



# COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Version 12

Last updated: 12 June 2020  
Next update due: 19 June 2020

## NEW

- ECB roadmap for return of recreational cricket
- The Umpire Strikes Back podcast: Scorers and Outdoor practice
- Webinars (digital marketing and well-being for grounds staff):
  - Mon 15th 0930-1030: Google Digital Garage (1 of 3): Marketing Strategy - An introduction to the main digital marketing channels and how to use them to build strategy [click here](#) to register
  - Tue 16th 1930-2030: GMA Live: Back To Play - mental health strategies' [click here](#) to register

(\*new content asterisked)

## Introduction

The purpose of this webpage is to provide guidance to affiliated clubs and organisations of Hampshire Cricket Board Ltd (HCB), Southern Premier Cricket League (SPCL) and the Hampshire Cricket League (HCL), in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

These FAQs have been collated jointly by the HCB, SPCL and HCL, to keep clubs up to date with the latest Government and England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) advice, and to answer questions raised by clubs. By communicating in this way we hope to provide consistent information to clubs across the three organisations.

We appreciate clubs will have many concerns and questions. HCB, SPCL and HCL will do everything we can to support clubs through this very challenging period. While we have attempted to provide as much information as possible there are areas where advice is being sought from ECB. Consequently, this document will be updated as and when new information is received from the Government or ECB and would urge clubs to revisit this page on a regular basis.

ECB chief executive Tom Harrison gave evidence to the DCMS select committee. [Click here](#) and watch what he had to say (the committee starts at 9:30am and Tom appears from 10:32 to 11:01) and [here](#) to read the ECB statement.

## \* Roadmap for the return of recreational cricket this summer

**ROADMAP FOR THE RETURN OF RECREATIONAL CRICKET**

**ECB STATEMENT**  
In order to comply with the terms of the roadmap for the return of recreational cricket, the ECB has identified five steps for the phased return of the game in England this summer. We will provide further guidance as and when we receive it from the Government. We will continue to work with the Government to ensure that the steps in the roadmap are supported wherever possible in the summer.

**STEP 1**  
Lockdown  
23 March - 15 May  
No public gatherings or events. No sports grounds or recreation.

**STEP 2**  
Individuals  
15 May - 15 June  
Individuals may go outdoors for short periods of time. No group activities. No public gatherings or events.

**STEP 3**  
Small groups  
15 June - 15 July  
Small groups may go outdoors for short periods of time. No group activities. No public gatherings or events.

**STEP 4**  
Adapted formats  
15 July - 15 August  
Adapted formats may go outdoors for short periods of time. No group activities. No public gatherings or events.

**STEP 5**  
International  
Due to ECB  
15 August onwards  
International cricket may go outdoors for short periods of time. No group activities. No public gatherings or events.

The ECB has identified five steps for the proposed phased return of the recreational game in England this summer. Please [click here](#) for more information, [click here](#) to download the Frequently Asked Questions and [here](#) to download the above poster.



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### Updated ECB guidance for return to activity in a club setting

The purpose of these guidelines is to offer practical guidance to players and clubs on the steps they should take while undertaking recreational cricket activity and informal cricket activity in an outdoor environment given the current restrictions in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The key update in the guidance is the allowance of small group sizes (now up to six individuals), however a number of other subtle but important changes are listed throughout the document.

Guidance specifically relating to Wales can be found [here](#). These guidelines currently apply to England only and are consistent with [UK Government guidance](#), published on 1 June 2020 relating to the phased return of outdoor sport and recreation in England.

### [View and download the full ECB guidance dated 5 June 2020](#)

Please [click here](#) to download the poster relating to the above guidance, and [here](#) for the ECB statement of 28 May which also announced that the professional domestic season will not restart before 1 August.

### [Download clubs & leagues survey summary](#)

Thank you for the 128 responses to the club facilities, funding and playing survey. Replies came from clubs forming 294 of the 359 open and women's league teams, and a summary of your responses is below. Online meetings have taken place with senior, junior and indoor leagues and further meetings are scheduled in June.

