



# **GROUND REGULATIONS**

**effective as of 2025**

*This text is an English translation of the Dutch text of the Accommodatiereglement of the KNCB as adopted by the KNCB Board on 12 April 2025. Should there be any inconsistency or conflict between the Dutch and the English versions, the Dutch version shall prevail.*



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## **DEFINITIONS**

In these Regulations, the following definitions shall apply:

Articles of Association:	the Articles of Association of the KNCB.
Board:	the Board of the KNCB.
Club:	a Club within the meaning of Article 4(1)(a) of the Articles of Association.
Competition Rules:	the competition rules as referred to in Article 19 of the Internal Regulations.
Competition:	depending on the context: 1. the Matches between Teams of Clubs as a whole, organised by the Board during a Season, or 2. the Matches organised within one Division or one Pool by the KNCB in one Season.
Division:	the Competition (meaning 1) is subdivided in divisions on the grounds of strength (level) and/or playing day.
Ground Committee:	a committee set up by the Board to advise it and the Clubs on the conditions to be met by some or all parts of a cricket ground.
Internal Regulations:	the Internal Regulations of the KNCB.
KNCB Umpire [Bondsumpire]:	the person designated as such under the provisions of Article 23.2(a) of the Competition Rules.
KNCB:	the Royal Dutch Cricket Association.
Laws:	the Laws of Cricket as adopted and published from time to time by the MCC.
Lower Divisions:	all Divisions in the men's Competitions below the Eerste Klasse except the Recreational Divisions.
Match Day:	a day on which a Match or Matches are fixed by the KNCB for the purposes of various articles in these and other rules and regulations.
Match:	a cricket match organised by, on behalf of or under the auspices of the KNCB, by an organisation to which the KNCB is affiliated or by a Member.
Player:	any person who is or will be part of a Team.
Playing Conditions:	playing conditions as referred to in Article 19 of the Internal Regulations.
Regulations:	these Ground Regulations.
Season:	the period of a year in which the Competitions are played.
Team:	(usually) an eleven of a Club competing in any Match organised by, on behalf of or under the auspices of the KNCB.
THE Divisions:	abbreviation of Topklasse, Hoofdklasse, Eerste Klasse - the three highest Divisions in the men's Competitions.



### INTRODUCTION

The Ground Regulations bring together what the Laws of Cricket, other regulations of the KNCB and Dutch laws say about the requirements for grounds, pitches, materials, clubhouse, dressing rooms and safety (first aid, AED (Automatic External Defibrillator), Emergency Plan).

Some texts are taken from other KNCB regulations. Where this is the case, the source is indicated. If there should be any discrepancy between the text in the Ground Regulations and the source, the text from the regulations that are mentioned applies.

- With regard to the requirements, these Regulations distinguish between:
  - Category A: men's Topklasse, Hoofdklasse and Eerste Klasse, and women's Topklasse;
  - Category B: men's Lower Divisions, men's Recreational Divisions, women's Eerste Klasse and T20, and youth.
- For category A, these regulations are strictly enforced. For category B, some flexibility may be exercised. However, the Board must grant dispensation for this prior to the start of the Season based on advice from the Grounds Committee. No dispensation will be granted if this would result in deviation from the Laws.
- Separate regulations apply to international Matches, as they are subject to different provisions.

### Article 1 - GENERAL

- 1.1 Every Club participating in a Competition must have access to an adequate clubhouse that is open during Matches, as well as at least one hour before the start and one hour after the end of the Match. During a Match, there must always be access to a toilet and water tap.
- 1.2 In the construction and use of cricket facilities, the safety of Players, spectators and other persons who are on or in the vicinity of any ground on which a Match is being played or training is being carried out, is paramount. Every effort shall be made to ensure the safety of all persons.
- 1.3 Every field of a Club participating in the Competition must comply with the requirements and guidelines as established in these Regulations. Dispensation may only be granted by the Board
- 1.4 If there has been a change to a ground and/or to one or more fields since the previous Season, this should be reported before the start of the Season to the Board, in this case to the Grounds Committee.
- 1.5 Before commissioning a new field for the purpose of playing Matches, a Club shall require prior approval of that field by the Board.
- 1.6 Every Club participating in a Competition must have at its disposal, for the period specified in the Competition Rules, one or more fields that meet the requirements in these Regulations.  
If a field is unexpectedly unavailable, the Club playing at home must arrange a replacement.
- 1.7 Every Club must ensure during home games that the field and dressing rooms are available for both Teams and the KNCB Umpires at least one hour before the scheduled starting time.



