



*New Zealand Cricket
Turf managers
companion*



New Zealand Cricket Umpires Association

2005

Turf Managers Companion

NEW ZEALAND CRICKET (INC)

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The *New Zealand Cricket Umpires Association* is dedicated to the training of and assisting both umpires and scorers to become the best they can be.

As we study and practice to reach our full potential and by taking the time to learn the Laws, our pleasures help create the history of the game that benefits players, coaches and spectators alike.

The type of people we seek as members, are compassionate, dedicated and level-headed, willing to put in that effort.

Only through dedication to one's vocation, can anyone expect to achieve the recognition they deserve. If our publications provide that, then your time spent in reading them cannot be considered wasted.

All correspondence should be addressed to:

The Umpire Manager
NEW ZEALAND CRICKET (INC)
PO Box 958
CHRISTCHURCH

BAlldridge@nzcricket.org.nz
www.nzcricket.co.nz

Introduction

The position of groundsman is perhaps the most important of all in cricket, yet it is the least recognised. The groundsman is the one who gets the blame if things go wrong but rarely if ever gets any credit.

Throughout the season, groundsmen can count on the fingers of one hand how many times they will receive any thanks for their efforts and dedication. Having the desire to produce a perfect pitch and outfield, hoping for the best while dreading what just might happen during the first few overs of a match on a newly prepared strip, they are like expectant fathers.

Players and commentators alike have the belief that they are the experts in what constitutes a perfect pitch. Few understand and use the correct terms, let alone have any appreciation to the hours of dedication spent in preparing a surface to permit 22 players to play a game of cricket. The finished product however tells the story. So many factors contribute to the final product

This manual could never cover the many aspects of turf culture and ground preparation and is not intended to do so. Other publications cover those important aspects.

This manual has been written solely to assist groundsmen. To ensure the ground and field requirements of various matches are met. These matches include those under the jurisdiction of the International Cricket Council and NEW ZEALAND CRICKET as well as those under the Laws of Cricket (2000 code & 2003 amendments). Umpires will consult you prior to and during a match seeking your involvement and co-operation to ensure the match proceeds without undue delays. That co-operation between groundsmen and umpires is well known, without it the call of PLAY would never be heard.

Long may that co-operation continue.

NEW ZEALAND CRICKET and the *New Zealand Cricket Umpires Association* is indebted to Graeme Lowrie of Timaru for writing this manual

*Brian Aldridge
National Umpiring Manager
New Zealand Cricket Inc.
27th August 2005*

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The playing area

The selection of the pitch vests with the ground authority. That is the strip of turf (natural or artificial) where the match is to be held.

The groundsman will normally select what particular strip should be used, taking into account the schedule of matches that are allocated to that ground.

Having made that choice and spent many hours preparing the pitch and outfield, attention must be given to ensure all other requirements are met

If a match is allocated to a town, then what park or arena the match is played is for the organising committee to determine. The committee may decide to change the venue to another but this does not require the consent of the participating captains provided it is done before the toss.

Ground staff must co-operate with the umpires and captains to inspect the pitch at any time prior to the nomination of their players.

Cricket Law

After the toss, which must be made no earlier than 30 minutes and no later than 15 minutes before the **scheduled** time for the match to start the umpires are in control of the **pitch and outfield**. If the match has a delayed start; then the **rescheduled** time to start play.

No one may strike the pitch in any way, bounce a ball to assess its condition, to cause or which is likely to cause any damage whatsoever

No player may practice on the **Pitch block** on the day of the match. The placing of cones on the block extremities and a sign reminding players of that requirement will ensure there are no infringements.

ICC playing conditions

Cricket Law applies plus:

Prior to the start of each day's play the outfield shall be mowed daily before play begins.

Groundsmen together with captains, umpires, and match referee must co-operate to ensure no practice takes place on the pitch or, on the area immediately parallel to the pitch or, on the square.

Only the umpires, captains and the team coaches may walk on the pitch. Spiked footwear is absolutely prohibited.

One commentator and his camera man may inspect the pitch and surrounds, but may not bounce a ball on the pitch, or insert a key between any cracks, except between the popping & bowling creases.

NZC playing conditions

The ICC requirements above apply plus:

The control of the **playing area** shall come under the umpires' jurisdiction for the duration of the match, 30 minutes prior to the **scheduled** start of the match.

Note

From time to time prior to or during the match, the umpires may make requests of groundsmen for rolling, remarking etc.

Boundaries

Cricket Law

There are no minimum or maximum dimensions in Law.

Wherever possible the boundary should be marked with:

A white line painted on the ground, or

A rope (or flexible equivalent) laid on the ground, or

A fence, building or board, or

Flags or posts in the ground **positioned on the outer edge** of the boundary line, or

Any combination of the above.