### [Click here for England & Wales Cricket Board COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions](#)

#### \* Financial Support

##### **Government, Sport England, England and Wales Cricket Board and other funding sources**

Please see separate section below (page 7) for detailed information on the new dedicated funding support page or [click here](#). The Club Funding webinar, where we were joined by ECB Facilities Planning Manager Duncan Jenkinson, has been added, along with details of the ECB League Emergency Loan Scheme (which covers match ball, handbook and entry fee costs amongst other items).

#### Online Learning

June is #HantsLearningMonth! Please [click here](#) to head over to our brand new webpage to brush up and enhance your umpiring, scoring, groundsmanship and social media skills.

You could gain your level 1 umpiring for free and level 1 groundsmanship for just £25! Hampshire Cricket Board will re-imburse GMA grassroots club membership (cost £65) which entitles all club groundstaff to big reductions course fees and a great range of benefits.

Courses are provided by ECB, Google Digital Garage and the GMA (Grounds Management Association, formerly the IoG, Institute of Groundsmanship).

#### \* Leagues and Hampshire Cricket Board

Hampshire Cricket Board has now held video meetings with senior, junior and indoor leagues and communication with clubs and leagues will be ongoing.

#### \* Joint statement 5 June 2020

Between the county cricket board and the two major leagues in Hampshire, we wanted to release a joint statement to help clarify the position with regard to recreational cricket in Hampshire and the COVID-19 pandemic.



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On a national level recreational cricket remains suspended, which means that apart from the exceptions which were added to today (nets, group activity and coaching of no more than 6) no cricket activity is able to take place. The ECB continue to make representations to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport to explore ways in which cricket at the recreational level can be made safe and possible in these difficult times.

While cricket fans around Hampshire will be pleased with the recent announcement regarding the restart of England Cricket (next month) and County Club fixtures (no sooner than 1st August), this **does not** apply to the recreational game.

The ECB have made clear in regular calls with parties that if the recreational game is to return at any point in 2020 this will likely have to be done using both a phased approach and in keeping with strict guidelines.

At the local level both the Hampshire League and Southern Premier League have now confirmed, as per their previous communications to their member clubs that **promotion and relegation will now not apply for the 2020 season**.

Both leagues are committed to supporting clubs in providing some level of cricket if and when it is permitted by the government. On Wednesday evening, as part of the regular ECB Premier League call it was made clear that while the current suspension still remains in place, options need to be looked at as to what might be possible in the future. The current thinking is that activity in groups of 6 should be the first thing, with group sizes increasing in line with government decisions. Guidance on group cricket activity including coaching has been released by the ECB today. Actual match play in whatever different format is at least a month away, **but at this time the current suspension of recreational cricket remains in place**.

Please continue to refer to these joint COVID-19 FAQs which is updated on a regular basis.

Ben Thompson – Director, Hampshire Cricket Board

Denis Emery – Chairman, Hampshire Cricket League

Steve Vear MBE – Chairman, Southern Premier Cricket League

[Will affiliation/entry/match ball/handbook fees be refunded?](#)

HCB affiliation fees will be waived for 2020 season.

SPCL issued the following statement on 5 April 2020: **“Invoices:** with the economic difficulties that this situation may cause, the League will be delaying the invoicing of clubs until the end of the season and will charge for the umpire and balls on a pro-rata basis. **Development Fund:** for the 2020 season only, we have decided to relax the rules to access to the development fund. For those clubs with monies in the fund, should you wish to withdraw your funds, please contact me. **Handbook:** to reduce the costs to our member clubs, we have decided that we will not be producing a physical handbook for this season and will be looking at a ‘special addition’ for 2021. We will be adding a PDF format to website for people to download should they wish.” Please [click here](#) to view the statement in full.

