

Cricket

Outdoor cricket

Outdoor cricket is played on an oval grass field. In the centre there is a flat strip of ground called the pitch.

Area of pitch

Turf cricket pitch

The dimensions of a turf pitch are 20.12m long (from stump to stump) plus a minimum of 1.22m behind the stumps to accommodate the return crease and bowler approach area. The width of a turf pitch is 3.05m.

The overall dimensions of a turf wicket will vary according to the level of cricket competition being played.

Synthetic pitches

The dimensions of a synthetic cricket pitch range from 25m to 28m long and 2.4m to 2.8m wide.

A bowling crease, popping crease and two return creases are marked in white at each end of the pitch.

The bowling crease

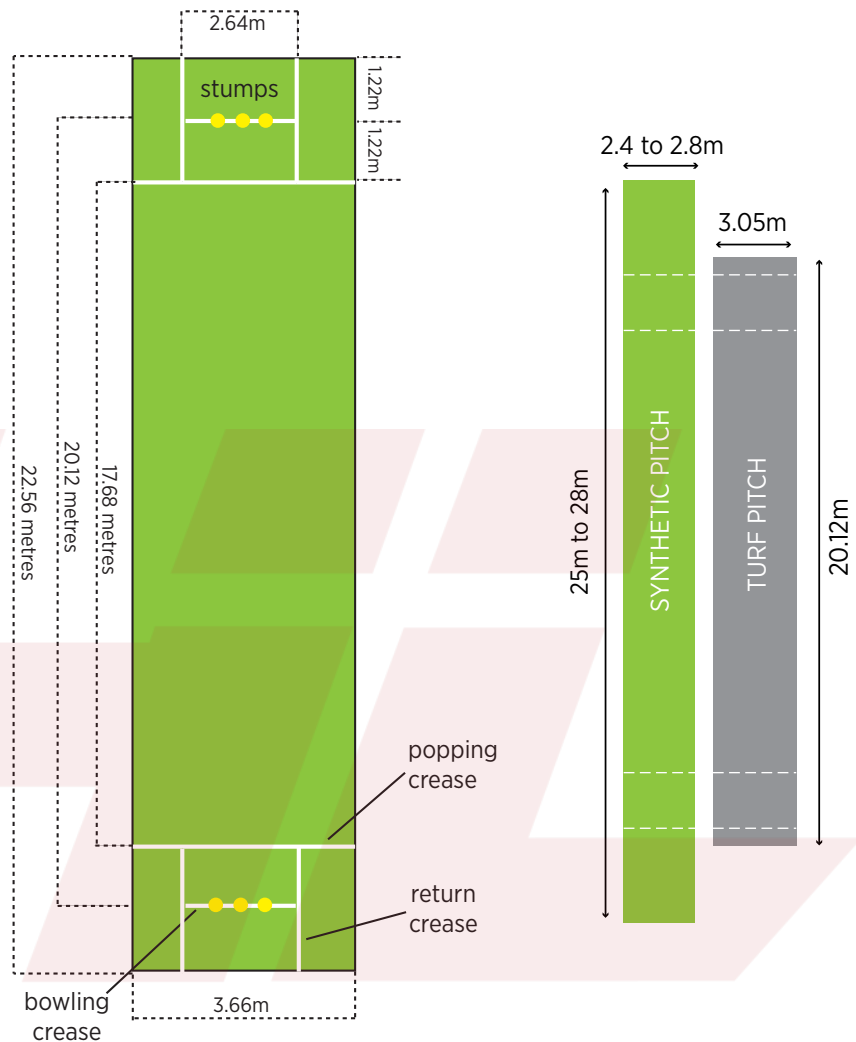
The bowling crease is the back edge of the crease marking. There is a line, 2.64m long, through the centres of the three stumps.

The popping crease

The popping crease is in front of and parallel to the bowling crease. It is 1.22m from the bowling crease and is marked to a minimum of 1.83m on either side of the two middle stumps and is unlimited in length.

