



All participants need to play a role in keeping themselves and others safe when it comes to COVID-19. Whether administering competitions, supporting our children at matches, or playing ourselves, the onus is on all of us to do what we can to slow the spread of this virus. For the most part, these requirements should align with what is being asked of the broader community in going about our daily lives and completing normal tasks. We all need to be more conscious now of hand hygiene, physical distancing and keeping surfaces and objects clean. This document will help us to understand exactly how we can address some of the sport-specific scenarios and keep everyone safe. Australian Cricket thanks Dr. John Orchard, Alex Kountouris, and Dr. Richard Saw for their input and guidance in the development of these guidelines.

**It is important that these guidelines are interpreted in line with any measures that are being imposed by your State or Territory Government.**

## 1. The COVIDSafe app

Cricket Australia strongly recommends that all members of the cricket community download the COVIDSafe app prior to participating in cricket activity. The app will help in the Federal Government's effort to contact those exposed to COVID-19 and slow the spread.

If you have questions about the app, please visit

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/covidsafe-app-faqs>

## 2. Before you participate in cricket activity

Players, officials, volunteers and spectators **should not** attend any cricket activity if they:

- (a) have any flu-like symptoms;
- (b) have been in direct contact with a known case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days;
- (c) have travelled internationally or interstate and have not yet quarantined for a full 14 days;
- (d) are at high risk from a health perspective, including the elderly and those with pre-existing medical health conditions

### 3. Organisation of cricket activity

When planning for the return of cricket activity, the following should be taken into account;

- **'Get in, Train, Get Out'** on training days ensure that players spend as little time as possible at the cricket ground to minimise contact and exposure of participants
- Come dressed to train and play at home to minimise the amount of time spent at the cricket ground. Additionally, shower at home after training or matches.
- Plan for the safe entrance and exit of all participants, officials, volunteers, and spectators. This may mean having a break of 10-15 minutes between groups training on the same day and longer between matches so that there is no mingling.
- Consider playing shorter formats to further the opportunity to keep larger gaps between matches and also open up opportunity to play games on mid-week evenings
- It may be necessary to prioritise the scheduling of matches over training
- Plan for increased levels of absence from participants, officials and volunteers
- If grounds have more than one entry and exit (e.g. between fences), allocate one as the entry and one as exit to encourage a smooth flow of people moving on and off the ground
- Ensure that scorers are outdoors whilst scoring and are practicing physical distancing.

### 4. Communication

- Ensure that you have protocols to communicate with participants, officials, volunteers and spectators about the measures your organisation is implementing. Think social media, emails, newsletters, signage at venue.
- Ensure you have protocols in place for notifying health authorities of issues at your organisation or suspected COVID-19 cases.

### 5. Attendance at cricket activity

- Only essential players, officials, volunteers and spectators should be attending cricket activities.

- Arrive as close to the beginning of the event as possible and leave immediately after it finishes. **‘Get in, Play, Get Out’**
- Complete all match preparation (warm-ups, strapping, applying of sunscreen etc.) at home prior to arriving.
- Limit the number of people accompanying junior players, if possible, and if able to remain in your vehicle whilst spectating

## 6. Practicing physical distancing at cricket activity

- Ensure that at the coin toss, umpires are providing their own coin and tossing it themselves with the nominated ‘home’ captain calling.
- Avoid using team sheets, instead nominate teams in advance in MyCricket.
- Maintain physical distancing of at least 1.5m between all people when watching games from the boundary or other viewing areas.
- Physical distancing must be adhered to for all team discussions, wicket celebrations etc. No huddles, high-fives, handshakes etc.
- Avoid shaking hands with opponents, officials and teammates before, during and after matches.
- Access to changerooms should be strictly limited to those who need it to change clothing or to use the bathroom. Where possible, arrive at grounds in uniform and leave immediately after matches, and shower and get changed at home.
- In a training environment, there must be no more than five (5) persons per any one net. This can be any combination of bowlers, batters and coaches.
- During play, all players must be at least 1.5m apart. The only exceptions to this are if the wicketkeeper is keeping up to the stumps and slips fielders proximity to each other. These are noted as exceptions as they are critically important to completing a match.
- Cricket Blast specific guidance below:
  - Children are to use their own bats from participant packs, if they do not have one assign a single bat to each child for duration of that session, ensuring it is disinfected before and after

- Remove any activities from session plans where children cannot safely practice physical distancing of 1.5m e.g. Bowling Tag
- Ensure activities are spaced far enough apart to adhere to physical distancing

## 7. Hygiene and Behaviour

- Ensure spaces, surface and objects are regularly cleaned with disinfectant.
- Provide hand washing guidance to players, officials, volunteers and spectators
- Promote regular and thorough hand washing
- Provide sanitising hand rub dispensers in prominent places (changerooms, entry to grounds, toilets) and ensure they are refilled regularly.
- Surfaces and doors should be regularly cleaned. Also applies to sightscreens on ovals.
- Where possible, leave doors open so they do not need to be touched.
- Seek to avoid the use of public toilets where possible, however if used ensure hands are washed thoroughly.
- Scorers are to bring their own writing tools if scoring in a scorebook
- Those using an iPad to score should ensure it is wiped down with disinfectant
- If playing uniforms are normally shared, each player takes their uniform home to wash
- All must cover mouth and nose with tissue or sneeze into elbow (not hands) when coughing or sneezing
- Provide bins and put all used tissues in bin immediately
- Wash avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean
- Do not spit at any time
- Do not share drink bottles or cups
- Do not share cricket protective equipment between players if they cannot be easily cleaned and sanitised before being used by another player. This particularly includes helmets, batting and wicketkeeping gloves, and batting wicketkeeping leg guards.
- Do not share groin protectors.
- Bats can be shared between players as they will be handled whilst using batting gloves.

*It is noted that not being able to share equipment between participants is not ideal and has the potential to incur an added cost to playing cricket. Whilst this is extremely inconvenient, the cleaning and disinfecting of gloves, pads, protectors and helmets is impractical in a training or match environment. If equipment is shared it could result in the transmission of COVID-19.*

## **8. Reporting & Enforcement**

- Clubs and associations need to consider what measures will be put in place to allow for the notification of breaches of these guidelines.
- Clubs and associations must also consider how they will enforce and penalise those who breach these guidelines. These decisions can be made locally however we would encourage everyone to remember the seriousness of this pandemic and how lucky we are as a country and as a sport to be getting back to playing so soon.

## **9. Additional Resources**

- [AIS Framework](#) for Rebooting Sport (document)
- [Good hygiene is in your hands](#) (poster)
- [Keep that cough under cover](#) (poster)
- [Principles of effective cleaning](#) (guidance)
- [How to protect yourself and others](#) (guidance on self-isolation)
- [Frequently asked questions about Coronavirus](#)