

CRICKET VICTORIA WEEKLY COVID-19 UPDATE (Oct 2 – Oct 9)

1. Key CV actions over the past week

- i. Continue to keep abreast of any changes to the State Government position as it relates to sport / cricket
- ii. New questions added to the [CV website FAQs](#) (school access, practice matches)
- iii. New resources added (see below)
- iv. Ran 2 x umpires webinars (close to 400 attendees) – uploaded on CV website now
- v. Set up coaches webinar (Wed 14th – estimate of 400+ attendees)
- vi. Update Peak Bodies and respond to various Assoc / club queries as they arise
- vii. Commence early draft of VERSION 3 Plans for expected release late October

2. New information over the past week

i. School access

Through ongoing support from SRV and the Department of Education & Training, the initial direction for no community access to facilities for Term 4 has been relaxed to enable schools to consider access as follows – *“Schools may approve use of outdoor facilities on school property such as ovals if the use aligns with DHHS advice for the relevant activity. Use must be out of school hours. Any toilets must be cleaned before the next school day”*.

A great result for community sports like cricket, but ultimately the advice hasn't changed, clubs need to work closely with their schools. 7 key questions clubs should ask are covered in the new [FAQ](#) under the General heading on the CV site.

ii. Clarity re: masks for umpires

On our behalf, SRV has sought specific clarity from DHHS in respect to the need for cricket umpires to wear a mask. The DHHS position is clear that cricket umpiring does not meet the various reasons for a broad-based exemption – noting some umpires may personally meet the exemption test. Whilst CV acknowledge that many umpires would prefer to not wear a mask for various reasons, CV fully support the DHHS position. Ultimately DHHS set the COVID-19 direction for the state, SRV help to ensure clarity for sport from the DHHS position and CV seeks to ensure clarity for cricket. The pandemic rules set down are to protect people involved in cricket (including umpires) but also the wider community. As will be case with most current restrictions, these are subject to change as the pandemic situation changes and CV will monitor any change to this DHHS position.

3. Webinars this week

The 2 x Umpires webinars on Wednesday 7th were very well attended and key match day information was covered. Key questions related to – masks use, frequency of breaks, re-setting stumps protocols, sweat/saliva monitoring, placement of bowler cap/jumper etc.

The 45 minute sessions has been uploaded on the CV website now - [webinar section](#).

4. New resources available on the CV website

[Player commitment poster](#)

An optional resource for clubs to help players understand the key do's & don'ts. Clubs could ask players to add their name or even print, sign & return the document. Display on training nights may also help

[WWCB – recommended start dates](#)

- Initial awareness about new free product offering 'Woolworths Anywhere Cricket Blast'
- CV recommended start dates position statement for WWCB (Feb 6) & rationale

5. State Government support

CV acknowledge the passion that exists at community level for the season to get up and running and ideal preference from all that the cricket season looks as 'normal' as possible. Most cricket representatives that we have spoken to also acknowledge the principle that 'Cricket in a pandemic is a privilege – not a right', it will look different to normal and we need to do everything possible to return and complete the season.

The State Government has been fantastic in helping all sports navigate the complexity of returning during a pandemic and they appreciate the enormous benefits of community sport – social connection, physical exercise, mental health benefits etc. Cricket Victoria will continue to ask questions / seek clarity from the State Government but will continue to fully support the 'umpires' decision. It would be appreciated if Peak Bodies could ask their Associations, Clubs & members to remember the vital role that Government at all levels (Federal, State & Local) play and work with us (not against us) in avoiding being critical of State Government decisions that are designed to help cricket return safely during a pandemic.

6. Ongoing current advocacy / clarity being sought by CV from State Government

- i. Group sizes for training in "Step 3" (currently 10 - ideally 11+)
- ii. Space between groups per oval (currently 2 plus net group - ideally 4 + 'net' group)
- iii. When wicket tables can officially commence preparation in Melbourne (& permit solution for club based volunteers).

N.B.: Many Melbourne based councils are already preparing practice wickets in preparation for potential cricket training from October 20 onwards in line with the following wording set out by [DHHS for permitted work](#) to commence – "Essential maintenance for safety and upkeep of public and recreational spaces, such as parks, gardens, golf courses"

- iv. Clarity of whether a paid cricket coach can cross the metro / regional border for work purposes (subject to work permit)

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

7. Current planned actions for CV next week

- i. Ongoing discussions with the State Government, LGA's etc.
- ii. Coaches COVID-19 webinar (Wed 14th at 7.30pm)
- iii. Commence planning for Premier Cricket umpires webinar
- iv. Commence planning for 2 x COVID-19 'refresher' webinars in late October
- v. Draft development of Premier Cricket specific COVID-19 plans

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