GUIDANCE NOTE 06
Support Infrastructure
INTRODUCTION

Outside of the main playing, training and clubroom facilities there are several key support infrastructure items that should be considered and planned for when developing a new or upgrading an existing community cricket venue.

This Guidance Note explores several areas of supporting infrastructure that contribute to both on and off field use of a cricket venue by players, spectators, family members and the wider community and should be read in conjunction with other Guidance Notes.

Ground fencing

Cricket recognise the importance of developing multi-use sporting facilities and the potential limitations perimeter fencing can have on the overall flexibility and use of open space. With this in mind, and where fencing does not impede on a site’s overall usage, community access, flexibility and capacity to expand, it is cricket’s preference that a cyclone mesh wire fence be installed to prevent balls leaving the ground onto adjacent spectator areas or pathways.

The traditional ‘white picket’ fence is an aesthetically appealing sports ground fencing option that is more appropriate for a Premier/Regional level venue. Before opting for this style of fencing, consider other users of the sports field and potential safety and injury hazards. The traditional picket fence is now manufactured in a range of materials, including metal and durable plastics to prolong lifespan and reduce cost. For a Club (home) or Club (satellite) cricket ground a cyclone mesh wire fence at either 900mm, 1050mm or 1200mm around the playing field is desirable.

It is important that perimeter fencing allows for emergency vehicle entry/egress and enables curator machinery unimpeded access to the playing field. This access should be in close proximity to the curator’s equipment and machinery storage facility.

Safety fencing

Fencing that protects spectators and pedestrians or limits damage to neighboring properties, infrastructure and vehicles is highly recommended, particularly in ‘hot spot’ areas prone to cricket balls being hit during play. If installation of safety fencing is not feasible, it is recommended from a risk management and liability perspective that warning signage be placed around the ground advising the public of the sporting activity taking place and to be aware when walking past or parking their vehicle.

Australian Standard AS 1725.5-2010 Chain link fabric fencing - Sports ground fencing - General requirements provides detailed information on the provision of cyclone mesh fencing for sports grounds.

White picket fencing is an aesthetically appealing and traditional cricket ground fencing design.

900mm, 1050mm or 1200mm cyclone mesh fencing is recommended for Premier/Regional, Club (home) and Club (satellite) cricket grounds.
Shade provision

The provision of sheltered spectator viewing areas at community cricket grounds is a key design feature that is often overlooked when planning a new cricket facility.

Whether it be permanent shelters with seating, extending a pavilion roofline, shade sails, tree plantings (natural shade is preferred) or a designated area for the erection of a temporary shade structure, sheltered spectator areas provide a refuge from the sun during the hot summer months. With a cricket match or a day’s play taking anywhere up to eight hours to complete, shelter from the sun or wind will increase the likelihood of spectators staying to watch the match. This not only builds the atmosphere of the match but provides a meeting place for family and friends and local residents, promoting social cohesion, community health and wellbeing and a strong sporting club culture.

When considering the placement of shade and shelters, try to minimise spectators having to look into the sun, ensure the shade provision is not placed in a location that will disrupt the match (eg. spectators sitting or moving behind the bowler’s arm) and take measures to ensure the shaded and/or sheltered area is accessible.
Maintenance and equipment storage

A well positioned and adequately sized maintenance and equipment storage area for turf pitch curator machinery and equipment is a key facility requirement for venues with turf pitches.

When deciding on the best location for a curator storage shed, ensure it is in close proximity to the playing field and that easy access to the playing field is available (eg. double gates that enable vehicle access onto the ground). To minimise building footprints and use of public open space, consider using the shed as a base for a scoreboard (be mindful of impacts of sun glare on scoreboard). External storage facilities can also double up as raised spectator viewing areas if designed accordingly.

A consolidated multiple roller door design with separate storage areas for individual pieces of curator machinery and equipment or club equipment is recommended for grounds servicing turf pitches.

**A minimum 60m² space is recommended for a Club (home) turf cricket pitch ground and 80m² for a Premier/Regional level facility.** A 30m² curator storage facility is desirable at a Club (satellite) ground, if it’s a turf pitch venue.

The types of equipment and materials most commonly used in a turf curator storage shed include:

- Walk behind or ride on roller
- Hand roller
- Cylinder mower
- Height bar
- String line
- Marking frame and paint
- Scraper
- Grass clippings
- Scarifier
- Rotary Mower
- Vacuum
- Tractor mounted broom
- Turf covers
- Turf covers trolley and pegs
- Brooms and rakes.

Example of roller door storage with scoreboard mounted to consolidate built infrastructure, Williamstown Cricket Ground (VIC)
*Image courtesy of InsideEDGE Sport and Leisure Planning*

Example of roller door storage with player and spectator viewing above, Drummoyne Oval (NSW)
*Image courtesy of InsideEDGE Sport and Leisure Planning*
Sight screens

Cricket sight screens are large structures (generally on wheels or permanently fixed to rails) placed outside the boundary line at both ends of a cricket field behind the bowler’s arm. Sight screens are used to assist the batsmen’s vision of the ball leaving the bowler’s hand as they provide a solid contrasting background - white for a red ball and black for a white ball.

Whilst not a requirement at all levels of community cricket, sight screens are recommended for Premier/Regional level cricket venues or grounds that have distracting backdrops (e.g., passing traffic) or structures or vegetation that impact on batsmen visibility.
Scoreboards

Electronic or manually managed scoreboards should be provided at all levels of community cricket. The model and detailed design of the scoreboard (electronic or manual, fixed or temporary) will more often than not be dictated by the level of competition being played at the venue. A club’s capacity to contribute towards funding the scoreboard and the presence and requirements of winter sporting club tenants (if applicable) should also be considered in determining scoreboard suitability.

Dual purpose electronic scoreboards designed to cater for both winter and summer sports are increasing in popularity. They also provide the ability to promote sponsors via rolling text at the base of the screen, link into social media and can provide score updates from other venues and club matches taking place at the same time.

Ensure the scoreboard is placed in a location that provides optimal visibility for spectators and players and if electronic (LED) consider the impacts of afternoon sun glare on its readability.
Social amenities and cricket ground surrounds

The power of visual appeal and atmosphere on current and prospective members cannot be underestimated in promoting and creating a welcoming and inclusive community cricket club and facility.

With cricket being a sport played over several hours for juniors and the best part of a day for senior competition, it is important ‘family friendly’ supporting amenities be incorporated into wider cricket facility precinct design. Supporting facilities, equipment and amenities to be considered when planning a community friendly facility include:

- Shade and shelter
- Spectator seating incorporated into the park environment
- Adequate and accessible car parking
- Play equipment, skate or BMX park
- Bicycle racks
- Shared and connecting pathways or trails
- Public BBQ
- Access to food and beverage
- Public toilet facilities
- Drinking fountains
- Tree plantings, garden beds and vegetated areas
- Landscaped treatments
- Venue and club signage.

It is important to create a strong entry to your cricket facility. For way finding requirements, ensure your venue is clearly and attractively signed and give careful consideration to the site’s interface with surrounding properties and roads.