

**BOMERE HEATH CRICKET CLUB**  
**RETURN TO CRICKET PLAN / RISK ASSESSMENT**  
**APRIL 2021**

**PRIOR TO ALL CRICKET ACTIVITY**

- All participants (players, coaches, officials, volunteers and spectators) will be asked to check for symptoms of COVID-19.

This Risk Assessment will be clearly displayed in several locations around the Clubhouse / Ground and the Shropshire County Cricket League website advising participants to:

- 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.
- Carry out personal hygiene measures at home before and after cricket activity.
- Bring their own hand sanitiser where possible and maintain strict and frequent hand hygiene measures at all times.
- Follow UK Government guidance on best practice for travel, including minimising the use of public transport and limiting car sharing.

The use of the clubhouse, changing rooms and toilets will adhere to the latest UK Government guidance.

Club representatives will ensure that the facility is compliant with current UK Government legislation including legislation and guidance related to COVID-19. Risk mitigation measures will be put in place and monitored in accordance with the 'ORGANISED OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL CRICKET GUIDANCE FOR ENGLAND IN 2021 Version 1 Government Roadmap Step 2 | 12 April 2021'.

- Club representatives will make all participants aware of expected social distancing and hygiene measures during play and whilst on site.
- The Club will strictly limit the time spent congregating at the ground before the activity / game begins. Meet-up times will reflect this. Participants will be advised to arrive changed and ready to begin the warm-up, if possible.
- Club representatives will make all participants aware of the increase in transmission risk associated with partaking in even socially distanced group activity and will ensure that all participants are clear that they are opting to participate in cricket activity.

**DURING ALL CRICKET ACTIVITY**

- Cricket activity will take place outdoors only.
- Groups will be limited to a maximum of 30 participants, including coaches and officials.
- Participants will be advised to enter the ground and prepare their personal equipment whilst maintaining social distancing.
- Players will be advised to limit sharing of equipment. If unavoidable, they will be advised to practise strict hand hygiene before and after use and advised that the equipment must be cleaned before use by another person.

- Participant will be advised that no sweat or saliva is to be applied to the ball at any time.
- All participants will be advised to sanitise their hands prior to the start of the activity.
- Hand sanitiser will be available at all breaks in activity and prior to consuming any food or drinks.
- Players will be advised to refrain from spitting or rinsing out their mouths.
- In line with current UK Government guidance, the Club will not prepare food for participants. Individuals will be advised to bring their own food and drink for 'teas' or practice and that water bottles or other refreshment containers should not be shared.

### **AFTER ALL CRICKET ACTIVITY**

- All participants will be advised to sanitise their hands after the completion of activity.
- Participants will be advised to exit the ground whilst maintaining social distancing.
- Social gathering after the activity will be allowed in line with current UK Government guidelines on hospitality and social distancing will be maintained.
- A designated club representative/volunteer will be responsible for collecting and disinfecting any shared equipment.
- Regular cleaning of equipment and the facility will take place, particularly between one group finishing, and the next group starting.

### **PREPARATION OF THE VENUE FOR CRICKET**

On any day of the activity, club representatives and volunteers will ensure that all COVID-19 measures are in place according to the club operating and safety plans, whilst maintaining social distancing. The Club has developed our own 'opening up checklist' which includes:

- A public health operating procedures and access signage.
- 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 will continue to be provided. First Aid equipment, suitable PPE for First Aid will be made available.
- The Club will make hand washing facilities and/or hand sanitiser available for all site users.
- The Club will have entry and exit, and parking arrangements to the ground that ensures social distancing can be maintained.
- The Club will outline socially distanced areas for teams, officials, and spectators.
- The Club will ensure that all accessible provision within the site and the facility are available.
- The Club's Groundskeepers will mark running lines on the square in line with the popping crease at 2m intervals on either side of the wicket.