On 4 May 2020 HCL chair Denis Emery stated: "As yet we have no start date for the 2020 season from the ECB and as you know there will be no chance of any cricket until 1st July. Due to the decision by the Southern Premier League to stop promotions etc from 4th June we have had to change our stance. If there is a start to recreational cricket by Saturday 4th July we will continue with the League Fixtures until the end of August and the winners will win the trophy for their League. However there will be no promotion and relegation from each League. The start will depend on Government and ECB advice. If cricket can only start with certain restrictions then we will probably resort to friendly matches using the 2020 fixtures predominantly. September would not be an option for League cricket as many clubs would not have access to the ground as football takes over. We could not have some clubs available and others not. We have all the League balls for 2020 season in storage with the manufacturers and if they are not required for 2020 season they will



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be kept until 2021 season. If we do manage to get some cricket in we can arrange with the manufacturers to supply us with some of your order. If there is no cricket this season then the entry fee may rolled over to 2021 season, as will be the Handbooks although we have promised that all Clubs will be given 12 handbooks free. There will be no handbooks for 2020 (we will post part of the handbook on the website) if there is no cricket and all the statistics etc will be in the 2021 issue." HCL vice-chair Philip Wilson made the following statement issued 28 March 2020: "HCL cricket balls that the clubs ordered have been paid for and are being stored by Dukes. These will be distributed later this season at a date yet to be determined. Since any excess balls not used in the 2020 season can be used in the 2021 season it will mean, inevitably, a smaller order by each club for the 2021 season. Handbooks are being made available, at no cost for the first 12 for each and every club, again distribution will be a date yet to be determined. If there is no cricket in the 2020 season then the question of the entry fees for 2020, would be discussed by Committee and may be held over for 2021 entry fee."

Will there be flexibility to Get The Game On in terms of formats, scheduling of matches and rules and regulations? Will there be promotion and relegation?

- Please [click here](#) for the SPCL statement issued on 5 April 2020.
- Please [click here](#) for HCL statement issued on 20 March 2020.

Return To Cricket

**Will there be a national recruitment campaign to encourage participation in grassroots cricket?**

We are awaiting further information from the ECB. HCB and the leagues will work tirelessly to ensure the recreational game resumes in the best possible shape.

**Will there be consultation with the FA if there is cricket in September on use of facilities shared with football?**

Consultations continue to take place between ECB, Sport England and other sports' governing bodies on the conditions under which recreational games can resume.

\* [General Advice](#)

What advice and support will be available for clubs and organisations?

**Cancelled courses and lapsed qualifications (1st aid, Health and Safety)**

1<sup>st</sup> aid training must take place face to face. On resumption of cricket activity, please be aware of whose qualifications are in date and ensure someone qualified is on site while activities are taking place. Please seek courses as soon as possible for those whose qualifications have expired. HCB will contact all clubs in the coming weeks to establish likely course requirements. HCB will also run Health and Safety courses for foreign nationals should the need arise.

\* **Coaches' mental health training**

Please [click here](#) for UK Coaching's free course produced in collaboration with 1st4Sport, the mental health charity Mind and Sport England. Coaches across the UK will be able to increase their knowledge of mental health, and confidence when applying the learning into their coaching practice, and will remain free until 31 August 2020.

**ECB Frequently Asked Questions / Weekly Survey**

Please [click here](#) for the latest ECB FAQs in response to your survey replies, thanks to all who completed it. The answers have provided valuable insights into what ECB should be doing to support Counties, Clubs and Leagues. Across the survey, containing responses from over 1000 clubs, we are clear that Finance and Players are the biggest concerns with Grounds and Pitches not far behind. With the Finance Support package in place ECB are turning our attention to Players and Grounds over the next few weeks and we will share more details in the coming weeks.

\* **Facility maintenance**

Please [click here](#) for ECB guidance on Coronavirus and Grounds Maintenance in the Recreational



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Game. The ECB and Grounds Management Association (GMA, formerly the IoG) have jointly produced guidance which can also be found at the same link. It has been updated to reflect recent the recent fine weather. ECB Guidance on managing temporarily closed or permanently unoccupied properties has also been added to the same webpage, along with a new publication "Managing Vacant Buildings and Operating Safely – A Guide for Recreational Cricket Clubs". Finally, please [click here](#) for the "GMA Live: Back to play - mental health strategies" webinar on Tuesday 18 June, 730-830pm. Adapting to the 'new-normal' can present challenges for grounds staff, volunteers, and businesses - so a panel for our latest webinar, led by broadcaster and writer Mark Clemmit will discuss and explore mental health strategies for the grounds sector.

