



COMMUNITY JUNIOR CRICKET COUNCIL COVID-19 GUIDELINES

February 2022

With the potential of COVID in the WA community and its likely impact on community sport the CJCC recently met with representatives from each Association to review our COVID preparedness and plan how best to respond to this situation. Our priority is the health and safety of the players however we also acknowledge the important mental and physical health benefits children gain from continued participation in sport.

The purpose of the meeting was to develop a standard approach for all to manage the recommencement of the season, to develop guidelines for Associations and Clubs to address COVID-affected games and to ensure that volunteers are supported to respond appropriately for the remainder of the season.

We wish to reassure our volunteers that we've done what needs to be done behind the scenes, so that our players can experience "cricket as usual" wherever possible and that our volunteers have a clear process to follow regardless of whether it's a couple of team members in quarantine or a community-wide outbreak.

Principles to Guide Our COVID-19 Response

The following principles have been developed and agreed to by the CJCC to guide our approach to the remainder of the season as the spread of COVID-19 in the community continues to grow. These principles will guide all decision making in relation to matches, competitions and finals in the event of isolated or widespread COVID-19 outbreaks that impact our cricket environments and above all else help to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all involved.

1. **Kids Need to Play.** As the impact of COVID on our communities grows, first and foremost we will do all we can to ensure kids can keep playing cricket and see out the season. Being together with their friends, focusing on a positive and fun activity and spending time outside is a priority for all our kids as we navigate these uncertain times.
2. **No Fault, No Blame.** Players, teams and clubs cannot control a COVID impact and should therefore not be penalised if they are short of players or cannot field a team. We encourage everyone to work together in good faith to help clubs impacted to get teams on the park through the strategies outlined in this guide.
3. **Maintain Competition Integrity.** For any competitions that include Finals, the integrity of the competition should be upheld as much as possible to ensure kids get to play Finals this season. The strategies outlined in this guide for Stage Two and Stage Three competitions will help clubs and Associations work together to achieve this.
4. **Minimise Volunteer Burden.** Navigating the remainder of the season will be challenging for volunteers working at both club and association level. While additional focus and workload will be inevitable for volunteers as a result of COVID impacts, it is important that any COVID-related process or procedure put in place attempts to minimise any additional burden. Volunteers working together within associations will be important. As will seeking the support of the CJCC and WA Cricket who are ready to help whenever needed.



5. **Safety and Wellbeing is Paramount.** Above all, safety and wellbeing of everyone involved will be at the forefront of our minds with any decision we make. Whether it be applying COVID-safe protocols and practices or deciding how to field a team impacted by COVID, we cannot compromise the safety and wellbeing of all our people. Let's make the right decisions.

Match Day and Playing Modifications

The following describes the modifications agreed to for the remainder of the season for Junior Cricket Stages 1 to 3.:

STAGE 1

- Teams to play irrespective of numbers in each team, if both teams are happy to proceed. Coaches encouraged to work together with the opposition being prepared to lend players.
- Finals – N/A

STAGE 2

- Reduce the minimum player (forfeit number) by 2 players. Use of top up players or the opposition team to assist by lending players
- If a full team is impacted or cannot cover the number of players they are short by top up players or the opposition team lending players, then the match will not proceed and be deemed a draw.
- Last Man Standing can be applied where teams are impacted by COVID and have less players than the number listed for that grade (for Stage 2 – 9 players)
- Finals: **U12s:** No finals implications
U/13s: Should a team be unable to play due to insufficient player numbers, after exhausting all possible options outlined above, the game will be declared a DRAW, with the higher team progressing.

STAGE 3

- Reduce the minimum player (forfeit number) by 3 players
- Dispensations will be allowed for COVID affected teams. Requests for additional players will be managed as follows:
 - One player: Managed by the club
 - More than two players: Association approval
(Requests will not need to be sent to the CJCC for approval)
- If a full team is impacted and cannot be topped up through a dispensation process then the match will not or proceed and be deemed a draw.
- Finals: Should a team be unable to play due to insufficient player numbers, after exhausting all possible options outlined above, the game will be declared a DRAW, with the higher team progressing.



Woolworths Cricket Blast Programs

Programs can proceed unless otherwise directed by WA Health. Clubs are to follow WA Community Cricket COVID Protocols and Guidelines : <https://www.wacricquet.com.au/community-cricket-covid-19-information>

Communication Protocols

Associations to provide clubs with a nominated point of contact for any notifications relating to COVID.

Formal notification is to be provided to the nominated Association contact by the Club President, opposition coach and Club President as soon as a COVID-impact has been confirmed.

Timing of the notification and the number of team members impacted will determine whether team modifications (top up players, borrowed players, dispensations) can be applied or the match needs to be abandoned and considered a draw.