



MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET OCTOBER 20-23, 2024

2024/25 SHEFFIELD SHIELD VICTORIA V NEW SOUTH WALES

AUSTRALIAN FIRST-CLASS CRICKET AND THE SHEFFIELD SHIELD: A SHORT HISTORY

First-class cricket began in Australia in February, 1851, as a result of a challenge issued by the Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) to the Launceston Cricket Club the previous year. The men from Port Phillip sailed to Launceston, and after two days of play, lost by three wickets; the match being played on the local racecourse. This match was not *formally* recognised as a first-class match until the ICC determined that all intercolonial and interstate matches played in Australia before 1947 (when matches were first *formally* designated first-class in Australia) should retrospectively be considered first-class. In a return match in 1852 at Southbank, Melbourne, the home side had its revenge; winning by 61 runs. Some two years later the Tasmanians won the third challenge at the Launceston Cricket Ground by eight wickets.

Competition for the Sheffield Shield began in the 1892/93 season; Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia 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 unsatisfactory 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 1926/27, Western Australia in 1947/48 and Tasmania in 1977/78. The competition was suspended during both World Wars: 1915/16 to 1918/19 and 1940/41 to 1945/46.

SHEFFIELD SHIELD PLACINGS FOR SEASON 2023/2024

		P	W	L	D	A	BatBP	BowBP	Adj	Pts
1	Western Australia	10	5	2	3	0	5.53	9.4	0	47.93
2	Tasmania	10	5	2	3	0	6.06	8.3	0	47.36
3	New South Wales	10	4	3	3	0	6.31	9	0	42.31
4	Victoria	10	4	4	2	0	4.74	8.2	0	38.94
5	South Australia	10	3	6	1	0	5.19	9.3	0	33.49
6	Queensland	10	2	6	2	0	3.54	8.3	0	25.84

Notes: Point allocation: Win (W) 6, Loss (L) 0, Draw (D) 1, Abandoned without a ball bowled (A) 1
 Bonus Points (BP): Batting: 0.01 points for every run scored beyond 200 in first 100 overs of first innings
 Bonus Points (BP): Bowling: 0.1 points for every wicket taken in first 100 overs of first innings

SHEFFIELD SHIELD PLACINGS AT END OF SEASONS 1892/93 - 2023/24

State	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seasons
New South Wales	47	26	23	12	8	6	122
Victoria	31	39	25	10	9	8	122
South Australia	14	22	35	13	22	16	122
Queensland	9	20	18	28	14	3	92
Western Australia	18	9	16	19	15	-	77
Tasmania	3	6	5	10	9	14	47

Victoria v New South Wales in Sheffield Shield cricket at the MCG.

Victoria has played New South Wales at the MCG 109 times, with 48 wins, 29 losses and 32 draws. NSW has won the toss 55 times to Victoria's 54.

The lowest innings score is NSW's 66 all out in the 1894/95 match, where rain caused substantial delays on each of the first three days, resulting in a soft wicket and saturated outfield.

The highest innings score between the teams on the MCG is Victoria's 1107 in the 1st innings of the 1926/27 season match 24, 27, 28 & 29 December, 1926.

New South Wales 221 (NE Phillips 52; AE Liddicut 4/50) **and 230** (A Jackson 59*; AEV Hartkopf 6/99, AE Liddicut 4/66) **lost to Victoria 1107** (WH Ponsford 352, J Ryder 295, WM Woodfull 133, HSTL Hendry 100, JLEllis 63, AEV Hartkopf 61; AA Mailey 4/362) **by an innings and 656 runs.**

