



Cricket New Brunswick COVID-19 guidelines

Purpose of these Guidelines

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance for the safe resumption of cricket activities that includes training, playing, and travelling within the province of New Brunswick. These guidelines have been developed with the review of Cricket Canada Return to Play and International Cricket Council (ICC) Back to Cricket Guidelines. The latter was prepared by the ICC Medical committee released on May 20, 2020. This document offers guidance on how members can return to play alongside the resumption of outdoor activities of the sport once permit to use the facilities has been issued.

These guidelines are reviewed and adopted along with National (Canada Health), New Brunswick Medical office and Local government (Fredericton, Saint John & Moncton) regulations and guidance which shall always take precedence over these guidelines. This document also uses Tourism, Heritage & Culture – Sports & Recreation Branch COVID-19 Frequently asked questions as guidance. We encourage Cricket New Brunswick Members to monitor changes to laws and policies and amend their own policies as required to ensure that their cricket community is applying best practices and complying with government requirements. The COVID#19 pandemic, and the responses of governments and the public health community to it, remains unpredictable. This document is subject to all provincial emergency orders, advice and recommendations of public health authorities, municipal by-laws or other requirements, and requirements of facility owners. If there is any conflict between this recommended guidelines and other requirement of public health authorities, municipal by-laws or requirements of facility owners, these other requirements will always prevail over these guidelines. This document will be periodically updated as the provincial situation continues to evolve. As revisions are made, the current version of the document will be posted on the Cricket New Brunswick website and emailed to all full & Associate members. Any fees charged by the league will **not be refunded**, if a notice by the provincial government and or local municipalities to cease any activity is issued.

Cricket Specific Risks

There are several risks specific to the sport of cricket which must be considered alongside general physical exercise guidance issued by the Canadian and provincial governments. Cricket is a non-contact team sport and so the risks and exposure to COVID#19 may differ from full contact team sports. In particular:

- players may be in proximity at times during the use of shared facilities and travelling to the cricket field. Therefore, should a team member or opponent develop any CV-19 symptoms or be found to develop an infection, participants will require isolation and testing as they are most likely to have been in close contact. In New Brunswick, we do not have facilities like locker room or dugout, but there will be mandatory 6 feet distancing when non-fielding players are waiting to their turn to bat.
- Although cricket is not a contact sport, the cricket ball is a potential transmission medium and rules should be applied around the “management of the ball”.
- On-field behaviour that includes celebrations with body contact, and shared use of drink bottles, towels and equipment can pose a risk in cricket and is strongly discouraged.
- Players should be encouraged to take responsibility for their own items (sunglasses, cap, jumpers, towels etc.) and instructed against handing over any items to umpires or teammates. A Bowler is permitted to keep their items behind the wicketkeeper in a pre-marked zone. If the ball during the match comes in contact, it will be deemed dead ball and 5 penalty runs awarded to the batting team, similarly to Law 28.3 – Protective helmets belonging to the fielding side.
- Participants such as (particularly) umpires, scorers and other staff and volunteers may be considered vulnerable individuals that are at higher risk of severe illness due to CV19. This includes older individuals (approx. 60+) and people of any age with underlying medical conditions such as cardiac, kidney, diabetes, obesity, weak innate immunity, etc.
- Safe and effective return of players to strength and conditioning is important (particularly bowlers). Limited preparation may cause higher injury levels.
- Cricket is officiated by umpires on the field of play and their health and well-being needs to be taken into full consideration as they spend the greatest amount of time near players. - Based on international evidence, transmission of CV-19 is assumed to be greater for indoor sporting activity than for outdoor activity, even with taking similar mitigation steps. At the time of preparation of this document, no indoor group training and indoor matches are scheduled.
- It is Cricket New Brunswick requirement that only the assigned match umpire(s), and two teams be at the cricket ground (gym court if indoor cricket) on the day of the match. A maximum of 30 individuals will be at the ground (gym court if indoor cricket), any person who is either not authorized or assigned by the association is violating the requirement of the association.

