



UPDATED SMALL GROUP GUIDANCE ON PERMITTED RECREATIONAL CRICKET ACTIVITY DURING COVID-19

SUMMARY

The purpose of these guidelines is to offer practical guidance to players and clubs on the steps they should take to remain safe whilst undertaking recreational cricket activity and informal cricket activity in an outdoor environment.

These guidelines currently apply to England only. Guidance specifically relating to Wales can be found [here](#).

These guidelines have been produced in line with the UK Government guidance on public spaces, outdoor activity and exercise published on 1 June 2020, which can be read [here](#).

All activity should be consistent with the Government guidance regarding [health, social distancing and hygiene](#).

This update allows for individuals and small groups (of up to six people) to remain safe, whilst undertaking recreational cricket activity, and informal cricket in an outdoor environment. However, it should be noted that all competitive recreational cricket matches remain suspended until further notice and as such this update does not permit participation in cricket matches within or between clubs.

Our primary and ongoing goal is to protect the health of everyone in and around the game.

Below is a summary in relation to outdoor cricket activity:

- **For all activity, social distancing of at least two metres must be maintained at all times (except between members of the same household).**
- Playing cricket individually is permitted e.g. practice of individual cricket skills or fitness activities
- Playing cricket with people living in your household is permitted.
- Small group cricket activity, training or fitness in groups of no more than six (6), is permitted, keeping two (2) metres apart at all times.

- Cricket coaches, can now undertake small group sessions of up to six (6) people including the coach (1:5) and they must comply with ECB safeguarding policies (as well as being able to conduct one-to-one coaching).
- Nets should be used on an 'every other' basis, leaving one net free between nets. Note that for nets within a security fence, occupancy numbers could be limited by social distancing requirements.
- It is permissible for two or more groups of six (6) to train at the same time provided they are kept separate, and social distancing and strict hygiene measures are observed. However, clubs should carry out a risk assessment to determine the maximum capacity for their facility that can be achieved safely whilst maintaining social distancing and not exceeding the current limits on training group size.
- Clubhouses can be reopened in a limited way for operational reasons (e.g. for access to first aid equipment) or for toilet access (see below) but all communal areas including bar, changing rooms etc. are to remain closed for general use.
- Toilet facilities can be opened if the venue wishes, but particular care should be taken by those using them and those cleaning them. Where they are open, venues must ensure soap and water is provided and they are cleaned regularly.
- No indoor cricket activity at all.
- We recommend using your own equipment if possible. If equipment is being shared, please follow UK Government's guidance on the [sharing of equipment](#). Players should stick to using one ball in training either by bringing their own or being assigned a numbered ball that is cleaned in between sessions.
- No saliva or sweat should be applied to the ball at any time.
- Wash hands at home before and after using the outdoor facilities. Bring your own hand sanitiser where possible.

ECB is clear that outdoor facilities should only reopen if those responsible for them are ready to do so and they can do so safely, following public health guidance: no club should reopen their outdoor facilities if they feel unable to meet the requirements.

For clubs, you will need to have the following in place:

- Properly maintained facilities.
- A booking system for outdoor space or other means to manage access and demand.
- The capability to advise individuals when booking to check for symptoms of COVID-19 and in turn to advise individuals when booking that - in line with current Government guidance - if they are symptomatic, and/or living in a household with a possible COVID-19 infection, they should remain at home and follow Government guidance and if they are classified as extremely vulnerable then they should follow the Government guidance (found [here](#)).
- A sanitation procedure between use/bookings. An essential requirement is to clean potential points of transmission, so contact points (stumps, access points etc), or spillages of body fluid e.g. sweat.
- A representative of the club on site during the hours that the outdoor facilities are open for use.
- Closed signs should be displayed when facilities are not open (including where a club does not wish to or is not ready to reopen) to deter use by general public particularly where there is open access.
- Updated signage and access points.

For individuals, you will need to:

- Seek confirmation from the club that it has reopened and make a booking.
- Check for symptoms of COVID-19. In line with current [Government guidance](#), if you are symptomatic, and/or living in a household with a possible COVID-19 infection, you should remain at home and follow Government guidance.
- Follow UK Government guidance on shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19 if it applies to you.
- Avoid public transport if at all possible.

ECB has provided detailed guidance on the preparation and administration of outdoor facilities for clubs, and guidelines for participation for individuals. The situation is evolving constantly, and we will continue to update our guidance as more information becomes available.

Further advice is available at the [GOV.UK](#) and [Sport England](#) websites. Please regularly check these sites and the updated ECB guidance as this policy position is likely to change over time and could also become more regionalised and localised as time progresses.

