



# Return to Cricket

## Local Inter-Club Fixtures for Phase 3

Effective -10 August 2020

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### Introduction

Sportscotland have now authorised the playing of local inter-club cricket fixtures. This guidance is applicable to players, volunteers, clubs, coaches & officials in Phase 3 of the Cricket Scotland Return to Cricket Guidance.

This guidance and should be read in conjunction with the latest Scottish Government guidance, the sportscotland guidance on [Getting your Facilities Fit for Sport](#) and the [Cricket Scotland Return to Cricket Guidance](#)

This document refers to current Scottish Government guidance and is subject to change in response to the current COVID-19 Alert Level, community prevalence of COVID-19 and/or to reflect additional or updated Scottish Government guidance.

The key changes to the latest guidance are:

- Adult and junior club fixtures can now take place between two local clubs.

The key requirements for this stage for clubs to consider are:

- Travel to and from the venue must not mix household i.e. no car sharing
- A register of all attendees including umpires and scorers should be maintained and administered by the home COVID Monitor
- No spectators are permitted except for parents or guardians of vulnerable adults
- Off the field, teams must not congregate together at any time
- The home side must appoint a COVID Officer to be responsible for both teams adhering to guidelines

This is further explained in the following guidance.

**Please note, your club, facility and participants must be made aware and able to adapt to changes in guidance at short notice, for example, a local lockdown.**

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## 1 Social distancing

### 1.1 Off the Field

For all adult and 12-17 year olds cricket activity, it is important to adhere to social distancing and avoid any form of group activity. This will require for example:

- No shared travel unless members of the same household
- No group team talks
- Warm up in small groups (maximum 5 players)
- The batting side on the sideline must adhere to social distancing between players
- At the end of the match maintain social distancing at all times, for example avoid elbow taps or handshakes

Children (U12) are not required to socially distance with each other off the field.

### 1.2 On the Field

Pitch positions should maintain 2m physical distance where possible and any group discussions or celebrations should be avoided.

For children and young people Scottish Government guidance states that social distancing is not needed during cricket activity, though 12-17 year olds must adhere to social distancing before and after activity.

## 2 Prior to playing local inter-club fixtures

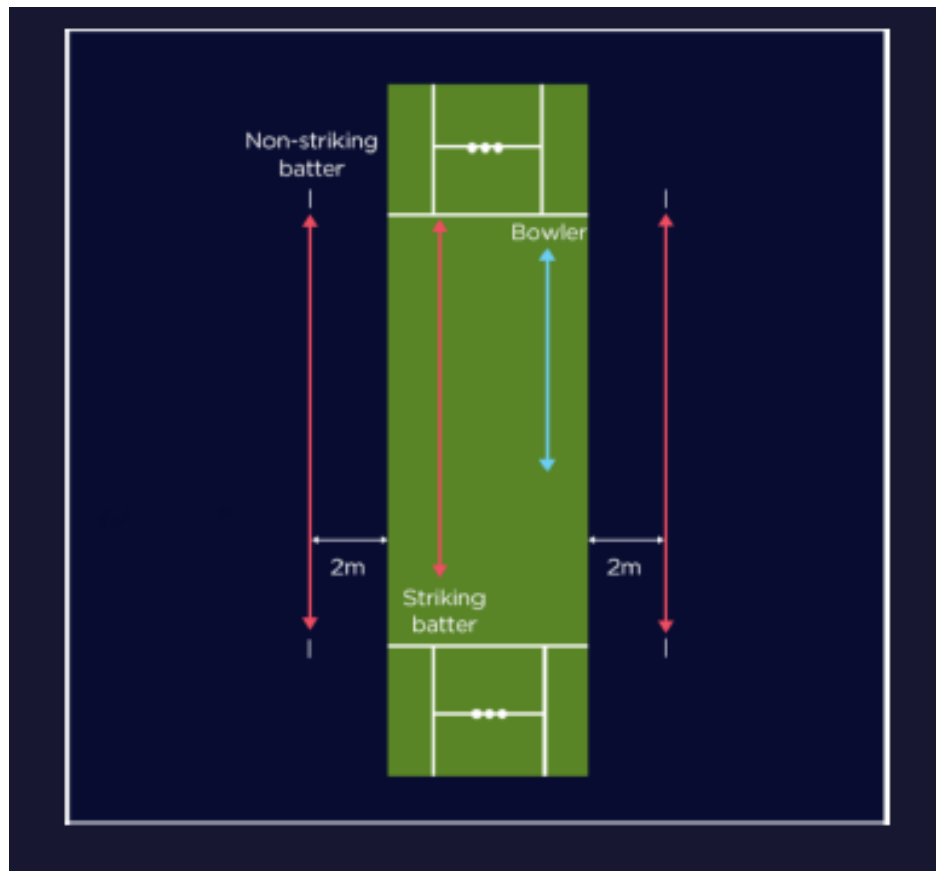
- All participants (players, coaches, officials and volunteers) should check for symptoms of COVID-19. In line with current Scottish Government Guidance, if an individual is symptomatic and/or living in a household with a possible COVID-19 infection they should remain at home and follow Scottish Government guidance. In addition, any participants who have been asked to isolate by NHS Test and Protect because they are a contact of a known COVID-19 case, must not exercise outside their home or garden and must not exercise with others
- Personal hygiene measures should be carried out at home before and after cricket activity
- Participants should bring their own hand sanitiser where possible and maintain strict and frequent hand hygiene measures at all times. Bear in mind the length of time your match will last
- Participants should follow Scottish Government guidance on best practice for travel, including minimising the use of public transport and avoiding car-sharing.
- Use of the clubhouse and toilets should adhere to the latest Scottish Government guidance. Changing rooms should not be used

