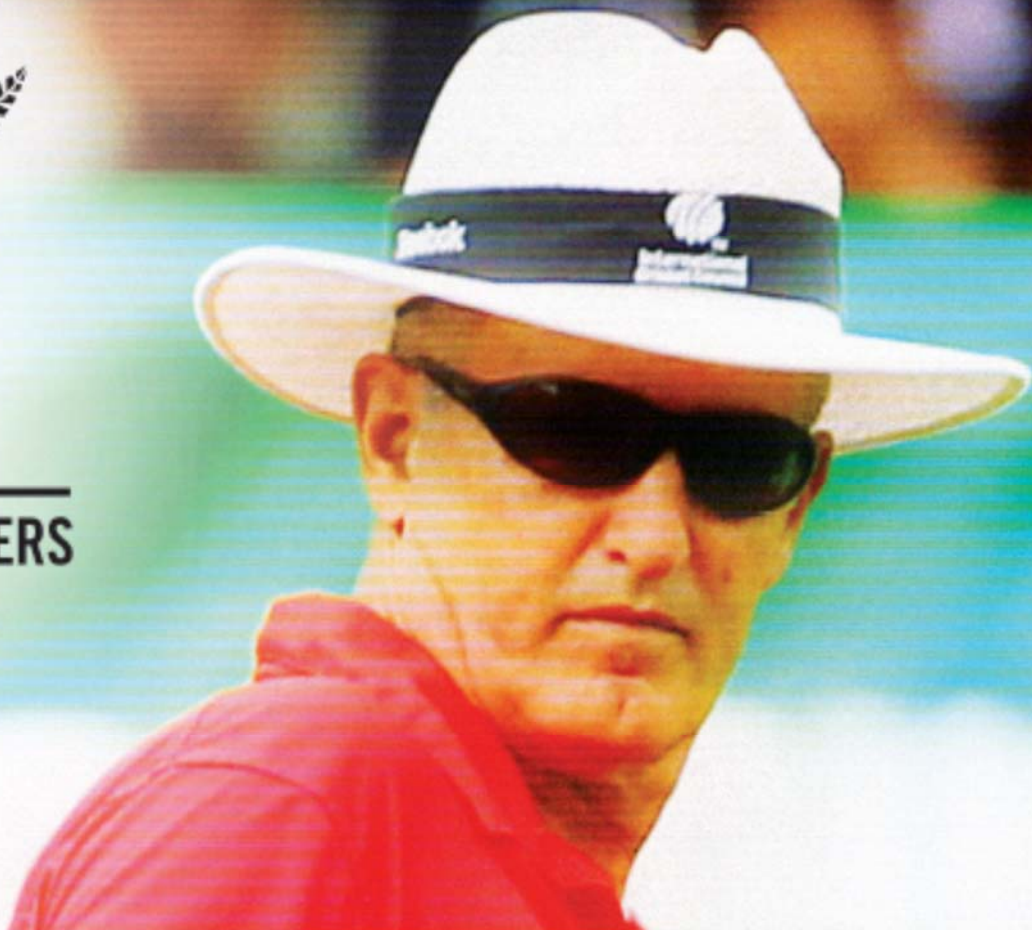




NEW ZEALAND
CRICKET

UMPIRES & SCORERS
ASSOCIATION



An introduction to Cricket Umpiring



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An introduction to Cricket Umpiring in New Zealand

ADVISORY PREFACE

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Hard copies of this book are available only to umpires and scorers affiliated to the NZCUSA.

UMPIRES & SCORERS ASSOCIATION



An introduction to Cricket umpiring

Published by



in association with the



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UMPIRES & SCORERS ASSOCIATION

Welcome

This booklet has been produced to give the reader an insight into cricket umpiring, and to answer some of the question that all prospective umpires have.

A history of playing cricket, at whatever level, is an advantage; however it is not a prerequisite. With diligence and effort anyone can become a competent umpire. Many umpires have reached Test level, without having played in a Test, or even a 'First-class' match.

Why do people officiate in their chosen sport?

Many, when asked will give as their answer, that they want to put something back into the sport. The reality is so much different. They do it because they enjoy it. It gives them pleasure.

After a few seasons you may also experience the pleasure of watching a young player, playing for his province or country. One you umpired as a youngster. That will really give you pleasure.

Perhaps the most important aspect to take on board by any new umpire is to develop a change in thinking towards your part in the game.

