

**The Northern Club Return to Cricket Risk Assessment 12 April 2021**

Background:

Folowing the Government’s Lockdown Roadmap, the ECB announced that recreational cricket clubs can start to play from Monday 12 April 2021. Outdoor training, junior and disability cricket could start on 29 March, and general recreational cricket from 12 April, and it is the intention of The Northern Club to restart playing cricket in line with this. <https://resources.ecb.co.uk/ecb/document/2021/04/09/907a4c6a-460e-4f82-b807-4d48b2a6e890/Recreational_Cricket_COVID_Guidance_in_England_Step-2_12_April.pdf>

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| Risk | Control Measures | Outcomes | Remarks / reassessment |
| Is ECB advice being followed? | Cricket Committee has taken ECB guidance into consideration as the basis of this Risk Assessment and circulating to club officials and members. | Ensure most relevant guidance informs risk identification and management.  The document ORGANISED OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL CRICKET GUIDANCE FOR ENGLAND IN 2021 Version 1 Government Roadmap Step 2 | 12 April 2021  <https://resources.ecb.co.uk/ecb/document/2021/04/09/907a4c6a-460e-4f82-b807-4d48b2a6e890/Recreational_Cricket_COVID_Guidance_in_England_Step-2_12_April.pdf>  is an appendix to this Risk Assessment and forms the basis of the protocols implemented by the Northern Club. | We have reviewed and applied ECB guidance of 12 April 2021.  Will continue to monitor changes. |
| Are changes regularly communicated to members? | General announcements are communicated to all members via email and on club web site.  Circulation of risk assessment document to Club officials and players. | Ensure all players follow current measures. | No hard copy of risk assessment in club due to frequent updates – important that members are clear where to access the most up to date version. |
| Are changes reviewed by the committee? | As guidance changes the Cricket Committee will discuss and implement changes.  Members to be informed via email and social media. | Ensure all players adhere to new measures. | Use email and website to communicate changes to members. |
| Are the changing rooms open? | The changing rooms will be open for players to store their kit during play if they can’t leave in a car. The showers are NOT in use and there should be no more than 2 people in the room at any time. | Advise players to leave their kit in a car, if not possible then changing rooms can be used in line with guidance.  This is true for main ground changing rooms and the Tiffin pavilion for matches on the far grounds.  Showers at the Northern Club are currently not in use, and players are advised to come ready to play.  Following play, club rules have been suspended allowing players to use the bar and clubhouse without showering and changing |  |
| Are ECB guidelines understood?  Prior to cricket activity | ECB guidelines have been discussed. We plan to implement them as far as possible.  Individual captains/coaches will send reminder of this Risk Assessment to players and officials. | An email will be sent to all players before the re-start on 12 April 2021 to lay out the conditions:  Prior to all cricket activity  All participants (players, coaches, officials, volunteers and spectators) should check for symptoms of COVID-19. In line with current UK 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 UK Government guidance. In addition, any participants who have been asked to isolate by NHS Test and Trace 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.  • Participants should follow UK Government guidance on shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19 (found here) if it applies to them.  • Participants should comply with all public health restrictions and avoid high risk behaviour outside the sports setting to reduce the risk to their fellow participants when they do attend a cricket club or venue.  • 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.  • Participants should follow UK Government guidance on best practice for travel, including minimising the use of public transport and limiting car sharing (found here). • Use of the clubhouse, changing rooms and toilets should adhere to the latest UK Government guidance.  • For advice on reducing the risk of infection when outside your home see here.  • Club representatives should ensure that the facility is compliant with current UK 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 the ECB’s guidance.  • Club representatives should make all participants aware of expected social distancing and hygiene measures during play and whilst on site.  • 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.  • Club representatives should make all participants aware of the increase in transmission risk associated with partaking in even socially distanced group activity and should ensure that all participants are clear that they are opting to participate in cricket activity. | All points will be communicated, and any changes discussed. |
| During Cricket Activity | Cricket Committee will communicate these guidelines to all players before play.  Players are reminded to bring sanitiser with them, but the Club will also provide sanitiser and sanitising wipes.  Junior cricket activity (eg Friday Night Cricket Smash) arranged with limited numbers, and organised into bubbles of 30 people max. Logistical arrangements (eg separate registration and playing areas for each bubble) are in place to limit risk of bubbles mixing. | During all cricket activity  • Cricket activity must take place outdoors only.  • 11-a-side cricket can return as long as groups are limited to a maximum of 30 participants, including coaches and officials.  • Participants should enter the site 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. More information is available here.  https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-organised-events-guidance-for-local-authorities/coronavirus-covid-19-organised-events-guidance-for-local-authorities  • No sweat or saliva is to be applied to the ball at any time.  • All participants should sanitise their hands prior to the start of the activity.  • Hand sanitiser should be used at all breaks in activity and prior to consuming any food or drinks.  • Players should refrain from spitting or rinsing out their mouths.  • In line with current UK 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. |  |