If you have any further questions, please contact ECB's facilities team [here](#).



UPDATED GUIDANCE FOR CLUBS ON RETURN TO USE OF CRICKET GROUNDS – 5 JUNE 2020

These guidelines have been produced in line with the UK Government guidance on public spaces, outdoor activity and exercise published on 13 May 2020, and updated on 1 June 2020, which can be read [here](#). Supporting guidance can be found [here](#).

There is no obligation for clubs to reopen their facilities and clubs should only do so when they are ready and when they can do so safely, following public health guidance. Clubs should be aware that this is subject to change if there is a worsening of the COVID-19 situation and/or UK Government advice changes. Please visit the [ECB website](#) regularly for updates.

This guide covers:

- What has changed and what clubs can now reopen.
- A reminder of the precautions that still need to be taken – including social distancing.
- What work will need to be done to prepare facilities.
- How to operate your facility safely – including:
- Establishing a booking system to avoid crowding and allow contact tracing.
- Maintaining safe access and movement around site.
- Setting some ground rules and ensuring compliance.

WHAT CAN CLUBS REOPEN AND WHEN?

Since 1 June 2020, people in England have been permitted to participate in activity in groups of up to a maximum of six (6) people in an outdoor setting as long as social distancing measures remain in place. Please note the following:

- This change in restrictions only applies in England and does not apply in Wales. Guidance relating to Wales can be found [here](#).
- The change is for participation in sport **outdoors** only.
- It is permissible for two or more groups of six (6) to train at the same time provided they are kept separate, and social distancing and strict hygiene measures are observed. However, clubs should carry out a risk assessment to determine the maximum capacity for their facility that can be achieved safely whilst maintaining social distancing and not exceeding the current limits on training group size.

- Social distancing measures (staying two metres away from people outside your household) still apply.
- The change does not permit the reopening of pavilions for changing, social or hospitality purposes.
- This change does not permit participation in team sports within or between clubs. ECB recommended the suspension of recreational cricket on 18 March 2020 and with the sole exception of the specific and controlled use of outdoor cricket facilities outlined in this guidance that remains the case.

As of 13 May 2020, and updated on 01 June 2020, cricket clubs in England are able to:

- Reopen their outfield and squares for outdoor sport activity that complies with the UK Government guidance and maintains social distancing.
- Reopen their cricket nets in a way that maintains social distancing on an 'every other net' basis – so if a club has a two-bay net they can reopen one of those bays, if they have a three-bay net, they can reopen bays one and three and so on. Clubs must consider player circulation in nets where the facility is enclosed within netting or security fence. For example a three-lane net could in theory have 10 bowlers, with five in each lane using the every other net principle – but in most enclosed net facilities it would not be possible to space 10 bowlers at a two-metre spacing safely (when also considering the risk of balls coming out of the nets) – you will need to assess safe occupancy levels for your facility.
- A representative of the club should be on site at all times while outdoor facilities are open for use.
- When outdoor nets and outfield are closed and there is general open access, closed signage should be clear and visible to inform the general public that the facilities are not available for use.

The club representative is a person appointed by the club to undertake the role of managing the facility during a booked session.

The person must understand the guidance, be familiar with the setup of the ground under COVID-19 restrictions and emergency procedures. They should also be able to make arrangements to open toilets (if available).

The club, in appointing this person, must be sure that they can carry out the club's operational duties which would apply under normal circumstance but also those additional duties under the COVID-19 guidelines and communicate the club's conditions of booking, and if necessary control timings of activity if there is a mix up or people go beyond the allotted time.

The club should identify such persons and maintain a list of these people who have agreed to and are appointed to carry out this role. A representative can participate in a session or run a number of sessions within a continuous series (such as a coach who is an appointed representative and can carry out those duties safely), there is no requirement for a 'third' person in those circumstances.

When outdoor nets and outfield are closed and there is general open access, closed signage should be clear and visible to inform the general public that the facilities are not available for use.

