

## CRICKET VICTORIA COVID-19 UPDATE (March 15, 2020)

### COVID-19 ADVICE

Dear all,

As you are all aware, the public health challenges involved in containing the spread of COVID-19 Coronavirus and reducing the impact on Victoria's health system are changing daily and often hourly.

With the nature of the public health advice sometimes varying between authorities, we suggest clubs exercise full caution and avoid unnecessary risks in the management of their clubs, players and volunteers.

Cricket Victoria has fielded numerous questions in the last 24 hours in respect to what happens if a player from a club tests positive to the COVID-19 virus and our advice is consistent with the Federal Government's recommendations.

In that instance, the player needs to immediately self-isolate and any players with whom the player has been in close contact with need to do the same. If in doubt, we recommend contacting your GP to arrange testing and confirmation of a positive or negative result.

Where there is doubt, social-isolation is best way to reduce the risk of transmission until you receive medical advice and/or testing. The Federal Government has also set up a hotline to support enquiries: 1800 675 398.

Working from home is recommended for businesses/organisations for whom this is possible.

From a cricket perspective, the more clubs can do to limit player-to-player interactions at training, the better. We recommend either postponing training or arranging separate sessions if more than one team is left in the finals campaign or reducing the number of players who train at the same time.

Cricket Victoria is currently considering a range of scenarios in terms of the impact on games, in the event that a confirmed COVID-19 case affects the completion of a match or even a club's ability to field a team for an upcoming match.

Our primary objective is to support the public health measures and – where possible – complete the finals series. This remains a very dynamic environment and we need to be prepared to respond to change and new measures if they are introduced.

There is a planned meeting of the National Premier Cricket working group tomorrow to discuss and consider scenarios across Australian Cricket. Within Victorian Cricket, we are formulating our own recommendations to share and discuss soon.

Our current advice is as follows:

1. If any player tests positive to COVID-19 at any stage, the player must immediately self-isolate and any teammates who have been in close contact with the individual should self-isolate and arrange testing with their GP. In the event the match cannot continue, the team which finished higher on the ladder at the end of the home and away game will be declared the winner.
2. Following the completion of matches this weekend, clubs are advised to attempt to restrict social interaction between players moving forward. The most effective means of preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus during the week would be to cancel training session. Clubs can choose to minimise the numbers of players training at the same time, separating teams in the event you have multiple teams progressing through the finals and encouraging training in small groups only.
3. If a Club has multiple teams progressing through the finals series and is impacted to the extent they cannot field teams then Cricket Victoria will consider abandoning the finals series of the impacted grades. We are still considering whether to identify a Premiership team in this instance or simply abandon the final result. We will assess and liaise with other States on their plans before finalising our position.

Please note these recommendations may be subject to change or further updates from the Federal or Victorian State Government. The CV Board reserves the right to change its position at any stage - in part to protect the health of players and officials and also to be proactive in reducing the risk of person-to-person transmission of the illness.

For the latest advice and further information please visit:

**Victorian Department of Health and Human Services website**

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorian-public-coronavirus-disease-covid-19>

**Federal Health Department website**

<https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>

*Prepared by Paul Milo (Head of Member Services) – 15/03/2020*