



COVID-19

Phase 2 (ROI) / Step 2 (NI)

Safe Return to
Training Directives

GUIDE FOR CLUBS



RETURN TO TRAINING – GUIDE FOR CLUBS

PHASE 2 (ROI) / STEP 2 (NI)

Sport provides great mental and physical health benefits for our society, and cricket is no exception. However, we all have a duty of care to ensure that our cricket clubs operate within a safe environment.

This practical guide for clubs has been developed in consultation with medical experts and in line with both ROI and NI Executive Government Guidelines. It outlines the robust measures Cricket Ireland and the Provincial Unions strongly recommend clubs to implement and maintain to help safeguard all members during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This will allow all of us to get back to training safely, improving the wellbeing of members across Ireland.

The guidelines in this document relate to Phase 2 of the Irish Governments Roadmap for Reopening Society and Step 2 of the Northern Ireland Executive Approach to Decision Making.

The key to success will be the collective approach to compliance with the protocols, and there is no obligation for clubs to re-open if they feel they cannot meet their health and safety obligations.

***As always follow the Government Guidelines of
Good Hand Hygiene – Respiratory Etiquette – Social Distancing.***

RETURN TO TRAIN – PHASE 2 / STEP 2

As per Government Guidelines – team sports like cricket are not permitted in Phase 1 / Step 1. Cricket Ireland would strongly advise clubs to take the opportunity during Phase 1 / Step 1 to properly prepare their facilities as per the guidelines below which should allow a smooth transition to Phase 2 / Step 2 when training starts.

During Phase 2 (ROI):

- Permits travel within a 20km distance.
- Permits small group team sports training (not matches) where social distancing can be maintained.
- Permits people to engage in outdoor sporting and fitness activities, either individually or in very small groups, where social distancing can be maintained and where there is no contact – Government Guidelines on group sizes MUST be adhered to.

During Step 2 (NI):

- Permits the resumption of non-contact team sports training in small groups – Government Guidelines on group sizes MUST be adhered to.

SAFE EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

Playing and coaching cricket in itself carries some degree of risk and whilst being mindful of the guidelines regarding COVID-19, clubs should not lose sight of the normal safety rules relating to playing and coaching cricket which continue to apply and must be complied with (e.g. safeguarding, First Aid).

Although there is no specific evidence that equipment can spread COVID-19, we know that contamination by respiratory droplets from an infected person can potentially survive on hard surfaces for up to three days. This is why protocols must be strictly followed.

The following measures must be in place seven days a week and until further notice:

1. Club C-19 Committee

2. Club Access

3. Booking & Arrival

4. Check-in Protocol

5. Clubhouse Facilities

6. The Nets

7. On the Field

8. Coaching

9. Getting Home Safely

These measures and procedures are under constant review and updated as advice from government, health authorities and governing bodies evolves in line with the gradual lifting of social restrictions.

The following information outlines the specific requirements relating to each measure:

1. Club COVID-19 Committee

Cricket Clubs MUST appoint a COVID Safety Officer (or appropriate club representatives responsible for compliance of these protocols) and a Committee (this can be a working group or the existing club committee) responsible for managing issues and queries relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. This committee or working group should:

- Ensure indoor facilities are not utilised during this phase of reopening.
- Perform a Risk Assessment of the Club and facilities as provided by Cricket Ireland.
- Maintain checklists as provided by Cricket Ireland.
- Insurance bodies will expect that Government Guidelines and sporting governing body guidelines are adhered to, but clubs should check with their insurers if any amendments to their policies are required to cover COVID-19 issues.
- Ensure they review these protocols and that the club can comply with all the protocols outlined before reopening their club.
- Ensure that the club and its members adhere to HSE (ROI)/HSC (NI) advice in all cases.
- Ensure that sufficient COVID-19 information posters are in place.
- Ensure the use of booking system that allows for staggered training and allow 15 minutes between booking slots for players to exit and enter without interaction.
- Ensure that the club maintains accurate records of who is training and when. This should include all persons training and not just the one making the booking. This must be carried out for coaching sessions as well, and in the case that a parent/guardian is present in the club that must also be recorded. This will help with contact tracing, if necessary.
- Be responsible for informing all members of the COVID-19 guidelines and insist on full cooperation – this should be done via written (email) communication as a minimum.
- Ensure that the contact details for all members are up-to-date as this will assist with contact tracing, should it be necessary.
- Members should be encouraged to remind other members of the guidelines, in a gentle way, when they witness poor practices.

- Any player(s) repeatedly not following the club directives should be asked to leave the club.
- Listen to feedback from members and contact your Provincial Union and/or Cricket Ireland if there are issues that are not covered under these protocols.