Club buildings (including changing rooms and bar) and any other communal areas are to remain closed. At this stage keeping these areas closed will reduce social interaction to help reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

We still need to take precautions

At this time the use of outdoor facilities is only permitted for people from the same household, for individuals using the facilities alone or for a small group size of a maximum of six (6) people who are maintaining recommended social distancing measures. It is important to remember that the following advice still applies and it is key to remind any participants, those operating the nets and those maintaining the grounds of these rules:

- Anyone displaying symptoms of COVID-19 (temperature above 37.8 °C, a persistent cough, breathing problems, a new loss of taste or smell or other symptoms identified by the UK Government) must stay at home and self-isolate in accordance with the UK Government guidance [here](#).
- All members of the same household must do the same even if they do not display symptoms.
- Those with an underlying health condition which makes them 'clinically extremely vulnerable' and who have been advised to shield must follow specific UK Government advice – refer to current [UK Government guidance](#).
- [People aged 70 and over](#) are advised to minimise their contact with others outside of their household as per current [UK Government guidance](#).
- Social distancing is key to minimising transmission of COVID-19, maintaining a distance of two metres between people still applies if individuals are not from the same household (see [here](#)).

GETTING YOUR FACILITY READY

Capacity and Social Distancing

- Carry out a risk assessment to determine the maximum capacity for your facility that can be achieved safely whilst maintaining social distancing and not exceeding the current limits on training group size.
- You can use temporary line marking paint to illustrate socially distanced queuing positions for bowlers and separation between training areas (e.g. Net 1 and Net 3 to maintain 2 m).
- You should display signage on maximum occupancy for your net facility.

Grounds

Outfields should now be brought to normal in-season grass lengths. For the latest advice on managing your grounds see our guidance on the Grounds Management Association [website](#).

Squares should also be at normal season cut heights – pitches can be prepared for practice as long as that practice is in line with current UK Government guidance as described in this document. For advice on managing your square visit the Grounds Management Association website.

Grounds should only be used for cricket practice and exercise as set out in this document – and should not be used for full games of cricket.

Grounds managers can assist social distancing using line marking paint to indicate 2 m spacings, or separation boxes etc. For example spacing of bowlers in nets or separating areas between different groups.

Equipment

ECB recommends you use your own equipment where possible. [UK Government guidance](#) also states that where possible, limit the sharing of equipment.

If you are sharing equipment, including balls, you should wash your hands thoroughly before and after use and all contact points on the equipment and clean the equipment after each session using a suitable cleaning solution or antimicrobial wipes conforming to BS EN14476 standard.

No saliva or sweat should be applied to the ball at any time.

Nets

Because of the timing of the initial COVID-19 lockdown from late March until early May, many clubs have not conducted the pre-season work that normally takes place. This includes the preparation of nets. The safe and effective installation of netting is typically a task for two or three people. This is not work that is suitable for lone working and so a careful set-up plan is required that is compatible with the requirements of social distancing.

For the netting:

- If you have not already lowered or installed your netting this should be done in a safe manner. This includes safe working at height as many nets are over three metres tall.
- Clubs should check whether or not they need to comply with the Work at Height Regulations (2005) [here](#).
- Carry out a health and safety risk assessment before starting any work and take steps to minimise any risks identified. If the fitting of nets cannot be carried out safely, then they should not be fitted.
- The safe use of mobile access (scaffold) towers (built and used by a competent person in accordance with all applicable health and safety regulations) is preferable to ladders.
- Where it is necessary to use ladders, use step ladders of a suitable height. If standard ladders are required use a suitably sized member of your household to stabilise them at the base (using another person who is not from the same household will breach social distancing guidelines).
- Avoid the use of damaged or wooden ladders.
- Check that the netting does not have holes – repair if necessary.
- Check that the netting is secured to the framework and tensioned correctly to prevent injuries to occupants within the net or adjacent nets.
- Erect batting screens and sight screens according to installers' guidelines for safe use.

On the non-turf practice surface:

- Check that your carpets and bases are in a safe condition – look for rucks and tears in the carpet that could cause dangerous ball bounce or a trip hazard to users. Repair if necessary.
- Sweep up debris and remove before play.
- Carry out maintenance to the carpet and base in accordance with the supplier's manual for your net surface.
- Check run-ups are safe, particularly if these are on grass.

OPERATING THE FACILITY SAFELY

Taking Bookings

To operate the facility safely and minimise the risk of spreading COVID-19, a controlled booking system will need to be put in place.

- Bookings will enable the club to control the number of people accessing the facility and reduce the likelihood of gatherings which are not permitted under UK Government guidelines.
- A well-managed booking system will also enable contact tracing if there is a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection of a user.

This does not require specific software; you could use a shared calendar app or keep paper records.

One person must be responsible for collecting booking requests, allocating time slots, keeping records of which slots have been allocated to which users, and communicating the allocation to users.

Clubs should decide on their opening and closing times, the length of their available time slots and which areas of the outfield and nets are safe to use. Consider change-over time, clean-down time of nets and how to keep a record of bookings for contact tracing.

