

PROTECTION OF PLAYING AREA

Playing Condition – Law 10

Procedures for use of Covers & Underlay

General

- These procedures must be read in conjunction with Law 10 of the Playing Conditions
- Any club unable to comply with Law 10 of the Playing Conditions and these procedures must apply in advance to the Committee, for exemption from these requirements
- The outer perimeter of each cover used must be properly fixed or weighted down, at intervals of no more than 2 metres
- Suitable perimeter fixings or weights for individual covers include metal pegs, sandbags, timber or metal posts, or other covers laid immediately above
- Covers and underlay must be dry both when folded and stored, as well as when laid
- If possible, two layers of underlay should be used, instead of one layer
- If possible, the width of each separate piece of underlay should be full-pitch, rather than half-pitch
- The SCA will determine additional conditions for on-field and off-field requirements of a final series match that will considerably exceed those of preliminary rounds.

Repair and Replacement

- Any visible tear or hole in a cover must be repaired, or the cover replaced
- Any underlay that is torn, rotten, or otherwise damaged must be repaired, or the underlay replaced.

Multiple Covers

Where 2 or more covers are used in combination:

- The total area covered must be at least 30 metres by 10 metres
- The covers must overlap by at least 1.5 metres
- That overlap must be fixed or weighted down at least every 2 metres along its full length
- Underneath all such covers and above any underlay, posts or pipes of at least 50mm thickness must be laid for the overlap's full length, in order to provide an uphill barrier to water penetrating that overlap
- If possible, the edge of the overlap should not face the direction from which prevailing winds are known to come
- If possible, the direction of overlap should be across, rather than parallel to, the match pitch
- If the direction of overlap is parallel to the match pitch, the edge of the overlap should be as far as possible, and no less than 3 metres, from the match pitch.

Match Pitch Undercover

- **Shires Competition** - a match-pitch undercover (minimum 3m x 22m) must be laid, as well as the main cover and hessian underlay, for all matches, unless the prior permission of the SCA has been granted (refer 1.10.3 (Form of Pitch Covering)).