2. Club Access

- Protocols for cleaning clubhouse facilities should be in place prior to opening and during operation.
- In the initial period following a club's re-opening, access to the clubhouse should only be for emergency access.
- Toilets can be opened but must adhere to strict cleaning protocols and utmost care must take place when using the toilet facilities. If clubs feel they cannot maintain hygiene protocols they should keep the toilet facilities closed.
- Children under U16 years should not attend the cricket club unaccompanied.
- A sanitation procedure must be in place between use/bookings.
- Nets and training facilities should only be accessed by members.
- Children at a coaching session should always be supervised and by no more than one parent/guardian.
- The COVID Safety Officer or a representative of the COVID Safety Committee (or appropriate club representatives responsible for compliance of these protocols) must be on-site during the hours that the outdoor facilities are open for use.
- Closed signs should be displayed when facilities are not open (including where a club does not wish to or is not ready to reopen) to deter use by general public particularly where there is open access.

To access club facilities in this phase of the reopening, an individual/group must:

- Be a current member of the club.
- A parent/guardian must accompany any player U16.
- Not have been out of the country in the last 14 days.
- Not have been around someone with symptoms of COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
- Not be in a period of self-isolation and/or cocooning under the current HSE (ROI)/HSC (NI) rules.
- Not be displaying COVID-19 symptoms.
- Live within a 20km radius of the club (ROI Only).
- Have a pre-booked training time.
- Be under 70 years of age.

3. Booking and Arrival

- To operate the facility safely and minimise the risk of spreading COVID-19, a controlled booking system will need to be put in place. Booking a time in advance is required, preferably via a booking system, website, app, or phone. This will assist should contact tracing be required subsequently.
- Bookings will enable the club to control the number of people accessing the facility and reduce the likelihood of gatherings which are not permitted under Government Guidelines.
- A well-managed booking system will also enable contact tracing if there is a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection of a user.
- This does not require specific software, you could use a shared calendar app, for example, or keep paper records.
- One person must be responsible for collecting booking requests, allocating time slots, keeping records of which slots have been allocated to which users, and communicating the allocation to users.
- Clubs should decide on their opening and closing times, the length of their available time slots and which areas of the outfield and nets are safe to use. Consider change-over time, clean-down time of nets, equipment etc and how to keep a record of bookings for contact tracing. For example, a paper or electronic record covering hourly time slots from 10am until 4pm for single-lane use, 45 minutes net practice followed by 15 minutes clean-down/change-over time ahead of the next participants.
- All players/members should ensure their club has their up-to-date contact details (phone and email).
- All players/members attending, and not just the individual making the booking, should be included in the booking notes. If there is a change to who is training, it is advisable to make sure the booking is updated.
- Members should travel to the club alone, or only with a member of the same household.
- Ample car parking spaces should be available to ensure social distancing. If a player must park next to another car, they should wait for the other person to exit or enter before doing so themselves.
- Members should arrive at the club entrance no more than 5 minutes prior to the reserved time. It is important that players maintain social distancing and wait in a pre-designated waiting area that allows for social distancing.
- Members should observe social distancing at all times and resist the temptation to mingle.
- Players and coaches should arrive in training kit and change footwear at the car or at home.
- Members should sanitise their hands prior to attending the club.
- Players should ensure that they utilise toilet facilities in their own home prior to arriving at the club as in some cases club toilets will not be accessible.
- The club house will not be available in the event of bad weather. Players/Coaches etc should return to their own cars for shelter or should have their own appropriate wet weather gear.

4. Check-in Protocol

- Players and coaches must check in with the COVID-19 Safety Officer (or appropriate club representatives responsible for compliance of these protocols).
- Two-metre queue markers should be in place at any single-entry point.
- Players/Coaches/Parents should wait in designated waiting areas.

5. Clubhouse Facilities

- Clubhouse access should only be in emergencies.
- In the event of a medical emergency call the Emergency Services.
- Changing rooms and all other Clubhouse communal areas must be closed at all times.
- Toilet facilities can be opened if the venue wishes, but particular care should be taken by those using them and those cleaning them. Where they are open, ensure soap and water is provided.
- If toilet facilities are open, clubs must adhere to strict cleaning protocols and utmost care must take place when using the toilet facilities. If clubs feel they cannot maintain hygiene protocols they should keep the toilet facilities closed.
- Disposal of cleaning materials/wipes and other materials must be done so in a safe manner. If Biohazard bags are not available all materials must be double bagged and sealed for disposal.
- It is suggested that the club recommend all players/coaches/individuals bring their own rubbish home with them when leaving the facilities.
- The club house will not be available in the event of bad weather. Players/Coaches etc should return to their own cars for shelter or should have their own appropriate wet weather gear.