If a rope is used, it is desirable that it be placed on a white line, thus permitting it to be returned to its original position if it is moved at any time.

Boundary dimensions

Distances from the centre of the pitch in metres	ICC		NZC		Under 14	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Boys	Girls
Maximum distance	85	70	85	70	60	55
Minimum straight	55	50	50	50	50	45
Minimum one side	55	50	50	50	50	45
Minimum other side	73	55	50	50	60	55

Note

If it is not possible to meet the above requirements, the Board of NZC must be informed as early as possible.

Sightscreens

Cricket Law

Sightscreens must be positioned completely outside the playing area, as near as possible to the boundary line. If the sightscreen must be placed partially or completely within the normal boundary line then the line must be marked inside the sightscreen framework.

See the drawing ►► Page 10

ICC playing conditions

Sightscreens must be provided at each end of the ground.

NZC playing conditions

Sightscreens must be provided at each end of the ground.

Sightscreen colour

White

Men's & Women's traditional matches.

Men's & Women's age-group matches.

Black

One-day ICC matches.

One-day NZC matches.

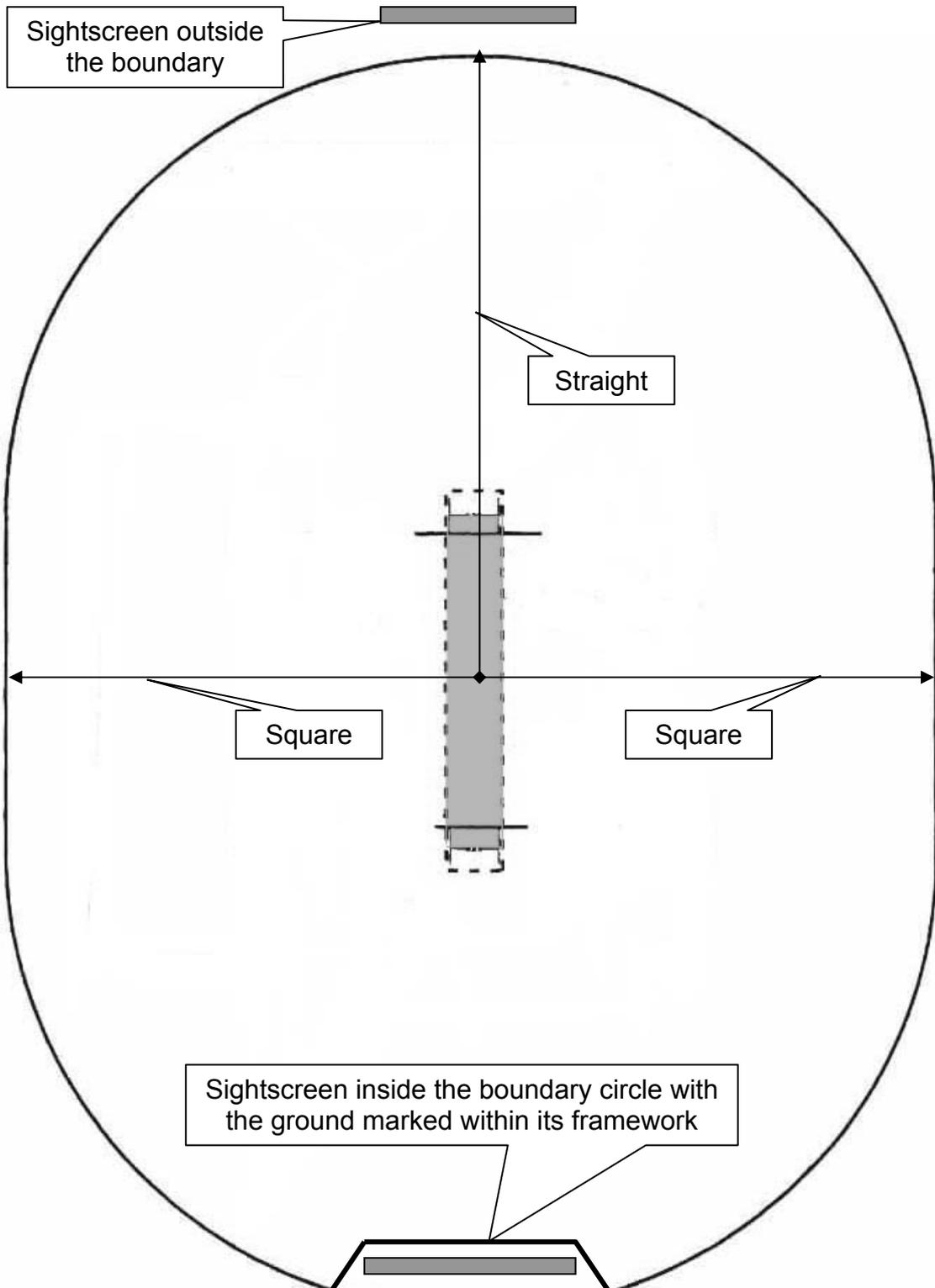
Notes

While the batsman is facing the sightscreen it should have no advertising within its framework.