Spectators come to a cricket match to enjoy the game and enjoy the play, not to watch the umpire. It is the players they come to see! Therefore it is a players' game. You must not become involved in the match.

Certainly, you are a part of it, but you must remain apart from it.

Over the next few pages we will attempt to answer some of your questions about you becoming involved in the sport as an umpire. We will explore the things you must be prepared to do and to learn, and we will outline your promotional prospects toward your becoming the very best umpire that you can be.

If you have the ability, are prepared to study and to spend the time on the field in all sorts of weather conditions, there is no reason why you cannot reach the highest levels of cricket as an umpire.

You are assured of an enthusiastic welcome.

National Umpire Manager, **NZC**

Every Test umpire started his career in club cricket

First steps to becoming an umpire

What are the attributes of a good umpire or scorer?

This may provide your answers.

A

Attention to detail and a good **attitude** towards players are the principle requirement of every umpire and scorer. Scorer must be **accurate** as they record the events of a match in the scorebook.

T

During a match, umpires will be subject to scrutiny of their on-field decisions. Scorer have their pressure too. An even **temperament** is essential.

T

A **tidy** appearance. When they arrive at a match venue and during the day, umpires must always look the part. A **tidy** appearance suggests a **tidy** mind. Scorer must maintain a **tidy** scorebook free from errors.

R

Personal **respect** for oneself and for others. The ability to have instant **recall** of the Laws and of the playing conditions. Without **respect**, our participation is meaningless.

I

Intelligence and **integrity**. These two epitomise the highest ideals that every individual should have. Without them an umpire will never command the respect of cricketers.

B

A healthy and fit **body**. The rigors of umpiring and scoring can be demanding. An easily maintained walking programme will keep you mentally and physically fit.

U

The ability to make **unbiased** decisions irrespective of who the players or the teams are. The word **umpire** freely translated from the Latin *Nompere* means *Man above all*.

T

As most cricket matches are played to **time**, **time** keeping becomes an important element to a match. Umpires must have the ability to mentally **turn-on & turn-off** throughout the day.

E

Good **eyesight** is imperative with or without spectacles. **Enthusiasm** for our sport and **enthusiasm** to do just the best you can and the will to pass **examinations** that will lead to higher honours.

S

Study of the Laws and playing conditions will, in time, become part of your everyday thinking. The ability to handle the **stresses** of the day. The ability to work with the **scorers**, without whom the result would never be known.

These are the same attributes of every good citizen.

The structure of cricket

Cricket's home is in Dubai. It is from here the Board of the International Cricket Conference (**ICC**) administers World Cricket. Representatives making up this organisation come from the cricket playing nations of the world.

New Zealand Cricket (NZC) is affiliated to the **ICC** and is part of the development program to bring cricket to all your friends. Being a full member of the **ICC** has responsibility for all cricket played in New Zealand. Your local cricket association has the responsibility of administering all cricket within your area and in doing so supports the endeavours of your local cricket umpires and scorers.

Each umpire and scorer association has a Regional Training Officer (RTO) and s/he may be assisted by an Area Training Officers (ATO) found in many of our smaller centres. This proactive approach ensures that every umpire has someone to oversee his training and performance which in turn provides for his promotion.

Using the training resources available, every umpire and scorer has the advantage of learning consistent interpretations wherever they may live.

Overseeing all things umpiring and scoring is the Management Board of the New Zealand Cricket Umpires & Scorers Association (NZCUSA).

At the conclusion of every season the board of the NZCUSA meets to make recommendations to the National Umpire manager on who should be promoted to some of the more important games under the jurisdiction of NZC.

Let us now look in some detail at what is involved in becoming an active cricket umpire.

Second steps

Having decided to take the next step to become an umpire, what to do next?

If you wish to take your place on the field, then realistically you must be as fully prepared as you can. A casual umpire may well enjoy his present status, but he is unlikely to progress higher and thus achieve his full potential.

Personal health

During your first season you will learn how to switch-on and switch-off and you will learn that you are the first to arrive, and the last to leave the field. Whatever the circumstances of the match, your concentration must never waver.

Umpires are constantly aware of the dangers the sun can cause, and have learned to protect themselves.

Movement

There is a mistaken belief that umpires do not move very much during a match. On many occasions umpires may find their view obstructed by a player and being constantly alert, they must readily move quickly into position to see a potential Run-out.

