

ICC CLASSIFICATION OF OFFICIAL CRICKET WITH EFFECT FROM MARCH 2024

This document provides guidance as to the classification of current and future matches. It is not intended to be applied retrospectively or to lead to changes in classifications made prior to this document becoming effective.

1 TEST MATCHES

Test matches are those matches which are played in accordance with the ICC Standard Men's and Women's Test Match Playing Conditions and other ICC regulations pertaining to Test matches.

Test matches are played between Men's and Women's Teams selected by Full Members of the ICC as representative of the Member Countries (Full Member Teams).

Note: Matches involving an "A" team or age-group team shall not be classified as Test matches.

2 ONE DAY INTERNATIONALS (ODI)

ODI matches are those matches which:

- a) Are played in accordance with the ICC Standard Men's and Women's One Day International Playing Conditions and other ICC regulations pertaining to ODI Matches; and
- b) Are between:
 - i) Any teams participating in and as part of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, the Cricket World Cup Qualifier, the Cricket World Cup Qualifier Play-Off, Cricket World Cup League 2, the Men's Asia Cup, the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup and the Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier; or
 - ii) Two Full Member Teams; or
 - iii) A Full Member Team and an Associate Member with ODI status
 - iv) Two Associate Members both with ODI status

NOTE: Afghanistan does not have Women's ODI status.

The Associate Members with ODI status are as follows:

For Men's ODIs: Canada, Namibia, Nepal, Oman, Scotland, The Netherlands, United Arab Emirates and United States of America;

For Women's ODIs: The Netherlands, Papua New Guinea, Scotland, Thailand and United States of America

Note: The 8 Men's Associate Member teams listed above shall have ODI status until at least the conclusion of the CWC Qualifier Playoff in 2027.

Note: Matches involving an "A" team or age-group team shall not be classified as ODI matches.

3. TWENTY20 INTERNATIONAL MATCHES

Twenty20 International Matches are those which:

a) Are played in accordance with the ICC Standard Men's and Women's Twenty20 International Playing Conditions and other ICC regulations pertaining to Twenty20 International Matches; and

b) Are between:

- i) Any teams participating in and as part of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup and the ICC Women's T20 World Cup; or
- ii) Teams both of whom are either Full or Associate Members.

Note: Matches involving an "A" team or age-group team shall not be classified as Twenty20 international matches.

Performances in Test matches, ODIs or Twenty20 International matches that are abandoned (after the toss) for any reason, including the pitch being considered too dangerous for play to continue, are still recorded in official records.

4 OTHER OFFICIAL INTERNATIONALS

Any limited overs match between Associate international teams other than those already classified as ODIs/T20Is. Such matches are only other official internationals if played as part of a global or regional ICC event or competition; or agreed with and under the auspices of the ICC Development Programme/High Performance Programme.

Note: These matches, among other things, will always be subject to ICC officials' arrangements, qualification rules and the ICC approved Code of Conduct and playing conditions.

5 FIRST-CLASS MATCHES

First-Class Matches are those men's and women's matches of two innings per side and of three or more days' duration between two sides of eleven players played on natural turf pitches and substantially conforming to ICC standard playing conditions.

Full playing replacements – a Full Member may, if it wishes, introduce playing regulations to allow any of the 11 playing members of a side to be changed for any reason after the start of the match without the match forgoing its first-class status.

Concussion substitutes – a player who is diagnosed as concussed, or likely to be concussed, and deemed unable to play any further part in the match may be replaced with a full-playing substitute without the match forgoing its first-class status.

COVID-19 – a player who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or likely to be suffering from COVID-19 and deemed unable to play any further part in the match, or is prevented from playing any further part in the match as a result of applicable COVID-19 public health guidance, may be replaced with a full playing substitute without the match forgoing its first-class status.

In the following Rules, the term "Governing Body" is restricted to Full Members.

Rules

a) The status of all matches in an official ICC competition shall be decided by the ICC. For matches outside official ICC competitions, b) and c) below shall apply.

b) Full Members of the International Cricket Council shall decide the status of matches of three or more days' duration played in their countries.

c) In matches of three or more days' duration played in countries which are not Full Members of the International Cricket Council:

- i) if only one team comes from a Full Member country or both teams come from the same Full Member country then that country shall decide the status; otherwise
- ii) if both teams come from different Full Member countries then the status shall be decided by agreement between those countries if possible; otherwise
- iii) the ICC shall decide.

