

SMCA Covid-19 Policy

The following policy has been developed to assist SMCA Clubs safely manage Covid-19 within their Clubs as well as setting out playing conditions that will apply within SMCA competitions during the season. This policy outlines both:

- 1) the requirements which must be implemented and followed in full by each Club;
and
- 2) guidelines on other matters which should be implemented

Ultimately this policy is designed to provide support to the cricket community, however the ongoing advice provided by WA Government Chief Medical Officer and the Department of Health will be the ultimate authority on dealing with COVID-19 within Western Australia.

This document may be amended in the future to accommodate unforeseen scenarios which may be raised or as per the latest Cricket Australia, State or Federal Government and/or Health Department guidelines.

SafeWA/ ServiceWA and Contact Tracing

All Clubs must maintain contact registers for WA Health Department COVID-19 contact tracing. Clubs will be required to display scanning QR codes around the venue and make a manual register available in the club rooms to collect the date, name, telephone number and arrival time of all players, officials, patrons, staff, visitors, and contractors that attend their clubrooms and playing facilities. It is not mandatory to have these QR codes at secondary grounds, but it is highly recommended.

Public Health Measures

Hygiene:

- Hand sanitiser must be made available at the Club's main cricket facility, but players, umpires and volunteers are encouraged to carry their own hand sanitiser with them.
- Soap should be made available in all toilet/changeroom facilities.
- Sanitise equipment with alcohol-based wipes whenever possible after each use.

Equipment Sharing:

- External cricket equipment, except for helmets and hats, may still be shared
- It is preferred that players provide their own towels and sunscreen bottles or tubes

Food and Drink

- Shared afternoon teas are now prohibited
 - Teams/ players will be required to provide their own afternoon tea
 - If a Club's facilities allow, most likely at a Club's No 1 ground, then individual servings of afternoon tea may be provided. The host Club is to discuss with their opposition prior to match day
 - TEA IS NOT TO BE SHARED FROM GRAZING PLATES, TABLES OR THE LIKE
- Players are required to bring their own drinks
- SHARING OF DRINKS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED
- Players and Umpires are permitted to leave the field of play for drinks breaks

On-Field Conditions

- *No saliva or sweat is to be applied to the ball under any circumstances*
- Umpires are not to hold player's equipment. It can be held by another player or placed behind the wicket keeper without penalty

Matches Affected by Covid-19

Given the current climate facing the Western Australian community there may be instances where matches are affected by either a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19. The WA Chief Medical Officer's advice around specifics relating to testing and quarantine protocols shall be complied with, and all confirmed cases reported to the WA Health Department and the SMCA via email to the Secretary and President ASAP.

Clubs are also required to contact the SMCA via email to the Secretary and President ASAP in the following situations:

- if a player, member or volunteer is directed to get tested immediately and isolate until a negative result is returned
- if a player, member or volunteer is directed to get tested immediately and isolate for 7 days from the date of last exposure

Clubs must maintain a record of official correspondence if it is required for auditing purposes and must be made available to the SMCA upon request at any time.

Any participant (or potential participant) in a game (player/official) shall not participate in a match if they have undergone a COVID-19 test and are still waiting for the result. To provide surety, the cut off time shall be 11am on the morning of the match.

No person awaiting the result of a test shall attend any venue where a match is taking place in any capacity. Post-test instructions must be strictly followed.

A participant may only resume cricketing activity once they've received a negative test result and completed any isolation obligations as per WA Health instructions.

Points and Player Replacements

The SMCA strongly believes that Clubs and players shouldn't be punished for something that is out of their control. The SMCA will deal with each situation on a case-by-case basis, but will follow 'No Fault, No Blame' principles:

- If a Club gets a positive case, and then a significant number of players from that Club have to isolate/ quarantine as a result; ***or, a significant number of players are directed by a Government Department to test and isolate***, then that Club shouldn't be penalised. Similarly, the Club that they happened to be playing against shouldn't be prevented from achieving a win, so average winning points from other games completed in that round in that Grade shall be awarded to both Clubs.
 - Clubs must name a side in that Grade to be awarded points
 - Opposition Clubs will be restricted in how many players can be moved to lower Grades as per By-Law 10a
 - A Club's team structure should remain intact where possible. If a player returns a positive test, it is likely that the remaining players on that team will become close contacts and be required to isolate/ quarantine. In this case, Clubs will not be required to forfeit their lowest grade team and By-Law 12 will not apply.
- Clubs shall have the ability to fill a Covid related vacancy for Day 2 of a Two-Day match from within their playing ranks without penalty, regardless of where that replacement player played their last match. If that then requires other teams within that Club's structure to have vacancies, then those too can be filled without penalty.
 - For any players used as Covid replacements, it will count towards the total amount of days played. For end of season Finals qualifications, ***if a player has moved teams, then the day played will count in the Grade in which they have been moved from; for example, if the player moved from 3rd Grade to 1st Grade for the second week, then the day will count for 3rd Grade. Similarly, if the replacement player last played in a One-Day Only Grade, then the day will count for the last One-Day Only Grade that they played in. Except in the case that a player is playing his first day for the season, the day played will not count for the Grade that they have been moved to.***

- Clubs must notify the SMCA of which players are being used as Covid replacements so that the correct Finals qualification formula can be used.

Disclaimer

This Policy will apply in conjunction with relevant WA Government and Health Department policies, procedures and guidelines that are in force at the time.

Any restrictions advised on the WA Government's website will override this policy, unless they can be applied concurrently.

The SMCA Committee will implement this Policy in the best interests of the competition and use their discretion in handling any matters not explicitly covered by the Policy, provided that they are in line with all relevant health advice.

The SMCA Committee reserves the right to modify any aspect of the published fixture, including the Finals, if required.