below 3=Acceptable, for their Pitch markings in 3 Matches in the same TVCL Season shall incur a 5 Penalty Point deduction. A further 5 Penalty Points will be applied for each and every further instance in that Season.
 - B) Any Team incurring marks that falls Below 3=Acceptable, for their Outfield in 5 Matches in the same TVCL Season shall incur a 5 Penalty Point deduction. A further 5 Penalty Points will be applied for each and every further instance in that Season.
- 5.4) Any Complaints about the standard of any Designated Venue, over and above the details provided in the Post-Match Reports, should be addressed to the TVCL Secretary

PERIODIC REVIEW

- 5.5) The GSSC may at any time assess a Designated Venue and provide feedback and instruction to the Member Club to address any issues identified.

Should the GSSC conclude that the Designated Venue has serious deficiencies and does not meet the required standards of the current Division, the Member Club shall be informed and given two calendar years (extended to a 30th September deadline) to make the changes required to meet the required standard.

Where any improvements needed to meet the required standards is linked to a substantial change to building facilities, they shall be given three calendar years (extended to the 30th September deadline).

Any Member Club not reaching the required standard by the deadline shall appear before the GSSC to explain their reasons for failing to do so, and in such case the GSSC can recommend to the Management Committee for the Team(s) to be relegated to the Divisions matching the standard of the facility.

CLUBMARK

5.6) All TVCL Member Clubs are encouraged to achieve Clubmark accreditation.

A) For any Member Club with a Team in Divisions 1,2 & 3 this is a Mandatory Requirement.

B) Should a Member Club not have Clubmark, they shall not be promoted above Divisions 4.

C) Should a Member Club, within Divisions 1-3, no longer have Clubmark as at 30th September, they will no longer be eligible for promotion due from the Season just concluded.

Such Member Club will additionally then be given one year's notice, up to the next 30th September, to gain their Clubmark accreditation. Should accreditation not be completed, then the Member Club Team(s) within Divisions 1-3, shall be relegated down to the next Division for the following Season.

This process above shall repeat each year until the Team has been relegated to Divisions 4.

END OF SEASON REVIEW

5.7) Designated Venues of all Member Clubs who are subject to promotion, are due to be inspected by the GSSC with regard to its facilities and playing surface, and shall be rated in accordance with the published standards for the higher Divisions.

5.8) Any assessment required of those Member Clubs seeking promotion, should be concluded within 28 calendar days of the conclusion of the TVCL Season.

5.9) Following the assessment by GSSC, they shall inform the Member Club should any items be below standard or missing. The Member Club will be given until the **31st October** deadline to resolve any issues, otherwise that Team shall not be considered for Promotion.

5.10) The GSSC shall report their decision to the Management Committee. Should the Member Club have failed the assessment for Promotion, the TVCL Secretary shall inform them of the result within seven calendar days of the meeting of the Management Committee, giving details of the result of the assessment.

5.11) A Member Club shall have the right of appeal against the result of the assessment by GSSC within 7 calendar days (see the Appeal Procedure in the Disciplinary, Complaints and Appeals Procedures).