



Derbyshire Cricket Foundation
COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions
Issue 1 (31-03-2020)

We recently wrote out to clubs asking you to complete short survey raising any questions you may have and to let us know about the challenges you are faced with as a result of Covid-19. Where possible we have provided advice based on the current ECB and Government guidance.

We will continue to react to ECB and government guidance as it evolves and will provide updates as and when this may have a direct impact on recreational cricket.

Ultimately as things stand, we all have a responsibility to follow government guidance, which is:

You should only leave the house for very limited purposes:

- shopping for basic necessities, for example food and medicine, which must be as infrequent as possible.
- one form of exercise a day, for example a run, walk, or cycle - alone or with members of your household.
- any medical need, including to donate blood, avoid or escape risk of injury or harm, or to provide care or to help a vulnerable person.
- travelling for work purposes, but only where you cannot work from home.

These reasons are exceptions - even when doing these activities, you should be minimising time spent outside of the home and ensuring you are 2 metres apart from anyone outside of your household.

1. Cricket Club Finance

We would encourage clubs to take steps to reduce any costs wherever possible and to identify the potential losses that may be incurred should the season be significantly reduced or unable to start at all. Speak to all relevant suppliers and stakeholders to try and reduce or delay expenditure and wherever possible put a hold on projects (e.g. capital expenditure). We know many clubs will struggle to get through a prolonged break in the game, but those clubs that can tighten their belts in order to survive should begin doing so immediately.

2. Can our ground staff continue to maintain the ground during this time?

ECB: Should you decide that essential grounds care needs to continue to look after your facilities during this period of social isolation, you must do so in line with current Government's latest guidance. This includes keeping ground staff to minimum numbers, preferably no more than 2, that any visits are carefully staggered and particular heightened attention is made to



evidence that surfaces carry significant and prolonged risk of contamination. The use of regular shared indoor facilities such as rest rooms, kitchens and changing rooms should be avoided where possible. For full guidance please [click here](#)

3. Is there any guidance regarding club insurance policies?

We strongly recommend that clubs look to speak to their insurers to discuss all possible options. Where possible amend the policy to smaller, manageable payments across a longer period rather than paying it all upfront. Also, clubs should try and find out if their insurers will cover 'loss of earnings'.

4. Can clubs access government grants and business support?

- All retail, hospitality and leisure businesses – including sports grounds and clubs, sport and leisure facilities, and gyms - in England will have a 100% business rates holiday for the next 12 months, no matter their rateable value. Local Authorities have received guidance on how to apply this relief and will be able to advise further, but it ought to extend to all large sports clubs and stadia. In addition, VAT will be deferred until the end of June 2020 for all businesses. If you are unsure of your rateable value please click the following link: <https://www.tax.service.gov.uk/business-rates-find/search>
- All retail, hospitality and leisure businesses in England will have a 100% business rates holiday for the next 12 months, no matter their rateable value. VAT will be deferred until the end of June 2020 for all businesses.
- The government will provide additional funding for local authorities to support small businesses that already pay little or no business rates because of small business rate relief (SBBR). This will provide a one-off grant of £10,000 to businesses currently eligible for SBBR or rural rate relief, to help meet their ongoing business costs.

More information can be found on the government website.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-for-wage-costs-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme>

Sport England support for the recreational game

- Sport England has issued the following guidance on how it will support the sector - <https://www.sportengland.org/news/coronavirus-information-sector>

5. Is there any support to clubs who employ staff?

Government will cover 80% of the salary of retained workers up to a total of £2,500 a month, under a Coronavirus Job Retention Fund. Any employer in the country – small or large, charitable or for profit - will be eligible to access it. Employers will be able to contact HMRC for a grant to cover most of the wages of people who are not working but are furloughed and kept on payroll, rather than being laid off.



A system will be administered by HMRC and should be up and running by end of April, and any grant can be backdated to 1 March. This will cover everyone on PAYE including those on zero hours contracts.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-for-wage-costs-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme>

6. [What can clubs do with our existing/ leftover bar stock?](#)

Some clubs have sold their stock to members as a way of ensuring that they utilise everything and bring in some funds to the club. This can be done by a delivery service to adhere to the Government's social distancing recommendations.

7. [Are there any training modules for junior members and parents to access at home?](#)

There are FREE cricket PE lessons and activities that parents, and children can access. These have been created by Youth Sport Trust and have national curriculum outcomes and targets for KS1 and KS2.

Included in the resources are Maths, English and Cross Curriculum lessons in the "Learn" page on the website. If you would like to access the free resources please click this link:

<https://www.chancetoshine.org/teaching-resources>

8. [Is there any advice on the use of club and net facilities?](#)

The suspension is on **all** recreational cricket activity and we believe clubs should not encourage members to use club facilities at this time. The key issue here is ensuring that social distancing is supported by the game as a whole and we want to avoid situations where clubs inadvertently create social gatherings during this period.

