



# CL ACCREDITATION FRAMEWORK

## **INTRODUCTION & CONTEXT**

The CL Accreditation Framework has been updated and is attached.

It summarises the grounds & facilities capabilities which must be in-place when competing at the various levels of adult competition within Leinster and will be used at end 2024 to determine any potential team promotions for 2025 & beyond, taken alongside playing performance and match results.

All potential team promotions which would involve a movement from one category to another category will be reviewed by the relevant Competition Committee, the Accreditation Committee, the Grounds Committee and will ultimately require approval & sign-off by the Cricket Committee.

This refreshed framework builds on the existing framework which was established and implemented in the years up to the Covid period when inspections & oversight focused primarily on minimum standards including compliance with statutory protocols & guidance around public health & safety.

It is expected that the publication of this refreshed Accreditation Framework in advance of the 2024 playing season will assist in managing the expectations of those seeking promotion to the higher levels whilst reminding all stakeholders that there are minimum standards for each category of competition which will be applied from end 2024 onwards. For the avoidance of doubt, grounds & facilities standards will continue to be an important aspect of progression.

## **ACCREDITATION CATEGORIES & FRAMEWORK**

The accreditation categories & framework on which any promotions for the 2025 season will be based are as follows:

2025 ACCREDITATION CATEGORIES
A = Category A (Open Premier League, Women's Division One)
B = Category B (First Team League, Second XI Premier League, Open Division 4, Women's Division 2)
C = Category C (Open Division 5 and 6)
D = Category D (Open Division 7-11 inclusive, Women's Divisions 3 & 4)
E = Category E (Open Division 12 to 21 inclusive) Minimum Standard
M = Mandatory
O = Optional but desirable

**CL ACCREDITATION FRAMEWORK - 2025 AND BEYOND**

#	ACCREDITATION ASSESSMENT CATEGORY	A	B	C	D	E
<b>IF PLAYING ON A TURF WICKET (POINTS 1-32 INCLUSIVE APPLY PLUS POINTS IV - VIII BELOW)</b>						
1	Pitch must be suitable for full length of scheduled match	M	M	M	M	M
2	Holes or ruts from previous matches must be levelled, filled and firm before each match	M	M	M	M	M
3	Facilities for watering the square must be available (not a match-day requirement)	M	M	O	O	O
4	The pitch must be clearly distinguishable from the rest of the square	M	M	M	M	M
5	The pitch must be prepared as per guidelines, rolled and properly marked before play	M	M	M	M	M
6	The pitch must be well maintained and in good condition, with the whole cut within two days of each match	M	M	O	O	O
7	The pitch must not have been artificially watered within 48 hours of each match (unless required due to drought)	M	M	M	M	M
8	Pitches offer a true and predictable bounce with no excessive spin or movement off the seam	M	M	M	O	O
9	Pitches correctly marked and re-marked during the interval between innings	M	M	M	O	O
10	Outfield close mown with no noticeable grass cuttings, weeds, ruts, holes or hazards	M	M	M	M	O
11	Fielding circles to be indicated as per the playing conditions	M	M	M	M	M
12	Boundary clearly marked by rope or line or markers (if markers, need to be approximately 20 yards apart)	M	M	M	M	M
13	There will be an experienced groundsman at the Club who will lead all work associated with the upkeep of the ground	M	O	O	O	O
14	Full length covers or sheet covering in good condition for the match pitch	M	M	O	O	O
15	Sheet covers for bowlers run -ups (10 yards minimum)	M	M	O	O	O
16	Sheet covers for pitches immediately beside the match pitch	M	O	O	O	O
17	Ground drying equipment available during the matches	O	O	O	O	O
18	Water-hog (hand version or better)	O	O	O	O	O
<b>NET FACILITIES</b>						
19	Practice net facilities, in good condition	M	M	M	O	O
20	A grass nets area (on or away from the square, but of similar standard)	O	O	O	O	O
<b>FACILITIES &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>						
21	Sight screens at both ends of sufficient height and width, positioned before play and roped off, if within the playing area	M	M	O	O	O
22	Scoreboard indicating as a minimum: Total runs, batsman's runs, wickets, overs bowled and score of side batting first, DL par score must be displayed	M (incl DLS score)	M (excl DLS score)	M (excl DLS score)	M (excl DLS score)	M (excl DLS score)
23	Shelter for scorers	M	M	M	M	M
24	WiFi access for scorers	M	M	M	O	O
25	Live scoring via CricClubs or the recommended app	M	M	O	O	O
26	Separate Changing rooms for Home/Away teams	M	M	M	O	O
27	Separate Changing room for umpires	M	M	O	O	O
28	Clock that is visible from the pitch	O	O	O	O	O
29	Bell to indicate the five minutes to the start of play	O	O	O	O	O
30	Light and heavy rollers available during matches	M	M	O	O	O
31	Pitch and square cylinder mower	M	M	M	O	O
32	Scarifier, spiker/aerator	O	O	O	O	O
<b>IF PLAYING ON A NON-TURF WICKETS (POINTS 19-32 INCLUSIVE APPLY PLUS THE FOLLOWING)</b>						
i	The pitch must be of a quality that is acceptable to the CL	M	M	M	M	M
ii	The pitch must give true and predictable bounce with no excessive spin or movement off the seam	M	M	M	M	M
iii	Recommended maintenance of the pitch must be carried out, including, where applicable/appropriate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occasional rolling;</li> <li>Any wrinkles pulled out and fixed;</li> <li>Re-marking of creases as and when they fade;</li> <li>Removal of debris from pitch as and when seen;</li> <li>Keeping the edge of the wicket cut with a cylinder mower to assist surrounding ground to marry in to the artificial wicket;</li> <li>Such other maintenance as shall prudent so as to keep the surface in good condition</li> </ul>	M	M	M	M	M
iv	Appropriate toilet facilities (for men and women) must be available	M	M	M	M	M
v	Changing facilities of adequate size to accommodate both teams and umpires/scorers must be available.	M	M	M	M	M
vi	Shelter must be available for teams/officials for rain breaks and teas/meals.	M	M	M	M	M
vii	Safe car parking should be available or accessible within a reasonable walking distance	M	O	O	O	O
viii	Access to running water at all times (via containers or mains water supply)	M	M	M	M	M

