

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

As you may be aware, the Federal Government provided an announcement yesterday on the AusSport website about COVID-19 and the impact on community sport. The below message from Cricket Australia to State/Territory staff within the past hour explains the cricket position well should you take further calls on the back of the attached guideline release.

This message will help Associations who have made the recommended call to cancel and possibly help you respond to those still keen to pursue – which we know is a small & reducing number still currently planning to play despite the increased risk exposure to their Association, clubs and players by doing so.

Feel free to on-forward this or simply retain this on should have any questions coming your way.

Minister for Sport issues COVID-19 guidelines for community sport

Yesterday the Federal Minister for Sport issued COVID-19 guidelines for community sport. You can view them on the Sport Australia website [here](#) or they are attached to this email.

You'll note that these guidelines do not advise for blanket cancellation, which is the position we communicated in our aligned releases across Australian Cricket yesterday. Whilst the government guidelines do reinforce our approach that all community sport must play a role to help reduce the spread of COVID-19, they advise that "essential" participants can still participate in activity provided that there are fairly substantial hygiene & social distancing measures in place. There is a mention in the guidelines of not proceeding with "inter-district" and "inter-club" competitions – without further context/interpretation, this would suggest that most mainstream community sport is advised not to continue.

Australian Cricket remains committed to the leadership position we have taken. Our recommendation was based on the strong advice from CA's Chief Medical Officer, John Orchard, and in consultation with government. This included consulting the government's Deputy Chief Medical Officer. Today we have updated the [COVID-19 FAQs](#) on the Community Cricket website to reflect in more detail some of John Orchard's advice. These FAQs have already received over 25,000 views in the last 24 hours.

Acknowledging that this government announcement may lead to questions from your local stakeholders when comparing to our approach, here are some key messages to keep in mind when responding:

- *We have put the health and wellbeing of our players, volunteers, their families and the broader community first. As Tim Paine said on [social media](#), "this is bigger than us, bigger than the game of cricket".*
- *The social distancing and hygiene measures that are required to be in place to reduce risk are very difficult for voluntary run clubs & associations to implement effectively.*
- *Many of cricket's volunteers (administrators, umpires, team managers) are part of older age groups that are at higher risk if they contract COVID-19 and should be staying away from public gatherings.*

Our approach is consistent with other major participation sports, including AFL, rugby & rugby league.

Let me know if you any questions, but in reality nothing has changed. Technically sport can continue, however Cricket (& other sports) have taken a strong leadership position that we are not shying away from.

The next related note on this you will receive will be awareness of the Premier Cricket decisions re: Premiers to help any Associations struggling to work through their own rules to make a call.

Thanks for all your efforts in dealing with this unprecedented situation that nobody in cricket at any level wants to see affecting our communities. It is clearly an unfortunate end to what has been a challenging season. Bring on 2020/21!

Prepared by Paul Milo (Head of Member Services) – 19/03/2020