If a mobile sightscreen is used, staff must be stationed to move it as required.

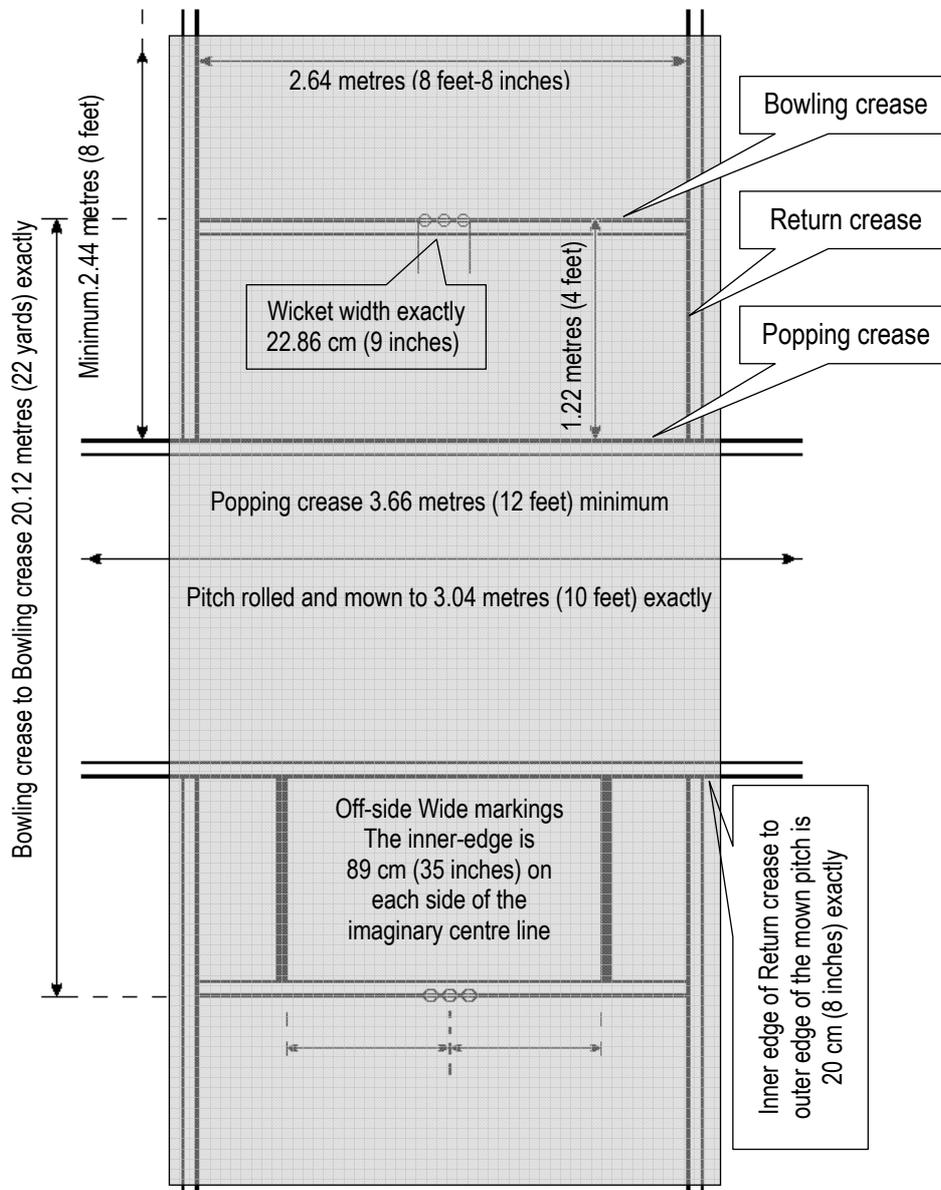
The striker can be distracted if people are within his line of sight when the bowler is delivering the ball. Rope off the area on each side of the sightscreen to prevent this. Attendants may help.