## **GRADING PROCESS**

The grading of grounds & associated facilities will be determined with reference to the following:

- ⇒ Ground Assessment reports produced by GM By Choice on behalf of CL (which will be supplied to each club in turn)
- ⇒ Umpires ground grading and comments, where available

## **KEY POINTS TO NOTE**

The Accreditation Assessment Framework (on page 2 above) indicates those elements which are mandatory at all levels i.e., the minimum standards.

Turf wickets are recommended at all levels but are not mandatory at any level; For matches played at Categories A & B levels where a grass square is available and maintained, the default position is that matches should be played on one of the appropriately prepared turf pitches. In all circumstances, clubs should notify opposing teams before 1st May which scheduled fixtures will be played on non-turf wickets. If, for weather or other reasons, a home club subsequently wishes to change a fixture from grass to a non-turf pitch (or vice versa) they should notify the opposition at least three days before the day of the match. If, on the day of the match, the scheduled surface is unplayable and the alternative is, then play may only commence with the agreement of both captains and umpires. If the pitch is changed under these circumstances, or no play is possible at all, a report must be sent by the umpires to the relevant Competition Committee and the Competition Committee may take action against the host club including but not limited to the reversal of the result of the match.

The points with a pink background in the Framework (on page 2 above) apply to all club grounds and determine what needs to be in-place to play cricket at the various category levels.

All grounds will have been inspected at least once over the period of the 2023 & 2024 seasons with a report produced in each case which will be shared with the club concerned and all relevant stakeholders within the CL governance structure.

If you have any queries on any aspect of the refreshed Accreditation Framework and associated process, please contact the CL office or send an e-mail to: [accreditation@cricketleinster.ie](mailto:accreditation@cricketleinster.ie).

## CRICKET LEINSTER GROUNDS INSPECTION REPORT

This form will be completed for each ground inspected by the preferred supplier and submitted to the Cricket Leinster Grounds & Accreditation Committees for review.

Site Visit Assessment: By prior arrangement with the Club, a Site Visit Assessment will take place during the season to assess the practical implementation of the policies and procedures detailed in the checklists and to obtain the information requested.

