Yorkshire Cricket Southern Premier League

www.ycspl.co.uk

Grounds & facilities criteria

Below are the minimum ground and facility requirements required for participation in the YCSPL for the season 2025.

The YCSPL Executive Board (LEB) and Grounds Committee understand that not all clubs will immediately meet the criteria for the level in which they currently play. Clubs will not automatically be relegated, or denied promotion, because of this, but we do want all clubs to strive to reach the require criteria.

The following principles will apply:

- Wherever possible, a club should be able to play in divisions that are justified by on-field performance.
- Where criteria are not met, in the first instance, the Grounds Committee will make recommendations to the LEB about the criteria an individual club needs to meet, and the length of time they should be allowed to achieve them. This will be done in consultation with the club.
- In respect of promotion into a higher division, the Committee will make recommendations based on the club's plans to reach the required criteria. If a club has a clear plan to achieve the criteria within a reasonable timescale, promotion may be allowed.
- Where there is a single criterion that a club cannot meet, but all other criteria are met, an exemption may be allowed, at the discretion of the LEB, for them to be classified at the relevant grade for the level justified by on-field performance.
- If a club does not meet required criteria, and has no reasonable plan to achieve them, their ground may be downgraded, and they will only be allowed to play in the appropriate divisions.
- The Grounds Committee is aware that many clubs use grounds on council land, and that there may be issues that need to be addressed and require consultation with the relevant local authority. The YCSPL Grounds Committee will make their best endeavours to meet with club representatives and council officials on ground improvement issues to enable them to meet the requirements in this document. The YCSPL Grounds Committee will provide councils with the relevant guidelines for ground standards and talk with them about why the League requires the improvements, will assist in the process.

Roger Pugh
League chairman
chairman@ycspl.co.uk
January 2025

List of Criteria

Code: M – Minimum Requirement; O – Recommended Optimum

Section	**Premier**	**Senior**	**Senior**	**Senior**
Divisions	**P & C**	**1 & 2**	**3, 4 & 5**	**6, 7, 8 & 9**
Required grade of ground	**A+**	**A**	**B**	**C**

1. Playing area

Pitch *(see note 3)*				
Suitable for the level of cricket	M	M	M	M
True & predictable bounce	M	M	M	M
Correctly-marked	M	M	M	M
Remarked during the tea interval	M	M	M	M
Membership of the YGA	M*	M*	O	O
ECB Pitch Assessment	M*	M*	O	O
Square				
Well-maintained and in good condition	M	M	M	M
Cut within 48 hours of each match	M	M	M	M
Previously used pitch-ends repaired/made level	M	M	M	M
Outfield *(see note 4)*				
Well-maintained and drained	M	M	M	M
Closely-mown & no excessive grass cuttings	M	M	M	M
No holes, ruts or other hazards	M	M	M	M
Boundaries *(see note 5)*				
Clearly marked with a rope (minimum 20 millimetres circumference)	M	O	O	O
Clearly marked with white line or rope	N/A	M	M	M
Markers every 20 yards (if white line used)	N/A	M	M	M
Minimum 50 yards from match pitch (35% of the boundary may be less, subject to an absolute 35 yard minimum from match pitch)	M	O	O	O
Minimum 35 yards from match pitch	N/A	M	O	O
Sight Screens *(see note 6)*				
Must be provided at both ends of the ground	M	M	M	M
Must facilitate left/right arm and over/round wicket bowling without being moved	M	O	O	O
Suitable size and in good condition	M	M	M	M
Positioned before start of play	M	M	M	M
Roped off, if within playing area	M	M	M	M
Completely outside playing area	M	M	M	M

2. Ground general

Covers *(see note 7)*				
Adequate size (80' x 12') and well-maintained	M	M	O	O
Sawdust & towels must be available	M	M	M	M
There must be additional covering for run-ups/old pitches	M	O	O	O
Other drying aids – squeegees, Waterhog, etc.	M	O	O	O