Boundaries & Sightscreens



Pitch & Markings

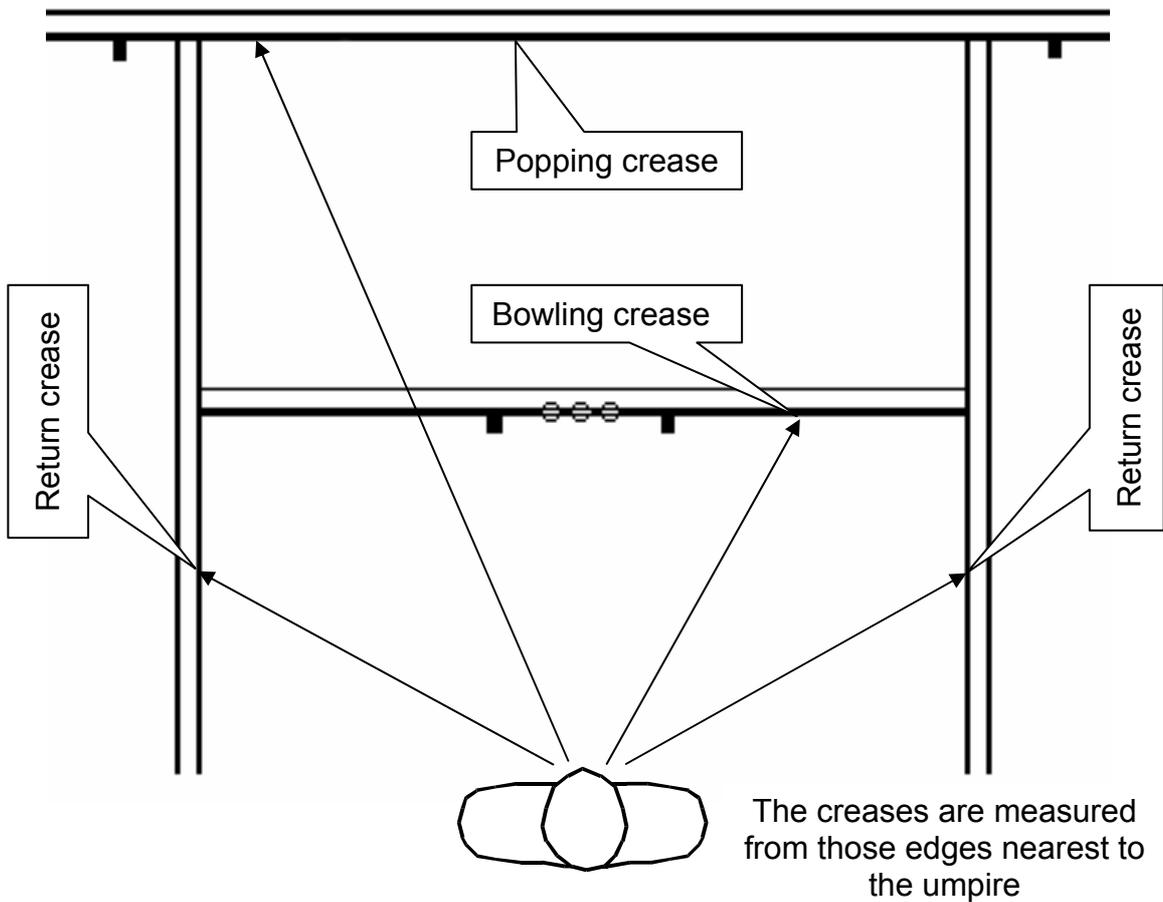
Many groundsmen use a chalk-line when making preliminary markings.
Standard pitch markings are shown at the top half of this picture.



Limited-over matches - **Off-side Wides** markings are shown on the bottom half of this picture. Solid white lines, between the **Popping crease** and the **Bowling crease** are measured as follows:

The **inner-edge of each line** is 89 cm (35 inches) on each side of the imaginary centre-line or 43.2 cm (17 inches) in from each **Return crease**.

The Creases



Notes

Creases lines shall be marked in white; lines 20–25 mm wide

The actual measurements are the edges of the markings closest to where the umpire stands.

Bowling crease to Popping crease	=	Exactly 1.22 metres (4 feet)
Return crease to Return crease	=	Exactly 2.64 metres (8 feet 8 ins)
Return crease overall length	=	Minimum of 2.44 metres (8 feet) 3 - 4 metres is ideal

Pitch length measured from the back edge of the **Bowling crease** to the **Bowling crease** at the other end of the pitch exactly 20.12 metres (22 yards)

Popping crease length

Cricket Law

The preceding drawings apply for all grades of cricket.

The **popping crease** should be marked 1.83 metres (6 feet) on each side of the pitch **imaginary centre line** and have an overall minimum length of 3.66 metres (12 feet). An overall length of 4 metres is ideal.

ICC playing conditions

The **Popping crease** should be marked 6 metres (20 feet) on each side of the pitch imaginary centre line being 12 metres (30 yards) overall. An overall length of 28 metres is ideal.

Limited-Over International matches

Also called One-day Internationals (ODI) ►► Page 18

The **Popping crease** should be marked 13.71 metres (15 yards) on each side of the pitch imaginary centre line being 27.42 metres (30 yards) overall. That is to the **Inner-circle** markings on each side of the pitch.