#### **Health and hygiene**

Please [click here](#) for the latest Government guidance.

#### **Insurance: will insurance companies either pay out on lost income due to business interruption or rebate / refund premiums due to the lack of cricket?**

Please refer to your insurer. In the event that there is a query as to whether COVID-19 is covered under business interruption, clubs will need to take this up with the [Financial Ombudsman](#).

#### **Keeping your club / organisation running**

Please [click here](#) for tips, tools and ideas on helping to keep your club functioning, and on working with your members. Sport England Club Matters are updating the page frequently.

#### **\* Officials' well-being**

Heather Vernon, as well as being National Scorer Officer for the ECB Association of Cricket Officials, is also a counsellor and psychotherapist. The restrictions in place for lockdown have begun to place a strain on many people and the longer they go on the greater the impact on our emotional, mental, spiritual, and physical well-being. Various organisations, from a wide variety of perspectives, are producing guidance on how to cope and so please [click here](#) for her helpful guide to maintaining well-being among the officiating community.

#### **Safeguarding:**

ECB Safeguarding team have recognised some challenges you may be facing, due to the important restrictions implemented by the government. We have put in place a couple of changes to support you. Please [click here](#) for details of interim training for new and existing club welfare officers.

#### **#TogetherThroughThisTest**

ECB has launched 'Together Through This Test', a nationwide campaign shining a light on the work undertaken by the game in response to COVID-19 and highlighting the resources available to the public. Please [click here](#) and see if you can spot a Hampshire club paying tribute to the NHS and All Star cricketer Elouise from Mottisfont in the film "The Wait" voiced by Stephen Fry.

#### **All Stars and Dynamos Cricket for 5-12 year olds**

The safety and wellbeing of all people involved in cricket is our absolute priority and so whilst we continue to work through solutions, All Stars and Dynamos Cricket remain suspended for the time being in line with government guidance. We will do everything we can to run programmes later in the year should the government guidance allow us to do so and we will remain in touch with any updates as and when they are available. If the situation means we are unable to reschedule programmes for a later date, we will ensure that refunds or credits are available for participants. We know that cricket can play a huge part in supporting physical and mental wellbeing of children around the country and we are continuing to explore ways that we can bring cricket to homes through indoor games, challenges, and digital content.

We are delighted to be able to share with you the 2020 **All Stars Activity Booklet** which has been adapted so that all content is suitable for families whilst they are at home – a download link can be found [here](#). We will have shared this booklet with parents later this afternoon. We look forward to seeing quiz answers, recipe outcomes and videos of cricket skills from all our junior cricketers.

We wrote to all those who have signed up to All Stars Cricket 2020 to let them know that their **All Stars kit** is on its way to them! The packs will provide children with bats and balls to help them hone



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their cricket skills and remain physically active during this period. Within the pack is also an activity booklet in which All Stars will find games and activities that they can play alone, or with the rest of the family.

\* The new **Dynamos Cricket app** provides lots of ways to get active, learn new skills and keep the family entertained:

- [click here](#) for iOS, [click here](#) for Android

The 18 different skills videos and interactive quizzes provide lots of ways for children to get active at home, even with minimal space and equipment. The app features will enable children to:

- Create a personal profile
- Learn new batting, bowling and fielding skills through activities and videos, with three levels of difficulty per area
- Do fun quizzes to earn virtual runs
- Learn about the different teams from The Hundred and pick their favourite

[Click here](#) for more information. Please note that Dynamos children and parents will receive their personalised new-balance Dynamos t-shirt closer to programme start dates. Please [click here](#) for the full ECB update issued 24 April. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact our [help desk](#).

### Who To Contact

The following activities have been suspended and all participants have been contacted. We will let you know when activities/courses resume.

