



COVID -19: Return to Cricket Guidelines Date: 06/07/2020

Our thanks to Hillsborough County, FL and USA Cricket for helping us form these guidelines.

This document provides high level guidelines in addition to CDC guidelines for the Tampa Cricket League's participating teams and the players who will be returning to practice after June 8th onwards and league games as and when Hillsborough County approves the organized sporting events in its facilities.

General Guidelines:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and World Health Organization offers recommendations on best practices for the general public and how to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Among other things, these recommendations currently include:

- Thoroughly wash hands with soap and water thoroughly for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol sanitizer with 60% plus alcohol content as advised by the CDC.
- Carry hand sanitizer with you when leaving the house.
- Avoid touching or making contact with others when out in public. No handshaking, fist pumps, hugs etc.
- Wear a face mask that covers your nose and mouth when in public settings.
- Avoid putting hands in your mouth, eyes or nose.
- Cover your sneezes (sneeze into crease of elbow) and coughs or use a tissue.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and exercise equipment, mobile phone, car keys, computer keyboards, etc.
- Stay home if you are sick or have any symptoms.

Note: The full set of general CDC guidelines can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html> and the full set of WHO guidelines can be found at <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>

Cricket Specific Risks:

Cricket is a non-contact team sport and so the risks and exposure to COVID-19 are different from full contact team sports. However, there are several risks specific to the sport of cricket which must be considered alongside general physical exercise guidance issued by national governments and sporting bodies. In particular:

1. Cricket requires players to be in close proximity at times during a match and involves the use of shared facilities. At a domestic or social level, players might also share certain items of kit and equipment, such as bats, helmets and pads.
2. Although cricket is not a contact sport, the cricket ball is passed around the players throughout the course of a game and is therefore a potential medium for the transmission of COVID-19.



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3. On-field behavior in the form of team huddles and celebrations often bring players together or result in bodily contact between them, and certain fielding positions (e.g. in the slips) require individuals to be in close proximity.
4. Cricket has traditionally permitted the use of saliva to be used to help preserve and enhance the condition of the ball.
5. Depending upon the format being played, the duration of a cricket match can be longer than many other sports and therefore increases the risk of communication of COVID-19. In addition, because of the construct of a cricket match, it can be an extremely social pursuit where players engage socially with each other for large parts of the game (e.g. particularly members of the batting team waiting for their innings).
6. Some participants including players, umpires, match referees and support staff, may, as a result of their age, be considered vulnerable individuals that are at higher risk of severe illness due to COVID-19.
7. Because of the role of bowlers (particularly fast bowlers) within a game of cricket and the impact on their body in fulfilling that role, certain players will be at higher risk upon return where insufficient strength and conditioning preparatory work has been carried out.

In addition to the above, as with other sports, during any period of reduced training loads and inactivity such as that which we have experienced over the past few weeks and months, cricketers must take extra caution to reduce the likelihood of injuries on their return to training and play. As training re-commences, cricketers and coaches must consider their respective age, fitness and period of inactivity and follow a simple program which supports a graduated return to activity, adding more volume and intensity as the body becomes more tolerant.

Please note that these Guidelines are suggestions for best practice and keep a safe playing environment. Captains or anyone responsible for managing teams and players cricketing activity should feel free to make their own guidelines more stringent wherever they deem necessary

Managing Training and Practice sessions:

Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation office has approved only practice sessions at their facilities and teams are not allowed to conduct games with more than 10 players which include any coaches/supporters etc, at any given point of time. This includes the playing area, dug out for each of the allowed fields in Higginbotham Fields.

- Players should make every effort to arrive at the ground/facility using their own method of transport. However, where they share a car with individuals outside of their own family or use public transport, then they should wear a cloth mask at all times.
- Teams conducting and participating in practice sessions should do a mandatory temperature check of all players prior to training commencement; where any player has a temperature of **100.4F (or 38c)** or higher, then access to such training session should be denied.
- Limit use of shared equipment.



