

Gisborne and District Cricket Association

COVID19 PLAYING CONDITIONS

Adopted 29 September 2020
Updated 18 November 2020

1. Cleaning of the ball

Cleaning Direction

1. Every 20 overs, or at a designated drinks break, play is to be stopped so that the ball can be cleaned with an antimicrobial wipe (at least 70% alcohol-based). If a wicket falls in the over before the intended scheduled break, then the ball can be cleaned with an antimicrobial wipe and play continue until the end of the innings.
2. At the same time, all participants and umpire(s) on the field should clean their hands with a suitable sanitiser
3. This routine should also be followed after any breaches resulting in Enforcement Procedures A – B (refer Rule 4)
4. For all Senior Matches the responsibility of carrying out the cleaning of the ball will lie with the fielding captain or his/her representative if the captain is the wicketkeeper. For all Junior Matches the cleaning of the ball is to be completed by the fielding team's coach or match manager
5. The person responsible for carrying out the cleaning must ensure they have cleaned their hands with a suitable sanitiser, and consider wearing disposable gloves whilst carrying out the cleaning
6. The umpire(s) are at no time to handle the ball
7. If the ball is handled by a spectator and thrown back onto the field of play, then the ball must be sanitised before the next delivery as well as the hands of the fielder relaying the ball back to the bowler.

2. Checking the Condition of the Ball

Should the umpire need to inspect the ball, the fielding captain should be instructed to present the ball to the umpire who will then visually inspect the condition of the ball. Should any repair work be required, or the umpire wishes to further inspect the shape of the ball, they may undertake this work personally. However, umpire(s) should wear gloves whilst completing any work on the ball and sanitise their hands immediately after completing the work on the ball.

3. Breaches of Playing Condition: Sweat and/or Saliva Placed on the Ball

1. At no stage should any participant intentionally place sweat and/or saliva on the cricket ball for any purpose
2. The umpire(s) must monitor whether sweat and/or saliva is intentionally placed on the cricket ball for any purpose
3. The umpire(s) must not allow the match to continue during any period after which sweat and/or saliva has been deliberately placed on the cricket ball, without following the cleaning direction first

4. Enforcement Procedures

Enforcement Procedure A: Sweat and/or Saliva Unintentionally Placed on the Ball

1. If it is the opinion of the umpire(s) that sweat and/or saliva has been unintentionally placed on the ball, they may apply the following enforcement procedures:
 - a. The umpires(s) shall call time, if necessary
 - b. The umpire(s) shall summon and inform the offending player's captain of his/her unintentional breach of Playing Condition A

- c. The umpire(s) may choose to enforce any one of the following penalties:
 - i. The umpire(s) shall deliver a first and final warning to the captain
 - ii. The umpire(s) shall award 5 penalty runs to the batting team
 - iii. The umpire(s), if they feel that health and safety has compromised to such an extent that play has become dangerous, may choose to abandon the match
 - iv. The umpire(s) will direct the fielding captain to carry out the cleaning direction on the ball before resuming play

Enforcement Procedure B: Sweat and/or Saliva Intentionally Placed on the Ball

1. If it is the opinion of the umpire(s) that sweat and/or saliva has been intentionally placed on the ball, they may apply the following enforcement procedures:
 - a. The umpires(s) shall call time, if necessary
 - b. The umpire(s) shall summon and inform the offending player's captain of his/her intentional breach of Playing Condition A
 - c. The umpire(s) may choose to enforce any one of the following penalties:
 - i. The umpire(s) shall deliver a first and final warning to the captain
 - ii. The umpire(s) shall award 5 penalty runs to the batting team
 - iii. The umpire(s), if they feel that health and safety has been compromised to such an extent that play has become dangerous, may choose to abandon the match
 - d. The umpire(s) will direct the fielding captain to carry out the cleaning direction on the ball before resuming play
 - e. The umpire(s) shall, if they deem necessary, report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to the Executive of the offending player's team and to the Governing Body responsible for the match, who shall take such further action against the player, the captain, any other individuals concerned and, if appropriate, the team

Definitions:

Intentional

When a participant, aware of the playing conditions, wilfully places saliva and/or sweat on the ball for the purpose of gaining an advantage in gameplay

Unintentional

When a participant accidentally places saliva and/or sweat on the ball with no underlying intention to gain advantage in gameplay. For example, if a fielder habitually licks his/her fingers before the ball is delivered as a matter of routine.

5. Placing of the ball at the taking of a wicket or end of a session

At the taking of a wicket, or at the end of a session/drinks break, the player who last fielded the ball will be responsible for placing it next to the stumps at the end of the pitch where the next ball/over will be bowled. At the conclusion of the session the fielding captain should place the ball in its original box (that the ball was in at the commencement of the match) and provide it to the umpire to maintain the integrity of the ball. Alternatively, the umpire may take possession of the ball for the purpose of placing it in its original box, however, must be wearing gloves to do so.

