



CRICKET AUSTRALIA PLAYING CONDITIONS & ENFORCEMENT OPTIONS



ALL PARTICIPANTS NEED TO PLAY A ROLE IN KEEPING THEMSELVES AND OTHERS SAFE WHEN IT COMES TO COVID-19. BASED ON CONSULTATIONS WITH FEDERAL AND STATE MEDICAL OFFICIALS, THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF SPORT AND OUR INTERNAL CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER, CRICKET AUSTRALIA HAS TAKEN THE STANCE THAT PARTICIPANTS SHOULD NOT BE ABLE TO USE SALIVA AND/OR SWEAT TO SHINE THE BALL. THE RISK OF TRANSMISSION OF COVID-19 IS HIGHEST THROUGH SALIVA AND THIS MEASURE IS IN PLACE TO PROTECT ALL PARTICIPANTS AND UMPIRES. THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PARTICIPANTS, OFFICIALS AND VOLUNTEERS IS CRICKET AUSTRALIA'S PRIMARY OBJECTIVE.



1. PLAYING CONDITIONS RATIONALE

The following Playing Conditions and Enforcement Options have been developed to equip governing bodies, and match day officials, with a guidance framework on how to handle incidences where saliva and/or sweat has been placed on the ball. Whilst this guide provides steps for implementation during the match, clubs and associations must also consider how they will enforce and penalise those who breach these guidelines post-match play. These decisions can be made locally however we would encourage everyone to remember the seriousness of this pandemic and how lucky we are as a country and as a sport to be getting back to playing so soon.

These Playing Conditions and Enforcement Options are also accompanied by a Return to Play Practical Guidelines resource which provides further guidance for local Associations and Premier Cricket governing bodies on navigating a safe return to play for all participants. These guidelines are recommendations which can be directly implemented and/or adapted by local Associations and governing bodies. It should be noted that these practical guidelines have been developed to assist in a safe return to play and as a result their implementation may add additional time to matches. Local consideration needs to be given as to how best to accommodate the likely time delays resulting from ensuring playing conditions are safe for all participants, officials and volunteers.

2. PLAYING CONDITIONS

Playing Condition A: Sweat and/or Saliva Placed on the Ball

Suggested wording of playing condition

1. At no stage should any participant intentionally place sweat and/or saliva on the cricket ball for any purpose
2. The umpire(s) must monitor whether sweat and/or saliva is intentionally placed on the cricket ball for any purpose
3. The umpire(s) must not allow the match to continue during any period after which sweat and/or saliva has been deliberately placed on the cricket ball, without following the cleaning direction first

3. ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES

Enforcement Procedure A: Sweat and/or Saliva Unintentionally Placed on the Ball

Suggested wording of playing condition

1. If it is the opinion of the umpire(s) that sweat and/or saliva has been unintentionally placed on the ball, they may apply the following enforcement procedures:
 - a. The umpires(s) shall call time, if necessary
 - b. The umpire(s) shall summon and inform the offending player's captain of his/her unintentional breach of Playing Condition A
 - c. The umpire(s) may choose to enforce any one of the following penalties:
 - i. The umpire(s) shall deliver a first and final warning to the captain
 - ii. The umpire(s) shall award 5 penalty runs to the batting team
 - iii. The umpire(s), if they feel that health and safety has compromised to such an extent that play has become dangerous, may choose to abandon the match
 - d. The umpire(s) will direct the fielding captain to carry out the cleaning direction on the ball before resuming play

Enforcement Procedure B: Sweat and/or Saliva Intentionally Placed on the Ball

1. If it is the opinion of the umpire(s) that sweat and/or saliva has been intentionally placed on the ball, they may apply the following enforcement procedures:
 - a. The umpires(s) shall call time, if necessary
 - b. The umpire(s) shall summon and inform the offending player's captain of his/her intentional breach of Playing Condition A
 - c. The umpire(s) may choose to enforce any one of the following penalties:
 - i. The umpire(s) shall deliver a first and final warning to the captain
 - ii. The umpire(s) shall award 5 penalty runs to the batting team
 - iii. The umpire(s), if they feel that health and safety has been compromised to such an extent that play has become dangerous, may choose to abandon the match
 - d. The umpire(s) will direct the fielding captain to carry out the cleaning direction on the ball before resuming play
 - e. The umpire(s) shall, if they deem necessary, report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to the Executive of the offending player's team and to the Governing Body responsible for the match, who shall take such further action against the player, the captain, any other individuals concerned and, if appropriate, the team

4. DEFINITIONS

Intentional

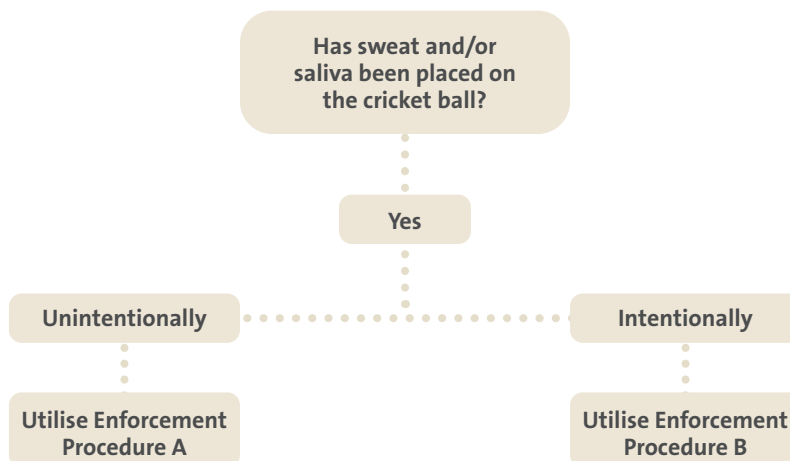
When a participant, aware of the playing conditions, willfully places saliva and/or sweat on the ball for the purpose of gaining an advantage in gameplay

Unintentional

When a participant accidentally places saliva and/or sweat on the ball with no underlying intention to gain advantage in gameplay. For example, if a fielder habitually licks his/her fingers before the ball is delivered as a matter of routine



5. DECISION FLOW CHART



6. OTHER GUIDANCE

Cleaning Direction

1. Every forty (40) minutes, play is to be stopped so that the ball can be cleaned with an antimicrobial wipe
2. At the same time, all participants and umpire(s) on the field should clean their hands with a suitable sanitiser
3. This routine should also be followed at the start of any drinks break, the fall of a wicket, close of an innings, any other breaks in the game (rain etc.) or immediately following any breaches resulting in Enforcement Procedures A – B
4. For all Senior Matches the responsibility of carrying out the cleaning of the ball will lie with the fielding captain. For all Junior Matches the cleaning of the ball is to be completed by the fielding team's coach or match manager
5. The person responsible for carrying out the cleaning must ensure they have cleaned their hands with a suitable sanitiser, and consider wearing disposable gloves whilst carrying out the cleaning
6. The umpire(s) are at no time to handle the ball

