



## **SUGGESTED SPECIAL MEASURES FOR CLUBS AND COMMUNITY TEAMS FOR NON-COMPLIANCE OF COVID-19 UK GOVERNMENT AND/OR ECB GUIDANCE**

### **PURPOSE OF THE PAPER**

To provide County Cricket Boards (CCBs) Leagues and Competition Organisers with suggestions of action they can take against clubs who fail to comply with government and/or ECB guidance on the return to recreational sport and cricket.

### **SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE**

The ECB worked collaboratively with Sport England and the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to put in place guidance to try to ensure the safety of those involved in the return to recreational cricket.

During the pandemic, the ECB has been working to three principles

1. Public and Workforce Safety
2. Support the Cricket Network
3. Working in Partnership

Since returning to cricket under Step 4 of ECB Guidance the vast majority of clubs and teams appear to have been operating within the guidance. While not all clubs had everything on the field in place in Week 1 (11 July) many adjusted their operations having learned good practice from CCBs, Leagues and opposition. It is deemed essential to continue the drive of adherence to the guidance. To achieve observance of the guidance, CCBs, Leagues and Competition Organisers can assist to ensure that a minority of clubs do not bring a cessation of cricket for others.

It is evident that a few clubs and teams have pushed, and in some cases, overstepped the boundary. The result is that those operating outside of essential parts of the guidance need to be brought back into 'safe operation' quickly.

### **Recommendation**

Breaches of UK Government Guidance and/or ECB Step 4 Return to Cricket Guidance listed on the COVID-19 Plan for Junior and Open Age Cricket, see below, will result in the following action:

- A first and final warning to be issued to club and/or community team to 'cease and desist' any operations that are outside of guidance within 48hrs of the notification of breach.
- The advice contained within the communication to the club and/or team is to be that, fast-acting 'Special Measures' will be implemented with immediate effect following a second breach of Guidance.

Special measures will allow:

- CCBs to decide upon the type of support, see below, that will potentially be lost by the club or team not immediately addressing the reported issue/s.
- Leagues, affiliated to CCBs, or to the National Cricket Conference via National Asian Cricket Council, to use powers invested in them by member clubs to deliver fair and proportionate sanctions club or community team not immediately addressing the reported issue/s.

### **Specific Areas of Breach**

All breaches listed on the COVID-19 Plan for Junior and Open Age Cricket and other specific breaches such as spectators throwing the ball back into play, players breaking quarantine rules and other UK Government Guidance not explicitly listed on the COVID-19 plan should also be acted upon by issuing a first and final warning letter and if a second breach will result in action.

### **Reporting**

In these extreme times it is reasonable to expect that a CCB, League or Competition Organiser will accept a report from anyone involved in cricket and from a member of the public.

### **Recording**

It is expected that a CCB, League or Competition Organiser will keep a record of date, time, event and action taken.

## **MEASURES FOR CONSIDERATION, IN COLLABORATION WITH COUNTY CRICKET BOARDS, FOLLOWING A SECOND BREACH**

### **For Leagues & Competition Organisers:**

Fair and proportionate use of their existing powers might include:

- Immediate suspension from all fixtures for individual teams or whole club
- Immediate suspension from 'Home' fixtures for individual teams or whole club
- Player suspensions
- Club fines
- Points deductions from the current competition season

### **For County Boards**

- Support to achieve Clubmark Accreditation
- Support for Club Development Planning
- Advocacy for club Coaches & Officials for access to courses
- Access to tickets, merchandise, guard of honour opportunities from the First-Class County (or neighbouring county)
- Entry into future County based Junior Competitions
- Entry in future County based Open Age Competitions

The recommended method of delivering these sanctions is that the club, even if part of a multi-sport facility, agrees to a self-imposed sanction which is accepted by the County Cricket Board or League. In the event of a club not taking responsibility and not voluntarily agreeing to a penalty/sanction the County Cricket Board, League or Competition Organiser is expected to provide a fair and proportionate sanction without a tariff discount normally reserved for clubs taking immediate action.



# COVID-19 PLAN FOR JUNIOR & OPEN-AGE CRICKET

APPLICABLE TO PLAYERS, VOLUNTEERS, SPECTATORS, PARENTS, CLUBS, COACHES & OFFICIALS IN ENGLAND



This document provides measures that should be taken by players, clubs, and officials before, during and after all cricket activity. The document should be read in conjunction with latest UK Government guidance and if required, the full ECB Return to Cricket Plan for Step 4.

For all activity, UK Government social distancing guidance should be adhered to at all times. This document refers to current **plan for England** and could change in response to the current COVID-19 Alert Level or other UK Government advice.



## BEFORE ACTIVITY

- Check for symptoms of COVID-19. If you are symptomatic and/or living in a household with a possible COVID-19 infection you should remain at home and follow UK Government guidance.
- Follow UK Government guidance on shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19 if it applies to you.
- Personal hygiene measures should be carried out at home before and after cricket activity.
- Bring your own hand sanitiser where possible and practice strong hand hygiene at all times.
- Follow UK Government guidance on public transport or car sharing.
- Use of the clubhouse, changing rooms and toilets should adhere to the latest UK Government advice.
- For advice on reducing the risk of infection when outside your home please visit the 'Staying Safe Outside Your Home' pages on gov.uk.
- Club representatives should ensure that the facility is compliant with current UK Government legislation including legislation and guidance related to COVID-19. A risk assessment should have been completed and risk mitigation measures put in place and monitored.
- During all cricket, an attendance register is required with which includes contact details for contact tracing if required.
- Any participants who have been asked to isolate by NHS Test and Trace must not exercise outside of their own home or garden and must not exercise with others.
- Clubs should strictly limit the time spent congregating at a venue before activity begins. Meet-up times should reflect this. Participants should arrive changed and ready to begin if possible.



## DURING ACTIVITY

- Groups limited to a maximum of 30 participants, including coaches and/or officials. Junior training should be split into groups of up to 15 children.
  - Participants enter the site and prepare whilst maintaining social distancing.
  - Limit the sharing of equipment, but if you do share, practise strict hand hygiene.
  - No sweat or saliva is to be applied to the ball at any time.
  - Hand sanitizer to be used at all breaks in activity and prior to any food or drinks.
  - Cricket activity must take place outdoors only.
- Additional advice for match-play:**
- Players to remain socially distanced at all times (wicket keepers & slip fielders at 1m+).
  - Umpires are not to handle the ball at any point of the game, leaving it at the stumps during breaks.
  - Batters to clean their bat when leaving the field of play.
  - A 'hygiene break' should take place every six overs or every 20 minutes and should include hand sanitisation and the cleaning of the ball.
  - Bowlers should not hand anything to the umpire.
  - Only one official allowed inside the scorers' box.
  - Social distancing must always be maintained including during celebrations and breaks.
  - The ball must be immediately returned to the bowler, not passed between players.
  - Batters are to run in distinct running lines to ensure they are not within 2m of the bowler or other batter. Lanes to be marked on the square.
  - In line with current UK Government guidance, clubs should not prepare food for participants. Individuals should bring their own food and drink for 'teas' or practice. Water bottles or other refreshment containers should not be shared.



## AFTER ACTIVITY

- Participants should exit whilst maintaining social distancing.
- Social gathering after the activity is allowed in line with current UK Government guidelines on hospitality.
- One club representative/volunteer should be responsible for collecting and disinfecting shared equipment.
- Regular cleaning of equipment and the facility should take place, particularly between one group finishing, and the next group starting.
- Clubs should encourage all participants to report any infection of their household to the NHS Test and Trace system following use of the facility to limit the spread of the virus.