NZC playing conditions

The **Popping crease** should be marked 6 metres (20 feet) on each side of the pitch imaginary centre line being 12 metres (40 feet) overall. An overall length of 28 metres is ideal.

One-day matches - All Men's matches

The **Popping crease** should be marked 14.72 metres (48 feet) on each side of the pitch imaginary centre line being 29.5 metres (96 feet) overall. That is to the **Inner-circle** markings on each side of the pitch.

One-day matches - All Women's matches

The **Popping crease** should be marked 12 metres (39½ feet) on each side of the pitch imaginary centre line being 24 metres (79 feet) overall. That is to the **Inner-circle** markings on each side of the pitch.

Off-side Wide markings

Two lines shall be drawn at each the pitch between the **Popping crease** and the **Bowling crease** to mark Off-side Wides.

The **inner-edge of each line** is 89 cm (35 inches) on each side of the imaginary centre-line or 43.2 cm (17 inches) in from each **Return crease**. ►► Page 11

Notes

Most groundsmen have a frame to assist marking the creases. Ask the secretary of your umpires association to check its dimensions.

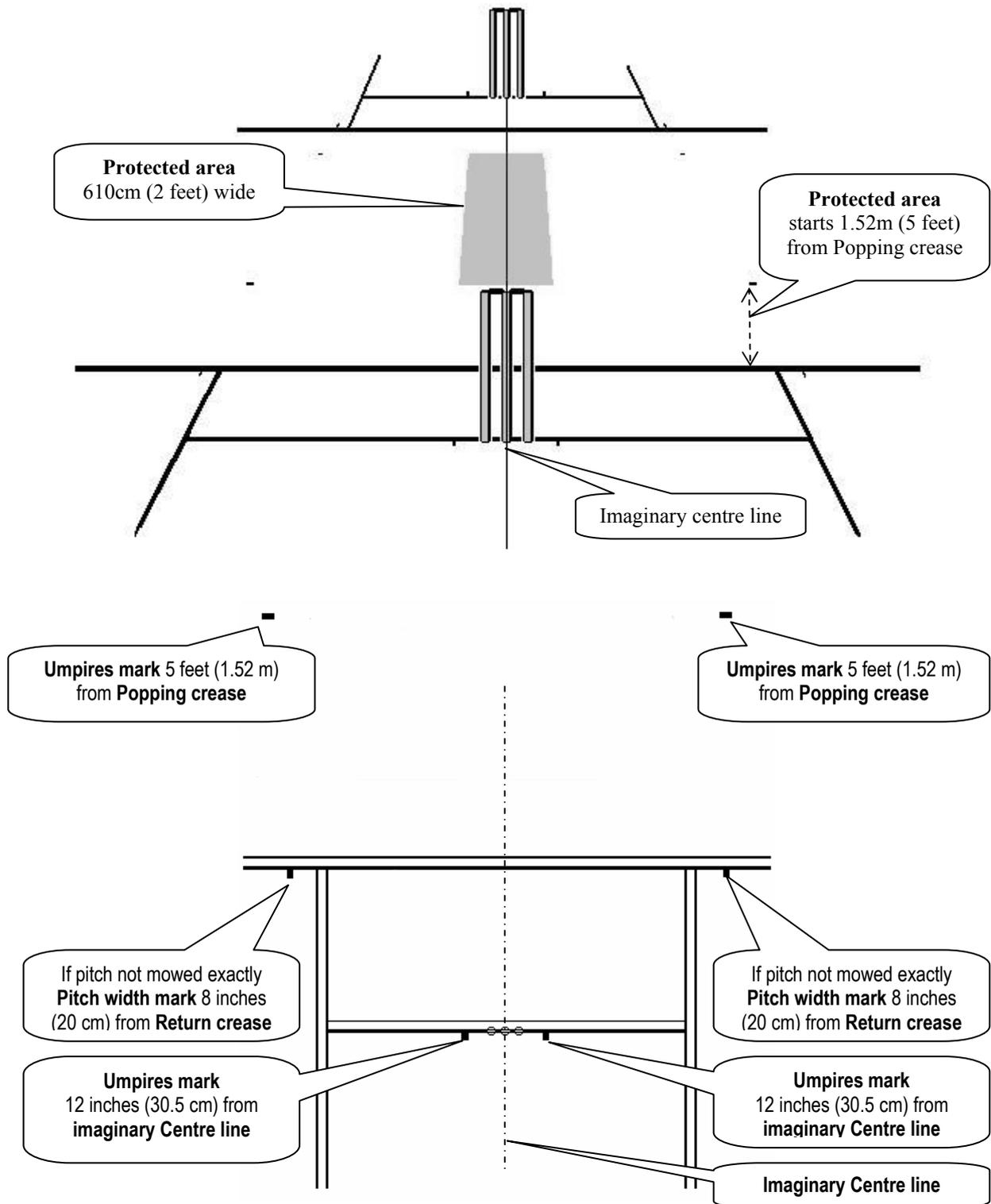
All crease markings should be as narrow as possible but not less than 20 mm.

