



11th June 2020

Derbyshire Cricket Foundation (DCF) Statement

2020 League Cricket Season

The playing of recreational cricket in England and Wales is currently suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic except for the regulated use of outdoor facilities. The latest guidance for players and clubs can be found at https://dcfcricket.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/05062020_Return-to-activity-in-a-club-setting_updated_guidance.pdf

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) have been working closely with government, DCMS and Sport England to map out a return for both junior and senior cricket. The ECB have produced a Return to Cricket Roadmap highlighting 5 steps to a return to cricket. More details can be found at <https://dcfcricket.com/2020/06/ecb-roadmap-for-return-of-recreational-cricket/>

During the pandemic DCF has been maintaining regular contact with leagues and clubs to provide support at this difficult time. This has included video meetings, webinars, email, and telephone conversations to discuss concerns and plans for the 2020 season and beyond. The following key points have been central within all the discussions we have had.

- 1. The health and wellbeing of our communities is far more important than games of cricket and this will be the guiding principle throughout any decisions made regarding the 2020 season.**
- 2. Recreational cricket will not be able to resume until the government and the ECB have given the approval for it to do so. We will do all we can to support the cricket network to prepare for the resumption of league cricket as soon as Government/ ECB advice allows.**
- 3. All leagues are focussed on providing their clubs with the opportunity to play meaningful cricket matches, with flexibility, if needed when the opportunity arises to do so. Leagues are prepared to be creative to make best use of any windows of opportunity available to play the game noting that there will be restrictions such as ground availability and ground sharing issues to be considered.**
- 4. There is acknowledgement that fair notice will need to be given to clubs as to when a resumption of cricket will occur. No penalties will be incurred by clubs who are unable to use their facilities due to no fault of their own or for clubs unable to field teams due to ongoing Covid-19 concerns.**



5. There is a shared responsibility to ensure the long-term health of cricket is at the heart of our decision making to ensure our game comes through this crisis in a place to recover quickly.

In addition to the above agreed principles the Derbyshire County Cricket League have decided that there will be no promotion or relegation within, in to, or out of their leagues based on any fixtures played in 2020.

In a normal season junior league cricket would be well underway at this point. In the event of a resumption in cricket the following junior leagues have committed to providing a programme of junior cricket if possible.

- Cricket Erewash
- Derby & District Youth League
- North Derbyshire Youth Cricket League
- Notts & Derby Border Youth League
- South Derbyshire CDG

The DCF and all the above leagues urge clubs, players, and volunteers to continue to adhere to government guidelines always. This is the only way that we will be able to get back to playing the game we all love at the earliest opportunity that it is safe to do so.

The DCF will continue to work in partnership with cricket organisations and others to support the whole of the game at this challenging time. Supporting information for cricket clubs can be found on the DCF website at <https://dcfcricket.com/> We also have a dedicated Covid-19 section at <https://dcfcricket.com/covid-19-updates/>

Thank you for your continued support.