For example, a paper or electronic record covering hourly time slots from 10am until 4pm for single-lane use, 50 minutes net practice followed by 10 minutes clean-down/change-over time ahead of the next participants.

Clubs must also:

- Maintain an accurate written record and contact information of who has attended to support contact tracing in the case of a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection.
- Continue to comply with all [safeguarding guidance](#).
- Ensure they have all the appropriate and up-to-date insurance.
- Continue to comply with data protection law including not sharing personal details of participants with others without having a legal basis for doing so (e.g. avoid making booking management system 'live' with personal details for all to see). For further information see [here](#).

Access to the facility

A representative of the club should be present during opening times to monitor the operation with a copy of the booking sheet in order to resolve any booking issues that could result in social distancing guidelines being ignored.

This person should carry out a daily/per session check that the facilities are safe to use.

Clubs should provide access where possible through a separate entrance and exit, operating a one-way system. If these entrances are gated, they should be opened fully so that users do not touch the gates or locks.

This also applies to the net area, where possible leave the area fully accessible to minimise touch points. If this is unavoidable a cleaning station should be provided, and posters displayed to encourage cleaning down of touch points.

Clubs should ensure usual access to first aid and emergency equipment is maintained (in some cases this may require limited access to the clubhouse – which must be provided).

Guidance on delivering first aid during the COVID-19 pandemic is available on the [St John Ambulance website](#).

As clubhouses will still be closed for general use and no changing facilities are available, clubs should make participants aware of this when booking. These facilities are to remain closed in order to reduce social interaction to help reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

Toilet facilities can be opened if the venue wishes, but particular care should be taken by those using them and those cleaning them. Where they are open, ensure soap and water is provided and they are cleaned regularly. Clubs that are opening toilet or hand washing facilities must be aware of their responsibility to prevent Legionnaire's disease – see [here](#) for further details.

Participants should be encouraged to use toilet facilities before attending and to wash their hands upon arriving home.

Hand sanitiser with an alcohol content of at least 60% should be made readily available at entrance/exit points and the net area.

Where this is not possible due to lack of supply, participants will need to be informed in order to arrange their own hand washing procedures whether it be washing their hands before leaving the house (and when they return home) or taking hand sanitiser with them.

For a printable guide on washing hands see [here](#).

For a printable guide on using hand gel see [here](#).

Signage is a great way to reinforce the messages in this document and will help users understand why access is still limited at this phase and how the controls in place are protecting them and others.

For advice on reducing the risk of infection when outside your home see [here](#).

You must allow sufficient time for maintenance of your facility in your operating/booking schedule – consult with your grounds manager to ensure you allocate sufficient times for maintenance in good weather.

ECB will provide downloadable signage, including access control and example operating rules.

Establishing and Communicating Operating Rules

Operating rules will need to vary by venue to fit with site-specific restrictions but should include the following as a minimum:

- Do not attend if you or anyone in your household displays symptoms or your household is currently in isolation (full details at the beginning of this document).
- Personal hygiene measures should be carried out at home before and after use of the facility.
- Bring your own hand sanitiser where possible. If this isn't possible wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after visiting the club.
- Travel together as a household.
- Avoid public transport.
- Try not to arrive too early, aim to arrive at the start of your slot to help with social distancing.

- Bring your own playing/training equipment including balls.
- Bring your own filled drinking bottles.
- Avoid touching as much as possible whilst on club premises and use cleaning stations whenever available.
- Do not overstay your allocated time slot, you should be clear of the area by the time the next users arrive. Do not stay to socialise.
- If bowling machines are used, please ensure they are cleaned thoroughly between uses with dry cleaning products and that all balls used are cleaned with a suitable viricidal disinfectant. This is the responsibility of the bowling machine operator.
- Do not leave private property behind.
- No spitting.
- No saliva or sweat should be applied to the ball at any time.
- As always, the health and safety of participants is paramount - please ensure those using the nets minimise the risk of injury (wear helmets, pads etc). As well as emergency response times being delayed, this is vital to avoid any additional stress on the NHS.
- Encourage all users to report any infection of their household following use of the facility to allow effective contact tracing and to limit the spread of the virus.

These rules should be clearly communicated to each person making a booking, on club social media channels and through signage at access points to grounds and close to net facilities. Signage should be laminated to improve durability and updated and replaced as required.

NEXT STEPS

1. Review your operating plan after day one and week one and revise if necessary – your facility operation must be fit for purpose and safe for those operating, maintaining and using the site.
2. Act on any incidence of infection prior to or after use of the facility and conduct appropriate contact tracing in line with UK Government methods.
3. Be prepared to close your facility in the event of:
 - a. An incidence of COVID-19 infection of a user.
 - b. A change in UK Government guidance/regulation.
4. Constantly review [UK Government guidance](#). Please also regularly review news updates on the [ECB website](#). This guidance will be updated and is likely to change in response to UK Government policy and other best practice guidance.

