

# UMPIRING AND SCORING IN A COVID 19 SAFE ENVIRONMENT



Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause respiratory infections. COVID-19 is a disease caused by a new form of coronavirus that was first reported in December 2019.<sup>1</sup> At the time of writing, there are no known vaccines or cures for the virus.

Managing the spread of COVID-19 and looking after the community is the responsibility of everyone to do their part. This factsheet has information for members of the NSW Cricket Umpires' and Scorers' Association (NSWCUSA) to assist with umpiring and scoring in a COVID safe environment. It is to serve as a guide only, and for any specific information, please refer to the NSW Department of Health for further information.

This factsheet has been created using resources publicly available and provided by NSW Health and Cricket Australia's *Return to Play Practical Guidelines*. This document is continuously evolving. Please keep up to date with the current protocols in place.

NSWCUSA strongly encourages all participants to download the Australian Government COVIDSafe App. The app can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play.

This information is broken in to three parts: before, during and after matches.

## Before the Match

- If you are showing any symptoms of COVID-19, do not attend the match. Call your local competition appointments officer to arrange where possible a replacement.
- Arrange to have a COVID-19 Test done at the earliest convenience. Self-isolate until you receive the test results<sup>2</sup>
- There can be a wide range of COVID-19 symptoms. The common symptoms include<sup>3</sup>
  - Fever
  - Coughing
  - Runny nose
  - Sore throat
  - Loss of smell, and/or taste
- Drive to the match where possible. Do not carpool, unless you live in the same household as another participant of the match.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/what-you-need-to-know-about-coronavirus-covid-19> (accessed September 3 2020)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/default.aspx> (accessed September 3 2020)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/what-you-need-to-know-about-coronavirus-covid-19> (accessed September 2 2020)

- If you are in a high risk category (ie elderly or immunocompromised) seek medical advice before participating in matches.
- Bring your own food and drink that you will need for the day, do not share food.
- Bring enough equipment that you will need for the day (for example drinks, towels, lip balm, sunscreen, umpiring equipment).
- Come to the ground dressed to go onto the field of play, and only use the changing rooms if invited by the home club or local council.
- Do not shake hands upon greeting someone.
- Maintain physical distancing where possible (minimum of 1.5m space).
- At the coin toss, maintain physical distance from the captains and your partner (where applicable). Umpires are to bring their own coin and be responsible for tossing it. The away team shall call at the toss.
- Physical team sheets shall be used and be available for perusal at the toss. Prior to the toss each captain shall show the opposing captain and the umpires the team sheet for their team. An umpire shall take a photograph of both team sheets prior to the toss. The umpire shall keep the photograph of both team sheets until the end of the season. It is an option for either captain to take a photograph of the opposition team sheet. Each captain shall retain their team sheet for the duration of the match.
- Discuss with the captains that players are aware they are not to touch the stumps during play.

#### **During the match**

- No saliva is to be used on the ball at any time.
- If an umpire needs to inspect the ball, the fielding captain shall show the ball to the umpires.
- Umpires are to avoid touching the ball where possible. Gloves are to be worn and/ or hands shall be sanitised after touching the ball
- At the taking of a wicket, or at the start of a scheduled interval, the player who last fielded the ball shall place the ball on the ground next to the stumps of which the next ball is to be bowled.
- At the conclusion of the session, or if play is suspended for ground, weather, light or any other reason, the fielding captain shall place the ball in a plastic bag carried by an umpire and provide it to an umpire to maintain the integrity of the ball.
- Each umpire is responsible for the stumps at their end prior and during the match. The stumps are required to be set up prior to the toss. The match stumps are not to be used for the purpose of player warm-ups. Additionally, the responsible umpire will be the only person allowed to remake the stumps during play. Where only one umpire is appointed, they shall be responsible for both sets of stumps.
- If there is a rain delay, umpire/s shall remove the stumps for the covers to be put on. If there is inadequate cover to maintain physical distancing, they shall return to their own car for the rain to pass.
- Law 2.10 (Umpires changing ends) shall not apply - the umpires shall not change ends during the match.
- At the completion of every over, the fielder who fielded the ball is to place the ball next to the stumps of the end the next over is to be bowled from.

- There is no requirement for the bowler's end umpire to change their normal position when the bowler is delivering the ball.
- For manual scoreboards, only one person should operate it. If there needs to be more than one, then the scoreboard is sanitised between operators, or they wear gloves while using the scoreboard.
- 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 sanitise their hands immediately before and after completing the work on the ball.
- Wash your hands before entering and after leaving the field , especially before eating or drinking.
- Take a small bottle of hand sanitiser onto the field of play with you.
- Wait in the middle of the ground (1.5m) apart for players to leave the field.

### Equipment during play

- At no point during the game are umpires to be required to hold any player's equipment (hats, sunglasses, jumpers, etc.)
  - If the bowler is fielding on the boundary:
    - The bowler shall place their equipment they would normally give to the umpire on the ground outside the boundary, close to where they were 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.
  - If the bowler is fielding in the infield, they have these options for the placement of their equipment. The option chosen shall be the quickest to undertake:
    - Place their equipment, that would normally be provided to the umpire (hat, sunglasses, vest etc), on the ground directly behind **bowler's end** wicket and in line with where the bowler commences their run-up. 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 (by either umpire) and become dead, as normally this material would not be stored in this area (there will be no award of 5 penalty runs in this instance)
    - 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 (by either umpire) and become dead, as normally this material would not be stored in this area (there will be no award of 5 run penalty in this instance);

- Place their equipment over the boundary at the closest point to the end they would be bowling from.
- All players are responsible for the carrying and storage of their own equipment.

#### **After the match**

- Umpires are not required to physically handle the scorebook, they will check the details visually, and physically distance themselves from the scorers.
- Do not stay around to socialise after the match.
- Wipe down the stumps and bails with an antimicrobial alcohol-based wipe.
- Do not shake hands when saying goodbye to other participants.
- Sanitise your hands before leaving the ground.
- Clean your equipment at home to avoid cross contamination

#### **Scorers**

- Bring your own food and drink required for the day.
- Bring all the equipment that you may need for the match.
- Drive to the match where possible. Do not carpool, unless you live in the same household as another participant of the match.
- If scoring is being completed electronically on a tablet, it is recommended that scoring is carried out with an individual tablet. The assigned scorer should ideally be the only person to touch the device and is responsible for uploading any data.
- If another person is needed to use the device, it should be cleaned with an alcohol-based wipe.
- If using a paper-based scorebook, it is preferred that one person uses it. Anyone else should use their own pen or clean the other pen before use.
- Scorers shall adhere to physical distancing and sit at least 1.5 metres apart. Two tables may need to be set up to allow for the adequate distance

It is up to all participants to do what we can to help ensure that the game of cricket is played in a safe environment. This above factsheet should serve to provide practical guidelines as to how to manage a cricket match in a COVID safe environment.

Please note this factsheet is intended as a guide only, please observe policies and playing conditions of local Cricket Associations where practical.

If any further information is required, please contact NSWCUA, your local Cricket Association or the NSW Department of Health.