When an injured batsman requires a runner, extensions to the **Popping creases** may be requested 30 metres from the pitch.

Additional umpires marks

To enable umpires to more accurately meet their obligations – to prevent damage to the **Protected area** they will often make additional marks.

These marks may be made as shown below.



Field maintenance

Groundsmen are expected to be 'on-call' in most matches and in major fixtures to remain in attendance.

After the playing area becomes the umpires' responsibility, a number of duties remain, particularly when weather is likely to affect the match.

After the toss only umpires may instruct ground staff.

Ensure there is always an ample supply of sawdust is readily available.

Cricket Law

Rolling

Whenever necessary the pitch **shall be swept before rolling** unless the umpires instruct otherwise.

The **whole pitch must be rolled** completely along its length.

The pitch may be rolled at the conclusion of an innings, and only at the request of the umpires; then for a maximum of 7 minutes. If more than one roller is available the incoming batting captain has the choice.

The pitch may be rolled at the start of a second or subsequent day's play at the request of the umpires. Rolling must take place no earlier than 30 minutes before the start of play, and must conclude no later than 10 minutes before the start of play and then for no longer than 7 minutes.

Sweeping & Remarking the creases

Whenever necessary unless the umpires instruct otherwise, the pitch shall be swept before rolling. If sweeping could be detrimental to the surface, debris must be lifted by hand.

The pitch markings must be remarked during each interval (except Drinks).

Mowing

Weather permitting, the pitch shall be mowed at the same height settings before the start of each day's play. Should the mowing not take place because of weather or a rest day, the pitch shall be mowed prior to the start of the day's play.

Weather permitting, the outfield shall be mowed at the same height settings on each day prior to the start of play.

Watering

The pitch may not be watered during a match.

Foot holes

If the bowlers' or batsmen's foot-holes require drying or repairing this shall be completed before the start of each day's play.

ICC playing conditions

The requirements of Cricket Law prevails plus:

The umpires may request some repairs to a bowler's footholds to be completed during an interval or at the conclusion to a day's play.

The umpires may require the pitch to have additional drying using any available means.

Prior to a day's play the groundsmen may effect the drying of any part of the outfield without reference to the umpires.

The outfield must be completely re-mowed prior to the start of each day's play.

NZC playing conditions

The requirements of Cricket Law prevails, plus:

The umpires may request repairs to batsmen's and/or bowler's footholds to be repaired during an interval or at the conclusion to a day's play.

The umpires may require the pitch to have additional drying using any available means.

Prior to a day's play the groundsmen may effect the drying of any part of the outfield without reference to the umpires.

The outfield must be completely re-mowed prior to the start of each day's play.

If it is not possible to completely mow the outfield daily before each day's play the playing area shall be mowed in sections on alternate days, e.g. the area around the pitch every day, and the outer area on alternate days. If weather conditions affect the mowing the umpires may direct that one part or more shall be mowed at some other time they think desirable.

Watering the outfield

At the conclusion of a day's play, if it is intended to water the outfield the umpires must be informed before the toss. They will seek approval from the captains and will advise you of NZC requirements.

Notes

As the umpires are responsible for the pitch and outfield ensure you take your instructions only from them.

Work with the umpires to ensure any specific requirements are met.

Covers

Cricket Law

How covers are commonly used differs considerably from what is stated in Cricket Law, as most associations may have their own rules. In the absence of any such rule, or any agreement between captains made prior to the toss Cricket Law applies:

Before a match the whole pitch including the bowlers' run-ups may be covered.

After the toss, only the bowler's run-ups may be covered then only to a position 1.52 metres (5 feet) in front of the **Popping crease**.

Covers must be removed as promptly as possible as weather permits.

ICC playing conditions

The covers must totally protect the pitch and those on each side of it; to a minimum of 5 metres either side of the pitch in use, as well as the bowlers' run-ups to a distance of at least 10 metres by 10 metres. Any worn or soft areas in the outfield must also be covered.

In all matches the entire pitch shall be adequately protected from rain etc on the days preceding the match; prior to the commencement of play, and for the duration of the match.

The covers shall be put in place:

Within two hours of the conclusion of a day's play provided the weather is fine, or immediately if weather threatens.

If weather permits the covers must be removed no earlier than 5 am and no later than 7 am on each day of the match.

