

Accreditation Committee Report Autumn 2021

As many will know, Henry Tighe stepped down as Chair of Accreditation in the autumn of 2020 after many years in charge of the ClubGrade process. The sincere thanks of the Accreditation Committee and the thanks of the wider cricketing community across Leinster are due to Henry.

As a backdrop to the current accreditation review process, it is worth noting that, since the original drafting of the ClubGrade standards, there has been an increase in junior and female participation across Open Competitions. There has also been further detail and clarity brought to the fore concerning junior participation, not only in the key area of safeguarding, but also in the area of welfare. This impacts heavily on cricket due to the unusual length of time a younger player may spend at a location.

The committee began a review of the ClubGrade process in early 2021 and has consulted with each of the various committees to ask for their input on issues affecting playing and facilities standards as they pertain to their particular area of responsibility. This input has been received and has been amalgamated into a draft set of accreditation standards that will now enter the next phase of review and revision. To this end the committee will host a series of club workshops in autumn 2021 to invite clubs to offer their input and insight into the many complex issues that are inherent within a fit for purpose set of standards. We hope to have that process complete by Christmas and be in a position to present a draft set of standards to the Board for approval in early 2022.

Whilst defining and implementing set of standards is of key importance in delivering a quality cricketing experience for players and supporters, the accreditation committee is also tasked with assisting clubs in continuing to improve their facilities. The committee will be engaging with the CL Executive to offer advice, purchasing assistance and negotiating group purchase discounts, in order to better share the knowledge gained across clubs and make the process of accreditation one of constructive improvement and assistance.

Andy Hirst

Chair, Accreditation Committee