9. [Welfare officers and welfare training](#)

ECB: The safety of our clubs and centres remains a priority. Whilst we have suspended all Safe Hands courses, we will be introducing an interim training package to everyone that needs it. Full details will be shared through County Welfare Officers.

We have had to make changes to the standard practice of Disclosure and Barring Service Checks but will be following the Government guidance on temporary changes which include:

- DBS Certificates will now be able to be emailed to safe.guarding@ecb.co.uk instead of posting.
- Overseas Certificate of Good Conduct will now be able to be emailed to dbs@ecb.co.uk instead of posting.
- Access has been temporarily changed for ID verification to the top levels of access: ECB Staff / Regional Users / Primary County-Wide Users / Secondary County-Wide Users



(which would include all County Welfare Officers & their deputies / Regional Programme Execs / City Programme Execs

- ID Verifications will now be supported via video conferencing instead of Face to Face meetings

10. Is it the intention for additional funds to be released by the ECB/DCF in the form of some type of 'hardship/emergency' funding to enable clubs in real difficulties to survive?

At this stage there is no information available to confirm anything. ECB are working incredibly hard to look at safeguarding the cricket network during these times. We also hope that the government will put measures in place to support the sports sector in due course. We will update clubs as soon as we can.

11. Do we have any guidance on how this will affect the league season or how the league plans to approach it?

We are currently working with all senior and junior leagues to plan for cricket at various stages of the season. At present, we can only follow Government and ECB guidance that there will be no recreational cricket until further notice. We will continue to monitor the national advice and communicate any changes as soon as possible.

12. Will re-payments of existing ECB interest free loans be suspended if the season is seriously curtailed or cancelled?

ECB: The Trustees of the England and Wales Cricket Trust (ECB's subsidiary charity) have agreed that loan repayments will be suspended until May 2021. All other terms and conditions remain in place. If you have any questions, please contact loans@ecb.co.uk.

13. Will private 1-2-1s have to stop?

The suspension is on **all** recreational cricket and this should include 1-2-1 training and small group training. We refer to our need as a game to support the social distancing measures the government has put in place along with stopping non-essential travel.

14. If you have any experience, advice or info on member subscription refund and loss of income insurance, it would be gratefully received.

At this stage we would encourage clubs to contact their insurers to fully understand what support may be available. In terms of club subscriptions at this stage we would encourage clubs to communicate with their membership to explain the current situation with regards to the suspension of recreational cricket and the possible impacts around this.



15. How can we as cricket clubs support and promote the health and wellbeing of our members?

It is important to keep in touch and look after your cricket community, be they players, volunteers, parents, or members.

In the short term, please check-in and look after your community (especially the vulnerable) using phone, WhatsApp, Facebook or other tools and try out a conference call facility for formal meetings - Best Conferencing Apps. As we move through this period, look at setting up virtual social sessions, such as quizzes or dinner parties, via conference call facilities.

Whilst adhering to Government guidance please stay physically and mentally fit – Chance to Shine have free resources that can keep people active and can be accessed by creating a simple login <https://www.chancetoshine.org/teaching-resources>. You could set up an internal club competition to complete each activity to promote interaction.

There are also a number of online resources that can help with mental health for your junior and senior members. Please use the following links to access them

<https://youngminds.org.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-public-on-mental-health-and-wellbeing>

Please look after your cricket community.

16. We have outdoor nets. Can they be used on ad hoc basis by families?

The suspension is on **all** recreational cricket activity and we believe clubs should not encourage members to use club facilities at this time. The key issue here is ensuring that social distancing is supported by the game as a whole and we want to avoid situations where clubs inadvertently create social gatherings during this period.

17. Is there any update on what the plan is for All Stars & Dynamos cricket?

ECB: The safety and wellbeing of all people involved in cricket is our absolute priority and so whilst we continue to work through solutions, All Stars and Dynamos Cricket remain suspended. We are currently working through what this means for those who have registered for both national participation programmes and will be in touch within three weeks to update you.



We know that cricket can have a huge part to play in supporting physical and mental wellbeing of children around the country and we are working hard to find a solution which involves running courses later in the summer.

We are fully committed to doing the best for cricket and its communities throughout this unusual period. In the meantime, we are also exploring ways that we can bring cricket to homes across the country through indoor games, challenges and digital content and we look forward to sharing details with you soon.

18. Ways in which clubs can continue to generate funds and keep members engaged

- Online quizzes
- Selling bar stock
- Stay at Home competitions on social media
- Donations/ Voluntary membership contribution
- Remote prize draws
- Check DCF social media for more ideas
- Crowd funding
- Development planning for the future

We would also encourage cricket club committees to communicate on a regular basis through conference calls etc.

External funding sites:

- Sport England Funding - <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/our-funds>
- Active Derbyshire Funding - <https://www.activederbyshire.org.uk/funding>
- Easyfundraising for clubs - <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>