| After cricket guidelines | Alterations made to clubhouse access to manage additional use of the bar and clubhouse, including dedicated signage and management of queuing and flows within the building. | After all cricket activity  • All participants should sanitise their hands after the completion of activity.  • Participants should exit whilst maintaining social distancing.  • Social gathering after the activity will be allowed in line with current UK Government guidelines on hospitality and social distancing must be maintained. ECB guidance is available here.   <https://resources.ecb.co.uk/ecb/document/2021/04/09/907a4c6a-460e-4f82-b807-4d48b2a6e890/Recreational_Cricket_COVID_Guidance_in_England_Step-2_12_April.pdf>  • One club representative/volunteer should be responsible for collecting and disinfecting any shared equipment.  • Regular cleaning of equipment and the facility should take place, particularly between one group finishing, and the next group starting.  • Clubs should encourage all participants to report any infection of their household to the NHS Test and Trace system following use of the facility to limit the spread of the virus (section 3): <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace> |  |
| Preparation before play | The arrangements listed in adjacent Outcomes section have been implemented.  Attendees for cricket matches are recorded, either by cricket captains/coaches, or for Friday Night Cricket, via a registration process for all attendees (including parents and guests). This information will be kept for 21 days and available for NHS Track & Trace. | Preparation of the cricket venue  • Prior to reaching Step 4 of the ECB Roadmap and subsequently re-opening, club representatives should ensure that their facility is compliant with current UK Government legislation including legislation and guidance related to COVID-19, and in accordance to the ECB’s guidance on Getting your Clubhouse and Ground Ready for Step 4 here. A risk assessment should have been completed and risk mitigation measures put in place and monitored.  • On any day of the 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:  o Set-up of public health operating procedures and access signage. o 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, officials, and spectators.  • 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. |  |
| Additional advice | . | Additional advice for socially distanced match-play  • Players should adhere to UK Government social distancing guidance at all times (including throughout warm-ups) except in the following limited circumstances during competitive play in England only, where 1m+ is permitted: 1) wicket keepers standing up to the stumps and 2) distance between slip fielders.  • No sweat or saliva to be applied to the ball at any time.  • 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. • Batters to 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.  • 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.  • 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.  • Communal scorebooks passed from one player to another should be avoided.  • Social distancing must always be maintained including during post-wicket celebrations, drinks breaks and tactical discussions.  • 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.  • Spectators should remain socially distanced at all times and refrain from all contact with the ball e.g. returning it to the field of play. Spectator groups must be restricted to discrete six person gathering limits and spread out, in line with wider UK Government guidance.  • 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.  • Use of the clubhouse, changing rooms and toilets should adhere to the latest Government advice and be prepared in accordance with the ECB’s guidance on Getting your Clubhouse and Ground Ready for Step 4.  • Detailed guidance relating to officials will be released in due course by the Association of Cricket Officials (ACO), including appropriate sanctions for participants not adhering to COVID-19 guidance, including but not limited to, player ejection and match cancellation. |  |
| Are there sufficient supplies of hygiene resources and are they accessible? | Hand sanitiser will be available in the club at access and exit points both for when entering the bar or using toilet facilities.  Soap and hot water and disposable paper towels in the toilets.  Each player has been advised to bring their own hand sanitiser. | Process is in line with government guidance of 6 April and ECB guidelines of 12 April 2021. |  |
| Are all the identified risks properly mitigated and regularly re- assessed? |  | We will take feedback from the first day of play and make adjustments if required. |  |
| How will the club respond if there is a suspected case of COVID 19 at the club? | Should there be a suspected case in the club we will close with immediate effect, carry out a deep clean and report to PHE for further advice before the club reopens. | The risk of further contamination will be managed as best as possible. |  |
| Is there a robust feedback and reply system to ensure best practice and two-way communications for all members | Members have access to club managers email address and will be encouraged to contact with any concerns. Risk assessment will be continuously reviewed in line with changes to government guidance and feedback from club officials, and members and changes made accordingly. | Club will evolve with changes to guidance and players’ experience to ensure risk is kept to a minimum. |  |
| If there is a member and/or officer for the club nominated to be responsible for COVID-19 matters, are their contact details known and are they on-call? | Cricket Chairman and Club manager to be responsible for COVID-19 matters and his details are available via emails distributed and on the website. He is supported by the Club Welfare Officer to ensure that the welfare of the underage members is considered in all matters arising. | There is strong support from club officials who are ready to take responsibility should it be necessary in an emergency. All are kept in the loop with any changes / decisions made through regular email and zoom calls so are aware of current practice / likely changes. |  |
| If emergency services are called is there a well- understood procedure? | Bar area and grounds are easily accessible to emergency services – fire station in very close proximity. | Emergency services will have access to the ground / bar if required. |  |