

CRICKET VICTORIA WEEKLY COVID-19 UPDATE (Sept 7-11)

1. Education

- a. As part of the Club Development Series we had over 570 clubs attend one of the four COVID-19 clubs webinars and around 140 attend the Associations webinars. We also separately had over 100 attend one of the two x LGA sessions. The Association & club sessions can be re-watched via the [club support section of the CV website](#). Feedback from all attendees has been overwhelmingly positive.

2. Match Day protocols

- a. The several page version from Cricket Australia has been adjusted (following Peak Body feedback) to a single sheet (2 pages) to suit Victorian requirements that can be edited by Associations with their logo / contact details added and included within the new editable Plan to ensure all resources are contained within the one resource

3. Resource

- a. The existing CV Return to Train & Play document (which remains accurate under current guidelines) has been tweaked with the confirmed end date (Sept 13) added and remains accessible on the CV home page
- b. The w.i.p. draft of an editable version has been developed and is being reviewed. The aim is to have the pdf version of this up on the CV website by Wednesday next week. The editable word version would be circulated at the same time for Associations to endorse as their plan and finalise their 2 page match day protocols - and potentially their QR codes (or leave this to clubs to develop) - and for clubs to edit & endorse the plan as their club plan. These should be shared widely

4. Further education

- a. We plan to run more webinars for each of the following groups (Associations, Clubs, LGAs & also Umpires). The umpires will be a single session, but others will be separated by Metro & Country sessions

5. Training & Playing Dates

a. Metro & Regional:

- i. Associations should continue to speak to local councils & clubs to work through options based on the [relevant roadmap](#) dates.
- ii. It is recommended that approx. 3 weeks be allowed for training before matches commence – to allow test COVID-19 protocols and to get in some decent bowling loads for bowlers to reduce the likelihood of injury – but we appreciate that the priority will be to start matches asap
- iii. One Day or T20 games are recommended for the entire season including finals for the following reasons:
 1. allows more games to be finished should a COVID-19 third wave hit;
 2. avoids added complexity of potentially shutting down a match (or entire round) mid match (after day 1 but before day 2) where one or more players are impacted by COVID-19. The added complexity may increase as the season gets closer to finals and draws affect finals;
 3. top order batters get to bat more often and key bowlers get to bowl more often – instead of the traditional situation of sitting around for a week waiting then getting washed out next week – even more relevant if the season is shortened by COVID-19 or weather; &

4. we are moving in to a more likely “*La Nina*” style weather patterns for this summer which typically see increased rainfall & cooler daytime temperatures - but a shift in temperature extremes. No great for maximising the number of cricket matches played!
- iv. Finals should finish on grounds shared by winter codes by the end of March at the latest (before Easter) to allow winter sports to commence from April 2021 given their season long loss in 2020. Only Premier Cricket finals should be earmarked for using some shared used grounds in April due to this being the Premier comp in Victoria and impacting limited shared grounds

b. **Regional specific:**

- i. **Actual:** No training & playing now - but allowed as soon as we hit ‘step 3’ for Regional Victoria based on the regional roadmap. This could be announced by the Premier inside the next week or so subject to case numbers
- ii. **Recommendation:** If affected councils & clubs are supportive (and appreciating turf may be later if pitches aren’t ready in time), currently earmark an October 17 start to allow adequate time to bed down COVID-19 protocols for clubs to return to train for a few weeks and perhaps a practice match on October 10 to test match day protocols before a round one start.

c. **Metro specific:**

- i. **Actual:** No training & playing now - but allowed for all age groups as soon as we hit ‘step 3’ for metro areas based on the metro roadmap (not before October 26 at the earliest).
- ii. **Recommendation:** If affected councils & clubs are supportive, currently earmark November 14 for round one. This allows close to 3 weeks for training after restrictions ease from October 26 and taking into account Melbourne Cup Day and potential for an intra-club (or near rival) practice match on Nov 7 to test COVID-19 protocols.

6. **Outstanding matters**

- a. We remain keen to hear back from the State Government asap on the following:
 - i. Clarity on when training can resume in Melbourne & any group size level (noting regional could open up in the next week or so);
 - ii. Clarity on when turf wickets can be prepared;
 - iii. Request for equipment sharing to be allowed in Victoria (currently banned under CA protocols); &
 - iv. Clarity to ensure that the current ‘outdoor fitness’ limit of 10 for ‘exercise / recreation’ will not impact cricket match team numbers. We currently expect ‘normal’ team numbers for sport will be ok – but clarity is being sought

N.B.: No State Government decisions have been reached on these items yet

7. **Current planned actions for CV next week**

- a. Continue to keep abreast of any changes to the State Government position as it relates to sport / cricket – including the above outstanding matters
- b. Finalise version one of the editable plans, upload the CV pdf and circulate the editable word versions
- c. Set up dates for further webinars to be held from the week commencing Monday 21st

Prepared by Paul Milo (CV Head of Member Services) – 11/9/2020