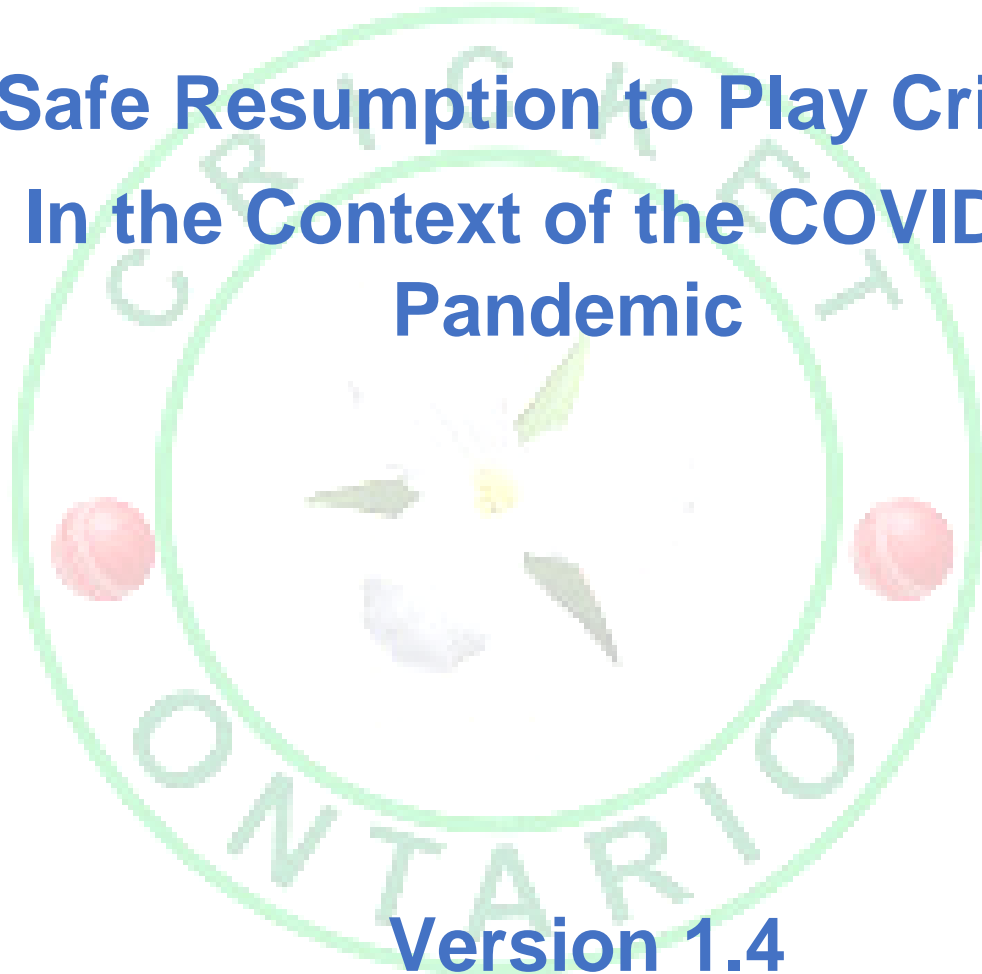




# **Cricket Ontario**

## **Safe Resumption to Play Cricket In the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic**



**Version 1.4**

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## Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has had devastating effects on cricket communities in Ontario and leading to significant restrictions on all sports. The resumption of sport can significantly contribute to the re-establishment of normality in the cricket community in a COVID-19 environment. The sport organizations and participants will be faced with complex decisions regarding resumption of training and competition in the current circumstances. The Cricket Ontario in consultation with Cricket Canada and local Government has developed a guideline to inform the stakeholders on resumption of Cricket. The Cricket Ontario will be regularly monitoring the government updates, Cricket Canada, and ICC updates on about COVID-19 and make necessary addition to the guideline.

## Purpose of these Guidelines

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance for the safe resumption of cricket activities that includes training, playing, and travelling in domestic levels. These guidelines have been developed with the review of ICC COVID-19 Resumption of Play Guideline.

