



# RETURN TO CRICKET

GUIDELINES FROM CRICKET BC

4<sup>th</sup> June 2020



## CRICKET BC BACK TO CRICKET GUIDELINES

### Introduction

The COVID-19 virus emerged in Wuhan China in early December 2019 and has resulted in a World Health Organisation (WHO) declared pandemic that has upended all areas of life, and cricket is no exception. Cricket scheduling and player preparation has been significantly affected by the current COVID-19 pandemic.

The response of governments and public health authorities to limit the spread and impact of COVID-19 has been to reduce human-to-human contact. This preventative action has resulted in an array of responses including quarantine, border closures, school, and workplace closure, gathering restrictions, social distancing, etc. As the clampdown gradually starts to relax in some parts of the world, especially in BC, Canada, and cricket moves towards resumption, it is important to ensure there is no compromise on the health of individuals or the community and government guidelines are strictly adhered to.

### Purpose of these Guidelines

The purpose of the following guidelines is to offer practical guidance to players, clubs and league members on the steps they should take to remain safe while planning to play a cricket game in an outdoor environment.

These guidelines currently apply to Province of British Columbia only.

All activity should be consistent with the BC Government guidance regarding health, social distancing and hygiene.

Cricket BC maintains the position that all recreational cricket remains suspended until we get proper permits. Our primary and ongoing goal is to protect the health of everyone in and around the game.

The adjusted lockdown restrictions provide an opportunity for the use of outdoor cricket facilities (nets and pitches) for the purpose of undertaking exercise and to play organized and recreational cricket matches in future.



## Detailed Guidance for Leagues/Clubs on return to use of Cricket Grounds

These guidelines have been produced in line with the Government of British Columbia guidance on public spaces, outdoor activity and exercise published on 15 May 2020, which can be read [here](#).

There is no obligation for the Leagues / Cricket clubs to reopen their facilities to schedule the games and Leagues should only do so when they are ready and when they can do so safely, following public health guidance. Leagues should be aware that this is subject to change if there is a worsening of the COVID-19 situation and/or Government advice changes.

Once Permits have been obtained practices may resume. And that further guidance will be provided as to when it is appropriate to resume match play, but when able to resume these will be the guidelines in place.

This guide covers:

- General Information about Cricket.
- What has changed and what Cricket Leagues can do now.
- A reminder of the precautions that still need to be taken – including social distancing.
- What work will need to be done to play a cricket game.

## General Information about Cricket

1. All cricket batters wear leather gloves on both hands at all times while batting and do not need to touch the ball with their bare hands
2. There are 2 batters batting at a time – a “striker” who receives the ball from the bowler from one “end” of the pitch, and a “non-striker” who needs to run between ends to score runs.
3. There is 1 bowler (equivalent of a pitcher) who delivers the ball from one end.
4. One player is designated as the wicket-keeper (backstop) who wears heavy leather rubber coated gloves on both hands and who does not touch the ball with their bare hands
5. Matches are officiated by 2 neutral umpires – one standing at one end of the centre pitch and the other standing at “square leg” – a position approximately 20 metres from the striking batter.

