

COVID-19 Club Update

29th April 2021

Northern Cricket Union



Current Position – NI Executive Regulations

The NI Executive at their meeting on 15th April 2021 confirmed that squad training and competitive outdoor sport in Northern Ireland could return on Friday 23rd April 2021.

This followed the first phase of eased restrictions where 15 people (including coaches), could resume in Northern Ireland on Monday 12th April 2021.

As a result of the most recent NI Executive announcement the Northern Cricket Union is providing the following guidance as a reminder to our clubs in Northern Ireland;

1. 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:
 - i. Not be longer than T20.
 - ii. Only one T20 per day, per team can be played.
 - iii. Follow the return to train and return to play protocols.
 - iv. Follow the NI Executive “stay local” message and games should be arranged with other NCU clubs only.
2. From 8th May 2021 the NCU season with competitive games can re-commence for youth and adult teams, initially with T20 format only.

Return to Play Protocols

Cricket Ireland released the COVID-19 Return to Play Protocols (RTPP) Club Guide on Friday 30th April 2021. The documents complement the Safe Return to Train protocols that were previously released and to which clubs developed their risk assessment documents. The RTPP document outlines the specific requirements clubs will be required to have in place to return to playing competitive games for the 2021 season.

A copy of the document has been attached to this update.

Some key items are outlined below as reminders to clubs and to assist with your planning for a safe return to games.

NI Specific regulations

The following regulations apply in relation to the playing of games and training sessions in Northern Ireland:

- The maximum number of personnel 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.
- The essential personnel list within Return to Play Protocols should be followed as your guide. This includes players, team managers, officials, support personnel, medical etc. and media personnel, if appropriate.
- 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). It is important again to emphasise that the attendance of spectators is strictly forbidden.

General Reminder of Club Responsibility

It is pleasing to see outdoor sport, such as cricket, has now been permitted to resume training and competition at this time. Visible compliance from all of us is needed to maintain the safety of participants, as well as play our part in supporting the further easing of restrictions for outdoor sport in due course.

It is also essential that both the NI Executive and Cricket Ireland Return to Train and Return to Play protocols are observed. Clubs are reminded that they should:

1. Refresh risk assessments/action plans
2. Promote HANDS-FACE-SPACE messaging via signs.
3. Keep records for contract tracing.
4. Enforce rules on no spectators (including parents/designated persons dropping children off) should be present during training or games. As referred to earlier parents/designated persons may remain in close proximity (i.e. in their car) should they wish to do so.
5. Keeping all indoor facilities (except toilet/medical) closed at all times.

In addition to the above please note the following:

- Dressing Rooms remain closed.
- All ancillary indoor facilities remain closed except toilet use.

Clubs with bars and restaurants

Those clubs with bars and restaurants should ensure that they comply with the legislative requirements relating to the hospitality sector for the safe re-opening of those facilities and the ongoing management of the relevant facilities. Where clubs have a franchisee running those operations the franchisee is responsible for ensuring compliance with the requirements relating to the hospitality sector in NI.

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 <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-regulations-guidance-what-restrictions-mean-you#toc-9>
- Summary of the regulations outlined below:

From 30 April

Outdoor areas at hospitality venues (cafes, restaurants, bars, pubs, social clubs, including in members' clubs) can reopen.

A maximum of 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.

Apart from entering and leaving the 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 the Test, Trace, Protect contact tracing programme.

Customer details will include the:

- ***name and telephone number of each visitor over the age of 16***
- ***date and time of arrival***