This document offers guidance on how members can return to play alongside the resumption of outdoor activities of the sport once permit to use the facilities has been issued. The Cricket Ontario Members shall use these guidelines to create policies for back to cricket activities within their leagues. These guidelines shall be reviewed and adopted along with National and Local government regulations and guidance which shall always take precedence over these guidelines.

We encourage Cricket Ontario Members to monitor changes to laws and policies and amend their own policies as required to ensure that their cricket community is applying best practices and complying with government requirements. The guidelines are relevant to domestic cricket or community cricket and applies to all participants.

The CV-19 pandemic, and the responses of governments and the public health community to it, remains unpredictable. The document is subject to all provincial emergency orders, advice and recommendations of public health authorities, municipal by-laws or other requirements, and requirements of facility owners. If there is any conflict between this recommended guidelines and other requirement of public health authorities, municipal by-laws or requirements of facility owners, these other requirements prevail over these guidelines.

This document will be periodically updated as the provincial situation continues to evolve. As revisions are made, the current version of the document will be posted on the Cricket Ontario website.

- It is recommended that all participants players, coaches, training staff, management shall sign the waiver form provided by the member leagues.
- No cricket activity- training or match play – shall start until permitted by the province and the local municipality.



## Education and Awareness

Education will help promote and set expectations for player behavior ahead of resumption in play. A communique shall be sent out to the players of the health risks associated with CV-19 and the resumption of play guidelines to ensure players are aware of the risk and risk management protocol.

## Resumption of Cricket

The Cricket is a non-contact team sport and subsequently the risks and exposure to CV-19 may not be the same as from full contact team sports. However, there are several risks specific to the sport of Cricket which must be considered besides the general physical exercise guidance issued by the governments

### Safety First

- The resumption of cricket activities shall begin only if there is no known risk that might result in an increase in the local CV-19 transmission.
- Every effort shall be made to ensure that risks associated with the environment such as field of play, training areas, changing rooms, equipment, management of the ball have been mitigated before any starting the training or the match.
- Leagues shall be following the guided advice of their respective local governments when sporting activity is resumed, no cricket activity shall commence until approval has been obtained from the local government.

### Government Guidelines

(Dated: May 30, 2020)

- Social Distancing - 2 Meters 6.5 Feet apart
- Use of Face Masks
- Hand Washing
- Hand Sanitizers and/or Lysol Disinfecting Wipes
- Temperature Testing - if available
- Avoid Touching Eyes, Nose & Mouth
- Avoid Coughing without covering your mouth
- Anyone feeling sick of any type - get tested & Stay at home if tested Positive



## Training

- The individual practice shall be performed outdoor
- The Players willing to participate in the training session must be in full Cricket Apparel & kit at grounds
- Must check temperature, before participating in the training or working on cricket skills with a coach
- Must maintaining a two-meters distance from the participating players/coach
- Group of Players can be part of the training at the start, it can be increase as government guidelines allows
- Each player shall bring and use their own cricket balls which must remain in their kit bag when not in use.
- Individuals shall bring their own clearly marked water bottles, regularly sanitize their hands and the bottle shall remain in their kit bag or with them when not in use
- Each bowler shall use his own balls and in cleaning 'cloth' as may be required.
- Players shall be barred from applying any saliva or the sweat to the ball
- Batsmen must kick or hit the ball back to the bowler/coach in the nets - Not pick it up and throw it
- **If training with the coach**  
In the start skill training with coaches shall be in one-on-one sessions, bowlers and then Batsman.
  - **"one skin per ball"** policy shall be in place for these sessions,
  - Coaches, shall have their own set of balls for throwdowns
  - Coaches must wear a rubber glove on their spare hand when taking deliveries from bowlers with a mitt on the other.