If rain persists or is imminent before a day's play then the covers should immediately be replaced.

If no play is scheduled on any day during a match, the covers must be used as if there was play.

NZC playing conditions

The provisions for ICC matches apply.

One-day Limited-over matches

In addition to the requirements of boundary and pitch markings the following additional requirements apply.

All markings shall be in white.

Outer-circle

Two semi-circles shall be drawn on the field of play to the dimensions given in the table below. The two ends of the semi-circles on each side of the pitch shall be joined to the other by a straight line.

These measurements are made from the **middle stump** at each end of the pitch as shown in the drawing ► Page 19

The Outer-circle shall be marked with by a continuous white line or by dots at 4.5 metre intervals. Alternatively white plastic or rubber disks (not metal) having a diameter of 18 cm may be used.

Inner-circles

Two Inner-circles shall be drawn on the field of play.

These measurements are made from the centre of the **Popping crease** at each end of the pitch as shown in the drawing ► Page 19

The Inner-circles shall be marked by dots at than 4.5 metre intervals.

Popping creases

The **Popping creases** are marked to the Inner-circles.

Measurements in metres	Men	Women
Outer-circle	27.5	23
Inner-circle	13.72	12

Note

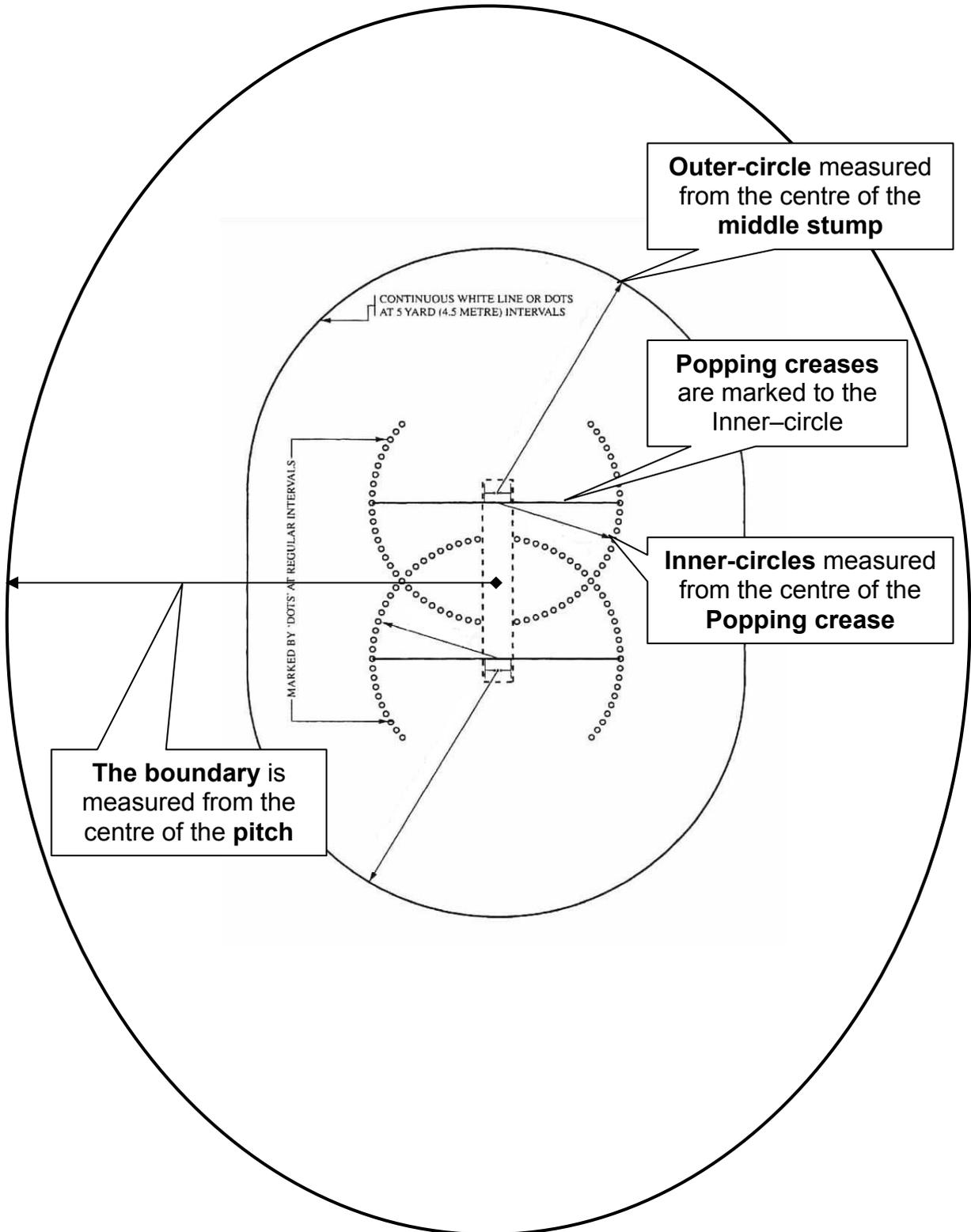
Consultation with the umpires will ensure all specific requirements comply.

