

WA PREMIER CRICKET

COVID-19 Policy

Version 3



The following policy has been developed to assist Premier Cricket Clubs safely manage the sport within their clubs as well as setting out particular rules that will apply within Premier Cricket competitions during the year. This policy outlines both:

1. the requirements which must be implemented in full by each Premier Club throughout the season and followed by Premier Clubs; and
2. guidelines on other matters which should be implemented.

Ultimately this policy is 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 and so this policy may be updated from time to time.

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 Premier Cricket can navigate a safe return to play for all participants.

This document may be amended in the future to accommodate unforeseen scenarios which may be raised or as per the latest Cricket Australia, State or Federal Government and/or Health Department guidelines.

PART 1 – RECOMMENDATIONS AROUND TRAINING AND MATCH DAY EXPERIENCE

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

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

Avoid sharing products or equipment including

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

Avoid 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)
- Do not spit or clear nasal passages

Food & Drink

- Bring your own drink bottle – preferably a disposable bottle
- Do not share food

Morning/Afternoon Teas

- Adhere to WA Government COVID Safety Plan for Food Businesses & Licenced Premises' Hygiene Requirements.
- All food handlers should wear gloves while preparing & serving food at all times.

Drinks Breaks

- There should be no sharing of cups for drinks breaks. Individual bottles or disposable cups only, shall be used for drinks (all cups must be disposed after single use). Preferably teams should bring their own drink bottles which should be brought out at drinks breaks.
- All drinks handlers should wear gloves at all times during preparation & serving of

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drinks.

- There should be no sharing of open lolly bags or fruit boxes etc.

Training

- Do not use saliva or sweat to polish the ball.
- Do not lick your fingers
- Avoid physical contact including high fives or shaking hands
- Do not spit or clear your nasal secretions unless done safely in a bathroom/toilet
- Maintain physical distance > 1.5m where possible
- Do not share towels
- Bring your own drinks

Cricket Equipment Recommendations

- Do not share cricket equipment (batting, wicket keeping, etc.)
- Use of inner gloves should be used under keeping gloves and batting gloves where possible and washed in >60 degrees Celsius after each training session and match use;
- Clean gloves with alcohol-based wipes after each training session & match day
- Clean pad clads with alcohol-based wipes after each training session/match day and washed in >60 degrees Celsius after each training /match play
- After each training session, it is recommended that a set of batting gloves not be used for 3 days.
- Clean equipment with alcohol-based wipes after each training session & match day
- Do not share catching (baseball) gloves
- Players and staff should have their own catching gloves – clean them post-training with alcohol-based wipes.
- Do not share (wicket-keeping) gloves
- Players should have their own keeping gloves – clean them post-training/match play with alcohol-based wipes.

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.
- Any balls that are shared at training (e.g. group fielding), should be cleaned with alcohol-based wipes and left in a container.
- Coaches or other staff should not handle the balls unless they are involved in the training session (e.g. fielding).

PART 2 – ON-FIELD MATCH DAY REGULATIONS

Cleaning of the ball

The match ball must be sanitised under the supervision of umpire(s) at every scheduled interval in play (drinks, lunch, tea etc.) with an antibacterial/antimicrobial alcohol-based wipe, to be provided by the home club. This is to be completed by the bowling team captain under the supervision of the umpire(s).

Should there be an instance of the ball being contaminated by sweat or saliva or coming into contact with a spectator/person not involved in the game, play must be stopped and the ball cleaned with an antibacterial/antimicrobial alcohol-based wipe, to be provided by the home club. This is to be completed by the bowling team captain under the supervision of the umpire(s).

Checking the Condition of the Ball

Should the umpire(s) need to inspect the ball, assess the shape of the ball or conduct any repair work, they may do so personally. However, umpire(s) may wear gloves should they wish whilst completing any work on the ball and sanitise their hands at the next scheduled break in play.

Placing of the ball at the taking of a wicket or end of a session

At the start of play, taking of a wicket, or at the end of a session/drinks break, the umpires shall take possession of the ball as per Laws of Cricket. At the conclusion an innings or a day's play, the umpire shall retain the ball to maintain its integrity as required by relevant laws & playing conditions. The umpire may wear gloves for any handling of the ball should they wish to do so.

Transferring the ball at the completion of an over to a new bowler

At the completion of each over, the ball shall be transferred to the umpire(s) should they wish to inspect it, any relevant fielders for maintenance or the bowler bowling the next over as per normal cricket etiquette.

Storage of equipment during play

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 or directly behind the wicket keeper (like a fielder's helmet) 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 hold/handle the players' equipment.