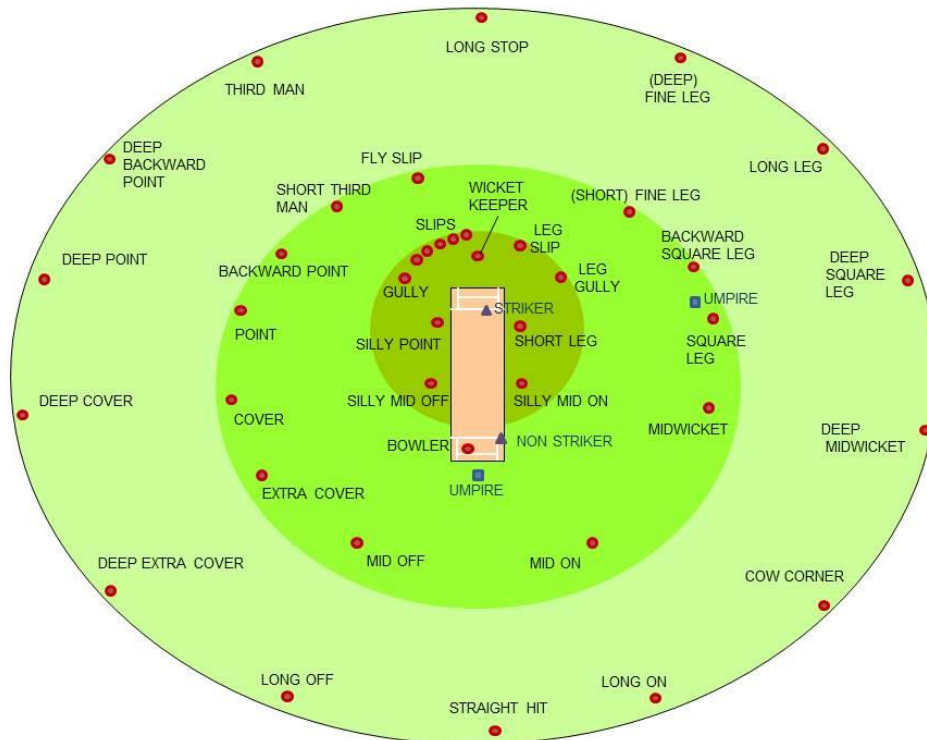


Figure 1 Fielding, batting and umpiring positions in cricket. There are 11 players on the field for the fielding side - 1 wicket-keeper and 1 bowler, and 9 fielders who can be positioned more-or-less anywhere on the field and can be spaced more than 2 metres apart at the direction of the fielding captain. Umpires stand at the bowler's end and at square-leg – approximately 20 metres perpendicular to the pitch on the striking batter's leg side.

## What has changed and what Cricket Leagues can do now to reopen.

- Mid May onwards under Phase 2 from BC's Restart Plan, the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) has asked to begin developing plans for resuming sport activities.
- The change does not permit the reopening of the cricket grounds until city gives the permit to organized sports.
- While we are working to resume organized cricket activities, you may exercise outdoors on your own or with embers of your household.
- Social distancing of at least two metres must be maintained at all times (unless all participants are members of the same household).
- Focus is on skill development, not competition
- Community focused
- Organized Sports activities that align with viaSport Return to Sport Guidelines and WorkSafeBC recommendations can begin to resume but are dependent on obtaining city permits for use of the fields.



## Taking precautions:

- Anyone displaying symptoms of COVID-19 (temperature above 37.8 °C, a persistent cough, breathing problems or other symptoms identified by the Government must stay at home and self-isolate in accordance with the Government guidance [here](#).
- All members of the same household must do the same even if they do not display symptoms.
- It is recommended that those with underlying health conditions do not participate in sport activities.
- Social distancing is key to minimising transmission of COVID-19, maintaining a distance of two metres between people still applies if individuals are not from the same household