- Club representatives should ensure that the facility is compliant with current Scottish Government legislation including legislation and guidance related to COVID-19. A risk assessment should have been completed and risk mitigation measures put in place and monitored in accordance with **sportscotland** guidance on [Getting your Facilities Fit for sport](#)
- Club representatives should make all participants (including the visiting team) aware of expected social distancing and hygiene measures during play and whilst at the venue. Specific home venue risk assessments can be shared with the visiting team prior to match day
- Clubs should strictly limit the time spent congregating at a venue before activity begins. Meet-up times should reflect this. Participants should arrive changed and ready to begin the warm-up, if possible

### 3 Preparation of the venue

- Club representatives should ensure that their facility is compliant with current Scottish Government legislation including legislation and guidance related to COVID-19, and in accordance with **sportscotland** guidance on [Getting your Facilities Fit for Sport](#). A risk assessment should have been completed and risk mitigation measures put in place and monitored
- On any day of activity, club representatives and volunteers should ensure that all COVID-19 measures are in place according to the club operating and safety plans, whilst maintaining social distancing – developing your own ‘opening up checklist’ is helpful for this. This should include:
  - Set-up of public health operating procedures and access signage.
  - Set-up of cricket facility including all ground safety requirements.
- The duty of care which the club already owed remains and therefore other matters such as First Aid must continue to be provided. First Aid equipment (including AEDs where available) and suitable PPE for First Aid must be made available. Advice on First Aid during the COVID pandemic is available from St John Ambulance
- Clubs should make hand washing facilities and/or hand sanitiser available for all site users
- Clubs must have entry and exit, and parking arrangements to venues that ensures social distancing can be maintained and implement traffic flow systems where possible and appropriate
- Clubs must outline socially distanced areas for teams and officials
- Clubs must ensure that all accessible provision within the site and the facility are available
- Clubs and groundskeepers should mark running lines on the square in line with the popping crease at 2m intervals on either side of the wicket, to ensure social distancing for adult players (Diagram 1):

Diagram: The Square



- Clubs should support NHS Test and Protect efforts by keeping a temporary record of all participants in any cricket activity and support NHS requests for data if needed
- Many clubs already have systems for recording their participants, however, if you do not already do this, please ensure that you do so in line with data protection legislation

#### 4 During local inter-club fixtures

##### 4.1 General Rules

- Cricket activity must take place outdoors only and only between two local clubs
- 11-a-side cricket can return as long as groups are limited to a maximum of 28 participants, including coaches and officials
- Players should travel to the venue on their own or within their own household. There should be no sharing of transport between different households

