



CRICKET AUSTRALIA RETURN TO PLAY PRACTICAL GUIDELINES



The following practical guidelines have been developed to assist local Associations and Premier Cricket governing bodies in providing safe guidelines to managing the game within their local area. They are recommendations which can be implemented in full or adapted by each Association as they see fit. Ultimately these guidelines are designed to provide support to the cricket community, however the ongoing advice provided by relevant government Chief Medical Officers and the Department of Health will be the ultimate authority on dealing with COVID-19 within each State and Territory.

Most State and Territory Governments are now beginning to communicate when and how they will look to reintroduce community sport activity within their jurisdictions. Typically starting with smaller groups training together, before progressing to competitive play and programs, as outlined within the Australian Government's 3 Step Framework for a COVIDSafe Australia, and the Australian Institute of Sport's Framework for Rebooting Sport. Each authority may ease restrictions based on their individual circumstances and a State by State approach towards returning to play is inevitable.

To do our part in the fight against COVID-19, Australian Cricket supports the Australian Government's COVIDSafe App and strongly encourages all members of the cricket community to get behind this initiative. The app can be downloaded from the App store and Google Play.

The following scenarios have been developed in response to a range of 'frequently asked questions' from stakeholders. These questions have stemmed from practical situations that are likely to arise throughout the upcoming season. In response, the practical guidelines provide a foundation from which Associations and Premier Cricket governing bodies can navigate a safe return to play for all participants.

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 lead to additional match time. 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.

This document may be amended in the future to accommodate unforeseen scenarios which may be raised by the cricket community.

CLEANING OF THE BALL

Every forty (40) minutes (or at a stoppage prior to the forty-minute mark i.e at a drinks break), play is to be stopped so that the ball can be cleaned with an antimicrobial alcohol-based wipe. This process is also to be completed at the fall of each wicket and during scheduled breaks in play. This is to be completed by the bowling team captain under the supervision of the umpire or Team coach or match manager for Junior Matches.

CHECKING THE CONDITION OF THE BALL

Should the umpire need to inspect the ball, the fielding captain should be instructed to present the ball to the umpire who will then visually inspect the condition of the ball. Should any repair work be required, or the umpire wishes to further inspect the shape of the ball, they may undertake this work personally. However, umpire(s) should wear gloves whilst completing any work on the ball and sanitise their hands immediately after completing the work on the ball.

PLACING OF THE BALL AT THE TAKING OF A WICKET OR END OF A SESSION

At the taking of a wicket, or at the end of a session/drinks break, the player who last fielded the ball will be responsible for placing it next to the stumps at the end of the pitch where the next ball/over will be bowled. At the conclusion of the session the fielding captain should place the ball in its original box (that the ball was in at the commencement of the match) and provide it to the umpire to maintain the integrity of the ball. Alternatively, the umpire may take possession of the ball for the purpose of placing it in its original box, however must be wearing gloves to do so.



TRANSFERRING THE BALL AT THE COMPLETION OF AN OVER TO A NEW BOWLER

At the completion of each over the fielder who fielded the ball last will be responsible for placing it next to the stumps at the end of the pitch where the next over will be bowled.

STORAGE OF EQUIPMENT DURING PLAY

Bowler fielding on the boundary

At the conclusion of the previous over, the new bowler must place their equipment, that would normally be provided to the umpire (hat, sunglasses, vest etc.), over the nearest boundary point to where they are currently fielding. The equipment can be collected by the individual at the completion of the over. The process can be repeated until the end of the bowler's spell. At no stage should the Umpire be required to hold/handle the players' equipment.

Bowler fielding in the infield

At the conclusion of the previous over, the new bowler, currently fielding in the infield, can undertake either of the following actions (whichever is the quickest option);

- Place their equipment, that would normally be provided to the umpire (hat, sunglasses, vest etc), on the ground directly behind the wicketkeeper (like a fielder's helmet). The bowler is responsible for the storage and collection of the material from this area. Should the ball strike this equipment during play, the ball shall be called dead, as normally this material would not be stored in this area;

or

- Place their equipment, that would normally be provided to the umpire (hat, sunglasses, vest etc), over the nearest boundary point to the end they are bowling from.

At no stage should the Umpire be required to hold/handle the players' equipment during the match.

Wicketkeeper/Fielders Helmet

No change from the normal playing conditions and laws of cricket around the storage of equipment on the field. However, everyone is responsible for the carrying of their own equipment to and from the normal storage position.

SETTING UP AND REMAKING OF THE STUMPS DURING PLAY

Each umpire shall be responsible for the maintenance of the set of stumps at their end of the pitch prior and during the match. Each umpire will be required to set up the stumps at their end at the commencement of play. Additionally, the responsible umpire will be the only person allowed to remake the stumps during play. Where only one (1) umpire is appointed they shall be responsible for both sets of stumps.