Training

1. Each Member club of Cricket New Brunswick shall appoint two members from their respective club to ensure their participants are adhering to the requirements of this document.
 - a. CNB association must be notified of the full name, email address and contact numbers of the appointed individuals.
 - b. At any scheduled or unscheduled training, only 1 of the designated individuals must be present.
2. The individual practice shall be performed outdoor
3. The Players willing to participate in the training session must be in full Cricket Apparel & kit at grounds
4. Must check temperature, before participating in the training or working on cricket skills with a coach
5. Must maintain a two-meters distance from the participating players/coach regardless of participating in the training or taking a break from training.
6. As of preparation of this document, New Brunswick allowed up to 50 people to gather outdoors with social distancing requirements. Anytime, clubs are conducting training sessions they are stipulated to have a maximum of 15 participants.
7. Each player shall bring and use their own cricket balls which must remain in their kit bag when not in use.
8. No Individual can apply saliva or sweat to the cricket balls used in the practice.
9. Individuals shall bring their own clearly marked water bottles, regularly sanitize their hands and the bottle shall remain in their kit bag or with them when not in use
10. Each bowler shall use his own balls and in cleaning 'cloth' as may be required.
11. Players are barred from applying any saliva or the sweat to the ball
12. Batsmen must kick or hit the ball back to the bowler/coach in the nets - Not pick it up and throw it
13. If training with the coach
The skill training with coaches shall be in one-on-one sessions, the order should be fielding, bowling and batting.
14. "one skin per ball" policy shall be in place for these sessions
 - a. Coaches, shall have their own set of balls for throwdowns
 - b. Coaches must wear a rubber glove on their spare hand when taking deliveries from bowlers with a mitt on the other.

Indoor Match Guidelines

Spectators

Public health has not specifically identified capacity for spectators attending any indoor sports. Occupancy is strictly based on the ability to maintain physical distancing between people that are not close friends and family. **Capacity and the use of the facilities will be based on what the facility can safely accommodate.** This will be determined through the facilities establishment of COVID-19 operational plan that addresses but is not limited to physical distancing, cleaning, and disinfecting, hand and respiratory hygiene and pre-screening for symptoms.

Officials

Officials is inclusive of match umpires, club officials and another player appointed as responsible representative. At all times they should strongly discourage any participating individuals from applying saliva and or sweat on the ball. Inform players of avoiding in being proximity to another player or individual to maintain physical distancing of at least 6 feet. Anytime, this is not observed, any official must issue a first and last caution to the concerned individual and notify Cricket New Brunswick Umpire committee chairman. Upon a 2nd infraction, the individual will be suspended from playing the tournament and no refund of their payment will be issued.

Benches

Physical distancing must always be maintained as much as possible. During the play, due to momentum it may be difficult to avoid proximity of another individual. The following measures should be taken if sitting at the benches:

- a. Only team batting in the match is permitted to be in the benches, rest must wait outside the playing area.
- b. No team cheers and or shouting is permitted.
- c. No team huddles around the bench at start of any match
- d. During plays, team-mates must sit at least 7 feet from each other and wear mask.
- e. All players will bring their own water bottles and make sure to have it identified.

Hygiene & Hand-sanitizing

Each participant upon entering the playing area will sanitize their hand with Cricket New Brunswick provided hand sanitizer kept at the entrance or carry a personal unit on themselves. A player can sanitize their hand anytime during the match and are encouraged to do so. Players are strongly encouraged to bring their own playing equipment like bat, gloves, helmets, etc.

Contact Tracing

Venue with indoor facilities will have controlled entry and/ or controlled seating are required to capture contact information on persons using the facility. Cricket New Brunswick will be gathering the contact information of all participants and will be kept on file with the "Club Liaison".

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Pre-Screening

Those participating or attending Cricket New Brunswick Indoor activity are required to pre-screen prior to arriving at the activity; by attending, that participant is acknowledging that they pass all the screening requirements. The pre-screening requirements will be frequently communicated to ensure individuals understand when they may not be permitted to attend. Cricket New Brunswick member clubs will also be working with the facilities in which they use to ensure that the pre-screening questions are posted and visible at the facility entrance.

