



Return to Cricket
Inter-School Fixtures for Phase 3
Effective - 10 August 2020
Updated – 24 August 2020

Introduction

sportscotland has now authorised cricket activity including, training sessions intra-school and inter-school fixtures.

As schools will operate on school-specific or local authority specific guidelines, this guidance assumes that those guidelines will cover school-based sporting activities.

This cricket specific guidance should be read in conjunction with school-specific guidance, 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. It 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:

- Training and fixtures can now take place within a school (intra-school) or between different school teams (inter-school).
- Schools with multiple pitches can play more than one game at the same time as long as the games are either intra-school or against the same visiting school on the different pitches.

The key requirements for this stage to consider are:

- Travel to and from the venue must adhere to school travel guidelines
- A register of all attendees, including umpires and scorers, should be maintained and administered by the home team
- No spectators are permitted unless school's guidance permits
- Off the field, we recommend that teams do not congregate together at any time
- We recommend that the home team appoints a COVID Monitor to be responsible for both teams adhering to guidelines
- Training recommendations are to work in small groups and regularly sanitise equipment/balls

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General Rules

- Cricket matches must take place outdoors only and between two teams only, from the same school or different local schools
- 11-a-side cricket can return as long as groups are limited to a maximum of **30** participants, including coaches and officials
- Players should travel to the venue in line with school transport guidance
- Players and officials 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 procedures for access to the clubhouse and toilet facilities at the venue
- 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. Adult to adult and adult to pupil social distancing is required at all times.
- The duty of care which the school already owned 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

Equipment

- Participants and staff should enter the venue and prepare their equipment while maintaining appropriate social distancing
- Where possible players should limit the 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

The ball and hand sanitisation

- No saliva is to be applied to the ball at any time
- All participants should sanitise their hands before the start of the fixture
- Hand sanitiser should be used before and after leaving the field and at all breaks in activity and before consuming any food or drinks
- We recommend a 'hygiene break' should take place every six overs in which the ball is cleaned with an anti-bacterial wipe (conforming to BS EN 14476. This routine should also be followed at the start of any drinks break or the close of an innings.

- 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 fielder

Drinks breaks, food and 'teas'

- Individuals should bring their own food and drink for 'teas' or practice. Water bottles or other refreshment containers should not be shared. Social distancing guidelines apply as mentioned before. We recommend food and drinks breaks to be outside or in an approved area indoors
- Players should refrain from spitting or rinsing out their mouths

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

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 and appropriate PPE applied.
- Communal scorebooks passed from one player to another should be avoided

Spectators

- No spectators are permitted unless school's guidelines permit

After fixtures

- All participants should sanitise their hands after the fixture
- Participants should leave the venue while maintaining the appropriate social distancing recommendations.
- The staff member is responsible for collecting and disinfecting any shared equipment (stumps etc)

Minimising risk in training sessions

The following points are recommendations for training sessions to minimise contactpoints

- Use plastic equipment for younger groups and disinfect at the end of each session.
- Minimise sharing of equipment as much as possible.
- Participants sanitise hands at the start and end of each session and in breaks.

- Use plastic balls where possible e.g. windballs, incrediballs, bowling machine balls.
- Sanitise shared balls and hands regularly (every 20 minutes)
- **Though training can now take place in groups of up to 30 people, we recommend activity in small groups.**
- Participants to operate in the same pair/groups for the length of the session, for non game-based activities

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