- Players and official should turn up at the venue with appropriate playing kit on
- Players should not arrive more than 15 minutes before the match start time
- Players should familiarise themselves on the home club procedures for access to the clubhouse and toilet facilities
- Changing rooms should not be used
- Players not on the field should maintain social distancing at all times. Marked areas 2 metres apart on the side of the pitch should indicate appropriate spacing for the batting side
- The home club COVID Monitor should be at the venue throughout the match
- Clubs are encouraged to play shorter formats of the game

#### **4.2 Equipment**

- Participants should enter the venue and prepare their personal equipment whilst maintaining social distancing
- Where possible players should limit sharing of equipment. If they do, they must practise strict hand hygiene before and after use and the equipment must be cleaned before use by another person
- Batters should sanitise their bat when leaving the field of play and Wicket Keepers should sanitise their gloves
- Bowlers should not hand any personal items to the umpire. Bowlers should place these items at the boundary themselves

#### **4.3 The ball and hand sanitisation**

- No saliva or sweat is to be applied to the ball at any time
- All participants should sanitise their hands prior to the start of the fixture
- Hand sanitiser should be used at all breaks in activity and prior to consuming any food or drinks
- A 'hygiene break' should take place every six overs or every 20 minutes, whichever is sooner, in which the ball is cleaned with an anti-bacterial wipe (conforming to BS EN 14476) and all participants' hands are cleaned using a suitable sanitiser. This routine should also be followed at the start of any drinks break or the close of an innings. The responsibility for sanitising the ball during the match will lie with the fielding captain, not the umpire
- Minimise sharing of the ball in a match by limiting contact as the ball makes its way back to the bowler e.g. ball goes straight from wicketkeeper to bowler instead of around surrounding fielders

#### **4.4 Drinks breaks, food and 'teas'**

- In line with current Scottish Government guidance, clubs should not prepare food for participants. Individuals should bring their own food and drink for 'teas' or practice. Water bottles or other refreshment containers should not be shared. Social distancing should be adhered to during all breaks and players must remain outdoors or in their car during the lunch interval, while indoor bar area's remain closed in accordance with Scottish Government Guidance

- Players should refrain from spitting or rinsing out their mouths

#### 4.5 Social distancing during play (adults only)

- Adult players should adhere to social distancing at all times (including throughout warm-ups).
- Batters are to run in distinct running lines to ensure they are not within 2m of the bowler or other batter. Lines to be marked on the square on either side of the wicket (see diagram)
- Social distancing must always be maintained therefore teams should minimise group activity including post-wicket celebrations, drinks breaks and tactical discussions

#### 4.6 Wicket Keeper Standing Up

Whilst social distancing measures should apply at all times it is acknowledged that there are times when this is not possible and common sense must apply.

Umpires and players must adhere to the following;

- Batter to face away from the wicket keeper at all times.
- Batter and wicket keeper must not engage in conversation.
- Wicket keeper to be active in gathering the ball from fielders.
- Wicket keeper should step away from the stumps while the bowler is returning to their mark.
- Wicket keeper permitted to wear a face mask if they so wish.
- Umpires to monitor wicket keepers standing up to ensure the above guidance **is** being adhered to.

#### 4.7 Umpires

- Umpires should refrain from any contact with the ball, it can be returned to the base of the stumps at breaks and wickets
- Umpires should be responsible for the stumps closest to them and should be the only person replacing the bails if dislodged

#### 4.8 Scorers

- If two scorers are required, social distancing must be maintained with only one official inside the scorers' box and no players to be allowed in the scorers' box. The scorers' box should be well ventilated. Scoring outside should be encouraged where possible
- Communal scorebooks passed from one player to another should be avoided

#### 4.9 Spectators

- Spectators are not permitted with exception of parents or guardians of vulnerable adults. Any parents or guardians must observe social distancing at all times

#### 4.10 Advice for Special Occurrences e.g. rain

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- In the event of rain, participants should return to their own vehicle to maintain social distancing if there is insufficient outdoor cover from the rain to maintain social distancing.
- Application of covers in the event of wet weather should be done whilst maintaining social distancing.

## 5 After local inter-club fixtures

- All participants should sanitise their hands after the fixture
- Participants should leave the venue while maintaining social distancing
- The home Covid Monitor is responsible for collecting and disinfecting any shared equipment (stumps etc)
- Clubs should encourage all participants to report any infection of their household to the NHS Test and Protect system following use of the facility to limit the spread of the virus. To find out more information on how to do this, click [HERE](#)