**The Club will support NHS Test and Trace efforts by keeping a temporary record of all participants in any cricket activity for 21 days and support NHS requests for data if needed in line with data protection legislation.**

## **ADDITIONAL ADVICE FOR SOCIALLY DISTANCED MATCH-PLAY**

- Players will be advised how to adhere to UK Government social distancing guidance at all times (including throughout warm-ups) except in the following limited circumstances during competitive play where 1m+ is permitted: 1) wicket keepers standing up to the stumps and 2) distance between slip fielders.
- A 'hygiene break' will 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 will be advised to cleanse their hands using a suitable sanitiser. This routine will 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 will sanitise their bat when leaving the field of play and Wicket Keepers will sanitise their gloves.
- Bowlers will not hand any personal items to the umpire. Bowlers will place these items at the boundary themselves.
- Batters will run in distinct running lines to ensure they are not within 2m of the bowler or other batter. Lines will be marked on the square on either side of the wicket.
- If two scorers are required, social distancing will be maintained with only one official inside the scorers' box and no players will be allowed in the scorers' box. The scorers' box is well ventilated.
- Communal scorebooks passed from one player to another will be avoided.
- Social distancing will always be maintained including during post-wicket celebrations, drinks breaks and tactical discussions.
- Minimised sharing of the ball in a match by limiting contact as the ball makes its way back to the bowler e.g. the ball will go straight from wicketkeeper to bowler instead of around surrounding fielders.

## **SPECTATORS**

- Spectators will be advised to 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 will be restricted to discrete six person gathering limits and spread out, in line with wider UK Government guidance.

## **UMPIRES**

- Umpires will be advised to refrain from any contact with the ball, it can be returned to the base of the stumps at breaks and wickets.
- Umpires will be responsible for the stumps closest to them and should be the only person replacing the bails if dislodged.

## **CLUBHOUSE, CHANGING ROOMS AND TOILETS**

- Use of the clubhouse, changing rooms and toilets will 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.

## **IN THE EVENT OF RAIN**

- Participants will be advised to return to their own vehicle to maintain social distancing if there is insufficient outdoor cover from the rain to maintain social distancing.
- The application of covers in the event of wet weather will be done whilst maintaining social distancing.

## **CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY**

- For children, **maximum groups sizes of 30** will include one qualified coach or All Stars Cricket Activator per group plus additional adult(s) required to meet cricket safeguarding ratios (1:8 aged 8 and under, 1:10 aged 9 and over). All groups will be self-sufficient e.g. a coach cannot oversee two separate groups.
- Parents will be advised to drop off and collect participants via a protocol that maintains social distancing.
- Parents will be advised to remain socially distanced on the side-line.
- For younger age groups, plastic equipment will be used and will be disinfected at the end of each session.
- For ECB National Participation Programmes, e.g. All Stars Cricket, the ECB will recommend activities to minimise close contact between participants and minimise the sharing of equipment, whilst still creating a fun and creative learning environment will be followed.
- It will be recommended that participants take part in solo activity, before moving to pairs activity that maintains social distancing and allows participants to operate in the same pair for the length of the session.

## **TRAINING & OTHER ACTIVITY**

- Where participants cannot provide their own individual equipment, cricket equipment such as balls will be numbered, so that each participant has a specific numbered ball and/or cone and uses that for the entirety of the session to minimise sharing of equipment where possible.
- If the bowling machines are used, they will be cleaned thoroughly between uses with dry cleaning products and all balls will be cleaned with disinfectant. This will be the responsibility of the bowling machine operator.

## **ADDITIONAL ADVICE FOR COACHES**

- 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.
  - Coaches will be reminded that it is the coach's responsibility to ensure that they coach players in a safe environment and follow relevant guidelines.
  - Coaches should 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.
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- The Club will 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-how-it-works>.

RISK ASSESSMENT PREPARED BY BOMERE HEATH CRICKET CLUB COMMITTEE APRIL 2021