You must be able to stand the rigors of being on the field for the entire day/match, often in inclement weather.

Eyesight and Hearing

Modern aids have meant that an umpire does not need 20/20 vision or perfect hearing. Provided your spectacles and/or hearing aid are adequate, then you can take your place on the field. Indeed some aids enhance your ability to do so.

Sunglasses too, ensure you will not squint in the sun. In short, if these aids help you do your job better then you should use them.

Education

Players spend time practising batting, bowling and fielding, ever eager to improve their performance and that of their team.

Together with the scorers, the umpires are a team too. They are the third team on the field.

As an umpire you must be prepared to practice too. Not just in keeping yourself fit, but by constant study of the Laws and the relevant playing conditions.

Players readily forgive a team member if they make a mistake in bowling, fielding or batting. However if mistakes continue, they will soon find themselves dropped from the team.

Umpires are not so easily forgiven.

A New Zealand Test umpire once stated:

Umpires are expected to start perfect, and improve

Something we all strive to do.

The Laws of Cricket

The full Laws of Cricket and their official interpretations are contained in **The Umpires Companion** and in the MCC Blue book.

Every umpire, regardless of status, regularly reads and studies the laws and the interpretations. These are never far from his side.

These two books are available from NZCUSA training officers.

Other booklets and items are also available and may be downloaded from the **NZC** web-site.
www.blackcaps.co.nz/content/grassroots/umpires-and-scorers/default.aspx

Special Regulations

Every competition has its own rules. These are called Regulations or Playing Conditions. The playing conditions for Test matches differ from club matches, and there are differences for women's and youth cricket. Each takes into account the special needs of each grade. They may contain the hours of play, together with bowling and fielding restrictions. You must have a working understanding of the conditions of the match you are umpiring.

Over your first season you may collect a number of these publications, which you should keep in your kit. There will be times when you will need to refer to them at an interval. If necessary do so with your colleague. Ensure you are conversant with them and the finer details the day before the match.

Under no circumstances should an umpire take onto the field any copy of the Laws or playing conditions.

Coaching clinics

Each umpire association in conjunction with its training officers hold regular coaching sessions throughout the year. Some start at the end of the season to bring new recruits up to speed before the next season gets under way.

On occasions, umpires living in smaller centres may have to travel to major centres.

As an umpire progresses and become more competent he may be invited to coaching sessions conducted by training officers.

Additional study

A number of publications have been produced by the NZCUSA and from umpire associations around the world, to assist you in your home study.

They may also have available some coaching videos. Most secretaries and training officers have these in their possession, and on request will be happy to lend them to new recruits.

Regular study of all aspects of the Laws and playing conditions is imperative.

In addition the NZCUSA has produced a number of PowerPoint modules over 4 levels, for group and home study, to assist in training and developing umpires to reach their peak ability.

Role models

We all have role models. The people we respect and admire. Before venturing on the field, spend a day on the boundary observing the best umpires in town. Naturally you will find yourself watching the play. The brilliant bowling, fielding and batting but do not be distracted from your principal task. Watch the umpires. You can learn a lot. Seek out the top umpire in your district, and try to aspire to his ability. Choose him to be your role model. He will readily agree that we all need competition to keep us sharp. Here are a few things to watch for:

The demeanour of the umpires as they come onto the field to complete their pre-match duties - observe these duties.

What the umpires do as they walk onto the field prior to the start of play.

The positions they take on the field and where and when they move during the match.

What they do before and after a ball is bowled.

What they do when the ball is played.

The signals the umpires give to each other and to the scorers.

Their manner towards the players and how they react when called on to make a decision.

Then, at the end of the day, approach the umpires. Do not do so during play or at an interval, except perhaps during lunch. They may wish to have some private discussions between themselves. They may be agreeable to discuss some of the things you saw on the field.

Reliability

When appointed to a match, a new recruit will have as a colleague an experienced umpire. If for any reason you are likely to arrive late, required to leave the field early, or unable to attend the match at all, you must ensure your appointments officer and if possible your colleague is informed. Once on the field however, you are equals.

Together, you form the third team on the field.