Victoria's batsmen took only two days to compile the highest total in first-class cricket. The score progressed thus: lunch second day Victoria 0/132 Woodfull 50, Ponsford 75), tea 0/364 Woodfull 127, Ponsford 227), stumps 1/573 (Ponsford 334, Hendry 86); lunch third day 5/697 (Ryder 63, Hartkopf 15), tea 7/929 (Ryder 210, Ellis 2), stumps all out 1107. Woodfull (133 in 223 minutes, 7 4s, chance at 117) and Ponsford (352 in 363 minutes, 36 4s, chance at 265) began the innings with a 375 partnership. Hendry (100 in 117 minutes, seven 4s, chance at 6) and Ryder (295 in 245 minutes, six 6s and 33 4s, chances at 139 and 274) also scored centuries. Ponsford reached 100 in 125 minutes, 200 in 203 minutes, and 300 in 285 minutes while Ryder reached 100 in 115 minutes, 200 in 189 minutes. Hartkopf (61 in 94 minutes, six 4s) and Ellis (63 in 102 minutes, five 4s) assisted Ryder in pushing the total past 1000. Mailey conceded the greatest number of runs in an innings in a first-class match.

Ponsford's 352 and Ryder's 295 are the two highest individual scores in matches between the two states at the MCG. The other scores over 250 are: MA Noble's 281 for NSW in the 1st innings of the 1905/06 match; SB Smith's 263 for NSW in the 1982/83 match; AF Kippax's 260* for NSW in the 1928/29 match; and MS Harris' 250* for Victoria in the 2018/19 match.

Overall there have been 172 centuries in Victoria v NSW matches on the MCG, 81 by Victorians and 91 by New South Welshmen. The most recent was NJ Maddinson's 128 for Victoria in the 2021/22 match. PA Jaques of NSW is the only player to make a century in each innings of a Vic v NSW match at the MCG, when he scored 129 & 125 in the 2010/11 season match.

The best bowling figures in an innings of Vic v NSW matches on the MCG is WJ O'Reilly's 9/50 for NSW in the 2nd innings of the 1933/34 match. The only other nine wickets in an innings haul is WP Howell's 9/52 for NSW in 1902/03. The best figures by a Victorian is Hugh Trumble's 8/58 in the 1898/99 match.

Overall there are 145 "Five+ wickets in an innings" hauls in Vic v NSW matches on the MCG - 81 by Victorians and 64 by New South Welshmen. The most recent was by SM Boland, who took 5/56 in the 2nd innings of the 2021/22 match. LO'B Fleetwood-Smith has taken the most with six. WJ O'Reilly and WJ Holdsworth have the most for NSW with four. 16 players have taken 10 wickets in a match, six for Victoria and 10 for NSW. The most wickets in a match is 13, taken by AL Thompson for Victoria in the 1969/70 match. The most recent 10 wicket haul was by IW Callen for Victoria in the 1977/78 match.

The highest partnership in Vic v NSW Sheffield Shield matches on the MCG is WM Woodfull and WH Ponsford's 375 for the 1st wicket for Victoria in the 1926/27 match. The record partnership for NSW, and the only other over 300 runs is AF Kippax and JEH Hooker's remarkable 307 in the 1928/29 match, which remains the world record for the 10th wicket in first-class cricket. Coming together at 9/113 early on Christmas Day (the match was played on December 22, 24-27, 1928) with Kippax's score a mere 20 and the team in diabolical trouble, the pair made it through to lunch (9/170 Kippax 60, Hooker 18) and then tea (9/270 Kippax 145, Hooker 32) and they were still together when stumps were drawn with NSW 9/367. The great stand in which neither batsman offered a chance, finally came to an end after 45 minutes on the fourth day when Hooker drove a ball from a 'Beckett straight to Ryder at mid-off. Kippax scored 260* in 387 minutes, including 30 4s, while Hooker scored 62 in 304 minutes and three 4s. The match ended in a draw.

Fact Sheet research by MCC Library Volunteer Ross Perry assisted by David Allen. Edited by David Studham and Trevor Ruddell.

Sources consulted: Ray Webster's First-Class Cricket in Australia. Vol.1 & 2,

Wisden Cricketers' Almanac - various issues, www.cricketchive.co.uk

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