Masks

Masks will be required by all participants and spectators while in the facility. However, while in the act of playing only the players will not be required to wear masks. However, participating players will be mandated to wear masks while on the bench during games.

Handshakes

No handshakes or any action resembling handshake is permitted pre, during and or post games.

Pre-match requirements:

1. Each individual club will be responsible for the cost for non-medical protective gear and hand sanitizers unless the association or member club is able to secure funding to help with the cost.
2. The Association's Cricket Umpire committee will work to ensure that there are neutral umpires appointed for all of Cricket New Brunswick T20 and T40 matches as per released 2020 schedule.
 - a. If neutral umpire is not available, one of the members from the CNB Board whose residence from the city will be present as a Board official to ensure Cricket New Brunswick COVID-19 guidelines are followed.
 - b. If no umpire, CNB Board official and or CNB volunteer is not present that match cannot go ahead. It will be deemed washed out and both the teams will share points.
3. Signage from Work Safe NB regarding Social Distancing will be posted at the entrance of every cricket playing area, unless they are already posted by the venue administration.
4. All clubs participating in the 2020 season need to have their returning and new players sign the waiver form and submitted to the association with season fees.
 - a. Clubs will present their members signed declaration form every week before their scheduled match to the umpire / designated CNB official before toss.
 - b. Umpires will be directed to take a picture and save digital copies of the signed declaration and should refrain from taking possession of the actual hard copy.
5. Unless allowed by Cricket New Brunswick, no spectators are permitted at any cricket ground, especially near the playing area and members of the batting side.
6. Compliance from the Full & Associate member clubs
 - a. Notify the association about the players playing in the 2020 season with the following:
 - i. Members/ Players who have travelled out of the Atlantic bubble* regardless of purpose, 14 days prior to the beginning and during Cricket New Brunswick Season**
 - ii. The member should observe mandatory quarantine and later notify the club upon completion.
 - iii. Prohibit any participant who is symptomatic – fever, cough or have had contact with any person who has tested positive in the prior 2 weeks. Upon request, names are to be provided to the association.
 - iv. Collect Emergency contact information. Report, when requested by the Association.
 - v. Before each match day and training, assigned club representative will take temperature and get signature from each player that they are following COVID-19 guidelines. ***
 - vi. During travel to and from cricket playing fields, maximum of 4 players can travel together and each will wear non-medical mask and disposable gloves.
 - b. Recommend their club members/ players to remind their members every week to:
 - i. Take precautionary measures to reduce exposure to the COVID-19, including maintaining personal hygiene****
7. Players to follow mandatory precautionary measures such as:
 - a. No sharing of any personal playing protection equipment such as abdomen guard, gloves, and helmets, under any circumstance.

- i. If cricket pads are shared, the straps and inner area facing the leg must be sanitized with a cleaning wipe.
 - b. Not to arrive at the ground prior to 30 minutes before the scheduled or revised match start time. Upon arrival, physical distancing must be followed of at least 2 metres from the next person.
 - c. Each player will have their own water bottle marked with their name. If it is a disposable bottle, it should be appropriately disposed off at the earliest available opportunity.
8. No captain, player, umpire and or spectator will shake hands, embrace or high five, reduce physical distance of 2 meters and no contact must be strictly followed to ensure health safety of all participants in that match.
9. The umpire involved in the match will have their responsibility role expanded to observe and ensure players are maintaining physical distancing and will also be the enforcer of it **only** on Field. Any player not adhering to the umpire instruction will be immediately suspended from that match.
 - a. Respective teams will show the umpire that all team members temperature was checked, umpires will take a picture of both the team paper.
 - b. Respective teams will show the umpire, signed declaration of all team members participating in the match that they are following Health Canada social distancing and travel requirements, umpires will take a picture of both the team papers.
 - c. The umpire will then toss the coin and or use a coin toss app on their phone in the presence of both captains, to decide the winner of the toss.