Scorebox/scoring facilities & Scoreboard *(see note 8)*				
Must display minimum required information	M	M	M	O
Must facilitate good communication between umpires and scorers	M	M	M	O
Clean, tidy and adequate for purpose	M	M	M	O
Numbers accessible and in working order	M	M	M	O
Visible from pavilion/players area	O	O	O	O
Separate accommodation	M	M	M	O
Lighting	M	M	M	O
Heating	M	M	O	O
Equipment				
Roller available during the match	M	M	M	M
Light roller – (5 cwt to 10 cwt) for ground preparation only	M	M	O	O
Heavy roller (min 30 cwt) for ground preparation only	M	M	O	O
Practice Facilities				
Nets available for mid-week, juniors, women's & girls	M	M	O	O
Grass & artificial nets in good condition	M	O	O	O
Net available for each team on match days	O	O	O	O
Car Parking				
Adequate parking available (minimum 20 cars)	M	O	O	O
Car parking approaches in good condition	M	O	O	O
Spectators able to watch from cars	O	O	O	O
Surrounds				
Well maintained	M	M	O	O
Ground clearly signed	O	O	O	O
Seating: 'A+' (50 min) 'A' (min 30) for spectators	M	M	O	O
Clock *(see note 9)*				
Large clock suitably sited in working order	O	O	O	O
First Aid				
Well-stocked box available	M	M	M	M
Qualified first-aider available	M	M	O	O

3. Pavilion/clubhouse

Dressing Rooms *(see note 10)*				
Separate facilities for visiting teams	M	M	M	M
Maintained in good condition	M	M	M	M
Size (A+ 150ft^2, 'A' 100 ft^2, B & C reasonable)	M	M	M	O
Suitable security & privacy	M	M	M	M
Playing area viewable from dressing rooms - new build only	M	M	M	O
Dedicated players' toilets	M*	O	O	O
Easy access from playing area	O	O	O	O
Sufficient seating	M	M	M	O
Sufficient bag storage & clothes hooks	M	M	O	O
Lighting	M	M	M	M
Heating	O	O	O	O

Showers *(see note 11)*				
Clean, hygienic & private	M	M	M	M
Minimum two per team	M	M	M	M
With Hot & cold water	M	M	M	M
Adjacent to dressing rooms	M	M	M	O
Umpires Room *(see note 12)*				
Separate & secure room	M	M	M	O
Similar standard to players' rooms	M	M	M	O
Seating/clothes hanging facilities	M	M	M	O
Private access to shower with hot & cold water	O	O	O	O
Private access to hand wash basin with hot & cold water	M	M	O	O
Lighting	M	M	M	O
Clean & decorated	M	M	M	O
Adequate size	M	M	M	O
Hospitality *(see note 13)*				
Meal area adjacent & in good condition	M	M	M	M
Meals of good standard & reasonable price	M	M	M	M
Adequate bar facilities	O	O	O	O
Bar Staffed & open	O	O	O	O
Comply with laws, legislation & regulations, as appropriate	M	M	M	M
Clubs responsibility	M	M	M	M
Kitchen *(see note 14)*				
Clean, hygienic & meet local authority standards.	M	M	M	M
Crockery & cutlery in good condition	M	M	M	M
Suitable storage & on-site food preparation facilities	M	M	M	M
Toilets *(see note 15)*				
Clean, hygienic with wash hand basin	M	M	M	M
Male/female facilities available	M	M	M	M
Accessible to spectators	M	M	M	M
Convenient location	M	M	M	M
Toilet rolls, brushes, soap available	M	M	M	M
Towels or hand drier	M	M	M	M
Accessible toilet facilities	M	M	M	M
Viewing				
Separate seating area for players use	M	O	O	O
Covered & sheltered area for players	O	O	O	O
Information				
Team sheets available or on display	M	O	O	O
Public address system available	O	O	O	O

Notes

1 **Minimum Requirement.** If a club does not have the minimum requirement in place, they will have three years (until the end of the 2027 season) to do the necessary work. Prospective clubs wishing to join the YCSPL who don't meet the minimum requirements won't be given this grace period and their application maybe rejected.

2 **Recommended Optimum.** As stated, there is a 'Recommended Optimum' not a required minimum. However, it is suggested that if, for example, your club is rated Grade 'B', it is advisable to look at the 'Minimum Requirement' for Grade 'A' should you wish to gain promotion to a higher division that requires a 'A' Grade.

