

Expanded Rules

RULES OF THE GAME OF WICKET

- 1st – The ball shall be from 3 ¾ to 4 inches in diameter and weigh from 9 to 10 ounces.
- 2^d – The wickets shall be 75 feet apart.
- 3^d – The wickets shall be 6 feet long.
- 4th -- The tick marks shall be six feet from the wickets.
- 5th – The ball shall strike the ground on or before it reaches the center, to be a bowl.
- 6th – The bowler must start from behind the wicket and pass over it in bowling.
- 7th – The bowler shall be within 10 feet of the wicket, when the ball leaves his hand.
- 8th – A throw or jerk, is in no case a bowl, but the arm in bowling must be kept perfectly straight.
- 9th – In ticking, the bowler must stand astride or back of the wicket striking it from the inside, retaining the ball in his hand.
- 10th – When the bowler has received the ball, it shall be bowled by him before it is passed to the other bowler.
- 11th -- The striker shall in no case molest the ball when it is being thrown in, so as to hinder the bowler from ticking him out.
- 12th – There shall be no crossing the alley when the ball is being bowled.
- 13th – There shall be no unnecessary shinning.
- 14th – In catching, flying balls only are out. A ball caught before striking any other object but the catcher is out.
- 15th – In crossing, the striker shall tick his bat down on or over the tick. Mark to have a cross count except when caught or ticked out.
- 16th – No striker shall strike a ball more than once except in defense of a wicket, neither shall he stop the ball with his bat and then kick it.
- 17th – No one shall get in the way of a striker to prevent his crossing freely.
- 18th – Lost ball may have four crosses run on it.
- 19th – No one but the judge may cry “no bowl.”

For more information on wicket contact Brian Sheehy at historyball@yahoo.com or Larry McCray, Protoball Project, at Lmccray@mit.edu, check us out at www.essexbaseball.wordpress.com

Wicket



The Game

Background

The game of wicket (in some areas called wicket ball) was evidently the primary form of ballplaying in western Massachusetts and northern Connecticut as early as 1830 and until the Civil War, when base ball became the pre-eminent American ball game. Though once played in a dozen states, wicket is largely forgotten now.

The Game in Brief

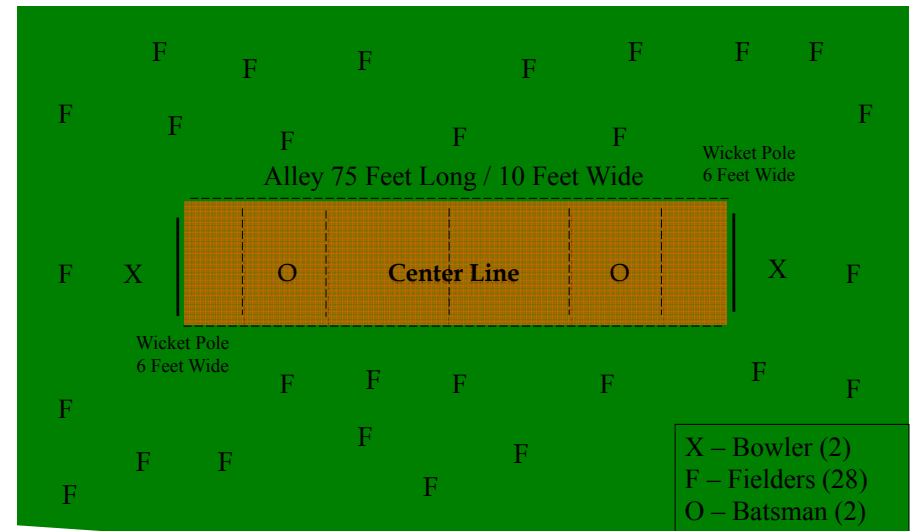
In some ways, wicket resembled the game of cricket. A ball was bowled toward a standing wicket, and if knocked the wicket apart the batter was retired. To prevent this from happening, the batter attempted to strike the ball with a bat, at which point the batter could run to the other of two wickets, and accumulate scores for each crossing of the running "alley" that was accomplished. A batter could also be retired if a fielder fairly caught the ball after it was struck, or if the a fielder dislodged the wicket with the ball before the runner reached it. When all batters on a side had been retired, the other side batted.



Camp of the 37th Mass. Vol's. Near Brandy Station Va. playing wicket

The Field and Equipment

Field Diagram



Equipment of Wicket Ball

Wicket Bat
Approx. 36"
"Figure 9 Shape"

Irish Hurling Club

Wicket Ball
4" Diameter
9 Ounces
(varies)

Adult Softball
3.8" Diameter
6 Ounces

6' Long Wickets

Wicket placed on 3" High Wood Blocks