GUIDANCE FOR ONE-TO-ONE COACHING AND SMALL COACHING (MAXIMUM ONE-TO-FIVE)

These guidelines currently apply to England only, and have been produced in line with the UK Government guidance on public spaces, outdoor activity and exercise published on 01 June 2020, which can be read [here](#).

- The purpose of these guidelines is to assist coaches in creating as safe an environment as possible for players returning to play during the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions.
- Whilst all coaches and players will be extremely keen to start playing it is imperative that coaches set an example and follow these guidelines to ensure that the risk of infection/transmission of the virus is minimised.

- These guidelines cannot cover every eventuality and coaches must conduct a risk assessment, ensuring appropriate measures are put in place to keep participants and coaches safe.
- Playing and coaching cricket in itself carries some degree of risk and whilst being mindful of the guidelines regarding COVID-19, coaches should not lose sight of the normal safety rules relating to playing and coaching cricket which continue to apply and must be complied with (DBS, safeguarding, First Aid etc).
- Coaches should make themselves aware of and abide by, all guidelines set out by the UK Government, the venue and ECB regarding use of facilities.
- It is the coach's responsibility to ensure that they coach players in a safe environment and follow relevant guidelines.
- Only one-to-one coaching and small group (one-to-five) coaching is permitted
- Alongside these guidelines, coaches should read the information published by Sport England, and specifically their [Q&A section](#).

Coaches should remember the following key principles:

- **Follow all COVID-19 guidelines established by the UK Government.**
- **Follow all COVID-19 guidelines established by the venue.**
- **Follow all COVID-19 guidelines established by ECB.**

Before a session

- Avoid excessive travel to different venues, cycle or drive where possible and avoid public transport if you can.
- Coach to conduct a full risk assessment of the venue in advance of the coaching session.
- Coach to ensure they have access to hand sanitiser/alcohol wipes/washing up liquid.
- Establish a quarantined waiting area for parents.
- Coach to ensure all surfaces are clean and equipment is washed with soapy water and dried completely prior to use – with electronic bowling machine cleaned with suitable dry cleaning products.
- Coaching sessions should be booked and paid for in advance by bank transfer or contactless card payment – no cash transactions.
- Coach to explain the safety guidelines of what is expected pre, during and post session including what the player is expected to do to maintain compliance with social distancing guidelines and all other health and safety guidelines.
- Only one-to-one sessions or small group sessions are permitted (up to one-to-five).

During the session – Outdoors only

- Maintain a minimum of two metres apart to meet social distancing requirements including during observed sessions (no handshakes).
- Ensure all health and safety and emergency first aid guidelines are followed.
- Players must provide their own equipment if possible, and this must be kept in a zipped bag when not in use.
- Coach is responsible for collecting all of their own equipment/kit – do not share equipment if possible.
- Player is responsible for collecting all their own equipment/kit – do not share equipment if possible.

- Player(s) are responsible for ensuring they have their own refreshments and/or food.
- Schedule sessions at least 10 minutes apart to avoid or limit any crossover of players.
- Avoid high intensity physical exercise where possible.
- If it is a bowling session, player to use their own balls or coach to use plastic balls which have been washed/dried prior to the session – batters to knock or kick ball back to the bowler and not throw it as usual – the batter should not handle the balls.
- Coach to ensure they have appropriate hand coverings (mitt or gloves) when handling the ball during any skill sessions including when feeding the bowling machine. Where bowling machines are used please ensure they are cleaned thoroughly between uses with dry cleaning products and that all balls used are cleaned with disinfectant. This is the responsibility of the bowling machine operator.
- We recommend that coaches avoid sharing balls and other equipment wherever possible and strong hand hygiene should be practiced before, during and after sessions.

After the session

- Players and coaches to wash/sanitise their hands before and after the session.
- Video may be recorded during the session but should not be analysed at the time with the players. This may be sent to the player after the session with coaching notes.
- Players leaving a session must maintain a distance of two metres from other players or coaches as they leave the session.

Remember: No saliva or sweat should come into contact with the ball at any time.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further advice is available at the [GOV.UK](#) and [Sport England](#) websites. You must regularly check these sites and updated ECB guidance as this policy position is likely to change over time and could also become more regionalised and localised as time progresses.

If you have any further questions, please contact ECB's facilities team [here](#).