Match Guidelines

1. Any time during the match, each player must maintain 2 metres distancing from another player, umpire, or spectators
 - a. Unless its not possible and either one or both are wearing protective equipment***
2. No member on or off the field can apply saliva or sweat to the ball used for the day's match.
3. During any interruption, interval, or dismissals of batsman. The match ball will be placed in the center of cricket pitch visible to the umpire.
 - a. If Saliva or sweat was applied to the ball, then an alcohol wipe will be used by the bowler under the observation of the umpire (from a safe distance) can observe, later immediately dispose the cleaning wipe.
 - b. Players are also barred from spitting on and off the cricket field.
4. Players will not have any physical contact not restricted to high five, pat, handshake, reduce physical distance of 2 meters or embrace during the match under any circumstance.
5. During the match, hand sanitizers will be kept behind both the (Striker & Bowlers) end wickets for players and officials use during the match.
 - a. It is not a requirement to wear disposable gloves by fielders, but if a player for their own safety wants to wear gloves, they are permitted to wear only disposable gloves. But, the fielder still has to sanitize their hands (with gloves) upon contact with the match ball anytime during the match.
 - b. Once the bowler completes his over, he/ she is to sanitize their both hands with a hand sanitizer which should have a minimum of 60% alcohol base.
 - c. If there is any interval, interruption, or dismissals of batsman. The fielding team members before leaving the field will use their personal hand sanitizer for their hands before leaving the playing field.
 - i. Washing of hands with soap and water for 20 seconds can be used if available at the location
 - ii. The umpire in a zip lock bag gain the possession of the match ball.
6. All bowlers when approaching the bowling crease to deliver the ball will pass the umpire maintaining at least 6 feet distance from the umpire, there will be clear marking on either side of the umpire to assist the bowlers.
 - a. Umpires will be further advised to stand 10 feet away from the bowling crease versus the regular 6 feet to assist bowlers with this requirement.
7. Batsman when taking runs between wickets must cross each other by maintaining social distance from each other and bowler.
 - a. Unless fielding near the pitch before the delivery stride of the bowler, no fielder besides the wicketkeeper and the bowler should approach the pitch.
 - b. The batsman at the crease, must agree upon on which side of the pitch they will run.
 - c. Mid-innings and mid-play swap of sides is allowed for both the batsman provided 6 feet distance is maintained between themselves when they cross each other.
8. Any T20/ T40 matches will now be allowed to complete beyond 85/ 170 minutes, if delay was related to hygiene precaution mentioned in point 5 of Match guidelines. Umpire's will be advised and trained to include for calculation of match timings.
9. No spectator or team member of the batting side will be allowed to sit and or stand next to each other outside the playing field unless a 2-metre physical distancing is followed.

Within the Atlantic Bubble travel Guidelines:

1. Cricket New Brunswick board will have a written understanding with either of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and or Newfoundland and Labrador, if the team is able to travel outside New Brunswick but within the Atlantic Bubble
 - a. It will include any bilateral friendly or multi-term tournaments.
 - b. The host board will provide an official invitation letter to Cricket Moncton before the travel date.
 - c. Provincial Government instructions will always supersede this document.
2. Regardless of the province travelling to, Cricket New Brunswick will provide a list of players that will travel as well as the number of vehicles.
 - a. During travel, any interval/detour in journey is limited to refueling or stop due to emergency otherwise there will be no interval/ detour during travel. All travel will end at the host province assigned cricket ground and during return at respective players house.
 - i. A maximum of 4 individuals will travel in each vehicle with necessary personal protective equipment and respective cricket equipment kit.
 - b. The host province requirements such as provincial border travel documentation, host board return to play guidelines and other requirements will be requested, so the travelling team is advised and prepared to comply. Hopefully, the host board will provide such information to aid in this process.
 - c. A digital copy with the below information will be provided to the host board and a printed copy will accompany the travelling team containing the below information:
 - i. Before travel, that all official/ players temperatures were checked.
 - ii. Before travel; all players will be asked to sign declaration form which will not limit to declaring that they did not travel outside the Atlantic bubble in the last 14 days preceding to the travel, they do not have any symptoms, there were not in contact with anybody that had symptoms and etc.
 - iii. All team members will be advised identification documents not limited to driver's license, student card, rental agreement or mortgage statements to prove residency within New Brunswick and will be presented upon request by the Border officials.