The return creases

The return crease is at right angles to the popping crease at a distance of 1.32m either side from the middle of the stumps. The return crease is 2.44m long and is behind the popping crease.



This table is a summary of the pitch dimensions for the various game formats in all competitions.

Level of competition	Preferred pitch type and dimensions	
	Min	Recommended
In2CRICKET (ages 5-8)	Flexible	To suit ability 13m x 16m x 2.4-2.8m
T20 Blast (ages 8-12)	Flexible	18m x 2.4-2.8m
Under 10	Synthetic	25-28m x 2.4-2.8m
Under 12	Synthetic	25-28m x 2.4-2.8m
Under 14	Synthetic	25-28m x 2.4-2.8m
Under 16	Synthetic	25-28m x 2.4-2.8m
Open age (community club)—synthetic only	Synthetic	25-28m x 2.4-2.8m
Open age (community club)—turf only	Turf	22.56m x 3.05m
Open age (premier/regional)—turf only	Turf	22.56m x 3.05m
Domestic cricket and underage national events	Turf	22.56m x 3.05m

Cricket playing ground

A circular cricket field is considered as the perfect field but generally a cricket pitch is slightly oval. Its diameter varies between 137m and 150m. The ICC Test Match Standard Playing Conditions (October 2014) Law 19.1 defines the playing area as a minimum of 137.16m from boundary to boundary square of the pitch, with the shorter of the two square boundaries a minimum of 59.43m. The straight boundary at both ends of the pitch is a minimum of 64m. Distances are measured from the centre of the pitch.

Boundaries are not to exceed 82.29m from the centre of the pitch.

Boundary markings

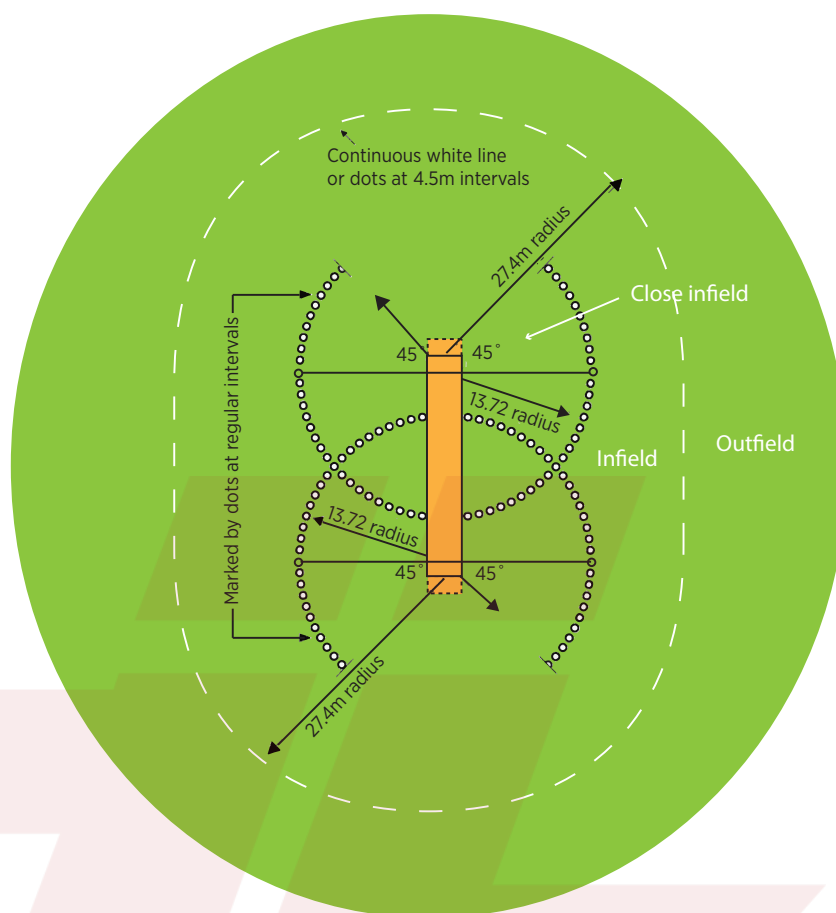
All boundaries are marked by a rope or similar object as per the ICC rules. The rope has a required minimum distance of 2.74m inside the perimeter fencing or advertising signs. For grounds with a large playing area, the maximum length of boundary should be used before applying the minimum 3 yards (2.74m) between the boundary and the fence.

