

MONASH CRICKET WICKET POLICY

POLICY OVERVIEW

APPROVED BY COUNCIL:

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DRAFT

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1 DEFINITIONS

(a) Victorian Premier Cricket

The pre-eminent club competition in Victoria, administered by Cricket Victoria.

(b) Victorian Sub-district Cricket

Sub-district club competition. Participating clubs are spread across Metropolitan Melbourne.

(c) Local Turf Cricket

A local standard of cricket played on turf wickets. Competitions are usually localised to a particular region, such as the Eastern Cricket Association.

(d) Cricket Wicket

Also commonly referred to as 'the pitch', the wicket is the strip, usually located in the middle of the cricket field, that is used for batting and bowling in a game of cricket.

(e) Practice Wickets

Commonly referred to as 'cricket nets', these are training facilities that are commonly used for the practicing of batting and bowling, usually segmented into nets that keep the ball within the direct confines of each practice wicket.

(f) Turf Centre Wicket Tables

Located in the middle of turf wicket grounds, the turf wicket table consists of different strips that can be prepared and used for turf wicket matches.

(g) Synthetic Centre Wicket

Located in the middle of a cricket ground that is used for synthetic wicket cricket, it is a singular strip of concrete that is covered by a synthetic surface. Synthetic wickets require minimal preparation and can sustainably withstand several hours of participation.

(h) Roll-out Wicket

A wicket that can be simply rolled-up and stored after each use, such as a Flicx Wicket. Roll-out wickets are suitable for under 11 age group cricket or younger.

(i) Sportsgrounds (natural turf)

Outdoor sportsgrounds used for organised sport and community use. Generally located in sports reserves and include football and cricket ovals, football pitches, baseball and softball diamonds.

(j) Tenant Club

A leased or licensed club holding an agreement with Council for use of a community sporting venue.

(k) Cricket Association

Cricket Associations are responsible for the administering of cricket competitions. Cricket clubs in Monash are all affiliated with at least one association.

(l) Ezycovers

An easy to remove cricket cover system that uses an inflatable cylinder rolling device to make the handling of covers easy, with significantly reduced manpower required.

2 PURPOSE

This Policy outlines the fees and guidelines for cricket wicket usage, preparation, maintenance and provision throughout the City of Monash.

3 CONTEXT

There is a diverse range of cricket formats and standards played across Monash, with participation opportunities that cater for junior, senior, veterans, midweek, weekend, short-form, one-day and two-day cricket matches. This is demonstrated through the range of cricket associations that have a presence in Monash, which include Cricket Victoria, Sub-district Cricket Association, Box Hill Reporter Cricket Association, Eastern Cricket Association, Inner-South East Cricket Association, South East Cricket Association, Mercantile Cricket Association and Cricket Southern Bayside.

In recognition of the many and varied cricket participation opportunities that exist in Monash, this policy seeks to introduce a fair, equitable and transparent system to maintain, plan for and provide fit for purpose and sustainable cricket (centre and practice) wickets in Monash.

4 SCOPE OF POLICY

The Policy **applies to:**

- Synthetic cricket wickets, turf wicket tables, practice synthetic wicket facilities, practice turf wicket facilities, turf wicket covers, synthetic wicket surfaces and roll-out wickets.

The Policy **does not apply to:**

- Cricket ground outfield, indoor sporting facilities

5 POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 FEES

5.1.1 Home and Away Season Matches

In accordance with Council's Active Reserves Fees and Charges Policy, all cricket clubs (synthetic and turf) incur a **15% recoup fee for ground usage per team**. This covers usage of the outfield preparation for all cricket clubs.

Under this policy, turf cricket clubs will also be charged a partial recovery of costs for the preparation and maintenance of match day turf wickets, as well as turf practice wickets for clubs who exclusively train at these assets. These fees will be set as part of Council's annual fees and charges process for licensed clubs. The fees will be based on a partial recouping of recommended preparation and maintenance costs for turf wickets, as provided by an independent expert turf wicket consultant.

5.1.2 Finals Matches

In the event that tenant clubs have earned the right to host a home final at the conclusion of the home and away season, the relevant cricket association will be required to book the ground and will cover any associated costs with ground usage and preparation of the ground and the wicket for that event. This applies to synthetic and turf cricket competitions.

5.1.3 Other Matches

For cricket matches that occur outside of regular home and away fixtures for Monash tenants, the organising body will be required to book the facility for this match and cover any associated costs with ground usage and preparation of the ground and wicket for that event. This applies to synthetic and turf cricket venues.

This includes but is not limited to events such as:

- Country Week
- State or Regional representative matches
- Friendlies
- Fundraisers

5.2 MAINTENANCE AND PREPARATION OF TURF WICKETS

5.2.1 Centre Wicket Tables

All preparation and maintenance of turf centre wickets and turf centre wicket tables will be undertaken by Council appointed curators to ensure adherence to relevant standards. Clubs may not contribute to the watering, seeding, mowing, rolling or any other preparation and maintenance procedures of turf centre wickets.

5.2.2 Turf Practice Facilities

Maintenance and preparation of practice turf facilities will be undertaken by Council appointed curators. Clubs may not contribute to the watering, seeding, mowing, rolling or any other preparation and maintenance procedures of practice wickets.

5.3 USAGE OF TURF CENTRE WICKETS

Use of turf centre wicket tables for weekend matches will be limited to:

Standard of competition	Maximum overs per weekend*
Premier competition	200
Sub-district competition	160
Local turf competition	160

*Junior turf matches played by U/15s or below will only count for 0.5 of an over, due to less impact to run-ups and landing areas by junior players.