HCB team members are on furlough leave for the months of May and June except:

- Ben Thompson, Cricket Development Director
- Simon Jones, Cricket Development Manager
- Mike Pollard, Cricket Development Manager
- Andy Sharp, Finance

If you have any queries, please email [HCB.Admin@ageasbowl.com](mailto:HCB.Admin@ageasbowl.com) and a member of staff will respond asap.

- All Stars Cricket / Dynamos Cricket
- County Club Championships
- Courses and Events
  - Coach education courses
  - Safeguarding and Play-Cricket courses
  - Umpiring and Scoring courses: please [click here](#) to contact the Hampshire Association of Cricket Officials (HACO)
  - Women's Cricket Expo and Women's Softball Coaching Course
- Disability Cricket (Super1s / County Teams)
- Girls' Regional Performance Centres (RPCs)
- Schools Cricket
- Street Cricket
- W10
- Wicketz

### Financial Support

[Click here to view the Clubs and Leagues Emergency Funding and Support Webinar](#)

\* **Government Grant and Business Rates Relief eligibility**

\* **48 Hampshire clubs across 11 local authority areas have so far received £10k government small business grants.** The fund is administered by the 14 Hampshire and Isle of Wight local authorities. Please [click here](#) for details of local authority grant and rate relief contacts. Please [click](#)



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[here](#) to look up a rateable value, [here](#) for the government's Business Coronavirus Support Finder, and [here](#) for the eligibility criteria.

Local authority discretionary grant funds (with short deadlines) have been opened for organisations not eligible for small business or retail, leisure and hospitality grants. Please [click here](#) to visit the government website for details.

Businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors (including sports clubs) in England will not have to pay business rates for the 2020-21 tax year, please [click here](#) for details. Your local authority will write to you if you are eligible for rate relief. You should make contact with your local authority if you are not getting a relief to which you think you are entitled.

Please [click here](#) for information on the Government's support for businesses that pay little or no business rates, and [here](#) for the Sport and Recreation Alliance's helpful guidance.

### **Will there be emergency ECB financial support to cover facility maintenance, insurance, running costs and loss of income?**

ECB have announced three emergency schemes to support the recreational game.

- **League Emergency Loan Scheme**, £50k interest free to leagues covering balls, handbooks and entry fees - [click here](#) for details
- £18 million **Emergency Loan Scheme** for clubs including 12-month repayment holiday (contact [loans@ecb.co.uk](mailto:loans@ecb.co.uk))
- £2 million **Return to Cricket Grant Scheme** (contact [HCB.Admin@ageasbowl.com](mailto:HCB.Admin@ageasbowl.com))

ECB grant aid is designed for the clubs **most in need** and in **immediate danger**, while a larger part of the funding is allocated to the loan scheme. Clubs should explore Government and Sport England options first. We recommend that clubs contact all their suppliers to renegotiate 2020 costs. Please [click here](#) to download the **cashflow template** excel spreadsheet prepared by our good friends at the Derbyshire Cricket Foundation.

[ECB Support Centre: click here for details of ECB loan & grant schemes, eligibility and how to apply](#)

### **CASC (Community Amateur Sports Club) Status**

Please [click here](#) for the list of 45 Hampshire clubs and organisations registered as CASCs as at February 2020 on the HMRC website. Please [click here](#) for ECB information on CASC status. Please [click here](#) for Government information on CASCs including eligibility for Gift Aid.

We are aware that many CASCs and charities have suspended the collection of **membership subscriptions** in light of the COVID-19 pandemic but some individuals are making voluntary donations instead in order to support their club.

It is worthwhile reminding you that that there is no barrier to Gift Aid being claimed on such donations, provided they are freely given, no benefits arise in consequence of that specific donation (either now or in the future) or, if provided, they fall within the legislative limits, and a Gift Aid Declaration is obtained.