- 1.8 Every Club organising a Match on its ground shall ensure that adequate assistance can be provided on or near the ground in case of accidents. An adequately equipped first-aid kit and stretcher should be ready and available on or in the immediate vicinity of the ground. In addition, the pitch should be accessible to ambulance, police and/or fire engines at all times. In addition, it is advisable to also have an AED available on or in the immediate vicinity of the ground. Having an Emergency Plan in place is also advisable.
- 1.9 If a ground or grounds managed by third parties is/are used for Matches, including for friendlies, the home Club must ensure that the manager of this ground has taken appropriate measures for all issues mentioned in Articles 1.6 to 1.8 inclusive.

### Article 2 - FIELD DIMENSIONS AND OUTFIELD

- 2.1 On any field used to play competition matches both square-leg boundaries must be at least 50 metres from the centre of the pitch and must therefore be at least 100 metres wide. These dimensions apply to fields constructed after 1 January 2024.
- 2.2 Any field used to play competition matches shall be at least 100 metres long from boundary to boundary, i.e. 50 metres either end from the centre of the pitch. However, for the game to blossom, it is preferable for the distance from boundary to boundary to be at least 105 metres. These dimensions apply to fields constructed after 1 January 2024.
- 2.3 If a field to be used for Matches is in the immediate vicinity of a ditch or some other waterway or pool, the Club is obliged to take measures that minimise the risk of the ball ending up in the water. If a ball can end up in the water, there should be some tool readily available that allows for the ball to be recovered quickly.
- 2.4 Practice nets should be constructed in such a way that Players during Matches are not in danger of being struck by balls hit in the practice nets and Matches should not be affected by practice activities. If this cannot be ensured, the practice nets cannot be used during the Match.
- 2.5 Ideally, the field should have fully closed grass cover that is always cut sufficiently short. The prescribed mow height is 1 cm. The mow height and time of mowing should be matched to this requirement. The playing surface should be even and have no sharp transitions.

### Article 3 - FIELD AND GROUND FACILITIES

#### 3.1 PITCH

- 3.1.1 Every field must have a specially prepared cricket pitch. The pitch must be as near as possible to the middle of the cricket field. The pitch must comply with the dimensions and markings specified in the Laws. The 'wide' guidelines should be painted black or blue. All other markings are in white.
- 3.1.2 The ideal pitch is a well-prepared grass pitch (pitch equipped with a surface of clay topped with grass). Hybrid pitches (pitches equipped with artificial fibres placed between the grass or combined synthetic grass and clay pitches) are also allowed. And playing on a pitch covered with artificial grass matting is also permitted. Such a pitch must be 2.74 metres wide and 30 metres long; this is the standard size of mats.



- 3.1.3 Permission to play Matches on grass pitches and hybrid pitches must be granted by the Board before they are put into use. Such permission can only be granted after the pitch has been inspected by or on behalf of the Board.
- 3.1.4 Permission to play Matches on a pitch with artificial matting must be granted by the Board before it is put into use. Such permission can only be granted after the pitch has been inspected by or on behalf of the Board or it has been demonstrated that pitch and mat comply with the NOC\*NSF KNCB 2 15.1 standard.
- 3.1.5 Only mats approved by the KNCB are allowed in all Competitions. From 2025, mats of Robusta, Notts and Tiger Turf are allowed on a hard base layer. Other choices should be submitted to the Board first.
- 3.1.6 When using a pitch with artificial matting, there should be a cut-out strip with clay or earth in the spot where the stumps are to be pitched.
- 3.1.7 See Appendix A for the correct crease dimensions.

### 3.2 WICKETS

- 3.2.1 Clubs are only allowed to use wickets in Matches each of which contain stumps of a uniform colour. Affixing advertising to stumps is allowed, provided the Dutch Advertising Code is complied with (see: [www.reclamecode.nl](http://www.reclamecode.nl)).
- 3.2.2 Stumps should have good grooves and have wooden spikes at the bottom.
- 3.2.3 See Appendix B for the correct dimensions.