Any midweek turf cricket matches, such as weeknight T20 competitions, must be approved by Council. To ensure Council appointed curators have sufficient time to plan and prepare a centre wicket for mid-week matches, a minimum of two weeks of notice must be provided to Council by the host club.

Use of centre turf wickets for matches or match practice outside of these specified limits and without Council consent will be considered a breach of the club's usage agreement.

5.4 COVERS FOR TURF WICKETS

In the interest of having high quality wickets prepared and to provide the best chance of play for turf cricket matches, tenant clubs must comply with requests from Council to have covers laid by specified times. This is particularly pertinent throughout weekdays, in the lead-up to weekend matches. For turf venues that have Ezycovers, tenant clubs must be familiar with how to operate these and should request usage demonstrations and advice from Council if needed.

5.5 USAGE OF SYNTHETIC CENTRE WICKETS

In recognition of the higher frequency of cricket training and cricket matches that can be accommodated on synthetic cricket wickets, there is no limit on the amount of weekly synthetic wicket participation opportunities available to tenants.

However, clubs are advised to be mindful of the state of centre wicket run-ups and surrounding areas and plan their weekly activities accordingly. Use of synthetic centre wickets should be prioritised for match use over training use.

5.6 USAGE OF ROLL-OUT WICKETS

Clubs will be supported and encouraged to use roll-out wickets, such as flicx wickets, for training and matches at under 11 age group or younger. The location and timing of roll-out wicket usage must be approved by Council, to ensure adequate boundary length and to avoid a scenario where fielders are encroaching on roped-off centre wicket tables and potentially jeopardising the preparation of a match-day wicket.

5.7 SUITABILITY OF CRICKET VENUES FOR SENIOR T20 MATCHES

Senior T20 matches will only be considered at cricket venues that are large enough to safely accommodate the frequent clearing of boundaries associated with the format. Consideration will be given to nearby car parking, houses, paths, shops, playgrounds and other nearby attractions that may place bystanders and passers-by at higher than usual risk, as a result of the harder hitting and more frequent ball intrusions associated with the format.

A minimum of 50 metres must be achieved for all boundary lengths before a senior T20 match is considered in Monash. This applies to senior T20 matches played at either turf or synthetic venues.

5.8 PROVISION OF CRICKET NET PRACTICE FACILITIES

5.8.1 Main grounds (grounds that are the primary home ground/base for cricket clubs)

Cricket nets will be provided at all cricket venues that are the main ground for that tenant. Practice facilities at these venues will have a minimum of 2 cricket net lanes.

5.8.2 Secondary or overflow grounds (juniors or lower grade seniors)

For cricket grounds that are used as secondary or overflow cricket venues, there will be no guarantee of cricket practice facilities at these venues. Depending on usage requirements, there may be practice nets with a maximum of 2 cricket net lanes.

Table 2 – Provision of practice nets

Main Ground	Secondary or overflow ground
Minimum 2 cricket net lanes	Optional – maximum of 2 cricket net lanes

5.9 FUTURE CRICKET NET REDEVELOPMENTS

Future cricket net redevelopments are to be delivered and fully funded by Council and in accordance with modern standards, including complete synthetic surfaces across all nets and positioned in a north-south orientation.

In the interest of achieving broader community benefit, all future synthetic cricket net redevelopments will consider multi-use participation opportunities and community access to these facilities for informal use/training. It is required that these facilities remain accessible and unlocked outside of club training hours.

Council investment in turf practice net redevelopments and upgrades will only be supported for venues that are the main training ground for clubs who participate in Premier and Sub-district cricket competitions.

5.10 FUTURE SYNTHETIC CENTRE WICKET REPLACEMENTS

Future synthetic centre wicket replacements and installations are to be delivered and fully funded by Council and in accordance with modern standards. This does not include the provision of centre wicket collars, wings or run-ups that sit beyond minimum recommended dimensions for synthetic cricket wickets.

These projects will be prioritised and delivered in accordance with the Active Monash Capital Works Priorities Framework. Clubs may approach Council with funding contributions to influence the timing of these centre wicket works.

APPENDIX A – MONASH CRICKET WICKET PROVISION STANDARDS

Cricket Oval Type	Centre Wickets		Practice Wickets	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
Premier	8 turf strips	10 turf strips	3 synthetic nets + 8 turf strips	3 synthetic nets + 10 turf strips
Premier lower grades	8 turf strips	10 turf strips		
Sub-district	4 turf strips	6 turf strips	3 synthetic nets + 6 turf strips	3 synthetic nets + 6 turf strips
Sub-district lower grades	4 turf strips	6 turf strips		
Local turf	4 turf strips	6 turf strips	2 synthetic nets	3 synthetic nets
Senior Synthetic (main)	1 synthetic wicket	1 synthetic wicket	2 synthetic nets	3 synthetic nets
Senior Synthetic (secondary or overflow)	1 synthetic wicket	1 synthetic wicket	None	2 synthetic nets
Junior Synthetic	1 synthetic wicket	1 synthetic wicket	None	2 synthetic nets
U/10 competition	1 roll-out wicket	1 synthetic wicket	None	2 synthetic nets

Note: In the event that a cricket venue caters to a range of cricket standards, the standard with the highest service provision of wickets will apply. If clubs wish to exceed the maximum provisions, they will be required to fully fund construction, as well as preparation and maintenance costs of additional wickets.