In circumstances where clubs have reduced their subscription rate, any amounts freely donated over and above this reduced amount would also potentially be eligible for Gift Aid. In all cases it must be made clear to the members that the amounts voluntarily given by them are not subscriptions, carry no subscription rights and will be treated as donations on which the CASC or charity will claim Gift Aid.

The personal tax implications of making a Gift Aid donation will also need to be explained to donors.

### **£100 from ECB – Spacehive Fundraising during COVID-19 (Thu 14 May last date for applications)**

To support the Grants and Loan Schemes which were launched last week, we will be providing all clubs who raise £100 towards supporting with COVID-19 activities with a further £100.

Clubs already using Spacehive:



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You can either continue with your existing campaign and ring fence the funds for the Dynamos Cricket programme when it happens, or you can start a new campaign around supporting the club during the COVID-19 crisis. The ECB can only pledge £100 to your centre once, either to the Dynamos Cricket campaign or the COVID-19 campaign.

### **Will clubs have to continue to make England and Wales Cricket Trust (EWCT) Interest Free Loan Scheme repayments?**

The Trustees of the England and Wales Cricket Trust (ECB's subsidiary charity) have agreed that loan repayments will be suspended until May 2021. All other terms and conditions remain in place. If you have any questions, please contact [loans@ecb.co.uk](mailto:loans@ecb.co.uk).

The scheme remains open to eligible clubs providing finance for capital projects (including machinery). If your club wishes to apply, please [click here](#) to download an Expression of Interest Form. This scheme is separate to the Emergency Loan Scheme and is not administered through ECB's Investment Management System.

### **\* Other sources of financial support**

Funding sources include but are not limited to:

- \* Sport England have announced a £20 million Community Emergency Fund available immediately for local club and community organisations. **38 Hampshire clubs have made successful applications so far totalling at least £106,209 with a handful of award amounts still to be confirmed.** Please [click here](#) for information on grants between £300 and £10,000. The application form has to be completed in order and in one attempt, so the nice people at Funding4Sport have created a template which can be viewed [here](#). £15 million was added to the fund to which applications are currently temporarily paused.
- Sport England has announced £1 million of crowdfunding to match fund club fundraising. Please [click here](#) for more information.
- Please [click here](#) for information on the £600,000 Crowdfund Solent Pay It Forward fund for micro businesses and small businesses.
- Parish, borough, district and county councils may be able to offer local support. Contact your local council and / or councillor for more information.
- Clubs constituted as charities can [click here](#) for charity specific funding information from the Charities Aid Foundation.
- Please [click here](#) for Grants Online's list of funds accepting applications.

### **NatWest COVID-109 support for cricket**

Given the delay to the season, NatWest want to help support you and your club amidst the uncertainty. In the coming weeks NatWest will share a comprehensive guide which will include tips, tools and guides for cricket clubs. Take a look at just some of the tips here:

- **Taking Care of the Community:** Cricket clubs are a huge part of a local community and have a role to play in keeping morale high. As a club, it's important to remember that your club will need to balance the needs of the members as well as considering the impact on the club. Here are a few thought starters to help members reduce the cost of playing and keep them involved in the club.
- **Flexibility:** Some members might need some flexibility with membership payments due to reduced income. Thinking about how they can structure payments over time to help members stay involved with the club can have longer term benefits that should be considered.
- **Second-hand Kit Sale:** Another consideration for your members is a second-hand kit sale. Cost of new equipment can be pricey so if there are any members not returning or buying new kit for the season that may help reduce the cost of playing and keep members at the club.



The NatWest Club Cricket Finance Guide launches in the coming weeks to help you to keep your club's finances in a healthy state for the years ahead. In the meantime please [click here](#) for more information and support.

**Finch Group Insurance Brokers**

Finch Insurance have a facility to enable payment of their premium over ten monthly instalments. They have also contacted insured clubs to try and help them assess their requirements, particularly in connection with the need for Liability Insurance, acknowledging that there is no training or playing currently being undertaken. Please [click here](#) for the advice. They have also been able to agree a reduction in the Liability Insurance premium, and have again advised insured clubs accordingly.

[Please click here to download the Funding Flow Chart](#)