## Fielding drills

- Fielding drills shall have player using their own cricket balls.
- Wicketkeeping gloves, mitts and the “side-arm” slingers used to replicate seam bowlers must all be disinfected between sessions.
- Players shall bring their own clearly marked water bottles and regularly sanitize their hands
- After the Training, players shall immediately depart home.
- No storage of equipment left behind or store on site
- No dressing-room access.
- A single coach for four or five bowlers with social distancing





## Match Day:

### Off Field Modifications - Teams

- Request Players to use Face Mask (if manageable)
- No Saliva or Sweat to be used for shining the Cricket ball.
- All players must either wash or use hand sanitizer or disinfecting wipes as often as they can while handling the team equipment, Helmets, Cricket ball / bats etc. when sitting outside during their batting or fielding Innings
- No Sharing of Personal Cricket Equipment such as Helmets bats, batting gloves, batting Inners, pads, Gloves, Face cloths.
- Water - all players shall have their own private water bottles. There must be no sharing of water - on or off the field of play. Teams must provide drinking water with players individual CUP / BOTTLED clearly labelled to avoid any mistakes being made.
- There must be NO SPITTING off the Field while sitting outside as a batting team.
- All replacement Cricket balls must also be sanitized before being given to the Umpires for examination for replacement of the game Ball.
- The batting side players while waiting for their batting shall be sitting at a 6-feet apart during the game
- The Scorers shall be a 6-feet apart during the scoring of the game.
- The umpires when arriving at the scorer table to verify the score or during the interval must keep 6 feet distance...



## On Field Modifications – Players

- Players to Stay home if any signs of any on the current known COVID-19 Symptoms
- ON field Players shall NOT congregate as a TEAM of 11 but in Groups of five (5)
- All teams while in communications with the UMPIRE and Opposing Captains or players shall do from 6-7 feet distance
- The fielding team to respect the placement of fielders to be at a minimum of 6 feet apart (Modified format of NORMAL fielding positions)
- All Inner circle fielders shall be at 6 feet minimum distancing from other fielders and the batsman.
- No Salvia or Sweat to be used for shining the Cricket ball.
- The players must either wash or use hand sanitizer or Lysol disinfecting wipes as often as they can while handling the ball - while fielding and at designated water breaks as well as innings break.
- No Sharing of Personal Cricket Equipment such as Batting gloves, Batting Inners, Wicketkeeping Gloves, Face cloths.
- All players must follow modified sanitization process with respect to the Cricket Ball - wiped with Lysol or any Sanitized Wipes or cloth that MUST be made available to the bowlers - this shall be done at the beginning & End of each over.
- All Wicket Keepers shall maintain at least 3 feet from the stumps or 6 feet away from the Batsman.
- No sharing of wicket keeping gloves and inners
- All Handshaking / Embracing / High Fives / Hugging / Fists Bumping etc. shall be discontinued i.e.  
NO CONTACT Celebrations of any type.
- NO celebrations that involve player contact or breaking the 6 feet distance requirements.
- There must be NO SPITTING on the Field while fielding or Batting or Bowling
- Batsmen shall maintain the 6 feet distance from each other and the on-field players, Umpires, Wicket Keeper, Bowler.
- Water Breaks: All players shall have their own private water bottles. There must be no sharing of water - on or off the field of play. Teams must provide drinking water with players individual CUP / BOTTLED clearly labelled to avoid any mistakes being made.





