



GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS IN ENGLAND AND WALES APRIL 2021

Inter school competitive fixtures can take place from the 12th April in England. In Wales, we recommend schools check with their individual local authorities before resuming any inter school competitive fixtures.

We recommend schools follow the guidance below, as well as referring to the ECB Return of Recreational Cricket Guidance, as well as any Department for Education and Skills (DfES) guidance in Wales and Department for Education (DfE) guidance in England on physical activity and school sport.

Schools need to ensure they follow their own safe practice procedures including, for example “bubbles” and mixing of year groups.

BEFORE ACTIVITY

- Check for symptoms of COVID-19. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, have tested positive for COVID-19, have had contact with someone with COVID-19 and/or you are otherwise required to self-isolate (and in each case, you have not completed the required self-isolation period) you should not attend the cricket activity and must follow NHS & PHE guidance in England and NHS Wales & PHW guidance on self-isolation as well as follow school procedures and protocols.
- Pupils/ students should arrive changed and ready to play where possible.
- An attendance register should be taken for both sides for the purpose of track and tracing.
- Schools should limit the time they spend at the fixture venue and this should be reflected in agreed start times.
- Schools should follow their own health and safety procedures around agreed “bubbles” and not mix groups/ year groups.

DURING ACTIVITY

- Participants enter the site and prepare whilst maintaining social distancing.

- Limit the sharing of equipment, but if you do share, practise strict hand hygiene.
- No sweat or saliva is to be applied to the ball at any time.
- Hand sanitizer to be used at all breaks in activity and prior to any food or drinks.
- Cricket fixtures must take place outdoors only, indoor guidance to follow.

Additional advice for match-play:

- Players to remain socially distanced at all times (NB: In England, this means wicket keepers & slip fielders at 1m+, in Wales fleeting breaches of 2m are permitted as part of organised match play as per the ECB's guidance for [permitted outdoor cricket activity in Wales](#)).
- Umpires are not to handle the ball at any point of the game, leaving it at the stumps during breaks.
- Batters to clean their bat when leaving the field of play OR when the bat is swapped to another player.
- A 'hygiene break' should take place every six overs or every 20 minutes and should include hand sanitisation and the cleaning of the ball.
- For shorter primary school fixtures, sanitising and cleaning can take place at the end of innings e.g. after 8 overs.
- Bowlers should not hand anything to the umpire.
- Social distancing must always be maintained including during celebrations and breaks.
- The ball must be immediately returned to the bowler, not passed between players.
- The non-striking batter should remain socially distanced from the umpire and should run on the opposite side of the pitch to the batter on strike.
- Individuals should bring their own food and drink.
- Water bottles or other refreshment containers should not be shared.

AFTER ACTIVITY

- Equipment should be thoroughly cleaned
- Teams should follow social distancing rules
- Participants should exit the fixture location as soon as possible

ECB continues to work with both Welsh and UK Government departments to ensure our policies and procedures are up to date and have the safety of participants at the forefront of planning.

Schools should always refer to their own health and safety guidance and policies relating to Covid-19.

In England, all clubs running activities for under-18s in out-of-school settings should consult the DfE's [guidance on activity in out-of-school settings](#), which sets out further practical steps providers of community activities, holiday clubs, after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school provision for children should follow to minimise the risk of transmission for children attending their settings.

In Wales, teachers can find guidance on operating guidance [here](#).

FAQs

Can external coaches go into schools to deliver cricket?

- Yes. Schools can use external coaches where permitted but they must adhere to the schools' Covid-19 protocols. The use of external coaches remains at the discretion of Headteachers

Can after school clubs take place?

- Yes. Schools should ensure that they follow their own guidelines relating to “bubbles” and not mixing groups.

Can we use toilet and changing facilities at venues?

- Players should arrive for fixtures changed, where possible, with restricted use of facilities, purely for toilet use, first aid and hand washing.