While he will be unable to assist you in the decisions that you are required to make at your end, he is there for consultation at appropriate times. He will also be able to help interpret any point of the playing conditions that may arise. Treat him as your best friend. He will not let you down. Players may recognise you as a 'new chum' and will treat you with respect. Remember: **Do not become involved in the game; reply only to questions asked of you.**

You are expected to arrive earlier than the players. Cricket Law requires you to arrive 45 minutes before the scheduled start time. Until the match starts, take your lead from your colleague, and discuss quietly any issues that concern you. As you rely on him to assist you in your duties for the match, he is also relying on you. The old maxim holds true:

Do unto others, that which you would have done to you

Attainable qualifications

LEVEL 1: Any person who has sat and passed the NZCUSA **Level 1** examination.

This oral or written examination may be taken after attending the approved two-PowerPoint module course. This course is intended to be conducted in a class environment. At the conclusion of that examination and with an 80% pass mark, a certificate is issued to the successful candidates. Dependant on experience, the local umpire association may exempt a participant from requiring the passing of this examination. The study booklet is **Cricket Umpiring – Getting started**.

LEVEL 2: A person who has sat and passed the NZCUSA **Level 2** certificate examination.

This oral or written examination may be taken after attending the approved three-module PowerPoint course. This course is intended to be conducted in a class environment. At the conclusion of that examination and with an 80% pass mark, a certificate is issued to the successful candidates. Dependant on experience, the local umpire association may exempt a participant; however it is desirable for all intending umpires to attend this course as it includes some basic material not present in **Level 3** modules. The study booklet is **The Player Umpires Companion**.

LEVEL 3: An umpire who has sat and passed the NZCUSA **Level 3** examination.

Any person passing the **Level 2** examination is eligible to attend the **Level 3** modules and attempt the examination. Individuals seeking confirmation of their ability may take this examination, but only after at least one season's umpiring experience. Candidates may take this oral or written one-hour examination after attending the 9-module course. The examination is in two parts. 100 marks are available; 80 marks attained across both parts is required.

Part 1: is on the Laws of Cricket together with any amendments and/or experimental Laws and the most recent edition of **The Umpires Companion** as detailed in the syllabus; this part represents 80 marks of the total available.

Part 2: is on the local playing conditions as set by the examination committee and represents the remaining 20 marks available.

LEVEL 4: An umpire who has sat and passed the NZCUSA **Level 4** examination.

Before being eligible to sit this examination, candidates must have passed the **Level 3** examination and have an established history of umpiring for at least two seasons, officiating at senior club level or higher, with colleagues who have attained this qualification. Candidates may sit this examination after attending the 9-module course. An 80% pass mark is required in both parts. The examination is in two parts.

Part 1: An oral one-hour examination on the Laws of Cricket together with any amendments and/or experimental Laws and the most recent edition of **The Umpires Companion** plus the current **NZC** playing conditions.

Part 2: A written two-hour examination on the above publications.

A failure in **Part 2** disqualifies a pass of **Part 1**.

Then, having passed this examination and with satisfactory Captains' reports, umpires become eligible for selection to officiate in matches under the jurisdiction of the **NZC**. Notwithstanding the above, it must be made clear that promotion does not rely solely on those examination passes. As in any business, the **NZC** appoints umpires who have a proven record on the field-of-play.

Why you may ask is such a high mark required in these examinations.

Players want you to get your decisions right most of the time.

Specialist officers

Every club and association has its officers, but in umpire associations they have more specialised ones. These people are normally retired umpires with many years of experience, and often they hold more than one duty. They have experienced many of the incidents, both on and off the field that you are yet to meet. They are there to help you develop your knowledge and man-management skills and to help you Get it right. They take great pleasure in turning you into a competent and skilled umpire, who may progress to much higher levels of cricket. These officers are:

Grading Officer/s:	Who study the Captains reports, and makes recommendations for higher honours. They also make recommendations to the;
Training Officer/s:	Who assists and coaches you through the Laws and playing conditions of the various tournaments.
Appointment Officer/s:	Who appoints you to matches within your ability and ensures you are placed with compatible colleagues.
Boundary assessor/s:	Who attend matches and complete a Report form on an umpire's on-field performance. These assessors provide you with feed-back, offer suggestions for training and give advice to the Umpire Manager.

In New Zealand, top umpires officiating in **NZC** matches, the duties outlined above are made by the National Umpire Manager.

Priorities

We all live in a world that places many demands on our time. Work, family and home commitments must come first, and what is left we give over to leisure. Some umpires seem to have more leisure time than others do. They may be retired, or their family has grown up and left home. A few younger umpires not yet in the home-making scene also have more time at their disposal. Whatever the case, we must set our priorities, if we wish to become and stay an umpire. We must set aside some time for study. It may only be a few minutes during our work lunch break, but study we must.