## On Field Modifications – Umpires

- Umpires to Wear Mask (if manageable)
- Umpires must use sanitizer or disinfecting wipes to clean their hands when needed
- Umpires to maintain at least 6 feet between Team players, Captains and on field players
- Umpires to ensure that all field placements are the 6 feet
- Umpires shall assist captains monitoring that no more than 5 Players together.
- Umpire shall enforce the NO Saliva or Sweat and use sanitizer or disinfecting wipes to clean the Ball.
  - Breaching the guideline shall result replacing of the ball, warning and if continue, runs plenty or forfeit of the match,
- Umpires to ensure that the teams and bowlers are following the guidelines for keeping the Cricket Ball GERM Free as per the designated time (begin & end of each over - and during if assessed as required.
- Umpire shall enforce the requirement of NO Personal equipment sharing between players.
- Umpires shall not carry or hold any player's personal or cricket equipment such as Caps, sweater, towels, etc....
- Umpires shall assist captains monitoring and enforcing all the Social Distancing precautions as listed form both ON & OFF Field players.
- Umpires shall ensure that both Captains confirm that their Players DO NOT have any signs of illness of any type - especially any of the symptoms of COVID-19.
- Umpires shall be ready to implement the League's Disciplinary actions against any player or team that refuses to adhere to any of the precautions that have been established to enable a safe return to cricket under these very unprecedented time & conditions that prevails.
- Umpires must ensure that both scorers are abiding by the 6 Feet distancing required.
- Umpires & Captains must ensure that there is NO SHARING of water: - bottled, cups or any other containers used during the on-field water breaks as well as before & after each innings.
- Umpires must enforce the **NO CONTACT celebrations** guidelines as defined for the teams (on & off the field) at any time during the game – as well as in between innings
- **Water:** Shall bring their own drinking water as needed. If sharing the teams provided water - please follow the same guidelines as for the players & teams.



## Enforcement

Cricket Ontario urges all participants, volunteers, spectators, and management people to respect these protocols and adhere to them not only for their own safety, but for the safety of all participants.

Member Organizations and participants are expected to enforce these protocols for all cricket activities where such protocols are applicable

Enforcement should start with a warning towards any violation and in case of repetition, must lead to removal of violator from the premises such that safety of other participants can be ensured.

## Isolation Plan if individual becomes ill

In case an individual (player, official, volunteers, spectators) feels unwell during the activity then following steps shall be taken to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the player as well as other participants, volunteers, and spectators:

- Unwell individual must be isolated and removed from the area immediately
- Individual as well as other participants should administer masks to prevent transmission
- Local health authority should be notified of the situation as soon as possible
- Individual must be advised to quarantine him/herself and visit local hospital for testing ASAP
- Affected area should be cordoned off and cleaned at the earliest opportunity
- All participants in attendance shall be advised to self- isolate and monitor their health



## Recommendation for

### Sanctions & Disciplinary Actions/ Fines for breach of Guidelines

<b>Guidelines</b>	<b>Disciplinary Actions-Recommendations</b>
Social Distancing OFF Field Guideline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Warning to captain and the team</li><li>2. Ejection of player/players from the game</li><li>3. Game Forfeit</li><li>4. Suspension and/or Fine</li></ol>
Social Distancing On-Field Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Warning to captain and the team</li><li>2. Ejection of player/players from the game</li><li>3. Game Forfeit</li><li>4. Suspension and/or Fine</li></ol>
Player Sanitization Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Warning to captain and the team</li><li>2. Ejection of player/players from the game</li><li>3. Game Forfeit</li><li>4. Suspension and/or Fine</li></ol>
Team infraction with respect to declaring any player with illness prior to or during the game	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Ejection of player/players from the game</li><li>2. Game Forfeit</li><li>3. Suspension and/or Fine</li></ol>
Cricket Ball Sanitization Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Warning to captain and the team</li><li>2. Ejection of player/players from the game</li><li>3. Game Forfeit</li><li>4. Suspension and/or Fine</li></ol>
Social Distancing Celebrations Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Warning to captain and the team</li><li>2. Ejection of player/players from the game</li><li>3. Game Forfeit</li><li>4. Suspension and/or Fine</li></ol>



## In collaboration with

(listed alphabetically by name):

- Praim Persaud- Brampton Etobicoke District Cricket League
- Shah Zafar – Cricket Ontario
- Cricket Ontario Resumption of Play Committee

## Resource Link:

- ICC BACK TO CRICKET GUIDELINES
- THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF SPORT (AIS) FRAMEWORK FOR REBOOTING SPORT IN A COVID-19 ENVIRONMENT
- <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2020/may/14/ashley-giles-england-cricket-safe-training>
- England Cricket Board