If the equipment is placed on the field and the ball strikes this equipment during play, the ball shall be called dead, as normally this material would not be stored in this area. Any completed runs and the run-in progress (if batters have crossed) prior to the ball striking the equipment shall be credited to the score and the ball shall count as one in the over.

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 (i.e. a fielder should not be carrying a wicketkeepers helmet (the wicketkeeper must carry it) , the wicketkeeper should not be carrying a fielder's helmet (the relevant fielder should carry it)).

Setting up and remaking of the stumps during play

The home club must wipe down all stumps & bails before setting them up for the match or providing them to the umpires for setting up. Each umpire shall be responsible for the maintenance of the set of stumps at their end of the pitch prior and during the match. 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 day's play, the umpire shall be responsible for wiping down the stumps and bails with an alcohol-based wipe provided by the home club.

Scoring Matches (Recommendations)

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, with the away captain to make a call. Alternatively, the home team captain may choose to bring their own coin, in which case, they'll toss 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 affected by COVID-19

Given the current climate facing the Australian community there may be instances where matches are affected by either a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19. WA Chief Medical Officer's advice around specifics relating to testing and quarantine protocols shall be complied with, and all confirmed/suspected cases reported to the WA Health Department and the Cricket Operations Unit.

Any participant (or potential participant) in a game (player/official) shall not participate in a match if they have undergone a COVID-19 test during the week (7 days) prior to the day's play and is awaiting their result (or has tested positive to that COVID-19 test) and must not attend the match/venue in any capacity. If a participant develops any symptoms outside of match participation, the person must not attend training or match day and the club officials along with the Cricket Operations Unit must be informed immediately.

However, given this situation is external to cricket, and often no fault can be attributed to participants who have a confirmed case of COVID-19, any match affected by a confirmed case of COVID-19 whereby:

- a participant involved on day 1 of a match returns a positive COVID-19 test between day 1 and day 2 of a match and is not permitted to participate on day 2 of the match;

must be abandoned immediately and the result determined as a draw (sharing of equal points).

In situations where there are participants who are reasonably suspected of having a case of COVID-19, whereby:

- a participant involved on day 1 of a match is reasonably suspected after day 1 of having a case of COVID-19, undergoes a COVID-19 test and is not permitted to participate on day 2 of the match;

play must be abandoned immediately with result to be determined by the Cricket Operations Unit after a review into circumstances surrounding the case.

PART 3 – IN-GAME APPLICATION AND PENALTIES

While there has been no change to any Premier Cricket General Rules or Playing Conditions Annexures, the following playing conditions & enforcement procedures shall be implemented by all match officials in line with adherence of all policy items contained within this document.

The following playing conditions shall apply in relation to COVID-19 policy at all times:

Sweat and/or Saliva Placed on the Ball

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 first following the cleaning direction (as outlined above).

Enforcement Procedures

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

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 inform the offending player's captain of his/her unintentional breach of the COVID-19 Policy.
- c. The umpire(s) shall enforce the following penalties:
 - i. The umpire(s) shall deliver a first and final warning to the captain, advising that any further instance intentional/unintentional will result in a 5 runs penalty to the batting team.
- 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), if they feel that the condition of the ball has been compromised to such an extent that play has become dangerous, then they may choose to replace the ball with one of a similar condition of wear & tear.

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

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 umpire(s) shall call time, if necessary
- b. The umpire(s) shall inform the offending player's captain of his/her intentional breach of the COVID-19 Policy.
- c. The umpire(s) shall enforce any one of the following penalties:
 - i. The umpire(s) shall award 5 penalty runs to the batting team
 - ii. The umpire(s), if they feel (acting reasonably) that health and safety has been compromised to such an extent that play has become dangerous, may choose to abandon the match (unless the procedures in paragraph e below can be safely utilised).
- d. Unless the match has been abandoned under cii above the umpire(s) will direct the fielding captain to carry out the cleaning direction on the ball before resuming play.
- e. The umpire(s), if they feel that the condition of the ball has been compromised to such an extent that play has become dangerous, then they may choose to replace the ball with one of a similar condition of wear & tear.
- f. If there is a second or further instance of a repeat offence of intentional placement of saliva/sweat on the ball by any member of the fielding team, the offending player(s) involved in the repeat instance shall be removed from the field and shall not take any further part in play for the rest of the match and penalties specified in part ci above shall apply for each instance.
- g. The umpire(s) shall report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to the Cricket Operations Unit, who shall take such further action against the player, the captain, any other individuals concerned and, if appropriate, the team under the relevant General Rules of the Competition.

4. Definitions

Intentional

When a participant, aware of the playing conditions, wilfully 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.

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