



NCU Clubs COVID-19 Meeting
Return to Play
Thursday 29th April 2021



Agenda

- **Reminder of NI Executive current position:**
 - **NI Executive Pathway out of Restrictions – Sport & Leisure**
- **Return to Play and Competition**
 - **Step 2 onwards of NI Executive Pathway for Outdoor Sport**
 - **Overview of protocols and requirements for clubs**
 - **NIACUS requirements**
- **NCU 2021 Season Model**
 - **Season Plan**
 - **Key Principles for competitions**
- **Q&A**



Overview of NI Executive Position



SPORTS AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES



Northern Ireland
Executive



EXAMPLES OF WHAT THIS MIGHT MEAN FOR YOU

Resume outdoor training at your local sports club

Go swimming or to the gym

Have a game of indoor five-a-side, go indoor climbing or do combat sports

Watch an outdoor football match



The return to cricket process

Our Approach:

- Since the NI Executive published the “Pathway out of Restrictions” Document we have continued to work over recent weeks to
 - **Modify and update Return to Play & Competition Protocols**
 - **Outline our season plans / models for the return of competitions**
- We have continued to engage and consult with DfC and SNI to understand the options and requirements for the **SAFE** return of outdoor sport, based on Health Department guidance
- Our guiding principles remain:
 - **Safety is paramount – NCU’s priority continues to be the wellbeing of the cricket community**
 - **Cricket activity may only progress through relevant steps in accordance with government regulations**
 - **Consider all elements of the game:**
 - **Men’s, Women’s, Youth, Recreational**



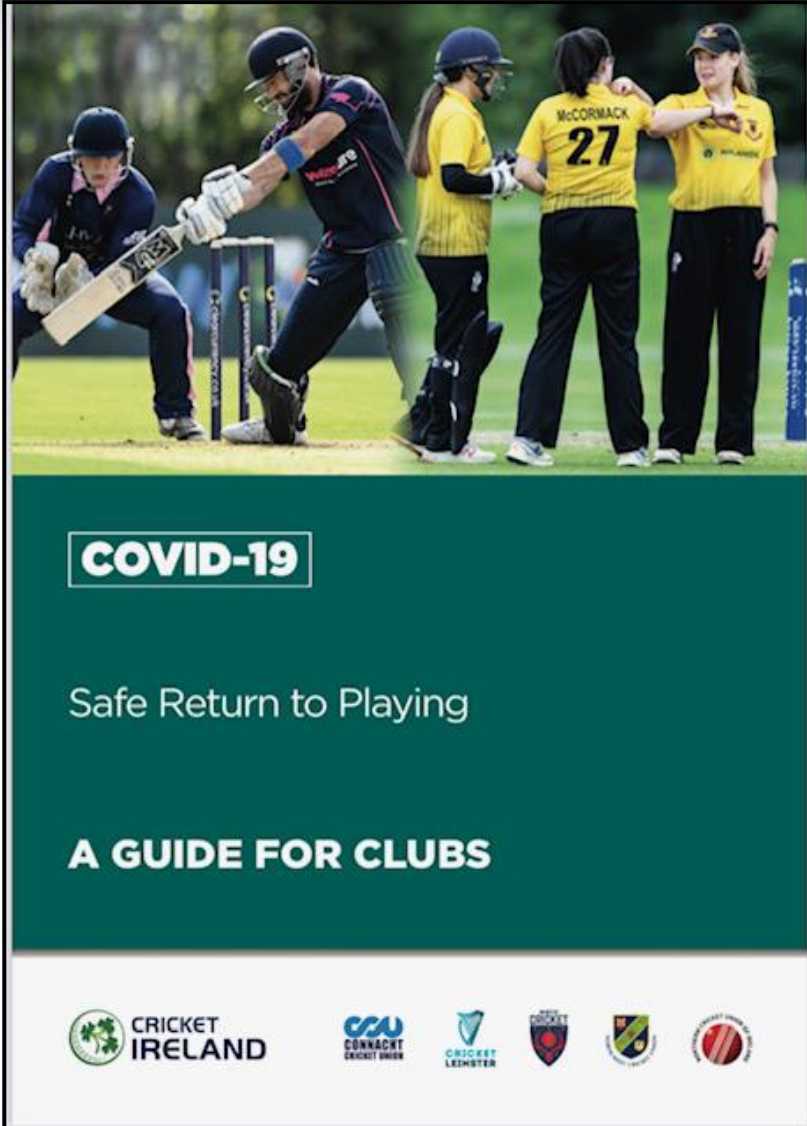
Return to Play and Competition

Overview:

- **From 23rd April 2021**
 - full squad training can resume for youth and adult teams in preparation for a return to the playing of our games.
 - clubs can arrange friendly fixtures to help prepare for their season starting but these games should:
 - Not be longer than T20.
 - Only be one T20 per day, per team can be played
 - Follow the return train and return to play protocols.
 - Follow the NI Executive “stay local” message and should be arranged with other NCU clubs only.
- **From 8th May 2021**
 - The NCU season with competitive games can re-commence for youth and adult teams, initially with T20 format only.



