

Specification for Cricket balls

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Committees responsible for this British Standard

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- British Leather Confederation
- British Sports and Allied Industries Federation
- Cricket Council

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Foreword

This British Standard has been prepared under the direction of the Textiles and Clothing Standards Policy Committee. It supersedes BS 5993:1987 which is withdrawn. This new edition introduces technical changes to bring the standard up-to-date, but it does not reflect a full review or revision of the standard, which will be undertaken in due course. Differences between this standard and the previous edition are indicated by a vertical line in the margin.

The standard specifies requirements for various grades and sizes of leather-covered cricket balls. The grading is intended to provide guidance to the purchaser as to the acceptability of the grades for given participation levels or uses within the game. The requirements specified are related to the use of cricket balls on pitches and in climatic conditions likely to be encountered in the United Kingdom.

Product certification. Users of this British Standard are advised to consider the desirability of third party certification of product conformity with this British Standard based on testing and continuing product surveillance which may be coupled with assessment of a supplier's quality systems against the appropriate standard in the BS EN ISO 9000 series.

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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, pages 1 to 10, an inside back cover and a back cover.

This standard has been updated (see copyright date) and may have had amendments incorporated. This will be indicated in the amendment table on the inside front cover.

1 Scope

This British Standard specifies requirements and describes methods of test for four grades and three sizes of leather-covered cricket balls.

2 Normative references

This British Standard incorporates, by dated or undated reference, provisions from other publications. These normative references are made at the appropriate places in the text and the cited publications are listed on the inside back cover. For dated references, only the edition cited applies; any subsequent amendments to or revisions of the cited publication apply to this British Standard only when incorporated in the reference by amendment or revision. For undated references, the latest edition of the cited publication applies; together with any amendments.

3 Classification

Each cricket ball shall be classified as one of the following grades:

- Grade 1 County
- Grade 1 League
- Grade 1 Club
- Grade 2;

and as one of the following sizes:

- men's, women's or junior.

NOTE 1 Grade 1 League, grade 1 Club and grade 2 cricket balls are not considered satisfactory for use in first-class cricket matches.

NOTE 2 The word "men's", "women's" or "junior" signifies that the dimensions and mass of the cricket ball are within the limits required by the laws of the game in relation to men's, women's and junior cricket matches respectively.

4 Construction and manufacture

4.1 General

Each cricket ball shall comprise a cover made from two or four pieces of alum-tanned leather enclosing a core and shall conform to 4.2 to 4.4.

NOTE 1 The material of the core is not specified.

NOTE 2 The colour of the ball and external stitching are not specified in this standard. However normal Cricket Authority requirements are that the ball should be red, and that external stitching should be white or natural.

4.2 Covers

4.2.1 Grade 1 County, grade 1 League and grade 1 Club cricket balls

4.2.1.1 General

Grade 1 County, grade 1 League and grade 1 Club cricket balls shall have covers which conform to either 4.2.1.2 or 4.2.1.3.

4.2.1.2 Cricket balls of conventional construction

The cover shall be made in two halves. Each half shall comprise two pieces of leather joined together by a closing or quarter seam that shall be stitched internally. The two closing or quarter seams shall lie in planes at right angles to each other.

The seams shall be sewn with a rosin-waxed thread of 1.5 mm nominal diameter and there shall be not less than 18 stitches in each seam.

4.2.1.3 Cricket balls of bonded construction

The cover shall be made in two halves. Each half shall comprise leather joined together by a closing or quarter seam that shall be stitched internally. The two closing or quarter seams shall lie in planes at right angles to each other.

For grade 1 County and grade 1 League balls the seams shall be sewn with a rosin-waxed thread of 1.5 mm nominal diameter and there shall be not less than 12 stitches in each seam. For grade 1 Club balls the seams shall be sewn with a rosin-waxed thread of 1.5 mm nominal diameter and there shall be not less than 8 stitches in each seam.

4.2.2 Grade 2 cricket balls

The cover shall be made in two halves. Each half shall comprise either:

- a) two pieces of leather joined together in accordance with 4.2.1; or
- b) one piece of leather formed to the required shape.

4.3 External stitching

4.3.1 Grade 1 County and grade 1 League cricket balls

4.3.1.1 General

The two halves of the cover shall be joined together around the core by three double rows of double stitching. With reference to Figure 1, these three double rows of double stitching shall be either:

- a) rows 1 and 6, 2 and 5, and 3 and 4; or
- b) rows 1 and 5, 2 and 6, and 3 and 4.

The type of thread and number of stitches in each row for grade 1 County and grade 1 League cricket balls shall be as specified in 4.3.1.2 and 4.3.1.3 respectively.

4.3.1.2 Grade 1 County cricket balls

The two outer double rows shall be stitched with a rosin-waxed linen thread of 1 mm nominal diameter. There shall be not less than 78 stitches and not more than 86 stitches in each row.