## Getting your Facility Ready

### Practice Guidelines

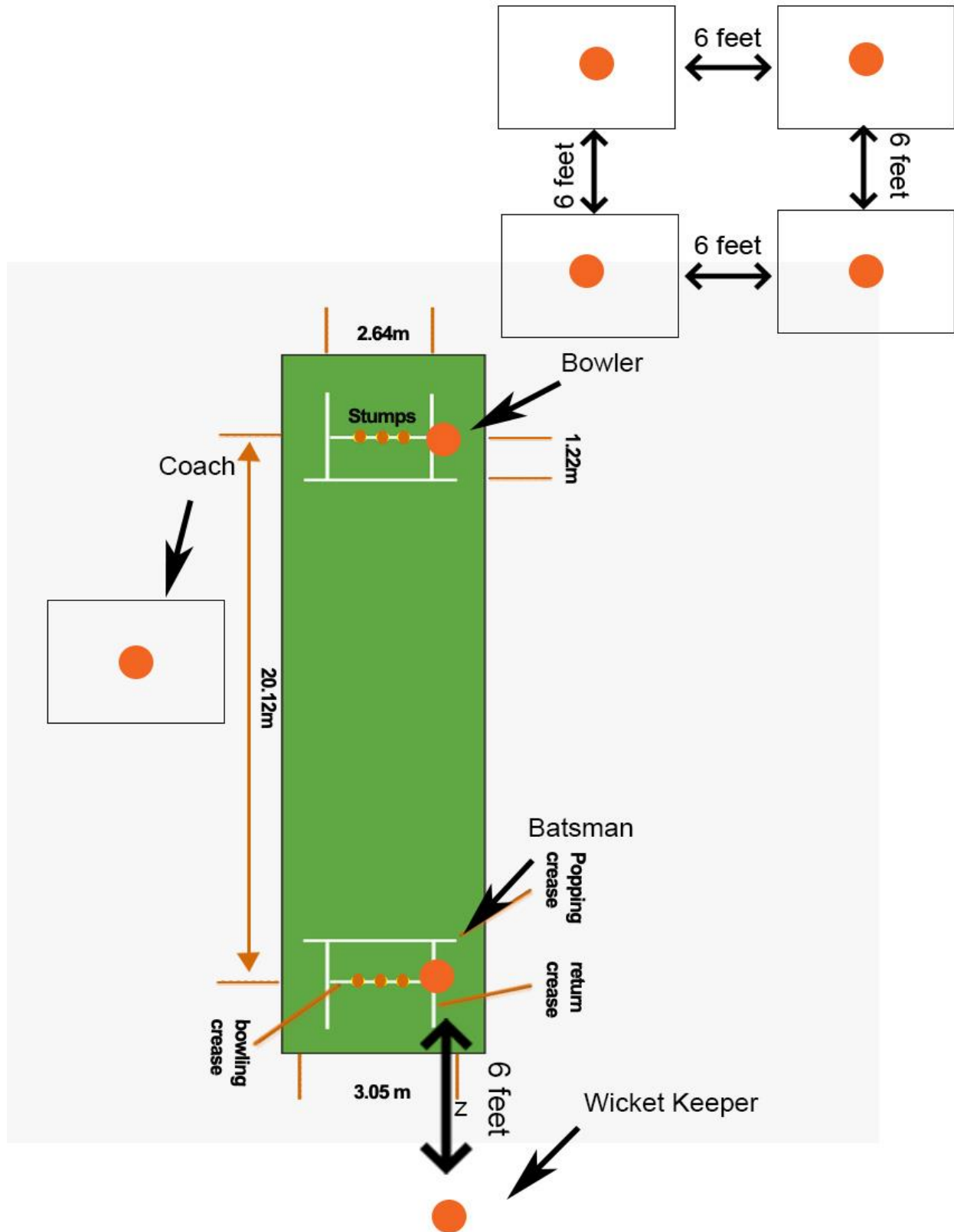
1. Progression to the next stage should not begin until it is deemed safe to do so and there is no evidence that the local COVID-19 transmission rate has risen because of this training/practice activity.
2. No sharing of equipment. Each bowler will have their own ball and no other participant may touch that ball, with the exception of a gloved wicket keeper or batsman.
3. A practice facility is defined as a practice net (batting cage) or a centre pitch. Using a practice net, no wicketkeeper is required – only the bowler will contact their own ball with their hands.
4. Maximum of 6 participants plus a coach for each practice facility if a wicket keeper is required. 5 participants if no wicket keeper is required.
5. A bowling machine can be used without other restrictions as no contact between batter and balls is required. A gloved coach can feed and collect the balls.
6. For any fielding practice, each player will use their own ball and any person hitting or throwing balls for fielding will wear gloves.
7. All players and coaches will maintain required 2m physical distancing.
8. A diagram of a proposed practice layout is attached.
9. Players rotate in to bowl from their zones to maintain distancing



# Cricket BC

a division of West Coast Cricket Organization

[www.cricketbc.org](http://www.cricketbc.org)





## Match Guidelines

### Before a Cricket Match

- Avoid excessive travel to different venues, cycle or drive where possible and avoid public transport if you can.
- Team Coach / Manager / Captain to conduct a full risk assessment of the venue in advance of the Cricket match.
- Team Coach / Manager / Captain to ensure they have access to hand sanitizer/alcohol wipes/washing up liquid.
- Establish a quarantined waiting area for parents, in case if any game involved juniors.
- Team Coach / Manager / Captain to ensure all surfaces are clean and equipment is washed with soapy water and dried completely prior to use.
- League to book the grounds in advance for the clubs and players to use the field and restroom areas.
- Team Coach / Manager / Captain to explain the safety guidelines of what is expected pre, during and post match including what the player is expected to do to maintain compliance with social distancing guidelines and all other health and safety guidelines.