Off-side Wide markings

Two lines shall be drawn at each the pitch between the **Popping crease** and the **Bowling crease** to mark Off-side Wides.

The **inner-edge of each line** is 89 cm (35 inches) on each side of the imaginary centre-line or 43.2 cm (17 inches) in from each **Return crease**. ► Page 11

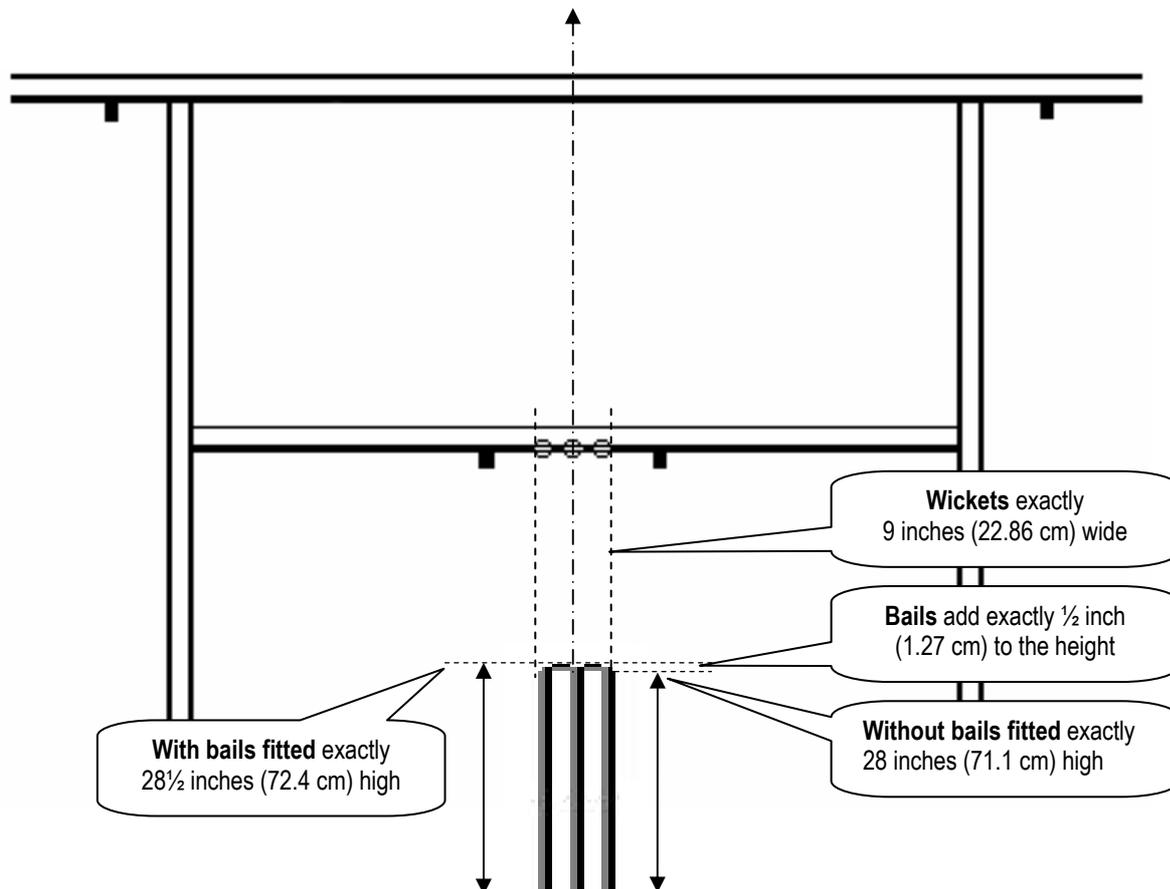
One-day Limited-over field markings



Pitching the wickets

In most countries groundsman gain much pride in ensuring the wickets are properly pitched. Cricket Law requires the umpires only to check they are properly pitched.

The wickets must be made of wood and meet the dimensional requirements of Law. If metal or plastic ferrules are fitted to the points, ensure they are tight to prevent wobbling.



Note

The dimensions of the wickets, when erected are critical. When pitched ensure a ball is not able to pass between the stumps.

The wickets are pitched on the centre of the back edge of the bowling crease. That is where the edge of the painted marking is closest to the umpire.

The middle stump must be positioned on the imaginary centre-line.



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