



## NWMCA COVID 19 RULES & BY-LAWS

### SEASON 2020-21

**We acknowledge that Cricket in a pandemic is a privilege, not a right. We all need to ensure we are all doing the right thing to ensure the safety of players, volunteers, officials and the local community.**

These match rules are an addendum to the full NWMCA Match day rules and by-laws as published

Where these rules contradict or are inconsistent with any other NWMCA rule or by-law, the Covid-19 rule or by-law takes precedent, or overrides the other rule or by-law.

These rules and by-laws apply to **ALL NWMCA sections**, and may be amended during the season as required.

The playing conditions, and enforcement of those playing conditions are in step with Cricket Australia's and Cricket Victoria's Return to Play Practical Guidelines, ensuring playing conditions are safe for all participants, officials and volunteers.

#### **A1.1 Team Sheets**

No physical team sheets shall be shared with the opposition or umpires

It is strongly recommended that teams are selected in MyCricket before the match commences

Where teams are not already selected on MyCricket before play (recommended), team sheets can be filled out and remain in the scorebook with a photo taken. The photo of the team sheet can be shown to the umpire and the opposition Captain. The photo of the team sheet is also to be sent to the opposition via email or message.

#### **A.1.2 Changes to selected team before game**

If at any time before the game commences, a player is unable to take the field due to Covid-19 (for example, player presents with Covid-19 symptoms, has tested positive to Covid-19, is required to isolate as a close contact) the player may be replaced on the team sheet. The team sheet should be noted with "Covid-19 change" and the opposition captain and independent umpire/s advised.

The player who has been replaced cannot be named on any other team sheet on that day.

#### **A.2 Changes to selected team after game has commenced**

If at any time after the game commences, a player is unable to continue in the game due to Covid-19 (for example, player presents with Covid-19 symptoms, has tested positive to Covid-19, is required to isolate as a close contact) the player may be replaced on the team sheet. That is a replacement player is permitted. The team sheet should be noted with "Covid-19 change" and the opposition captain and independent umpire/s advised.

The replacement player cannot be replaced

The player who has been replaced on the team sheet cannot be named on any other team sheet on that day.

### **A.3 Team required to forfeit due to Covid-19**

(i) If any team is required to forfeit due to player/s being unavailable due to Covid-19 reasons, the club and team must follow the procedures in rule 2.1.7. The club will NOT be fined under by-law 2.3 in season 2020-21 if a forfeit is due to Covid-19. This will include where players are unavailable due to work commitments where their employment or business has been impacted by Covid-19

(ii) Where a team forfeits three times, the club will still need to talk to the NWMCA Board to determine if the team will continue, as outlined in rule 2.1.7

Any player who was unavailable for a team due to Covid-19 reasons, cannot be named on any other team sheet on that day.

### **A.4 Match drawn if abandoned due to Covid-19**

Where a game is abandoned after it is commenced, for any reason related to Covid-19, the match will be declared a draw, and 3 points awarded to each team

### **A.5 Temperature check before games**

It is ***strongly recommended*** that every player is temperature checked before the game. If a player presents with a temperature of over 37.5, they should be asked to rest for 10-15 minutes. If, following a second temperature check, the player's temperature remains over 37.5, that player should be replaced on the team sheet, and leave the ground.

The home team is to provide the temperature check gun if checks are to be undertaken.

The captain of the home team should check all players of the away team. The captain of the away team should check all players of the home team.

#### **A.6.1 Early start to game**

In any match, if both Captains and any independent umpire(s) agree, the match may start earlier than the fixture time.

#### **A.6.2 Bowling and Facing Ends**

Ten (10) overs will be bowled from the wicket at one end of the pitch, the next ten will be bowled from the other end, and so on.

Batsmen will change ends on completion of each over, except at the end of the over when the bowlers change ends (10<sup>th</sup> over, 20<sup>th</sup> over, 30<sup>th</sup> over and so on).

#### **A.7.1 Umpires NOT to handle the ball**

The umpire (s) are at no time to handle the ball. At the end of each over, and after a wicket falls, the bowler or fielder will leave the ball at the base of the stumps. The next bowler will collect the ball.

#### **A.7.2 Umpires NOT to hold player's gear**

No items worn by a player shall be touched by another person. This includes any items that a bowler takes off to bowl their over (e.g. jumper, sunglasses, cap). These items are **not** to be held by an umpire or given to another player.

A circle of 1m diameter is to be marked on the ground 20m behind the umpire at the bowlers end in line with the stumps (e.g. at the top of run-up). Player's gear is to be placed by the player themselves in the marked circle.

If player's gear that has been placed in the circle is struck the ball is declared a 'dead ball' and re-bowled (except for helmets and fielding equipment – normal penalties apply).

### **A.8 Stumps**

The stumps at both ends of the wicket will ONLY be handled by the umpire(s). It is either umpire's responsibility to reset the stumps if the wicket is broken during the game

### **A.9 Hygiene breaks**

Hygiene breaks will be taken every 40 minutes or 10 overs at minimum, unless a hygiene break has been taken for some other reason. The following routine is to be followed. The same routine should be followed at any drinks break, the fall of a wicket, close of an innings, any other breaks in the game (rain etc.), or immediately following any breaches resulting in Enforcement Procedures (**see A.13**)

- All participants and umpire(s) on the field should clean their hands with a suitable sanitiser
- The ball is to be cleaned with an antimicrobial wipe

In all senior matches, the fielding captain is responsible for cleaning the ball

In all junior matches, the fielding team's coach or team manager is responsible for cleaning the ball

The person responsible for cleaning the ball must ensure they have cleaned their hands with sanitiser first, and consider wearing disposable gloves whilst cleaning the ball.