When marking a cricket playing field, buffer distances between cricket ground boundaries in relation to other park infrastructure including car parks, roadways, neighbouring properties and playgrounds need to be considered. Buffer distances of between 20m to 40m from boundaries are preferable to reduce risk of damage to park users and property.

Infield, outfield and close-infield

The infield, outfield and the close-infield are used to enforce field restrictions and/or safety zones for some game formats and age groups.

Two semi-circles with a radius of 27.43m are drawn in the field of play. The centre of these circles is the middle stump at either end of the pitch. The circles are marked by continuous painted white lines or dots at 4.57m intervals, each dot to be covered by a white plastic or rubber disc measuring 18cm in diameter.



Two inner circles with a radius of 13.72m are also drawn on the field of play. The centre of the circles is the centre point of the popping crease at either end of the pitch. These areas are also marked with dots.

Modified cricket for juniors

There are formats for various age groups catering for skill levels, age group, level of commitment and other social, cultural and geographic considerations.

Below is a summary of field dimensions for the various game formats in all competitions.

Level of competition	Preferred playing field dimensions*	
	Min	Recommended
In2CRICKET (5-8 years)	25m	30m
Under 10	30m	40m
Under 12	40m	45m
Under 14	45m	50m
Under 16	45m	55m
Open age (community club)	50m	60m
Open age (premier/regional)	65m	75m
Domestic cricket and underage national events	82m	82m
Domestic women's and underage national girls events	58m	58m

*Measured from the centre of the pitch to the boundary

Practice crickets nets

Generally practice cricket nets are 20m long and 3.6m wide. The back and side walls are 3m high.

With multi-bay constructions the dividing (centre) net must be 21m long. This is an occupational health and safety measure to protect the bowlers in adjacent nets.

Peripheral nets require a minimum side fencing length of 11m. It is recommended that all nets have a minimum 21m dividing fence and are 27m long to allow for extended bowler run-ups and bowler protection.

Australian Standards

No Australian Standard specific to cricket net design in Australia currently exists. The following standards relate to cricket net materials:

- AS1725.4 – 2010: Chain link fabric fencing—Cricket net fencing enclosures.
- AS1725.1 – 2010: Chain link fabric fencing—Security fencing and gates—General requirements.

Indoor cricket

The indoor cricket court is a minimum of 28m to a maximum of 30m long and a minimum of 10.5m to a maximum of 12m wide. The height of the facility is 4m to 4.5m.

All lines are 55mm wide.

The pitch is the area between both sets of stumps, the bowling return creases and the offside lines at the striker's end.

A wicket line is marked in line with the stumps at each end, and is 1.83m wide at the batting end and 2.47m at the bowling end, with the stumps in the centre and the middle stumps 20m apart.

The popping crease is in front of, and parallel with, the wicket lines at both ends. It has its back edge 1.22m centre of the stumps. At the striker's end, it extends from one side of the court to the other and is called the batting crease. At the bowler's end, it is the line extending between the return creases and is called the bowler's crease or the front foot line.

The return creases at the bowler's end are at right angles to the bowling crease to the line of the wickets. The return creases are marked 1.22m from the middle stump on the line of the wicket.

The running crease (or non-striking batter's crease), which is the edge of the crease marking nearest the bowling end, is parallel to the popping crease and extends from one side of the court to the other. The distance between the running crease and the batting crease is 11m.

The legside lines are positioned with the inside edge 45cms from the middle stump. The legside lines extend to a minimum of 15cms at right angles to the batting crease. The offside or wide lines are positioned with the inside edge 90cms from the centre stump.

A fielding Exclusion Zone is marked in an arc extending from the centre of the batting crease at a radius of 3m.

The underarm line is marked across the pitch 7m from the striker's stumps.