The umpire/ match official on duty must ask the following COVID-19 Preventative Questions to every Team Member, before the start of the game when they arrive at the field to play:

- A. *Have you experienced a fever, cough, shortness of breath or sore throat since your last 14 days?*
- B. *Have you come into contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in last 14 days?*
- C. *Have you been tested for COVID-19 in last 14 days?*
- D. *Have you returned from international travel or been on a cruise within the last 14 days?*
- E. *Have you been in contact with anyone who has returned from international travel or been on a cruise within the last 14 days?*
- F. *Have you been in any gathering of 10 people or more in the last 14 days?*
- G. *Have you traveled to any area known to have high numbers of positive cases of COVID-19?*

If Team Member or manager or coach answers “Yes” to any questions, send him/her home for the day and report it immediately to association.

### During the Match

- Maintain a minimum of two metres to meet social distancing requirements including during observed sessions (no handshakes).



- Ensure all health and safety and emergency first aid guidelines are followed.
- Players must provide their own equipment if possible, and this must be kept in a zipped bag when not in use.
- Player is responsible for ensuring they have their own refreshments and/or food.
- Schedule sessions at least 10 minutes apart to avoid or limit any crossover of players.
- No sharing of equipment with the exception of the match ball. League matches have 2 new balls used per match. Balls are not re-used for match play. If balls are re-used for practice they will be thoroughly cleaned.
- Umpires shall wear gloves at all times and may also wear a face mask / shield if desired.
- Each player and official will maintain 2m physical distancing:
  - Umpires will stand back 2m from the stumps to allow for physical distance between the bowler and umpire;
  - Wicket Keepers will stand back 2m from the on strike batsman;
  - Non-striking batsman will stand 2m from the Umpire and the bowler; and
  - No two fielders may be within 2m of each other.
- Cricket cannot be played without several players on the fielding side touching the ball. The following guidelines will reduce the incidence of sharing the ball:
  - The ball, once dead (end of a play), will be returned directly to the bowler;
  - No sweat, saliva or other bodily fluids will be deliberately applied to the ball.
- Apart from when on the field the two participating teams will not physically interact. There will be no sharing of food or drinks. Teams will keep their respective equipment on opposite sides of the playing field.
- Spectators will be discouraged from congregating and the usual physical distancing rules will apply.

## After the Match

- Players and coaches to wash/sanitise their hands before and after the session.
- Players leaving the match must maintain a distance of two metres from other players
- Remember: No saliva or sweat should come into contact with the ball at any time.

## Ongoing Review

1. Review your operating plan after one match or one week and revise if necessary – your cricket match rules must be fit for purpose and safe for those playing the game.
2. Act on any incidence of infection prior to or after the play of the game and conduct appropriate contact tracing in line with Government methods.
3. Be prepared to stop the scheduled games in the event of:
  - a. An incidence of COVID-19 infection of a player.





b. A change in Government guidance/regulation.

4. Constantly review Government guidance. Please also regularly review news updates on the BC Center for Disease Control website. This guidance will be updated and is likely to change in response to Government policy and other best practice guidance.

## Member Leagues / Clubs

Following are the Member Leagues and Clubs of Cricket BC

British Columbia Mainland Cricket League (BCMCL)

Victoria & District Cricket Association (VDCA)

Vancouver Cricket Umpires and Scorers Association (VCU&SA)

Vancouver Island Society of Cricket Umpires and Scorers (VISCUS)

Over 40's Cricket

Wicket Maidens Cricket Club

Maple Ridge Cricket Club

Campbell River Cricket Club

## Health Guidelines

- B.C. public health officials have referenced a [Hierarchy of Controls for COVID-19](#), outlining that the most effective method of reducing transmission is physical distancing, followed by engineering controls, administrative controls and personal protective equipment.
- [B.C. COVID-19 Self Assessment Tool](#)
- According to the [BC Centre for Disease Control](#), general cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces should occur at least once a day. Surfaces that are highly touched (including bathrooms) should be cleaned twice a day. Follow [Health Canada Guidelines](#) on what products to use for cleaning and disinfecting.
- [COVID-19 Protection poster](#)
- [Physical Distance poster](#)
- [Handwashing poster](#)
- [Do not enter if you are sick poster](#)