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Post-match Guidelines:

3. Any disposable protective equipment must be put in a nearby trash/garbage which can be located outside the field, unless notified otherwise by the association and or any authority of New Brunswick.
4. They should either wash their hands with water and soap for 20 minutes or use a hand sanitizer with minimum 60% alcohol content.
5. After the match is completed, there should be no gathering or congregation of members for any reason. They must leave the playing field immediately or when possible at the earliest.

Penalties for Non-compliance to COVID#19 guidelines playing conditions

Guidelines	Disciplinary Actions
Social Distancing OFF Field Guideline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unofficial warning to captain and the team 2. Official warning to captain and the team 3. 5 penalty runs awarded to the non-offending team
Social Distancing On-Field Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unofficial warning to captain and the team 2. Official warning to captain and the team 3. 5 penalty runs awarded to the non-offending team 4. Game Forfeit
Player Sanitization Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unofficial warning to captain and the team 2. Official warning to captain and the team 3. 5 penalty runs awarded to the non-offending team
Cricket Ball Sanitization Guidelines*	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unofficial warning to captain and the team 2. Official warning to captain and the team 3. 5 penalty runs awarded to the non-offending team 4. Game Forfeit
Social Distancing Celebrations Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unofficial warning to captain and the team 2. Official warning to captain and the team 3. 5 penalty runs awarded to the non-offending team 4. Game Forfeit
Unsanctioned CNB Event	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Official non-compliance notice to the Club. 2. Subsequent Game Forfeit

* The offending team bowler will sanitize the ball with an alcohol-based wipe in the presence of umpire during infraction 1, 2 and 3.

COVID-19 Guidelines of Health Canada, Province of New Brunswick, Local City Government (Fredericton, Saint John & Moncton) ALWAYS takes precedence over this document.

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Notes:

*Atlantic bubble is defined to include province of New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland & Labrador

*Cricket New Brunswick will announce the 1st day of cricket season, a minimum of 2 weeks notice will be provided to allow clubs and players.

** A hand-held noncontact medical thermometer is to be used for checking player temperature before training and match days.

**Personal Hygiene is not limited to washing both hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing, wearing non-medical mask and avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.

***To ensure players safety, Cricket New Brunswick is recommending all umpires and wicketkeeper's in the league, to wear a protective face shield along with a non-medical mask and gloves. Further umpire's will not hold the bowler's clothing or equipment for any duration, they will not take possession of the match ball at any time during the match. The match ball will be placed in the middle of the pitch (playing area) anytime there is no play. Only due to rain, the umpire shall secure the ball by putting the ball in a shrink-lock bag.

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References:

Cricket Canada Return to Play Guidelines

<https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/eco-bce/Promo/covid-19/guidance-ph-measures.pdf>

https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/corporate/promo/covid-19/measures_businesses.html

<https://www.worksafenb.ca/media/60996/embracing-the-new-normal.pdf>

https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/gateways/for_business/covid19.html

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks.html?topic=tilelink>

International Cricket Council Back to Cricket Guidelines

<https://www.wisden.com/stories/news-stories/umpires-covid-19-refuse-bowlers-caps-sweaters-reports>

The Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) framework for rebooting sport in a COVID-19 environment published May 2020

https://resources.ecb.co.uk/ecb/document/2020/09/19/45d8928d-54c5-4f43-b76d-f7549547fba5/ECB_COVID_19_guidance_for_cricket_indoors_England.pdf

https://www.hnb.ca/images/Return_to_Hockey_Guidelines_-_Version_3.pdf

<https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/thc-tpc/pdf/SportRecreation-SportLoisirs/Covid-19-Frequently-Asked-Questions.pdf>

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