Next is to set aside some time to attend coaching clinics. You will be advised of these.

Finally, to regularly set aside the days to umpire cricket.

Sometimes this will require you to travel some distance to reach the field, and then do so with time to prepare yourself for the day.

Then, if play is delayed, you may find yourself arriving home late.

You are tired but satisfied and you've have had a great day.

Appointments & Reimbursements

Do we get paid for umpiring cricket? In most cases the answer is NO.

If you are considering joining the umpires' ranks to make money, forget it.

Only the top umpires receive significant reimbursement and as they are performance selected, competition for places is keenly sought by rising stars. Perhaps, one day, you may join them.

The **ICC** appoints independent umpires for all Test matches.

NZC appoints the TV Television Match Official (TMO) and Reserve umpires in all such matches.

The Appointments Officer is responsible for recommending the appointment of umpires to matches under the jurisdiction of **NZC**. These matches may include:

- One-day international matches
- Inter-provincial First-class matches
- Inter-provincial One-day matches
- National age group tournaments

The appointments officer of each local cricket umpires & scorers association appoints umpires to matches under his jurisdiction. Any match reimbursements come from their budget. However on occasions some travelling expenses may be considered.

If you are travelling to another centre, and you would like to participate in that centre's competition, then you are encouraged to do so.

However, as a courtesy, you should advise your secretary or appointments officer of your plans in advance.

He may be able to offer advice and be able to supply some contacts for you.

What equipment do I require?

To become a cricketer requires a major outlay for equipment. Not so for umpires! Your needs are small, but nevertheless important. Some items you may already have, while others may be purchased.

Keep your gear and clothing in good repair, and keep your appearance clean and tidy. No one likes to see a scruffy umpire.

Some listed here are comfort items, as your comfort on the field is paramount. If your attention is distracted because of the heat, or cold, or because you have sore feet, then it may cause you to make mistakes. This list will get you started:

Summaries of the Laws are contained in:

Cricket Umpiring – Getting started
The Player Umpires Companion

The complete Laws of Cricket are contained in: The MCC blue book

The Umpires Companion

Comfortable white shoes	Preferably water proof
A pair of dark trousers	Preferably black
Long sleeved white shirt	Sleeves down to avoid excess sun burn
Tie	Preferably a cricket tie
Jersey	Preferably white; for that cold day
White coat	Some associations offer these to new recruits
Comfortable hat	One that won't blow off, and will protect you from rain or sun
Sun block	Sun and wind burn can ruin your day and the day after
Ball and over counter	Available from most sports shops; used to count the balls and overs
Notebook & pencil	There are many occasions you will be required to take notes - good umpires do not rely on memory
A reliable watch	In case your colleague's watch stops
Measuring tape	Containing both metric and imperial scales
A cloth	To wipe dry a wet ball
A Wicket template and bowler's marker	

Later your purchases may include:

Spare shoes, white socks, coats and hats
Weather proof clothing
Thermal clothing
Spare bails
Pocket sized First Aid kit

The booklets listed above are available from your training officer.

Promotion

Before you can be promoted you must prove yourself. This applies in every endeavour may choose to follow.

Throughout the world, many methods have been tried to evaluate umpires for consideration of promotion. Most have failed, but one system remains; sadly it is far from perfect.

Grading

At the conclusion to each day's play, captains must complete a **'Captains Report on Umpires Performance'** form.

This report is confidential to the grading officer/s of each association. To be effective and to ensure each captain answers each question fairly and impartially, individual umpires do not have the opportunity to view the reports. Over the season, a number of reports will be received, and from these your grading officer/s gains an insight into what aspects of your individual performance requires attention.

Some points made may be minor, but others could be of significance i.e. you may regularly give an incorrect decision on caught behind that could suggest a hearing or eyesight problem.

To help alleviate the flaws in the system, your grading officer/s will often be seen on the boundary of your match, watching your on-field performance. They may also discuss the match with the off-field captain. Be assured, these discussions, when made are in confidence, with the sole intention of improving your performance.

The grading officers at times may also assist new captains who are not always familiar with the Laws of Cricket and playing conditions. On other occasions captains are invited to informal meetings, to discuss not only the performance of umpires but also the competition regulations.

