



MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

SHEFFIELD SHIELD
FEBRUARY 9-12, 2023

VICTORIA v QUEENSLAND
LIBRARY FACT SHEET

THE SHEFFIELD SHIELD - A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

The first English touring team, led by HH Stephenson, the Surrey captain, arrived in Australia in late 1861. During the next three decades other teams from the old country followed including that led by J Lillywhite in the 1876-77 season. That team played a match against a team of players from the Australian colonies at the MCG in Melbourne which became the first Test match.

It was, however, during a subsequent English tour of Australia some 15 years later led by the legendary WG Grace and supported by a significant cricket benefactor Lord Sheffield that the story of the Sheffield Shield began. Lord Sheffield's aim was to restore the game's standing in Australia and before the team's arrival he offered the cricket associations of Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia funds to create a perpetual trophy for intercolonial cricket. After lengthy consideration the offer was accepted and the Sheffield Shield competition was created.

Competition for the Shield began in the 1892-93 season with Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia taking part; each playing four matches. The Shield was won by the undefeated Victoria. The trophy was initially awarded on a challenge basis; being won by the most recent match winner and held by that team until it was defeated. This proved to be an unsatisfactory arrangement and prior to the end of the season it was agreed that the awarding of the trophy would take place after all matches were completed. A considerable period would elapse before the ranks of the competitors for the Shield would increase; Queensland competing first in the 1926-27 season and Western Australia in the 1947-48 season. Tasmania was the most recent state to join the elite group in the 1977-78 season. The competition was suspended during both World Wars.

Up until the end of the 1981/82 season the first-placed team after all home and away matches was declared the winner of the Shield. In the 1982/83 season the Sheffield Shield Final was introduced. It is played over five days between the top two teams to decide the winner of the Shield and is normally staged at the home ground of the top-ranked team. The first winner of the final was New South Wales which defeated Western Australia in Perth. In the 2019-20 season the Shield Final was not played as a result of the Coronavirus outbreak.

The Shield Player of the Year award was first presented in the 1975/76 season with the Chappell brothers, Ian and Greg named joint winners.

Statistical Highlights

Placings at end of Seasons 1892-93 to 2021-2022

| Colony/State | First | Second | Third | Fourth | Fifth | Sixth | Seasons |
|-------------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|-------|---------|
| New South Wales | 47 | 26 | 22 | 12 | 8 | 5 | 120 |
| Victoria | 31 | 38 | 25 | 9 | 9 | 8 | 120 |
| South Australia | 14 | 22 | 35 | 12 | 21 | 16 | 120 |
| Queensland | 9 | 20 | 17 | 28 | 14 | 2 | 90 |
| Western Australia | 16 | 9 | 16 | 19 | 15 | - | 75 |
| Tasmania | 3 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 8 | 14 | 45 |

Placings for Season 2021-2022

| | | P | W | L | D | BatBP | BowBP | Pts |
|---|-------------------|---|---|---|---|-------|-------|-------|
| 1 | Western Australia | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 6.62 | 6.2 | 32.82 |
| 2 | Victoria | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 3.77 | 5.4 | 30.17 |
| 3 | Tasmania | 8 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 5.19 | 5.9 | 31.09 |
| 4 | New South Wales | 7 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1.70 | 5.8 | 21.50 |
| 5 | Queensland | 9 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 3.83 | 7.4 | 27.23 |
| 6 | South Australia | 8 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 4.96 | 5.7 | 21.66 |

Some matches did not proceed as a result of the Coronavirus outbreak.

Points: 6 for win, 1 for draw, 0 for loss.

Bonus Points: The batting side receives **0.01** points for every run scored beyond 200 in its first 100 overs of its first innings.

The bowling side receives **0.1** points for every wicket taken inside the first 100 overs of its opponent's first innings.

