

Club/Ground Pavilions and Support Facilities: Working to Improve Standards – A Shared Responsibility

Clubs will be aware that the social fabric of the game is very much dependent upon the quality of support facilities at grounds and in particular changing and the associated social facilities.

Whilst in themselves they do not necessarily increase participation or improve standards, it is fully realised that attention to the improvement of these provisions at cricket grounds is important.

The ECB Strategy outlines the need to bring such facilities up to at least a basic standard and encourages investment where it will act as a catalyst for junior development. In line with this, the SCL will continue to review the facilities used as home grounds by its member clubs.

From last year's questionnaire returns of the league-wide review of facilities, it was encouraging to find the high number of clubs that provide above adequate facilities and also to learn of plans from other clubs to address acknowledged shortcomings.

In a combined effort to address areas where further improvement is deemed either desirable or necessary, the set of minimum standards adopted in last year's survey are to remain the benchmark.

These were designed to focus on four key areas, namely:

- Fit for purpose
- Health, Hygiene and Safety
- Hospitality
- Duty of Care (with special reference to young players)

Specifically, the following provisions are considered to constitute a minimum standard.

1. Players Changing Room(s): To offer adequate and clean changing facilities within the immediate or very close proximity to the playing area.
2. Toilet Facilities: To be in proper working order – either unisex or differentiated – but including WC as well as urinals and, where possible, within easy access from the playing area. To be clean and supplied with paper and with wash basin(s) supplied with soap, clean towel(s) or other hand-drying facility.

3. Water: To have both hot and cold on tap that is solely for washing (i.e. not shared with a food preparation area).
4. Shower Facilities: To be in working order.
5. Seating: Adequate seating for the batting side and scorer(s) table to be provided.
6. Cover: Temporary (if not permanent) shelter for the batting side and scorer(s), to provide protection from sun (we can but hope!) and rain when either play is continuing or (for both sides) to take shelter when play is temporarily interrupted.
7. Tea Interval: To make available adequate and sufficient seating.
- 8 Access: Provision of easy access for vehicles to within a reasonable distance of the pavilion, changing facilities or playing area. This to be kept clear to allow for quick and easy access by emergency vehicles.
- 9 First Aid kit: To be in place at the ground of play (i.e. not at some distant clubhouse), and to meet the minimum requirements to deal with the most common sports-related injuries (see BS 8599). On match days at least the team captains to be aware of the location of the kit.
10. Consideration of Youth Members: Evidence of the club's attention to its 'Duty of Care' should be available. The name and contact details of the Club's Welfare Officer should be clearly displayed and evidence available on request that 'Safe Hands' accreditation has been issued and is currently valid.

SCL is committed to assisting clubs meet and maintain these standards and asks that clubs work in tandem with league officers to achieve our aim of meeting – and, ideally exceeding, the minimum standards at all the grounds used by members.