

The standard cricket ball for international cricket

In international cricket, the leather cricket ball is the main player. Its special seam helps bowlers make the ball swing and bounce in unexpected ways.

While leather balls are used at the top level, there are various types of balls for different levels of cricket. Let's explore them!

Different Types of Cricket Balls

1. Leather Ball

Red Cricket Ball

The red cricket ball is primarily used in Test matches and first-class cricket. It is known for its durability and ability to maintain condition over long periods, making it ideal for longer game formats. In grassroots cricket, players also use the red leather ball for One Day and T20 formats.



White Cricket Ball

The white cricket ball is used in limited-overs formats like One Day Internationals (ODIs) and T20s. It is more visible under floodlights, making it suitable for day-night matches. However, it tends to wear out faster than the red ball.



Pink Cricket Ball

The pink cricket ball was introduced for day-night Test matches. It combines the white ball's visibility with the red ball's durability, offering better visibility under artificial lighting.



Cricket Ball Materials

Leather cricket balls are the most common type used in professional cricket. They are made from layers of twine wound around a cork core, covered with a leather casing.

2.Tennis Balls for Cricket

Soft Tennis Balls

These lighter balls are perfect for beginners and children. They are safer and easier to handle for those new to the game. They are also commonly used in box cricket, where the lighter ball reduces the risk of injury in confined spaces.



Cricket ball weights and sizes

How much does a cricket ball weigh?

According to official regulations for top-level cricket matches, a new ball must weigh between 5.50 and 5.75 ounces, which is equivalent to 155.9.0-163.01g.

How big is a cricket ball?

A cricket ball should have a diameter of 2.80-2.86 inches, which is equal to 7.11-7.26cm. To meet the regulations of “first-class” (top-level) cricket, a cricket ball must have a circumference that is between 8.81-9.00 inches or 22.4-22.9cm.

How do junior cricket balls compare to standard cricket balls?

Junior cricket balls are used by those playing in under 13 leagues and below. Junior cricket balls weigh 133g-144g (4.69-5.06oz), and have a circumference that is between 20.50-22cm (8.07-8.66 inches), meaning they are lighter and smaller than full size cricket balls. A junior cricket ball should have a diameter of 6.5-7.2cm.

CRICKET BALL SIZE GUIDE BY AGE

Size	Age	Weight	Diameter
Circumference			
Senior	13 years and over	5.50-5.75oz	8.82-9.02 inch
2.81-2.87 inch		155.00-163.01g	22.40-22.90cm
7.13-.29cm			
Junior	Under 13 years	4.69-5.06oz	48.07-8.66
inch		2.57-2.76 inch	

	133g-144g	20.50-22.00cm	6.53-7.00cm
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What is the difference between white and red cricket balls?

Historically red balls were always used in cricket but in more recent times white cricket balls have been introduced to the game.

Whilst manufacturers of white cricket balls state that the only difference between white and red cricket balls is the colour, many players have stated that the white balls have a harder exterior and swing more easily than red balls.

Despite the performance differences flagged by many players the main factor in using different colour balls is visibility. These days white cricket balls tend to be used for shorter-duration T20 and ODI matches which are frequently played under floodlights. White balls were introduced as they are easier to see during evening and night games (red balls under floodlights can take on a brownish colour which isn't always the easiest to see for players and spectators).

White balls aren't suitable for use in test matches as the colour would clash with players' kits and because of other potential issues related to the balls visibility. Instead, red balls continue to be used for test matches around the world, although pink balls have been introduced for day-night test matches that are scheduled to run into the evening with the use of floodlights. Before the pink cricket balls were introduced, lots of players had voiced complaints about the visibility of the red balls under artificial lighting. A pink coloured cricket ball was decided on, after testing several different coloured balls including orange and optic yellow under floodlights.

Cricket ball records

What is the fastest ball in cricket history?

The fastest ball ever recorded was delivered at a speed of 161.3 km/hr (100.2 mph). The record-breaking delivery was bowled by Pakistan player Shoaib Akhtar

(nicknamed the 'Rawalpindi Express') in the 2003 Cricket World Cup against England in Cape Town, South Africa.

What is the fastest ball in women's cricket?

At the time of writing, the fastest ball ever bowled in women's cricket is 130.5kmph (81.1mph). This was delivered by Australian all-rounder Ellyse Perry, who in breaking this record whilst playing in the 2023 Women's Premier League for Team Bangalore, became the first women to break the 80mph mark.

fast bowler indoor nets

cricket ball

Who has faced the most balls in test, ODI & T20 cricket combined?

Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar has faced the most balls in international cricket history, with a total of 50,817.

Who has bowled the most balls bowled in test, ODI & T20 cricket combined?

Sri Lankan cricketer Muttiah Muralitharan, bowled a total of 63,132 balls during his international career. At the time of writing he also holds the record for the highest number of wickets in international cricket, with a total of 1,347.

Who has the most catches in test, ODI & T20 cricket combined?

South African Wicketkeeper Mark Boucher holds the record for the most catches in international cricket matches with 952 in total, including 532 in test matches alone.

Who has scored the most runs in test, ODI & T20 cricket combined?

Former Indian cricket player, Sachin Tendulkar collated a total of 34,357 during his international career which spanned from 1989 to 2013. The former captain of the Indian national side is regarded as one of the best cricket players of all time.

Choosing a Cricket Ball

What are the different types of cricket balls available?

At Net World Sports we stock a comprehensive range of cricket balls. Whether you are looking for a professional-quality cricket ball for an international test match, a highly-durable premium practice cricket ball, or a cricket ball for the back garden, you're sure to find what you need within our selection of balls.