



COVID-19 RETURN TO PLAY GUIDE

THIS GUIDE IS DESIGNED TO COMPLEMENT
THE CLUB/ASSOCIATION COVID-19 PLAN

EFFECTIVE FROM 4 NOVEMBER 2021

Community Cricket matches are OK to PLAY!

To help ensure the safety of all, the following guidance must be followed by all attendees:

ON ARRIVAL

- ✓ **Everyone (including spectators) must check-in on arrival**
 - *This will help with contact tracing should a COVID-19 case occur. If you are showing any COVID-19 symptoms before or during the match, stay away from anyone else, seek medical support or return home immediately. Only return to cricket when recovered.*
- ✓ **Use the available sanitiser**
- ✓ **Only start & continue the match if it is safe to do so** (all COVID-19 practices can be adhered to and normal risk safety assessment has been carried out).

KEEP HYGIENE FRONT OF MIND

- ✓ **Keep your distance from others (1.5m at all times) on-field and off-field**
 - *Spectators & scorers shall always remain 1.5m away from others.*
 - *Players avoid team huddles, high 5s and minimise time fielding close to an umpire or another player.*
- ✓ **Keep your mask on when indoors**
 - *Except for those under 12*
- ✓ **Keep use of facilities to a minimum especially before xmas** (e.g. toilet / canteen access only).
- ✓ **Keep cash in your pocket** (use contactless payment wherever possible).
- ✓ **Keep your hygiene practices up**
 - *Players & umpires sanitise hands at least once every 20 overs and everyone to ensure regular hand washing, no spitting, no sweat / saliva on the ball etc.*

ONLY...

- ✓ **Only touch your own gear and food / drink**
 - *Don't touch anyone else's equipment or clothes – including the bowlers, cap / jumper etc. When bowling, the bowler puts their own jumper / cap over the boundary, behind the keeper or behind the umpire at the bowlers' end.*
 - *No communal food/drink - BYO or buy from the canteen.*
- ✓ **Only players should touch the match ball**
 - *The ball is to be cleaned with an alcohol-antibacterial wipe/spray at least once every 20 overs & immediately after being touched by anyone other than a player (spectator, umpire etc.).*

KEEP AN OPEN-MIND

- ✓ **Keep an open mind as things will be different to 'normal'**. In 2021/22, Cricket will look different to cricket you see on TV (professional players almost live in a COVID-19 'bubble') and it may take more time/effort than normal. These practices will help keep you, your friends/family and the community safe.
- ✓ **Remember: cricket in a pandemic is a privilege – not a right. Get in. Play. Get Out.**

ASSOCIATION - COVID-19 RETURN TO PLAY MATCH DAY CONDITIONS

The following COVID-19 Return to Play match day conditions are endorsed by Cricket Victoria as required practices based on the current information available from the Victorian State Government / Department of Health & Human Services together with guidance from Cricket Australia. These have been fully endorsed by the VCCL, VMCU, VSDCA. Affiliated Associations are required to input these match day conditions.

These requirements are for the 2021/22 season only are to be read in conjunction with our Association rules and the Laws of Cricket in general. Where there is any conflict between our Association rules or the Laws of Cricket in general, these regulations are to take precedence.

VICTORIAN STATE GOVERNMENT / DHHS RESTRICTIONS COMPLIANCE

All people involved in cricket matches in Victoria must always comply with directions from the State Government / DHHS. Where there is any conflict with the requirements below, the requirements from the State Government / DHHS shall take precedence. This includes travel to and from matches and carpooling ([Regional](#) and [Metro](#)).

PHYSICAL (SOCIAL) DISTANCE & FACE MASKS

Off-field: Everyone attending cricket matches (players, volunteers, umpires, spectators, scorers, canteen staff etc.) are to keep a 1.5m distance from others at all times before, during and post-match. Those over 12 are also required to wear a face mask when indoors in accordance with DHHS directions.

On-field: Players and umpires shall not gather within 1.5m before and after play, during any breaks, following wickets and shall minimise any time spent within 1.5m of another person whilst play is underway.

MATCH EQUIPMENT

Anyone touching matchday equipment must sanitise their hands when setting up & packing down. Items shall be cleaned with an alcohol-based antibacterial wipe/spray - minimum 70% alcohol (ethanol or IPA) content before being touched. Matchday items includes - stumps, boundary cones or rope, tables / chairs for scorers, scorebooks, moving sightcreens, covers, rollers, mowers etc.

