

One-Day pitches & potential penalties – 2003 regulations

Monitoring Process

ECB reserves the right to appoint a Pitch Liaison Officer (PLO) to any one-day match. The role would be one purely of observation.

All 1-day pitches will be marked by the Umpires. They will rate the pitch as one of the following: Very Good, Good, Above Average, Below Average, Poor, Unfit.

Guidelines for rating one-day pitches

Fulfilment of the lowest criteria will determine the overall rating for the pitch. For example, if the pitch demonstrates no unevenness, is just lacking in pace/carry and/or bounce and more than occasional turn, then it must be rated “Below Average”.

	Unevenness	Seam Movement	Pace / Carry and/or Bounce	Turn
Very Good	Little or no unevenness	Little or no seam movement	As per objective	Little or no turn
Good	Little or no unevenness	Little or no seam movement	Just lacking	Little or no turn
Above Average	Occasional	Occasional	Lacking	Occasional
Below Average	More than occasional	More than occasional	Minimal	More than occasional
Poor	Undue	Undue	Very Minimal	Undue
Unfit	Extreme/Dangerous	Extreme	“None”	Extreme

One-Day Pitch Panels

Any pitch that is marked “Poor” or “Unfit” by at least one of the Umpires standing in the match shall be subject to an investigation. That investigation shall be carried out by either two PLOs or one PLO and the Cricket Operations Manager (First-Class) – the “Pitch Panel”. A Technical Advisor shall provide the necessary technical input. Any Umpire that marks a pitch “Poor” or “Unfit” shall provide with his report form a full statement explaining the reasons for his mark. This shall be communicated to ECB within 24 hours, and the investigation shall be completed within 5 days, or earlier if the stage of the competition dictates.

The Panel must decide what rating to give the pitch – i.e. whether it agrees with the Umpires’ rating or whether a different rating needs to be given.

If a rating of “poor” or “unfit” is decided, then the Panel must decide whether the County had established on the balance of probabilities that there were sufficient extenuating

circumstances relating to the preparation of the pitch that would negate the imposition of a penalty.

The Pitch Panel must determine in the light of the answers to the first two questions, what, if any, penalty should be imposed on the County.

Penalties

Penalties in respect of sub-standard one-day pitches apply to the following competitions:

The Cheltenham & Gloucester Trophy
The Twenty20 Cup
The National Cricket League

The first pitch that is adjudged “**Poor**” by a Pitch Panel in any of the above competitions will result in the Home County being given notice that any subsequent pitch marked “Poor” within 12-months of the previous “Poor” pitch will be subject to the following penalty:

If the subsequent “**Poor**” pitch is in the National Cricket League, then 2 points shall be deducted from the County’s total in that season’s competition.

If the subsequent “**Poor**” pitch is in the Twenty20 Cup, then 1 point shall be deducted from the County’s total in that season’s competition.

If the subsequent “**Poor**” pitch is in the C&G Trophy, then the County will concede home advantage for **the next occasion that it is drawn at home in the C&G Trophy (this penalty may continue from one season to the next but will cease to apply on completion of the equivalent point of the following season’s competition)**. If teams that have been subject to this penalty are drawn against one another, then the side drawn first shall be the home team.

For clarification, after two “Poor” pitches, a third “Poor” pitch will result in an immediate penalty being applied.

A County shall be deducted 4 points in respect of an “**Unfit**” pitch in the National Cricket League.

A County shall be deducted 2 points in respect of an “**Unfit**” pitch in the Twenty20 Cup.

In respect of an “**Unfit**” pitch in the C&G Trophy, a County shall concede home advantage for **the next two occasions that it is drawn at home in the C&G Trophy (this penalty may continue from one season to the next but will cease to apply on completion of the equivalent point of the following season’s competition)**. (If teams that have been subject to this penalty are drawn against one another, then the side drawn first shall be the home team).

(Note: if the first pitch that is investigated by a pitch panel results in a rating of “Unfit”, then any subsequent “Poor” pitch within a 12-month period will result in the penalty being applied immediately – no further notice shall be given).

Penalties in the C&G Trophy apply equally to non first-class teams from Round 3 onwards.

(These penalties operate independently from the penalties in respect of four-day pitches).

Appeals

The Appeal System that is in place for four-day pitches will apply. Counties may appeal against both notice being given and penalties being applied.

Deliberate choice of lesser quality pitch when a better one is available

In situations where the Umpires are concerned regarding the correct exercising of responsibility by a County over the choice of a pitch (i.e. electing to play on a certain pitch when it can reasonably be said that a better pitch was available), then the Umpires should formally report the matter to ECB. If the pitch in question is subsequently marked below average or worse, an investigation shall be undertaken by a two-man panel representing ECB, and if the panel finds against the County, then that County shall be subject to the following penalty:

If the offence occurred in a National League match, then 4 points will be deducted from the County's total in that competition.

If the offence occurred in a Twenty20 Cup match, then 2 points will be deducted from the County's total in that competition.

If the offence occurred in the Cheltenham & Gloucester Trophy, then the County will concede home advantage for the remainder of C&G matches in the season in question, and for the whole of the following season.

A County has the right of appeal against the finding of the investigating panel, and against the penalty imposed. (Process similar to four-day system of appeal).