At the conclusion of each session the umpire shall be responsible for wiping down the stumps and bails with an antimicrobial wipe.



SCORING MATCHES

It is recommended that scoring is completed by e-scoring via an individual tablet. The designated scorer should ideally be the only user of that device and will be responsible for uploading the data, either live or at the conclusion of the match. Should another user be required to score, the device must be sanitised prior to the next user operating the device.

Should a paper scorebook be required, to minimise additional contact there should ideally be only one-person utilising the book throughout the duration of the match. Should someone else be required to score, that person should supply their own pen. If another pen isn't available, the original pen must be sanitised prior to the next scorer using it. Umpires will not be required to physically handle the book but will verify the details visually.

Scorers should adhere to physical distancing requirements (1.5m apart) at all times when undertaking their duties. To facilitate this requirement, two separate tables should be set up, one for each scorer, as a single table will not ensure physical distancing parameters.

TEAM SHEETS AND COIN TOSS

At the coin toss, each Umpire and both Captains must maintain physical distancing requirements (1.5m) with the Umpire to supply their own coin and be responsible for the toss of the coin.

As another parameter to minimise possible contact points, physical team sheets should not be used. The team sheets should be uploaded into the MyCricket system with the umpires and opposing captains to sight the digital copy of the team sheet.

MATCHES IMPACTED BY COVID-19

Given the current climate facing the Australian community there may be instances where matches are impacted by either a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19. Each State and Territory Chief Medical Officer will be able to provide specifics relating to testing and quarantine protocols in your relative State or Territory. However, given this situation is external to cricket, and often no fault can be attributed to participants who are suspected of having or have a confirmed case of COVID-19, it would be recommended that any match impacted by COVID-19 would be determined as a draw.

PLAYER & STAFF COVID-19 ETIQUETTE FOR TRAINING & MATCHES

Get in, Train, Get out

- Shower at home before you arrive and shower at home immediately after training. Avoid showering at the cricket facility unless required (e.g. live a long way from the facility)

Do not stay around to socialise after training or match

Regularly use alcohol-based hand sanitiser, especially after touching any equipment

- Hand sanitiser should be available at the cricket facility but players and volunteers are encouraged to carry their own hand sanitiser with them

Do not share products or equipment including

- Drinks, towels, lip balm, sunscreen, chewing gum, lollies, cricket bats, gloves, pads

No physical contact

- Do not shake hands, high-five to greet, congratulate etc.
- Maintain physical distance where possible (minimum 1.5m space)
- Do not engage in a team huddle (maintain 1.5m space)



Food & Drink

- Bring your own drink bottle – preferably a disposable bottle
- Bring your own food and snacks – sealed and pre-packaged only
- Do not share food

Transport

- Drive in where possible
- Do not carpool with other players or staff unless you live with them
- Do not use public transport unless absolutely necessary

Training etiquette

- Do not use saliva or sweat to polish the ball.
- Do not lick your fingers
- Do not high five or shake hands
- Avoid spitting or clearing your nasal secretions
- Maintain a physical distance > 1.5m where possible
- Do not share towels
- Bring your own drink

Cricket Equipment

- Do not share cricket equipment
- Batting gloves
 - Do not share batting gloves
 - Use of inner gloves should be used where possible and washed in >60 degrees Celsius after each training session
 - Clean gloves with alcohol-based wipes after each training session
 - After each training session, do not use the same gloves for 3 days
- Bats
 - Do not share cricket bats
- Batting Pads (leg, thigh, chest) & Groin Protectors
 - Do not share batting pads
 - Clean with alcohol-based wipes after each training session
- Catching (Baseball) Gloves
 - Do not share catching (baseball) gloves
 - Players and staff should have their own catching gloves – clean them post-training with alcohol-based wipes and take them home with them
- Wicket-keeping Gloves
 - Do not share (wicket-keeping) gloves
 - Players should have their own keeping gloves – clean them post-training with alcohol-based wipes and take them home with them
 - Inner gloves should be used and washed in >60 degrees Celsius after each training

Cricket Balls

- Do not use saliva or sweat to polish or clean the ball
- Do not share balls at training unless absolutely necessary (e.g. fielding)
- After training, players must clean the balls they used with alcohol-based wipes and take them home with them. They must bring the balls back for the next training session and use them (do not share)
- Any balls that are shared at training (e.g. group fielding), should be cleaned with alcohol-based wipes and left in a container. The balls should be NOT be used again for 3 days
- Batters should not pick up the ball to return them to the bowler (use the bat)
- Coaches or other staff should not handle the balls unless they are involved in the training session (e.g. fielding)

Laundry

- All training clothes should be removed as soon as possible on returning home and machine washed at >60 degrees Celsius