Note: Governing Bodies agree that the interest of First-Class cricket will be served by ensuring that First-Class status is not accorded to any match in which one or other of the teams taking part cannot on a strict interpretation of the definitions be adjudged First-Class. Matches involving age-group teams up to and including U19 shall not be classified as First-Class matches.

Note: Decisions regarding the awarding a match First-Class status should whenever possible be taken and announced by the relevant governing body prior to its commencement, failing which as soon as possible thereafter. Where a decision regarding First-Class status has already been made, including in respect of all matches played prior to these classifications taking effect, any subsequent reversal of a decision (i.e. to upgrade a match to First-Class status or downgrade it from First-Class status) shall be permitted only in exceptional circumstances, and then only with the approval of the ICC.

Note: Any known breaches of the above provisions relating to the use of substitutes may result in the match where the breach was committed retrospectively losing its First-Class status. Such a decision on the status of the match where the breach was committed will be taken by the ICC Chief Executives' Committee (CEC).

Note: Performances in first-class matches that are abandoned (after the toss) for any reason, including the pitch being considered too dangerous for play to continue, are still recorded in official records. This classification applies irrespective of any sanctions the Governing Body may choose to apply to the home team or ground authority.

6 FIRST-CLASS STATUS

Full Member men's and women's matches of three or more days' duration shall be regarded as First-Class, subject to the provisions of the First-Class match definition being complied with.

The list of First-Class cricket matches in [Appendix A](#) is not exhaustive and covers tournaments rather than one-off fixtures. It is therefore merely indicative of the matches which would fall into the First-Class definition.

7 LIST A LIMITED OVERS MATCHES

Any men's or women's ODI, or any men's or women's limited overs match scheduled for one day's duration and of one innings per side with a minimum of 40 overs per side played at least at State, County or Provincial level, or franchise based teams/competitions in a Full Member country or official matches of a touring Full Member representative team against at least State, County or Provincial level teams and accorded the status of List A Limited Overs Match by the relevant Governing Bodies. A match will still be regarded as List A Limited Overs even if reduced by bad weather or for other reasons to fewer than 40 overs per side.

In addition, limited overs matches between 'A' teams of Associates with ODI status may be accorded List A Limited Overs status by the relevant Governing Body.

Note: A Limited Overs match that involves a team from a country that does not have ODI status shall not be classified as a List A Limited Overs Match.

8 LIST A TWENTY20 MATCHES

Any men's or women's Twenty20 International match, or any limited overs match scheduled for one day's duration and of one innings per side with a limit of 20 overs per side played at least at State, County or Provincial level, or franchise based teams/competitions in a Full Member country or official matches of a touring Full Member representative team against at least State, County or Provincial level teams and accorded the status of List A Twenty20 Match by the relevant Governing Bodies.

In addition, List A T20 status may be granted by the ICC to events that are played by Associate Members who have ODI status.

As a guideline, ICC will consider granting List A T20 status if the event requires that any starting XI comprises a maximum of 7 local and/or Associate Member players and a minimum of four Full Member players of established List A standard.

In addition, Twenty20 matches between 'A' teams of Associates with ODI status may be accorded List A Twenty20 status by the relevant Governing Body.

Note: Other than T20 Internationals, a Twenty20 match that involves a team from a country that does not have ODI status shall not be classified as a List A Twenty20 Match.

Rules for List A limited overs matches and List A Twenty20 matches

- a) The status of all matches in an official ICC competition shall be decided by the ICC. For matches outside official ICC competitions, b) and c) below shall apply.
- b) Full Members of the ICC shall decide the status of matches of one day's duration played in their countries or in tournaments under their jurisdiction.
- c) In matches of one day's duration played in countries which are not Full Members of the ICC:

- i) if only one team comes from a Full Member country or both teams come from the same Full Member country then that country shall decide the status; otherwise
- ii) if both teams come from different Full Member countries then the status shall be decided by agreement between those countries if possible; otherwise
- iii) the ICC shall decide.

Note: Performances in men's and women's List A matches that are abandoned (after the toss) for any reason, including the pitch being considered too dangerous for play to continue, are still recorded in official records. This classification applies irrespective of any sanctions the Governing Body may choose to apply to the home team or ground authority.

Note: It is intended that men's and women's List A matches will be those one day matches played at the highest domestic level. Matches that are primarily arranged as festival, friendly or practice matches and outside any competitive structure should not qualify as List A matches.

