

City of Toronto – Parks Development & Capital Projects

Cricket Reference Group (CRG)

Meeting 1 Summary

April 22, 2021

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Matt Bentley - Facilities Master Plan Project Manager
Alex Lavasidis, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator



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Attendees

Community Resource Group Members

Bangla Warriors Cricket Club – Abu Rubaid Alam
Brampton-Etobicoke and District Cricket League – Prait Persaud
CIMA – Ranil Mendis
Cricket Canada – Keith Deonaraine
Cricket Canada Masters Council – Akshay Pandya
Cricket Ontario – Shah Saleem Zafar
Global T20 Canada - Wendy Kane
Greater Toronto Cricket Club – Qhinathullah Mohammed
Ontario Softball Cricket League – Kumar Jaipersaud
Ontario Twilight Softball Cricket League – Azeem Khan
Scarborough Cricket Association – Shiv Persaud
Superstar Colts Coach – Abdool Mudassar Samad
Toronto & District Cricket Association – Mohammed Shaikh
Toronto Sports Council – Heather Mitchell

Regrets: Toronto Police Cricket Club – PC Amir Butt

City of Toronto

Matt Bentley - Facilities Master Plan Project Manager
Susan Fall – Supervisor, System Planning
Alex Lavasidis – Sr. Public Consultation Coordinator
Teresa Liu – Planner
Kelly Murphy – Manager, Policy & System Planning
Kathleen Stevens – Landscape Technologist

These minutes are not intended to provide verbatim accounts of discussions. Rather, they summarize and document the key points made during the discussions, as well as the outcomes and actions arising from the CRG meeting.

Introduction

This document provides a summary of the first Cricket Reference Group virtual meeting that was held on April 21, 2021 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The meeting presentation, along with more information about the CRG and the development of the City's Cricket Strategy can be found on the project webpage at www.toronto.ca/CricketStrategy

Meeting Goals

Meeting goals included:

- Welcome and introduce CRG members and the project team
- Provide an overview of the Cricket Reference Group purpose and goals
- Provide an overview of the Cricket Strategy and Council investment priorities
- Discuss potential field typologies and design standards relating to field classifications, sizes, and pitch surface materials
- Share next steps

Discussion

City staff presented an overview of the CRG purpose and goals, as well as a background on the Cricket Strategy and Council investment priorities. Following the presentation, CRG members were prompted to share their thoughts and feedback through the following discussion questions:

1. Typology:
 - a. Should these four field sizes presented (Full /League/Community /Pick Up) be the basis of the new field typologies in the Cricket Strategy?
2. Dual Pitches:
 - a. What are the benefits and challenges of dual pitches?
 - b. Where are dual pitches suitable?
 - c. What are the key issues to consider?
3. Pitch Design Standards:
 - a. Should pitch design standards be lengthened by a few metres (beyond the 20.12m standard)?
 - b. Should pitch design standards be adjusted in any other ways?
4. Pitch Surface:
 - a. What type of surfacing is best for each size of field?
5. Field Delineation:
 - a. What are the benefits of delineating the field?
 - b. Which size of field (Full /League/Community /Pick Up) should be edged?

The CRG discussion is summarised by topic, below.

Typology

The City proposed four Field Typologies by Field size, as follows:

- Full – 140m x 120m minimum
- League 120m x 120m minimum
- Community 100 mx100m minimum
- Pickup – irregular field sizes

CRG members suggested:

- The four size categories are appropriate as one determinant of a field typology, however:
 - The typologies should be renamed to ensure there is no confusion about who can use each field/ so it is clear any user group can use any size field they require.
 - While field size is important, maintenance will be a very larger determinant of what type of play will occur on a given field.
 - It will be important to share what purpose/ uses each field size will be appropriate for (e.g. list the appropriate uses for each field size on the City website).
- Multiple game types will be competing for use of the same field sizes. For example, a 100 m x 100 m field works for hardball, tennis ball and softball.

Dual Pitches

- Do not install new dual pitches.
 - Two games cannot occur at the same time on a dual pitch. It is preferable to provide multiple, separate/singular pitches so that multiple games can occur at once, without interference.
 - For existing dual pitches, one wicket is usually worn down much more quickly than the other.

Pitch Design Standards

- All CRG members agree that pitches should be lengthened.
 - Consider increasing bowling run-ups on each end of the pitch, by around an additional 20 yards/ a few metres on each end.
 - Consider using the City of Brampton's pitch length standard.

Pitch Surfaces

- The highest level of field (for national/international play) should use natural turf.
 - No spikes should be allowed during play.
- All other pitches should use artificial turf, which is durable, long lasting, and requires less maintenance than other surfacing.
- While there are some players (no CRG members) who prefer jute matting surfaces, in practice these do not wear well and require a lot of maintenance, therefore new pitches should not use jute matting.
- If hard surfacing is considered, concrete alone cannot be used as this is dangerous for players.
 - Hard surface pitches should not be located in school grounds or in mixed use areas as they can be a tripping hazard when not in use.
- Rolled grass is an appropriate surface for places like school grounds for community/informal cricket, as well as for youth cricket. This does not pose a tripping hazard if the area is used for other purposes while it is not being used for cricket.

Field Delineation

- Edging or delineating the field would be very helpful because the size of the cricket field makes it confusing to other park patrons whether part of the field is being utilized.
- The field can be delineated with just mow or cut lines but painted lines would be best or a gravel edge would also be acceptable.
- A fence is unneeded and could cause injury but end screens could be built at either end.
- The outmost boundary of the pitch should be delineated.

- Delineation would be helpful on any size field.
- Consider including side screens around the wicket.

Other

- School grounds are currently being used for softball cricket. Rolling the grass in school fields could be a simple, affordable and effective way to provide more cricket space throughout the city.
 - Youth cricket is growing fast, and consideration should be made to provide multiple, youth-sized fields for this growing demographic (e.g. rolled grass pitches in school grounds could be appropriate for this group)
- Generally, the smallest useable field would be around 70 m x 70 m
 - These would be especially useful for youth cricket (similar to "timbit" soccer using smaller fields)
- Lighting pitches is important to provide more playable hours on existing pitches.

Next Steps

- CRG members to provide any additional feedback through email by Wednesday April 28.
- Staff will circulate a short Terms of Reference following this meeting that outlines the mandate and roles of CRG members in more detail. Please provide prior to the next meeting.
- Staff will circulate a meeting summary after April 28. Please review and provide any edits within 1 week of receiving the summary.
- The next CRG meeting will take place on Wednesday May 12 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. The topic will be new field locations and upgrades.

Contact Us

For questions or comments related to this project, please contact:

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