

HACO: Covid-19 Guidance under Step 4

Introduction

With effect from Monday 19th July the country has moved to Step 4 of the UK government road map. Following this change the ECB has issued further guidance for recreational cricket.

A key focus of the guidance under Step 4 is about individuals taking personal responsibility for their own safety in respect of Covid-19.

This note provides guidance for clubs, players and officials taking part in league cricket for the remaining weeks of the 2021 season.

Guidance on Covid-related playing conditions

The key message is that every individual has to take a view of the risk(s) he or she is prepared to take. The following are specific examples:

1. Scorers and scoreboxes

Although scorers may now sit together in the scorebox it is possible that one or both scorers will decide that they want to continue to sit separately from each other. Clubs should make every effort to accommodate the wishes of the scorers and make adequate arrangements for the scorers to sit apart if required.

2. Sanitisation breaks

The League does not require mandatory Sanitisation Breaks any longer. However, clubs should continue, whenever possible, to provide hand sanitiser for use by the participants during the game. Participants (players and umpires) should sanitise their hands as frequently as they judge necessary but do so when the playing time taken will be minimised, e.g. at the fall of a wicket, at the end of an over, during any interruption in play. If either captain expresses a wish to continue with Sanitisation Breaks every six overs that wish is to be respected when the side of which he is captain is fielding and the breaks must take place. Participants may prefer to provide their own sanitiser.

3. The ball

The League strongly advises against saliva/spit or sweat being applied to the cricket ball.

The requirement to sanitise the ball at each Sanitisation Break is removed, as is the requirement to sanitise the ball after it has come into contact with a spectator or other non-participant. Umpires are now permitted to handle the ball during play, in accordance with the laws of cricket. Whether they choose to do so is a personal decision and that decision must be communicated to the captains prior to the toss.

4. Players' clothing & Drying material

It is recommended that umpires do not, and are not asked to, carry items of any player's clothing or carry drying material (cloths). If the umpires decide that they are prepared to do so this that should be communicated to the captains prior to the toss.

5. Stumps and bails

Players are now permitted to handle the stumps and bails before and during the match, with the agreement of the umpires. The umpires shall inform the captains prior to the toss if they do not wish the players to handle the bails.

6. Bowler's markers

Umpires are now permitted to provide bowler's markers. Whether they choose to do so is a personal decision and that decision must be communicated to the captains prior to the toss.