6. In the Nets – Training and Coaching

- Clubs may reopen their cricket nets in a way that maintains social distancing on an 'every other net' basis – so if a club has a two-bay net they can reopen one of those bays, if they have a three-bay net, they can reopen bays one and three (leaving the middle lane closed) and so on.
- Quarantine waiting areas must be set up and sign-posted as a designated waiting area.
- A representative of the club should always be on site while outdoor facilities are open for use.
- When outdoor nets and outfielders are closed and there is general open access, closed signage should be clear and visible to inform the general public that the facilities are not available for use.
- Net sessions should be restricted to 1 to 1 (bowler and batter) in this phase of reopening.
- The only exception for more than two players in the net at the same time is if they are from the same household.

- Coaches are allowed in but must always maintain social distancing at all times and must not stand in the umpire's position within the run up.
- All general use rubbish bins should be removed, and all items brought to the nets should be taken home afterwards.
- All furniture should be removed/decommissioned including chairs/benches.
- Nobody but the players and coach should be allowed at the nets. There should be no spectators present during this phase of reopening. (A quarantine waiting area for parents should be established).
- Equipment such as towels, food, and drink must not be exchanged between players. Players should bring their own drinks, towels and food.
- Players should avoid touching their face after handling a ball, bat, or other equipment.
- Players should ideally bring a small bottle of hand sanitizer with them and keep it in their pocket or bag for use.
- Players should have their own ball or a designated ball – they should not touch any other ball during their session.
- Batters should not pick up and return the ball to a bowler – ball can be pushed with a foot.
- Stumps should be wiped down between each session.
- Physical distancing should be observed throughout the period of training while in the nets.
- Players should remain apart from other players when taking a break.
- Any player(s) repeatedly not following the club directives should be asked to leave the club.

Bowling Machine Use:

- We recommend that youth players U16 are not left to operate bowling machines unattended – an adult must be present and must ensure the bowling machine is cleaned after every use.
- The bowling machine operator must wear appropriate hand coverings when feeding the bowling machine.
- If bowling machines are used, please ensure they are cleaned thoroughly between uses and all balls used are cleaned with disinfectant. This is the responsibility of the bowling machine operator.
- Bowling machine balls must be put in buckets of disinfectant solution after each session, removed and left to dry before next session.

7. On the Field - Training and Coaching

Clubs may reopen their cricket pitch in a way that maintains social distancing.

Zones can be assigned for use. A club may set up a middle net and a number of zone areas around the outfield. Each zone must be treated as an individual booking. A player under 16 must be accompanied by parent/guardian/coach in a zone.

- Only 1 to 1 fielding/skill sessions are permitted in a zone.
- The only exception for fielding sessions of more than 1 to 1 is if players are from the same household.
- Family groups can utilize whole zones for activity.
- Coach to ensure they have appropriate hand coverings (mitt or gloves) when handling the ball during any skill sessions.
- Fielder must supply own balls or plastic balls/incrediballs should be used and sanitised after each session.
- Social distancing must be maintained at ALL times.
- Buckets of disinfectant must be available to sanitise balls after each session.

Fitness sessions – Clubs may run fitness sessions in small groups, where no equipment is shared.

- Training groups should be controlled and managed to ensure social distancing is maintained at all times. Group sizes must be in accordance with Government Guidelines – Clubs have the responsibility to ensure these guidelines are met.
- Players running must ensure they can leave 2 metres between them.
- Fitness equipment must not be shared.
- Cones and any other touch points must be sanitised between each session.
- Any player(s) repeatedly not following the club directives should be asked to leave the club.
- There should be no spectators present.
- Parents supervising children should be limited to one and maintain ample distance from the session and be in the designated quarantine waiting areas.

8. Coaching

- Coaching must only be provided to club members.
- Coaches must ensure a player has registered their contact details with the club.
- Coaching sessions should be booked and recorded.
- Coaching sessions should be booked and paid for in advance by bank transfer or contactless card payment – no cash transactions.
- Coach to explain the safety guidelines of what is expected pre-, during and post-session including what the player is expected to do to maintain compliance with social distancing guidelines and all other health and safety guidelines.
- Coaches must prepare and present a Risk Assessment document and get approval to coach from the Club COVID-19 Safety Officer (or appropriate club representatives responsible for compliance of these protocols).
- Establish a quarantine waiting area for parents.
- Only one-to-one sessions are permitted – no group sessions are permitted - the only exception being where players are from the same household then the maximum number is 3.
- If delivering a 1 to 2 / 1 to 3 family session coaches must maintain social distancing at all times.

9. Getting Home Safely

- Once training has finished players should leave the premises promptly, washing their hands if possible or sanitising their hands on the way out using sanitiser provided.
- Clubs should make provision for thoroughly cleaning accessible areas and ensuring that all “touch areas” are cleaned thoroughly after each use.
- If any player/coach or member becomes unwell after being at the facility they should first contact their GP/HSE (ROI)/HSC (NI) and then inform their club. The club should contact the HSE (ROI)/HSC (NI) and follow the advice provided to them on the next steps, they should also inform their local Provincial Union of the suspected or positive case.



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