3 **Pitch.** In this category clubs must also attain the minimum pitch pass marks contained in the league rules.

* An ECB Pitch Assessment may be conducted if required by the League Executive Board – subject to pitch assessment markings.

4 **Outfield.** There should be no excessive grass cuttings (dependent upon weather conditions).

* An ECB Outfield Assessment may be conducted if required by the League Executive Board, subject to outfield pitch assessment markings.

5 **Boundaries.** For grounds to be rated Grade 'A+', a minimum of 65% of the boundary must be at least 50 yards from the match pitches used (35% of the boundary may be less, subject to an absolute 35-yard minimum from match pitches) **unless explicit dispensation is given by the League Executive Board**.

6 **Sightscreens inside the Playing Area**

- Law 19 states that 'under no circumstances can screens be inside the boundary'. The boundary must be marked so that it goes around the front of the screens) thus ensuring that they are not within the boundary.
- If sightscreens are within the playing area, they should be roped off to accommodate the moving of the screens, for left-arm/right-arm and over/around the wicket bowling, without the boundary being changed.
- Grade 'A+' grounds must have double sightscreens to alleviate the need for screens to be moved during play.

7 **Covers.** The provision of covers can be either by roll-on/roll-off covers or alternatively the use of suitable sheeting that can be pinned down.

8 **Score-Box & Scoreboard**

- Minimum information means the display of runs, wickets, overs remaining, and first innings total.
- In the Premier Section there must be the facility for the DLS score to be displayed.
- It is optional (but recommended) for batsmen's individual scores and last man's score to be displayed.
- Facility for good communication between umpires and scorers – this means a clear line of sight between the score and the box, and acknowledgement light or other suitable signalling device that can be clearly seen.

9 **Clock.** A clock (adequate in size to be clearly seen from the square) is a recommended optimum on grounds in both Grade 'A'+ and 'A' grounds to assist in the requirement for the bowling of overs within the specified time limits.

10 **Dressing Rooms**

- The away team dressing room should be a single room.
- This size is the dry area, i.e. excluding toilets and showers.
- The dressing room needs to provide privacy for players and must be lockable (key to be given to the away captain for visiting teams).
- The playing area should be viewable from the dressing rooms (ECB recommendation applicable to new builds but may not be possible if the local authority are building the structure).
- There must be dedicated players' toilets in the Premier division (in or adjacent to dressing rooms)

11 **Showers.** Grade 'A+' and 'A' grounds must have a minimum of two showers for each team. All showers must comply with health regulations and should have regular water tests (where appropriate).

12 **Umpires' Room**

- All grounds must have an umpires' room which is suitable and adequate for purpose. It is recommended, that at Grade 'A+' grounds this should be 28 ft^2 and at Grade 'A' 20 ft^2.
- The umpires' room must be lockable and not used for storage or any other purpose. The key must be in the possession of the umpires throughout the duration of the match.
- Clubs with two grounds on their main site may provide a single umpires' room suitable and adequate for purpose (recommended room size 40ft^2).

13 **Hospitality**

- In a new build or planned extensions:
  - Grade 'A+' and 'A' grounds should have seating/table space to accommodate 30 persons (24 players, two umpires, two scorers and two team managers/club officials).
  - Grade 'B' grounds should have seating/table space to accommodate 26 persons (22 players, two umpires and two scorers).
  - Grade 'C' grounds should have a suitable area with tables and seating for the players and umpires.
- All grounds are required to comply with all the necessary laws and regulations that are required to operate the club and its facilities (these include the Local Authority Regulations. Health and Safety, Risk Assessment, Fire Regulations, Taxation, entertainment and all the appropriate necessary legal requirements). It is the responsibility of the club to ensure that they have acted appropriately and reasonably in meeting these legal requirements.

14 **Kitchen.** All grounds are required to meet the standards of the Local Authority and relevant legal legislation.

15 **Toilets**

- Clubs should consider that if it is possible to install accessible toilets that they should do so, e.g. by adapting an existing toilet which is suitable in size or can be so adapted.
- If a new build or extension is planned, accessible toilets must be provided. Refer to Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and Local Authority Building Regulations.