Overview	
Name of Club:	
Address of Club:	
Authorised person from the Club to attend for Site Visit:	
Email:	
Mobile No.:	
Date of Site Visit:	
Name of Club Ground:	

General			
Clubs interest in grounds:	Freehold		
	Long Leasehold (i.e. with more than 20 years to run)		
	Contractual Licence from Local Authority/Other from year to year or with [ ] years to run		
	Interest other than Freehold, Long Leasehold or Contractual Licence (specify)		
Number of teams	Open Competitions		
	Women's Competitions		
	Youth Competitions		
	Other		
Has the club demonstrated that it has a programme in place for the proper care and maintenance of its playing surfaces?	Yes	No	Detail

Facilities Information		
Dimensions of available playing surfaces:	Boundary to boundary square _____ yards _____ metres	Boundary to boundary straight _____ yards _____ metres
Wicket(s) available for play:	Number of turf wickets _____	Non-turf wicket/pitch  <b>Yes / No</b>
Grass Wicket Profile:	Loam type & Depth	Overall profile

Equipment		
Set out here the equipment in good working conditions at the Club available in support of the playing of cricket.		
Area	Yes	No
Pitch and square mower		
Outfield mower		
Scarifier/verticutter		
Spiker		
Light roller		
Weight:		
Heavy roller		
Weight:		
Full length roll on covers or sheet covering for match pitch		
Coverage Area:		
Sheet covers for bowlers run-ups (10 yards minimum)		
Coverage Area:		
Sheet covers for pitches immediately beside match pitch		
Coverage Area:		
Ground drying equipment/blower		
Water-hog (hand version or better)		
Sight screens at both ends		
White/Black Solutions:		
Scorebox		
Scoreboard with numbers showing at least, Total runs, batsman's runs, wickets, overs and first innings totals		

### Training Equipment

Set out here the facilities available at the Club for training/practice for cricket:

Area	Yes	No
Artificial Surface Net Practice Bays (How many?)		
Known Subbase? Concrete/Stone etc.:		
Turf Pitch Net Practice Bays (How many?)		
Mobile Cage for Centre practice?		

### Pavilion/Clubhouse

Set out here a summary of the pavilion/Clubhouse facilities available to the Club's members and visitors

Area	Yes	No
Toilets		
Running Water		
Separate Dressing Rooms for each team		
Separate Dressing Rooms for Men's/Women's team		
Kitchen		
Shared with other sport		
Distance from Ground?		
Is there an Umpires Changing Room		
Is there a Bar?		
Is there an indoor area to take tea?		
Is there an area large enough for both teams to shelter?		

### Grounds and Facilities Criteria

Ground and Pitches	Yes	No	Detail
Are holes or ruts from previous matches levelled, filled and firm before each match?			
Is there a water source available for watering the square?			
Is the pitch clearly distinguishable from the rest of the square?			
Is the pitch prepared as per guidelines, rolled and properly marked before play?			
Is the specification for pitch preparation under the Club's control?			
Is the pitch well maintained and in good condition, with the whole cut within two days of each match			

Is the pitches correctly marked?			
Is the outfield close mown with no noticeable grass cuttings, weeds, ruts, holes or hazards?			
Height of cut:			
Are fielding circles to be indicated as per the playing conditions?			
Method used for marking the circle:			
Is the boundary clearly marked by rope or line, with markers approx. 20 yards apart?			
Method used for marking boundary:			
Is there an experienced grounds person at the Club who will lead all work associated with the upkeep of the ground?			
Grounds team member and experience level:			

Facilities and Equipment	Yes	No	Detail
Clock that is visible from the pitch			
Bell to indicate the five minutes to the start of play			

Non-Turf Pitches	Yes	No	Detail
Is the pitch deemed to be of a quality that is acceptable to CL?			
Does the pitch give true and predictable bounce with no excessive spin or movement off the seam?			
Is the following recommended maintenance of the pitch carried out, including, where applicable/appropriate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occasional rolling;</li> <li>Any wrinkles pulled out and fixed;</li> <li>Re-marking of creases as and when they fade;</li> <li>Removal of debris from pitch as and when seen;</li> <li>Keeping the edge of the wicket cut with a cylinder mower to assist surrounding area to marry the artificial wicket;</li> <li>Such other maintenance as shall prudent so as to keep the surface in good condition</li> </ul>			

Overall Summary and Assessors Comments