### 3.3 SCREENS

- 3.3.1 Every field used for Matches shall have screens placed behind the boundary in line with the pitch. The screen serves to provide optimum contrast for the cricket ball. Screens must be black or dark green.
- 3.3.2 Advertising is allowed on the screen behind the batsman, provided it is removed before the next over from the other end starts.
- 3.3.3 Based on the size of a pitch as defined in Article 2, a fixed screen should be at least 9 metres wide and 4.50 metres tall. A mobile screen should be at least 4.50 metres wide and also 4.50 metres tall.  
Screens should be placed at both ends of the pitch in the longitudinal direction. If the field dimensions exceed those stated in Article 2, the height of the screen in particular should be adjusted accordingly. See Appendix C.

### 3.4 COVERS

- 3.4.1 Clubs must have pitch covers for each field that can be used for Matches. These may be mobile covers but also large tarpaulins that can be placed over the entire pitch in case of rain or the threat of rain. At both ends in the longitudinal direction of the pitch, measuring from the wicket, a strip of at least 10x10 metres of the field should also be covered (the run-up), i.e. 40x10 metres in total.
- 3.4.2 The home Club must ensure that pitch and run-ups are and remain dry and playable on the Match Day. For Clubs with grass pitches, it is important to ensure that in addition to the pitch and run ups, the entire square is and remains dry and playable.



- 3.4.3 Clubs are required to have adequate equipment to tackle any damp spots on the pitch. Any parts of the field prone to flooding should also be properly covered.

### 3.5 SCOREBOARD AND COMPUTER

- 3.5.1 Clubs are required to have a scoreboard available for every field used for Matches. This scoreboard should include at least the following information: 1) runs total 2) number of overs played 3) number of wickets down 4) first innings total 5) target score if D/L is applied 6) Powerplay situation.
- 3.5.2 The Club of the home Team in the One-Day and T20 Competitions in the men's THE Divisions and the women's One-day Competition in the Topklasse must have a personal computer with the latest Duckworth/Lewis/Stern software on it as well as a working printer with enough paper and toner or ink.

### 3.6 BOUNDARY

- 3.6.1 The boundary must be clearly marked with a thick chalk line in combination with boundary flags or a boundary rope or cord.
- 3.6.2 Outside the boundary as described in Article 3.6.1, a safety zone of at least 150 cm around the entire field is obligatory to prevent injuries to players. This safety zone should be completely free of any obstacles and materials.

### 3.7 CHANGING ROOMS

- 3.7.1 Clubs must have a minimum of two changing rooms with shower facilities for every field. These changing rooms should cover a minimum area of 30 square metres and be equipped with enough clothes hooks and seating for an entire Team. Toilets must also be available.
- 3.7.2 A category A Club should have a separate changing room for KNCB Umpires. This changing room should be at least four square metres in size and equipped with a shower room. A toilet must also be available.
- 3.7.3 Clubs are expected to provide clean changing rooms on Match Days for the playing Teams and KNCB Umpires.

## Article 4 - ENFORCEMENT AND SANCTIONS

- 4.1 The KNCB Umpires designated for a Match by the Board shall report any ground deficiency to the Board.
- 4.2 Every Club is responsible for its fields, even if the municipality owns them.
- 4.3 Clubs that are in breach of any of the sections of these Regulations may be sanctioned by the Board. The type of sanction and its amount are set out in the Competition Rules.
- 4.4 Should a Club not be able to meet the conditions set out in these Regulations due to circumstances such as rebuilding work, renovations, etc., the Board may - after hearing the Club and seeking advice from the Grounds Committee - grant the Club temporary dispensation.

**APPENDIX A - THE CREASES**

De onderstaande informatie en artikelnummers zijn ontleend aan:  
<https://www.lords.org/mcc/the-laws-of-cricket/the-creases>

**7.1 The creases**

The positions of a bowling crease, a popping crease and two return creases shall be marked by white lines, as set out in [Laws] 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4, at each end of the pitch. See the drawing below.