The 2021 RTP Protocols – Club Guide



- 2021 RTP protocols are based on last year with some modifications
- Protocols provide specific guidance for clubs in relation to the following areas:
 - ✓ Club C-19 Committee
 - ✓ Club venue / access
 - ✓ Protocols for match days
 - ✓ Club house access
 - ✓ On the field of play
 - ✓ Off the field of play
 - ✓ Getting home safely



Return to Play – Specific Regulations (NI)

COVID-19
 No.2: Safe return to training

CLUB CRICKET
NORTHERN IRELAND

From 23 April 2021, outdoor sport organised by a club, individual or individuals affiliated will now be extended to include squad training.

Training Guidelines for Adult Cricket

In the nets	On the field
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nets should be used in a way that maintains social distancing. Participants should be limited accordingly. It is recommended to use every other net to encourage this. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group activity (fielding sessions/bowling etc.) should be conducted in a controlled environment. Clubs should still operate on a basis of group sizes being managed effectively. Squad training should only include group sizes up to the level that is necessary to prepare for competitive sport. Clubs should avoid congregating squads with much greater numbers than the number required to prepare for competition. A group should be led by an individual who will assume responsibility for the activity. This individual is included in the maximum of 15. Start and finish times of different training sessions should be staggered to allow appropriate flow and minimise congregation of people.

Training Guidelines for Youth Cricket

Please note - participants, coaches and club officials only are allowed to attend club facilities during club training sessions.

When dropping off or picking children up from club venues a parent or guardian should not remain on site as no spectators are permitted at sessions. If they are required to remain at the venue, they should remain in their own car and not congregate or mix with other parents at the club facility.

In the nets	On the field
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nets should be used in a way that maintains social distancing. Participants should be limited accordingly. It is recommended to use every other net to encourage this. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group activity (fielding sessions/bowling etc.) should be conducted in a controlled environment. Multiple groups are permitted but should operate within set zones. Each group should be led by an individual who will assume responsibility for the activity. Squad training should only include group sizes up to the level that is necessary to prepare for competitive sport. Start and finish times of different groups should be staggered to allow appropriate flow and minimise congregation of people.

COVID-19
 No.3: Safe return to playing

CLUB CRICKET
NORTHERN IRELAND

From 8 May 2021, competitive club cricket can return. Initially the competition format will be Twenty20 cricket. No spectators are permitted on-site. Clubs should follow the guidance contained within the Safe Return to Playing Directives.

Competition - Club Cricket

- T20 cricket only during this time.
- Clubs should ensure that only essential personnel attend matches (total 56). The following are deemed as essential personnel.
 - Home Team (Players x 12, Coach x 1, Assistant Coach x 1, Manager x 1, Scorer x 1, Selector x 1)
 - Away Team (Players x 12, Coach x 1, Assistant Coach x 1, Manager x 1, Scorer x 1, Selector x 1)
 - Officials: Umpires x 2
 - Grounds: (Head Groundsman x 1, Assistant Groundsman x 1, Ground staff x 1)
 - Scoreboard Operator x 1
 - Covid Safety Officer x 1
 - Home Club Officials x 3
 - Volunteer Gate / cleaning etc. x 5
 - PU CSO x 1
 - PU Representative x 2
 - PU Selectors x 2
 - Media personnel x 2
- There are no spectators permitted on-site during a match.
- If multiple pitches are being used then staggered start times should be implemented.
- Travel regulations should be followed.
- There should be no congregation before or after matches.
- Changing rooms must remain closed with access for toilets only.



Return to Play – Specific Regulations (NI)

Specific Regulations to be aware of:

- **Maximum Number / personnel:**
 - The maximum number involved at games/training matches/friendlies must not exceed 100 persons under any circumstances.
 - 100 is not a target number – rather clubs should only use the minimum number of personnel required to enable the game to take place.
 - This includes players, team managers, officials, support personnel, medical etc. and media personnel, if appropriate.
 - An essential list of personnel to facilitate a cricket match is included in the Return to Play Protocols



Return to Play - Specific Regulations (NI)

Specific Regulations to be aware of:

- **Essential Personnel list includes:**
 - **Home team**
 - Players x 12, Coach x 1, Assistant Coach x 1 , Manager x 1, Scorer x 1, Selector x 1
 - **Away Team**
 - Players x 12, Coach x 1, Assistant Coach x 1 , Manager x 1, Scorer x 1, Selector x 1
 - **Officials**
 - Umpires x 2
 - **Grounds personnel**
 - Head Groundsman x 1, Assistant Groundsman x 1, Ground staff x 1
 - **Scoreboard operator x 1**
 - **Covid Safety Officer x 1**
 - **Home Club Officials x 3**
 - **Volunteer Gate / cleaning etc. x 5**
 - **Media Personnel x 2**
 - **PU representatives (if required) x 5**
 - CSO, PRO, Selectors, Coaches, Officials etc



Return to Play – Specific Regulations (NI)

Specific Regulations to be aware of:

- **Spectators**

- The attendance of spectators is strictly forbidden including parents/designated persons at youth games/training.
- If a parent/designated person wishes to remain on-site for the duration of the game/activity, they may do so near the event (e.g., in their cars).