This reporting occurs at all levels of cricket. The purpose is to help you improve your ability and your performance; in the interest of our sport.

Higher honours

If an umpire proves himself on the field, achieves consistent good grading, Boundary assessments and has passed the NZCUSA **Level 4** examination, there is no limit to what he can achieve. **NZC** is fortunate in having a history of producing some of the best umpires in the world.

The panels umpires can achieve are:

The ICC panel:

Also known as the **ICC** Elite panel, this panel is made up of umpires selected by the **ICC** from test-playing nations. All members travel the world to officiate in Test matches as independent umpires.

The ICC International panel:

This panel comprises umpires from each Test playing country nominated by the home board to the **ICC**.

The NZC First-class panel:

This panel comprises the ten best umpires in the region and included umpires in the above panels.

The NZC Reserve panel:

This panel comprises the next ten best umpires in the New Zealand.

Local associations mirror these panels.

Then there are the many umpires - the vast majority who just want to enjoy a day on the field.

There are also those who are starting out on their umpiring career are eager to make themselves available for their local club and school matches.

It is from this latter pool of enthusiasts that the next generation of Test umpires will come.

You can see that the opportunity for promotion is open to all. In time, and with effort and commitment, you could become one of the umpires on these panels.

On-field incidents

Television is a mixed blessing. Umpires at the highest levels can enjoy the benefits of a third TV umpire to ensure decisions are correct. As a new recruit, and for most umpires around the world, that benefit is not available. Television tends to highlight so-called on-field incidents. Factually there are few.

None of us are perfect - mistakes do happen. Occasionally a batsman may be dismissed when he should not be. Alternatively a batsman may be given the benefit of a doubt and this disappoints the bowler, or a catch declined may cause disappointment to both the bowler and catcher.

An umpire is appointed to a match to make decisions without fear or favour. His integrity and neutrality must be maintained at all times, both on and off the field. You will learn how to recognise the difference between disappointment and dissent. The former is natural and usually lasts only a few moments, while the latter can linger and has the potential to undermine the spirit of the game.

As a new recruit, your colleague is expected to assist you, and if required to stop any behaviour that is over-the-top. As already stated, such incidents are relatively few, and most captains step in should they arise. If problems persist, then a quiet word to your colleague and perhaps to the captain more often than not will stop it going any further. If dissent persists, there are remedies which can be applied, and these do not normally reflect well on the dissident.

Scorers

The other unsung heroes of every cricket match are the scorers. They sit in the shade and diligently record every event that happens on the field. Some are retired cricketers or umpires, while others have never been part of the game. Whatever the reason, they have a love of our sport rivalling all others. They also have a love of figures and statistics, shown in their record keeping in the neatest of hands.

Most umpire associations have within their ranks their local scorers, and are able to assist in training and study. If you think this could be your specialist interest, we would like to hear from you. Perhaps this is your niche, to be fully involved in the game while sitting on the boundary.

NZC have published two books and a number of papers to assist scorers understand the mysteries of their craft.

Training courses are also available following a similarly structured syllabus and promotional ladder available for umpires.

Further information

If this booklet has developed your interest, you are invited to take the next step by contacting any of the following:

- The recruiting officer of the NZCUSA.
- Your cricket association who will direct you to your local umpires & scorers association
- Any umpire, scorer, or any officer of your local umpires & scorers association
- After a game talk to an umpire when he leaves the field-of-play



Call now

You are assured of a warm welcome

Umpire's Pre-match check-list

Umpire's check-list						
Road maps to match venues						
Phone list of colleagues / officials etc						
Copy of the Laws of Cricket						
Copy of any experimental Laws						
Copy of the Regulations / Playing Conditions						
Watch / Time-piece – set to the official piece						
Calculator / Diary / Notebook / Pens						
Report forms						
Clothing suitable for the match						
Measuring tape with metric & imperial measure						
Wicket template and Ball gauge						
Bowler's markers						
Spare bails						
Spare balls of various ages / usage						
Ball / Over counter						
Chalk for marking on artificial pitches						
Comfort items						
Change of clothing						
Protection from wind and rain; hat, coat etc						
Sun lotion; Tissues etc						
Refreshments; sweets, drinks etc						
First aid kit						
Personal medications						
Personal items						
Toilet paper						
Soap and towel						
Hand wipes and/or Hand sanitizer						
Security						
Car and keys, wallet etc						
Mobile phone; leave with the scorers during play						