6. Transferring the ball at the completion of an over to a new bowler

At the completion of each over the fielder who fielded the ball last will be responsible for placing it next to the stumps at the end of the pitch where the next over will be bowled.

7. Storage of equipment during play

7.1 Bowler fielding on the boundary

At the conclusion of the previous over, the new bowler must place their equipment, that would

normally be provided to the umpire (hat, sunglasses, vest etc.), over the nearest boundary point to where they are currently fielding. The equipment can be collected by the individual at the completion of the over. The process can be repeated until the end of the bowler's spell. At no stage should the Umpire be required to hold/handle the players' equipment.

7.2 Bowler fielding in the infield

At the conclusion of the previous over, the new bowler, currently fielding in the infield, can undertake either of the following actions (whichever is the quickest option);

- Place their equipment, that would normally be provided to the umpire (hat, sunglasses, vest etc), on the ground directly behind the wicketkeeper (like a fielder's helmet). The bowler is responsible for the storage and collection of the material from this area. Should the ball strike this equipment during play, the ball shall be called dead, as normally this material would not be stored in this area;

OR

- Place their equipment, that would normally be provided to the umpire (hat, sunglasses, vest etc), over the nearest boundary point to the end they are bowling from.
At no stage should the Umpire be required to hold/handle the players' equipment during the match.

7.3 Batsman's Helmet or Cap

Place their equipment on the ground directly behind the wicketkeeper (like a fielder's helmet). The batsman is solely responsible for the storage and collection of the material from this area. Should the ball strike this equipment during play, the ball shall be called dead, as normally this material would not be stored in this area;

7.3 Wicketkeeper/Fielders Helmet

No change from the normal playing conditions and laws of cricket around the storage of equipment on the field. However, everyone is responsible for the carrying of their own equipment to and from the normal storage position.

8. Setting up and remaking of the stumps during play

Each umpire shall be responsible for the maintenance of the set of stumps at their end of the pitch prior and during the match. Each umpire will be required to set up the stumps at their end at the commencement of play. Additionally, the responsible umpire will be the only person allowed to remake the stumps during play. Where only one (1) umpire is appointed they shall be responsible for both sets of stumps.

At the conclusion of each session the umpire shall be responsible for wiping down the stumps and bails with an antimicrobial wipe.

9. Scoring Matches

It is recommended that scoring is completed by e-scoring via an individual tablet. The designated scorer should ideally be the only user of that device and will be responsible for uploading the data, either live or at the conclusion of the match. Should another user be required to score, the device must be sanitised prior to the next user operating the device.

Should a paper scorebook be required, to minimise additional contact there should ideally be only one-person utilising the book throughout the duration of the match. Should someone else be required to score, that person should supply their own pen. If another pen isn't available, the original pen must be sanitised prior to the next scorer using it. Umpires will not be required to physically handle the book but will verify the details visually.

Scorers should adhere to physical distancing requirements (1.5m apart) at all times when undertaking their duties. To facilitate this requirement, two separate tables should be set up, one for each scorer, as a single table will not ensure physical distancing parameters.

Where manual scoreboards are in use, it is preferable for the same person to attend to the numbers during an innings. If there is more than one person attending to the scores, then the person touching the numbers should disinfect their hands after each update.

10. Team Sheets and Coin Toss

At the coin toss, each Umpire and both Captains must maintain physical distancing requirements (1.5m) with the Umpire to supply their own coin and be responsible for the toss of the coin.

As another parameter to minimise possible contact points, physical team sheets should not be used. The team sheets should be uploaded into the MyCricket system with the umpires and opposing captains to sight the digital copy of the team sheet.

11. Matches Impacted by COVID-19

Given the current climate facing the Australian community, there may be instances where matches are impacted by either a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19. The Victorian Chief Medical Officer will be able to provide specifics relating to testing and quarantine protocols. However, given this situation is external to cricket, and often no fault can be attributed to participants who are suspected of having or have a confirmed case of COVID-19, any match impacted by COVID-19 shall be determined as a draw.

12. Senior and Junior Match Overs

With the change to cleaning of the ball once per innings, junior and senior matches can revert back to bowling overs from alternate ends.

13. One-Day Match times – Seniors

- All 40 over matches shall commence at 1.00pm with a nominal finishing time of 6.00pm.
- All 35 over matches shall commence at 1.30pm with a nominal finishing time of 6.00pm.

14. Match day apparel and match balls

For this season only, the rules requiring players to wear coloured apparel in McIntyre Cup and Johnstone Shield one-day matches shall not apply. Players are to wear white playing apparel only. All match balls are to be red in colour.

15. Umpire fees payment

Umpires are to be paid in cash or cheque in an enclosed envelope. The cash money must not be that collected from the players on match day. Cash money must be from the one source only and preferably handled by the person passing on the envelope to the umpire(s).

For more information relating to playing in a COVID-19 environment, go to the Cricket Victoria webinar series or visit the COVID19 Resource page on the GDCA website.

<https://www.cricketvictoria.com.au/clubs-support/club-development-webinar-series/>