

TYPICAL WICKET PREPARATION & MAINTENANCE (WEEKLY SCHEDULE) FOR FULLTIME GROUNDSMAN

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
Check the weekly weather forecast & adjust prep timing	Mark out the new wicket with stringlines.	Check wicket for "tackiness" & when ready spread grass clippings evenly over the entire wicket	Roll the wicket at least 3 times today.	Vary the amount of rolling depending on the hardness of the wicket	Mow the match wicket to the selected playing height.	
Mow the used wicket with a rotary mower to catch all loose debris & clippings.	Mow the marked out wicket. Retain any clean grass clippings for future sealing of wickets.	NOTE: Wicket should be covered with clippings by 9am.	Carry out any prep work identified for the next wicket to be used.	Mow the wicket block with the cylinder mower set @ 10mm	Roll the wicket for 20mins.	
Fill the damaged pitch areas (bowlers foot marks pitch marks, stump holes) with finely crushed blacksoil.	Fertilise block (if necessary) as per fertiliser programme	If the wicket dries out before you can apply the clippings, finely spray water on the dry area & resume the above process.	Lightly water the rest of the wicket block.	Mark creases as per match requirements	Remove covers from field & store according to weather conditions.	
Heavily water the used pitch evenly by hand watering.	Remove weeds & backfill with blacksoil.	Seal the clippings into the wicket surface with a suitably weighted roller, or if the wicket is a bit too wet, use the cylinder mower roller only.	Full covers with hessian or canvas underneath	Hammer in stump holes		
Set up a soaker hose on the block & soak for at least 30mins. Move soaker to next pitch & repeat until the block is saturated.	Flood the whole block by hand-watering until water pools on the surface.	NOTE: the clippings MUST stick INTO the wicket soil.	Covers correctly tensioned & fully pegged down	Remove stringlines		
Lightly topdress any low areas where water pooled.	Mow the oval			Mow oval - adjust to weather forecast		
Turn the soaker hose off & allow the wicket to dry.	Repair any holes in covers			Protect the wicket from from excess heat or wind with hessian, if necessary.		
When the clippings are dry sweep them up & discard. Remove any ribbons of clippings from other wickets on the block.	Clean, maintain & adjust machinery as required.			Full covers with hessian or canvas underneath.		
Remove any weeds & fill holes with blacksoil.	Eg: grease cylinder mower bearings regularly			Covers correctly tensioned & fully pegged down.		
Consider any preparatory work required for the next wicket to be used. eg: grooming, leveling with a light topdress						
		Roll wicket for 40-45mins	NOTES: 1. Adjust wicket prep start time according to weather forecast. 2. On windy or extremely hot days, protect the sealed wicket with hessian 3. To ensure your wicket perform best, all grass clippings must be removed before any topdressing takes place. 4. Never allow sand or garden soil onto the wicket block 5. If creases become slippery during play, only use sawdust or weed free grass clippings to reduce slip ON ANY DAY: when not carrying out the above functions, the curator's focus should be on the wicket block health & oval maintenance. EG: fertilising, weed removal & backfilling, crease recovery, repairing bare areas, oval damage, leveling wicket block, removing old grass clippings, spraying oval weeds.			
		The wicket today needs to be rolled no later than 1 hr after the last roll.				
		Roll the wicket 3 times				
		Protect wicket with hessian & small cover				