Match Results 1892-93 to 2021-2022

| Colony/State | Debut Season | Played | Won | Lost | Drawn* | Tied | % Won |
|-------------------|--------------|--------|-----|------|--------|------|-------|
| New South Wales | 1892-93 | 889 | 378 | 251 | 259 | 1 | 42.52 |
| Victoria | 1892-93 | 884 | 342 | 250 | 291 | 1 | 38.69 |
| South Australia | 1892-93 | 875 | 239 | 402 | 233 | 1 | 27.31 |
| Queensland | 1926-27 | 775 | 245 | 267 | 262 | 1 | 31.61 |
| Western Australia | 1947-48 | 653 | 230 | 203 | 220 | - | 35.22 |
| Tasmania | 1977-78 | 428 | 107 | 168 | 153 | - | 25.00 |

Notes: *Abandoned matches are not included in the above figures.*

Competition suspended due to World Wars I and II, 1915-1919 and 1940-1946.

*Includes those where both first innings were completed and points applied for a first innings lead.

After 120 seasons of the Shield two of the three pioneers still lead the results table. New South Wales has by far the best record of all participants (winner of the Shield in 39.2% of seasons participated) followed by Victoria (25.8%). The next best performer is Western Australia (21.3%). Tasmania has the poorest winning record (6.8%).

The Shield was first won by Victoria (1892-93) and South Australia followed with New South Wales victorious in 1895-96. In its first season (1926-27) Queensland finished bottom of the table and did not show sustained movement until some years after the competition recommenced following the end of World War II. The men from the north did not win the trophy until the 1994-95 season. They challenged their supporters; being runner-up 11 times in the 20 years before their break-through. Western Australia proved to be the champion of debutants; winning the Shield in its first season (1947-48). However, 20 years elapsed before its next success and consistent performance did not eventuate until the 1970s and 1980s. Tasmania endured the same fate in its first season in 1977-78 as Queensland had done in 1926-27. Thirty seasons then elapsed before it won its first Shield in the 2006-07 season.

The three states which entered the competition in the years after it commenced did not initially play the same number of matches per season as those already participating. Queensland, in its first season, played five matches, one less than New South Wales and Victoria. Western Australia played about half as many matches as the other four competitors during its first nine seasons while Tasmania did the same during the first five seasons it played.

TODAY'S MATCH

Victoria v Queensland - Contracted Players

Victoria: Peter Handscomb (C), Aaron Finch, Glenn Maxwell, Scott Boland, Ashley Chandrasinghe, Xavier Crone, Brody Couch, Travis Dean, Sam Elliott, Zak Evans, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Sam Harper, Marcus Harris, Mackenzie Harvey, Jon Holland, Campbell Kellaway, Nic Maddinson, Cameron McClure, Jonathan Merlo, Todd Murphy, Tom O'Connell, Fergus O'Neill, Wil Parker, Will Pucovski, Matthew Short, Will Sutherland.

Queensland: Usman Khawaja (C), Xavier Bartlett, James Bazley, Max Bryant, Hugo Burdon, Joe Burns, Jack Clayton, Blake Edwards, Liam Guthrie, Sam Heazlett, Matt Kuhnemann, Manus Labuschagne, Michael Nesar, Jimmy Pearson, Will Prestwidge, Matthew Renshaw, Kane Richardson, Mark Steketee, Bryce Street, Gurinder Sandhu, Jack Sinfield, Connor Sully, Mitch Swepson, Sam Truloff, Jack Wildermuth, Matthew Williams.

Competition up until the Present

The two states have met 181 times in competition for the Shield; Queensland winning 66, Victoria 57 with 58 matches drawn. The first match played at the MCG was in December, 1926; Queensland 147 and 217 losing to Victoria 533 by an innings and 169 runs. In the most recent match played on 10 and 11 November, 2022 at Allan Border Field, Brisbane, the summary scores are set out below. Victoria won the toss and batted. **VICTORIA 63** (MT Steketee 5/18, MG Nesar 4/22) **and 132** (WJ Sutherland 48; MG Nesar 5/48, GS Sandhu 3/30) **lost to QUEENSLAND 205** (GS Sandhu 42, MG Nesar 31; SM Boland 3/41, WJ Sutherland 3/46, CL McClure 3/53) **by an innings and 10 runs.** *Player of the match:* Michael Nesar. Points awarded: Queensland 7.05 (6 0 win, 1.05 bonus), Victoria 1.0 bonus).

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Fact sheet research by MCC Library Volunteer Ross Perry assisted and edited by David Studham and Trevor Ruddell
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