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

- Personal equipment (pads, gloves, helmet and bat) is discouraged from being shared. If it is however necessary to share equipment, the first person using the equipment shall remove their gloves, sanitise their hands and wipe or spray the item with an minimum 70%-alcohol (ethanol or isopropyl alcohol (IPA) based antibacterial wipe or spray. The person then borrowing the equipment, shall sanitise their hands before use and clean after use.
- All players kit bags are to be stored at least 1.5m apart from any other player bags.
- No items worn by a player shall be touched by another person unless the item is cleaned first. This includes any items that a bowler takes off to bowl their over (e.g. jumper, sunglasses, cap). These items are not to be held by an umpire or given to another player or person, and are to be placed by the bowler themselves at the nearest of the following three locations:
 - Over the boundary at any point; or
 - At a point at least 3m behind the umpire at the bowlers end in line with the stumps (e.g. at the top of run-up).
 - N.B.: When an item is left on the field behind the stumps, they should be placed so they are no wider than the width of the stumps. If struck the ball is declared a 'dead ball' and re-bowled (except for helmets and fielding equipment – normal penalties apply).

COIN TOSS

- Whoever supplies the coin before the start of play shall toss the coin and pick up the coin (nobody else touching it). This should ideally be the umpire. If no coin is available, clubs shall improvise to not hold the game up – but whatever system is used, whoever supplies the coin (or stone, bat etc.) is the only person who touches it.

MATCH BALL

- No saliva shall be placed on the ball by anyone at any time (Sweat from arms and back is allowed, sweat from head/neck is not allowed). Separate procedures will be established by the Association to address accidental or intentional cases of this.
- The umpire shall not touch the ball at any stage - this includes where players or parents are umpiring. Where it is necessary to touch the ball to inspect it, the umpire shall immediately sanitise their hands before & after inspection (or wear disposable gloves and dispose of them immediately after use).
- The ball shall be cleaned with an alcohol-based antibacterial wipe/spray (- with minimum 70% alcohol (ethanol) content at least once every 20 overs, at any scheduled break (drinks, lunch, afternoon tea) and if the ball has been touched by hand by any off-field person (spectators, coaches, parents etc.). If a wicket falls during an over when a break was planned, the ball shall be cleaned immediately. This shall be completed by the bowling team captain (or another designated player if the captain is a keeper) in sight of the central umpire and/or junior coaches. Wipes/spray may be held by the umpire, captain or be left with the scorers as agreed by competing teams but shall be disposed of immediately (or placed in a secure zip lock bag until the next break).
- After a wicket, the ball shall be left next the stumps at the bowling end for the next delivery and be collected by the bowler when getting ready to bowl the next ball.
- During each scheduled break, the ball shall not be touched by anyone. It may be placed in a zip lock bag or put in a box and held to ensure security.

NO COMMUNAL FOOD / DRINKS

- No communal food / drinks shall be supplied by clubs. Players and officials shall either bring their own personal drinks / food or purchase at any available canteen / kiosk.
- Any food brought to the match should be in a sealed or pre-packaged container.

HAND SANITISER (ALCOHOL-BASED ANTIBACTERIAL WITH MINIMUM 70% ALCOHOL)

- All attendees shall sanitise their hands upon arrival at the ground.
- All players, umpires and officials (including scorers, coaches etc.) shall also sanitise their hands at least once every 20 overs (this can be at the fall of a wicket in the designated over).

TEAM SHEETS / SCORING

- No physical team sheets shall be shared with the opposition. Where teams are not already selected on MyCricket before play (recommended), team sheets can be filled out and remain in the scorebook with a photo taken or teams can be entered in approximate batting order (and batting numbers adjusted if required).
- Scorers shall maintain a 1.5m distance at all times. Any equipment used (iPad, scorebook, pens) shall be wiped - with an alcohol-based antibacterial with minimum 70% alcohol (ethanol or IPA) before use and each time a new scorer is required.

SWEAT AND/OR SALIVA ON THE BALL

- Sweat may only be applied to the ball provided it is from a person's back/arms (sweat from head/neck is not allowed).
- If sweat and/or saliva is placed on the ball, [please refer to the Sweat and/or Saliva Playing Conditions document](#).

EVERYONE HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT THESE REQUIREMENTS ARE FOLLOWED.

IF THESE PROTOCOLS CANNOT BE ACHIEVED THEN PLAY SHOULD NOT PROCEED.

IF IN DOUBT ON MATCH DAY CONTACT YOUR CLUB'S COVID OFFICER