The creation of List A, the definition of List A matches and the application of this definition to all limited overs cricket worldwide was the work of the Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians (ACS).

Prior to 2007, all decisions regarding the classification of Men's limited overs matches as the one-day counterpart to first-class status were undertaken by the ACS, with no previous involvement from the ICC or national Governing Bodies.

Since 2007, the ICC has been responsible for the definition of List A and has placed future classification decisions in the hands of its Full Members. Therefore Full Members are required to determine which limited-overs matches played under their jurisdiction should be accorded List A status. However, the ACS will continue to maintain the list of matches it believes fulfil the criteria for List A with Full Members advising by exception should they wish to add or remove any matches from this list.

In order to preserve the integrity of past efforts of the ACS and to ensure the ongoing maintenance of authoritative and consistent records, the following shall apply:

- a) No attempt will be made by Governing Bodies or the ICC to amend retrospectively the status of Men's limited-overs matches, i.e. the catalogue of past List A matches compiled over the years by the ACS will be allowed to stand.
- b) Governing Bodies will wish to ensure that their future List A classifications are consistent with (a) each other, (b) past decisions and (c) the definition of List A as written by the ACS and adopted by the ICC.

9 OTHER MATCHES

Other cricket played under the auspices of a Member country may be classified by such Member country as Official Cricket. Including but not limited to:

- a) Men's and women's matches between the "A" teams, National Academy or Age Group Teams of Member countries.
- b) All other men's and women's matches played as part of a competition or tournament held under the auspices of a Member including club cricket, schools, age groups and university cricket.
- c) Matches between Members that are not covered in the regulations above relating to Test Matches, One Day Internationals, T20 Internationals or Other Official Internationals (these matches are not subject to ICC officials' arrangements, qualification rules and/or the ICC-approved Code of Conduct and playing conditions).

10 DISPUTES

In case of any disputes arising from these Rules, failing unanimous agreement being reached between the disputing parties, the Chief Executive of the ICC shall refer the matter to the ICC Disputes Resolution Committee for its final and binding determination.

APPENDIX A

INTERNATIONAL STATUS AWARDED BY EXCEPTION

The following is a list of circumstances where matches have, by exception, been awarded Test, ODI or T20I status.

Test Matches

- i) A Men's Full Member Team and a composite team selected by the ICC as representative of the best players from the rest of the world.

One Day International Matches (ODIs)

- i) A Full Member Team (or "top 8" Men's Associate Member team) and a composite team selected by the ICC as representative of the best players from the rest of the world.

Twenty20 International Matches

- i) Any other matches between a Full Member and a World XI of suitable calibre that the ICC Board, by exception and in advance, decides to award T20I status.
- ii) Teams participating in and as part of the Women's event at the Commonwealth Games 2022.

FIRST-CLASS STATUS

The following men's matches of three or more days' duration shall be regarded as First-Class, subject to the provisions of the First-Class match definition being complied with. The list below is not exhaustive and covers tournaments rather than one-off fixtures. It is therefore merely indicative of the matches which would fall into the First-Class definition.

- i) Test matches
- ii) Matches by "A" teams of Full Member countries against teams adjudged First-Class (including the "A" team of another Full Member country)
- iii) In all Full Member Countries

Matches against teams adjudged First-Class played by official touring teams

- iv) In Afghanistan
 - Ahmad Shah Abdali First Class
- v) In Australia
 - Sheffield Shield matches between states
- vi) In Bangladesh
 - National Cricket League matches between divisions; and
 - Bangladesh Cricket League matches between zones
- vii) In England and Wales
 - Matches in the County Championship between counties
- viii) In India
 - Ranji Trophy matches between states;
 - Duleep Trophy matches between zones; and
 - Irani Cup match between the Ranji Trophy winner and the Rest of India
- x) In Ireland
 - Inter-Provincial Championship, played between Provincial Unions
 - The Emerald Challenge 4-Day Competition
- xi) In New Zealand
 - Plunket Shield matches between provinces
- xii) In Pakistan
 - Quaid-e-Azam Trophy, The President's Trophy
- xiii) In South Africa
 - All Provincial 4-day matches in Division 1 and Division 2
- xiv) In Sri Lanka
 - Major Tier "A" – 3- or 4-day match
 - National Super League – 3- or 4-day match
- xv) In West Indies
 - West Indies Championship (WIC) matches between territories/franchises
 - The Headley/Weekes Tournament
- xvi) In Zimbabwe
 - Logan Cup matches between Provincial sides