Umpires will clean the stumps but before setting the stumps in the ground before the match.

The umpire(s) will clean the stumps during the game and hygiene breaks. Umpires should sanitise their hands at regular intervals.

Bins must be made available to dispose of wipes and gloves.

### **A.10 Scorers and scoreboard**

Scorers shall maintain a 1.5m distance at all times. Any equipment used (iPad, scorebook, pens) shall be wiped (with an alcohol-based antibacterial with minimum 70% alcohol) before use and each time a new scorer is required.

No other person is to approach the scorer's table. All persons must remain at least 1.5m away from scorers. It is recommended an "exclusion zone" be marked around the scorers. Line marked on the ground, ropes or cones is sufficient

### **A.11 Drinks breaks**

Players and official MUST provide their own drinks. The home team will NOT provide drinks in any match

### **A.12 Tea break**

Players and officials MUST provide their own snacks/food. The home team is NOT to provide food to be shared at tea break

Teams should consider having a shortened tea break, if other breaks such as hygiene breaks have caused the game to run behind time.

### **A.13 Sweat and/or Saliva Placed on the Ball**

#### **Playing Condition A.13**

- A. At **no time in a match** should any participant place sweat and/or saliva on the cricket ball for any purpose

#### **Definitions**

**Intentional:** When a participant, aware of the playing conditions, wilfully places saliva and/or sweat on the ball for the purpose of gaining an advantage in gameplay

**Unintentional:** When a participant accidentally places saliva and/or sweat on the ball with no underlying intention to gain advantage in gameplay. For example, if a fielder habitually licks his/her fingers before the ball is delivered as a matter of routine

Where a player, coach or team manager is acting as an umpire, that person is an umpire as defined and will follow the enforcement procedures below.

#### **Enforcement Procedures**

Sweat and/or saliva placed on the ball shall be based on “Team” occurrences – e.g. if player X unintentionally places saliva on the ball that is the first occurrence. If player Y later in the same match places sweat on the ball, then that is the second occurrence.

Penalties will be applied to individuals for repeated offences by the same participant.

- a) The umpire(s) shall call time, if necessary
- b) The umpire(s) shall summon and inform the offending player’s captain of his/her breach of **Playing Condition A.13**.
- c) The umpire(s) may choose to enforce the following penalties:
  - i. In the first occurrence the umpire(s) shall deliver a first and final warning to the captain and the team
  - ii. In the second occurrence the umpire(s) shall award **5 penalty** runs to the batting team
  - iii. Any following occurrence the umpire(s) shall award **20 penalty** runs to the batting team
  - iv. Where an umpire believes a player has **intentionally** placed sweat or saliva on the ball, the umpire will report the player.
  - v. Where a player breaches this rule for a second time in the same match, whether unintentionally or intentionally placing sweat or saliva on the ball, the umpire will report the player
  - vi. The umpire shall advise the captain and the player that they are reported under a Level 1 offence – attempting to gain an unfair advantage (see match rule 4.1.6.1)
  - vii. The umpire(s), if they feel that health and safety has compromised to such an extent that play has become dangerous, may choose to abandon the match
- d) The umpire(s) will direct the fielding captain to carry out the cleaning direction on the ball before resuming play

#### A14 Payments to umpires

Payment to umpires **may** be made electronically if both the club and the umpire agree and are in a position to do so. Captains or other club representatives should discuss with the umpire prior to the game if the umpire is able to receive payment electronically.

If payment is to be made by cash, notes collected by the club should be placed in a plastic bag, and **must be** sanitised (spray sanitiser is recommended), before being handed to the umpire

#### A15 Physical (Social) Distance & Face masks

**Off-field:** All people attending cricket matches (players, volunteers, spectators, scorers, canteen staff etc.) are to maintain a 1.5m distance from others at all times before, during and post-match and wear a face mask whilst off-field.

**On-field:** Players & umpires shall not gather within 1.5m before and after play, during any breaks, following wickets and shall minimise any time spent within 1.5m of another person whilst play is underway. Umpires are required to wear a face mask; however, this is optional for on-field players.

#### A16 Innings length – play to time

In all two day grades, and one day grades, the innings of the team batting first will be closed at the listed time for the innings break. If the maximum number of overs have not been bowled at the listed time for the innings break, the team batting second can only receive the same number of overs as the team batting first received.

Captains, umpires and all players and officials must work together to keep the game moving and ensure as many overs as possible are bowled

Grade	Maximum Overs per innings	Game Start time	Innings break time (no later than)	Length of innings break (maximum)
Two Day Open Age 80 over comps	40	1.00pm	3.30pm	20 minutes
Two Day Open Age 70 Over comps	35	1.00pm	3.15pm	20 minutes
One Day Open Age comps (Saturday and Sunday)	35	1.00pm	3.15pm	20 minutes
Under Age Friday comps – U12, U14, U16	25	5.00pm	6.25pm	5 minutes
Under Age Saturday comps – U12, U14, U16	25	8.20am	9.50am	5 minutes

This rule does not apply in the Senior Women's T20 competition, Under Age All Girls competitions, or the Mixed Under 10 Friday competition.