**7.2 The bowling crease**

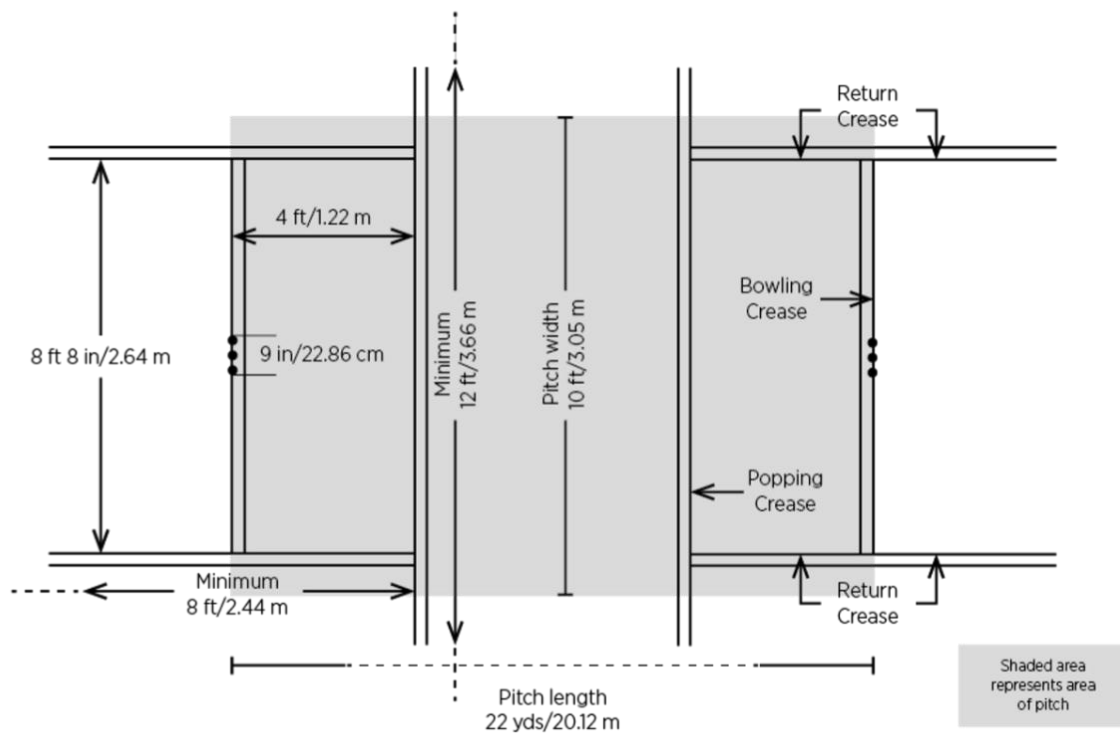
The bowling crease, which is the back edge of the crease marking, is the line that marks the end of the pitch, as in Law 6.1 (Area of pitch). It shall be 8 ft 8 in/2.64 m in length.

**7.3 The popping crease**

The popping crease, which is the back edge of the crease marking, shall be in front of and parallel to the bowling crease and shall be 4 ft/1.22 m from it. The popping crease shall be marked to a minimum of 6 ft/1.83 m on either side of the imaginary line joining the centres of the two middle stumps and shall be considered to be unlimited in length.

**7.4 The return creases**

The return creases, which are the inside edges of the crease markings, shall be at right angles to the popping crease at a distance of 4 ft 4 in/1.32 m either side of the imaginary line joining the centres of the two middle stumps. Each return crease shall be marked from the popping crease to a minimum of 8 ft/2.44 m behind it and shall be considered to be unlimited in length.



In addition to Clause 7.3, local Dutch rule is that the popping crease shall be marked to a minimum of 15 yards/13.71 m on either side of the imaginary line joining the centres of the two middle stumps and shall be considered to be unlimited in length.

