

THE OUTFIELD

MARK	OUTFIELD EVENESS	APPEARANCE/GRASS LENGTH	BOUNDARY MARKINGS	SIGHT SCREENS
5	<i>Excellent 'run' to the ball. Fielders have total confidence in the predicted path of the ball.</i>	<i>Very well mown and prepared with excellent grass cover</i>	<i>Fence, rope or line with flags which is prominently visible from both sets of stumps. There no possibility of confusion for the umpires.</i>	<i>Excellent screens at both ends which cover both 'over and round' bowling with no need for them to be moved. The screens are tall enough to accommodate all but the tallest of bowlers.</i>
4	<i>True 'run' to the ball. Fielders are always able to predict the path of the ball.</i>	<i>Well mown and prepared, with good grass cover.</i>	<i>Rope or line with flags which is clear from both sets of stumps. On rare occasions umpires may need help from fielders.</i>	<i>As for 5, but may not be tall enough for some bowlers, or there is only one screen at one end which needs moving for 'over and round' bowling.</i>
3	<i>Can be uneven in places. Generally consistent run to the ball but there can be occasional variable bounce. Fielders can generally predict the path of the ball.</i>	<i>Mown and prepared for the game, but there can be some uneven areas, such as soccer goalmouths</i>	<i>Rope or line with flags. Umpires are often uncertain whether the boundary has been crossed, and they often have to ask for advice from fielders.</i>	<i>'Standard' sightscreens at both ends, but which both need moving for 'over and round' bowling.</i>
2	<i>Many areas are uneven, resulting in generally uneven 'run' to the ball. Fielders have real problems predicting the path of the ball, and there is some risk of injury, especially to inexperienced players</i>	<i>There are some signs of preparation, but the grass is generally too long.</i>	<i>The boundary is indistinct in places. Umpires have constant problems, and are always having to ask advice from fielders.</i>	<i>Sightscreens at both ends, but they are either in poor condition or are 'on the small side'. Possibly for some reason these sightscreens cannot be moved for 'over and round' bowling</i>
1	<i>A very uneven surface with very uneven 'run' to the ball. Fielders are unable to predict the path of the ball. There is a real risk of injury to all fielders.</i>	<i>There has been a lack of preparation for the game. The grass is definitely too long.</i>	<i>An indistinct boundary, possibly just a few flags. Both umpires and fielders have real problems, and there can be real confusion as to whether a ball has 'crossed the line'.</i>	<i>Either no sightscreen at one end, or two screens which are not 'fit for purpose' – much too small, in very poor condition, unable to be moved etc.</i>
0	<i>Extremely uneven, dangerous surface. The characteristics of the outfield suggest that the game should be abandoned</i>	<i>Total lack of preparation. The outfield is unfit for a meaningful game of cricket.</i>	<i>No boundary markings.</i>	<i>No Sightscreens. Should the game be abandoned, because of the 'health and safety' risks to under 18 players in either team?</i>