Return to Play and Competition

Reminder of Club Responsibility:

- Refresh risk assessments/action plans
 - All NCU clubs now have revised risk assessments in place
- Messages and signs for members
 - Continue to Promote HANDS-FACE-SPACE messaging & signage to members.
- Keep records for contact tracing
- Spectators
 - Manage rules on no spectators should be present during training or games.
- Indoor Facilities
 - Keep all indoor facilities (except toilet/medical) closed at all times



Return to Play and Competition

Reminder of Club Responsibility - Hygiene requirements:

- Hygiene equipment required to be on site at all times:
 - e.g. hand sanitiser, alcohol wipes, bleach etc.
 - Clubs to ensure stock of required equipment is in place
- Sanitization / cleaning procedures
 - before & after each match to be followed.



Return to Play and Competition

Reminder of Club Responsibility:

- **Hospitality:**

- **Social Clubs/Bars serving both alcohol and food are permitted to open (serving outdoors only) from 30th April 2021, in line with NI Executive protocols.**
 - Regulations relating to the hospitality sector are published on the NI Direct website
 - Clubs should ensure they follow the regulations when opening their bar/restaurant facilities



Hospitality Regulations – From 30th April

Summary of Key Points:

- **Outdoor areas at hospitality venues can reopen**
 - cafes, restaurants, bars, pubs, social clubs, including in members' clubs.
- **Maximum Number**
 - Up to Six people from two households can be seated together.
 - Children aged 12 and under are not counted in the total.
 - More than six will be permitted if they all belong to a single household.
- **Movement on site**
 - Apart from entering and leaving the hospitality premises, the only movement allowed indoors is to access toilet facilities, to select food from a buffet or to pay
 - However, social distancing must be maintained.
- **Venues will also be required to collect customer details to help with contact tracing**
- **Customer details will include the:**
 - name and telephone number of each visitor over the age of 16
 - date and time of arrival



NIACUS - Return to Play requirements (1)

Umpires require:

- **CSO Register**
 - Club Secretaries are required to notify Bryan Milford by Thursday of each week who their nominated CSO is and the correct contact details
- **Communication with CSO**
 - NIACUS members will contact the appointed CSO prior to leaving their home to travel to the game
 - CSO must be contactable to receive calls in advance of the start time for the game e.g. for 1pm start NIACUS members will be contacting CSO around 11am/11.15am as an example



NIACUS - Return to Play requirements (2)

Umpires require:

- On arrival at venue
 - NIACUS members will report to CSO on arrival at the venue
 - CSO to be available to receive Umpires when they arrive
- CSO must not be involved in the match
 - CSO cannot act in any other role other than CSO during match, including scorer, DLS operator or groundsman/woman, coach or player.
- Players equipment / clothing
 - Players should refrain from picking up other players clothing, equipment, drinks etc during matches



Season Plan – Key Principles (1)

Overall:

- **Formats – 20overs and 50 overs**
 - The NCU will advise all clubs as soon as the NI Executive / Cricket Ireland reach a decision that will allow longer form cricket
- **League finishing positions**
 - In the event of a cessation of cricket due to Covid, league winners and promotion / relegation will be based on league positions at the point of complete cessation.
- **Cup Competitions**
 - Where required, cup competitions below the Challenge cup will commence on a T20 basis if restrictions have not been lifted by the scheduled first round dates.



Season Plan – Key Principles (2)

Overall:

- **Default start times**
 - LVS T20 games is 14:00
 - Robinson Services League games which start as T20 also have default start time of 14:00
 - This is to allow clubs to utilise their grounds in the mornings if required. All change of start times should be notified to Ian Houston 48 hours in advance
 - When longer formats return normal default start times will apply
- **Where teams have the option to play on a Thursday / Friday night**
 - NIACUS / Ian Houston would need confirmation of which night at least 7 days in advance
- **DLS Version**
 - Ensure DLS40 is loaded for use during the season



Season Plan – Competition Specifics

Lagan Valley Steels Competitions:

- **Clothing**

- Premier & Section 1 - Coloured Clothing & White Ball
- Section 2 and Section 3 white clothing with red ball.
- Junior One white clothing and red ball, although they can play in coloured clothing if the two clubs agree

- **Junior one clubs**

- Fixtures will be played in two groups of four, followed by semi finals & final



Season Plan – Competition Specifics

Robinson Services Leagues:

- **Premier League**

- Coloured clothing & White Ball, starting on 12th June by which time hopefully restrictions will be lifted
- In the event that restrictions are not lifted, games will commence on T20 basis

- **Senior one**

- White Clothing & red ball
- Starts as T20 and will move to 50 overs as soon as restrictions are lifted



Season Plan – Competition Specifics

Junior Leagues:

- **Junior One**

- Fixtures will be organised as mirrors of Premier League Starting on 12th June
- Muckamore inserted for Woodvale
- In the event that restrictions are not lifted, games will commence on T20 basis

- **Junior Two to Eight**

- Games will start as T20 and move to longer form cricket as soon as restrictions are lifted



Q & A

