Modern cricket is a team sport originating in England and popular mainly in areas that formerly made up the British Empire. The major international test teams are England, Australia, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, South Africa, New Zealand, Zimbabwe and the West Indies. The language of cricket is particularly idiosyncratic and tends to reflect the somewhat complicated and eccentric nature of the game itself. The majority of the terms used in cricket have originated in England and Australia, however these terms have generally been adopted by the majority of playing nations and their cricketers.

The game is played between two competing teams of eleven players on each side, on a large expanse of (usually grassy) ground called a pitch. The teams are comprised of players with a mixture of abilities, some who specialise at batting, some at bowling, occasionally some who excel in both capacities, and one highly specialist player who acts as 'wicket-keeper'. In the centre of the pitch is a length of grass, (usually 22 yards long), called 'the wicket'. At each end of the wicket are placed three sticks adjacent to each other in an upright position: these are the 'stumps'. They are separated by a gap not greater than the diameter of a cricket ball. On top of each set of stumps are placed two smaller sticks, or 'bails'. A chalk outline is drawn in front of each set of stumps called a 'crease'. The game is refereed by two 'umpires'.

The length of games can vary in duration of time, and number of balls bowled. One side will 'bat' first, the other side will bowl to them. Batsmen play in pairs, each equipped with a bat, one at each end of the wicket.

The object for the batting side is to score the optimal number of 'runs' (points) before the bowling side have dismissed them. The object for the bowling side is to dismiss the batsmen as economically as possible. Once the process is complete the roles are reversed, i.e. the side which were batting then bowl and the bowling side then bat. This reversal may happen only the once (typically in 'one-day' or 'limited overs' cricket) or twice, as in county or international test match cricket.

**CRICKET PITCH DIMENSIONS**
The size of the field on which the game is played varies from ground to ground but the pitch is always a rectangular area of **22 yards** (20.12m) in length and **10ft** (3.05m) in width.

The popping (batting) crease is marked **1.22m** in front of the stumps at either end, with the stumps set along the bowling crease.

The return creases are marked at right angles to the popping and bowling creases and are measured **1.32m** either side of the middle stumps.

The two sets of wickets at opposite ends of the pitch stand **71.1cm** high and three stumps measure **22.86 cm** wide in total.

**THE FIELD**

A cricket field, or ground, is a roughly elliptical field of flat grass, ranging in size from about **120 to 200** metres (**130-220 yards**) across, bounded by an obvious fence, rope, or other marker. There is no fixed size or shape for the field, although large deviations from a low-eccentricity ellipse in this size range are discouraged.

In baseball, the field is notionally divided into right field and left field. Right field is toward first base (in front of a right-handed batter in batting stance, behind a left-handed one), left field is toward third base (behind a right-handed batter, in front of a left-handed one). In cricket, the off and leg sides are defined relative to the batsman. The area in the direction of where first base would be in baseball is the off side when a right-handed batsman is batting, but the leg side when a left-handed batsman is batting.

**EXTRA DETAIL: Preparation of the Pitch and Outfield**

The pitch and outfield are both mown regularly, if the weather allows. The following steps are necessary in order to prepare a cricket pitch:

a) The area of the pitch should be dug approximately 12 inches deep.

b) It should be filled with stones (concrete or any other kind) up to 6 inches.

c) The pitch is filled with Pottery or any other clay (except red) for about 45 minutes.

Between each innings and before the start of play on the second and subsequent days of a match, the batting captain may request the pitch be rolled (with a hand-pushed or powered roller, such as is used on a grass tennis court) for up to 7 minutes. This is done to flatten any irregularities (and thus make batting easier).

The pitch and the bowlers run-ups are usually covered (with tarpaulins or more sophisticated equipment) if weather threatens to wet the field and play is not actually in progress. Covers must be removed as soon as practicable to allow the pitch to dry.
23 Cricket Teams in Connecticut*

Southern Connecticut Cricket League (13 Teams)

1. New Milford Cricket Club
2. Danbury Cricket Club
3. Norwalk Cricket Club
4. Bridgeport Cricket Club
5. United Cricket Club of Waterbury
6. New Haven Cricket Club
7. Calvary Cricket Club of Bridgeport
8. West Haven Cricket Club
9. UBS Cricket Club of Norwalk
10. Stamford Cricket Club
11. Cheshire Cricket Club
12. St. Johns Cricket Club of Stamford
13. New Haven Eagles Cricket Club

Connecticut Cricket League (10 Teams)

1. Hartford Cricket Club
2. Caribbean Cricket Club of Bloomfield
3. St. Lucia Cricket Club of Hartford
4. Windsor Cricket Club
5. New Britain Cricket Club
6. New London Cricket Club
7. Riverside Cricket Club of East Hartford
8. Bristol Cricket Club
9. Brass Cricket Club of Waterbury
10. Gypsies Cricket Club of Berlin

* There are two Cricket leagues in Connecticut named: Connecticut Cricket League & Southern Connecticut Cricket League.