**APPENDIX B - THE WICKET**

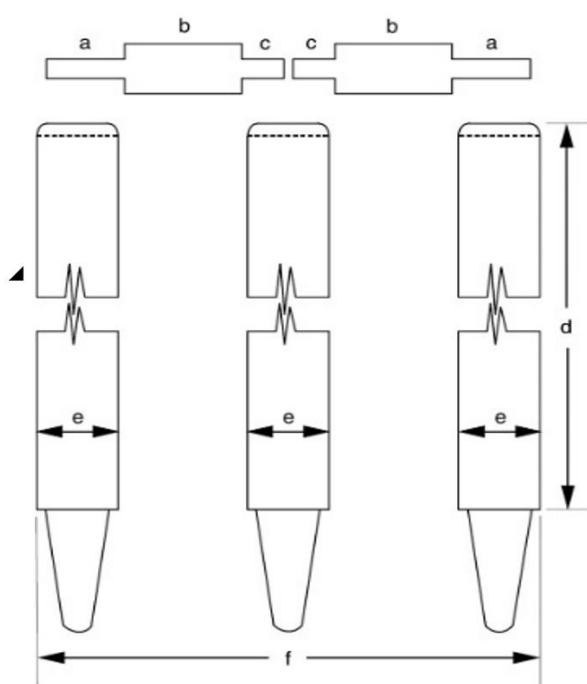
The information and article numbers below are taken from:  
<https://www.lords.org/mcc/the-laws-of-cricket/the-wickets>

**8.1 Description, width and pitching**

Two sets of wickets shall be pitched opposite and parallel to each other in the centres of the bowling creases. Each set shall be 9 in/22.86 cm wide and shall consist of three wooden stumps with two wooden bails on top. See drawing below.

**8.2 Size of stumps**

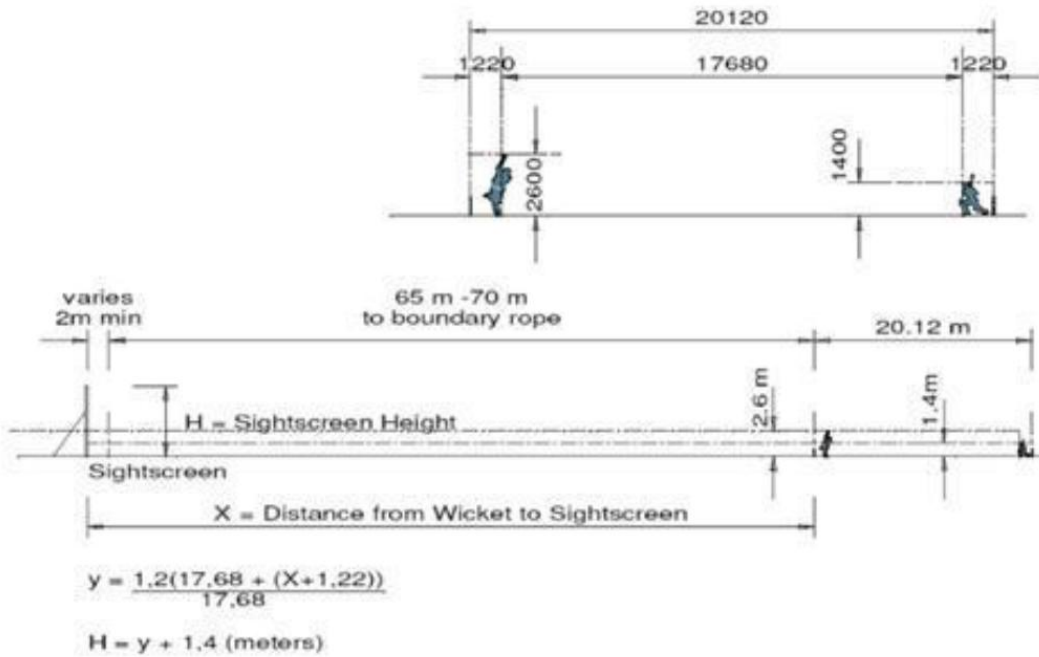
The tops of the stumps shall be 28 in/71.12 cm above the playing surface and shall be dome shaped except for the bail grooves. The portion of a stump above the playing surface shall be cylindrical apart from the domed top, with circular section of diameter not less than 1.38 in/3.50 cm nor more than 1.5 in/3.81 cm. See drawing below.



<b>Bails</b>	
For Senior Cricket	
Overall	4.31 in / 10.95 cm
a =	1.38 in / 3.50 cm
b =	2.13 in / 5.40 cm
c =	0.81 in / 2.06 cm
<b>Stumps</b>	
For Senior Cricket	
Height (d)	28 in / 71.1 cm
Diameter (e)	
max.	1.5 in / 3.81 cm
min.	1.38 in / 3.50 cm
Overall	
Width (f)	9 in / 22.86 cm
of Wicket	

APPENDIX C - SCREENS

Height of a sight screen



Width of sight screen