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- All sharing of the equipment's are strongly discouraged. Anywhere (particularly for cost reasons) this cannot be complied with, cricket equipment may be shared provided that a thorough sanitization process for the equipment after each use is completed.
- Extra care should be taken in respect of the shared use and sanitization of equipment's (Helmets, Gloves etc) and needs to be sanitized frequently between uses.
- Where possible and practical, bowlers should use their own cricket ball during practice sessions or try to minimize the transfer between bowlers.
- Each team must have hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol for coaches and participants.
- Monitor bathroom usage to ensure social distancing – this may be done by a volunteer from the participating team / committee member if present throughout the duration of practice.
- Ensure safe and correct application of disinfectants and keep products away from children.
- Teams and players must ensure that they enter and exit from the doors/gates assigned to each fields only.

Field 1 closer to I4 should use the gate closer to I4. Field 2 closer to school should use the gate to the dugout closer to the school. All the players going to batting cages/ nets should use center/main gate.

- If teams for any specific reason can't manage 6 feet distance between players, for example: attending to the sports related injury to a player etc, then try to use mask or use your best judgement and effort to keep everyone safe.
- Individuals must bring their own drinks - sharing the drinks bottles, use of water coolers/fountains are discouraged.
- No selling of refreshments and/or merchandise
- Parents are encouraged to remain in vehicles or drop off children or youth players when possible.
- If a parent chooses to watch, he/she must:
 - Stay off the field/sideline
 - Bring their own chair
 - Adhere to strict social distancing requirement
 - Limit to 1 (one) parent per child for youth players
- No intermingling of groups/players between different fields.
- Maximum of three bowlers per net at any time and total of only 4 players in each net/batting cage
- Batters suggested to tap ball back to bowler with the bat.
- Youth Coaches use baseball mitt or gloves at all times throughout a session.
- Coaches or team representatives should carry out a basic assessment of individual fitness for all
- Reduced participant capacity ensuring no more than 10 people per group (CDC Guidelines)
- Where any participant wishes to wear a face-mask even when more than 6ft away from another, they shall be free to do so.
- Individuals should bring their own chairs to the ground if they wish to sit and spectate and remain 6ft apart
- Coaching and support staff will ideally remain with their groups and **will not** rotate by activity
- Teams must have the roster and contact information of each of the participant and should be able to provide it to the TampaCricketLeague committee whenever requested.
- Team captain/representative who books the practice session by following the practice booking



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rules of TampaCricketLeague is responsible for ensuring the compliance of these guidelines and best practices.

Preparing for When Someone Gets Sick:

No return to play for any that are sick until CDC's criteria to discontinue home isolation has been met

- Notify health officials including the Tampa Cricket League committee
- Where any individual has played, officiated or been involved in a practice session and then subsequently fallen ill or developed symptoms, then that player or official should:
 - (1) Report the same to the organizer of the match;
 - (2) Seek healthcare support immediately; and
 - (3) follow all local and authority regulatory requirements.
- Where any individual has played, officiated or been involved in a practice session and then subsequently contracts COVID-19, then that player or official should:
 - (1) Report the same to the organizer of the match;
 - (2) follow all local and authority regulatory requirements;
 - (3) Self-quarantine for a minimum period of 14 days (or such period as they may be advised by any medical practitioner – whichever is longer) before returning to training and/or participating; and
 - (4) Provide a copy of a doctor's note confirming that they are clear to participate in such activity.Where any report of an individual contracted COVID-19 is made, the organizer of the match should:
 - (1) Notify all individuals who may have come into contact with the reporting individual; and
 - (2) Immediately cease all related activities and carry out a new risk assessment exercise before any further activities are resumed.
- All players should be required to sign an assumption of risk, release and waiver of liability and indemnity agreement relating to Covid-19 exposure,
- Covid-19 liability and Covid-19 risks. Any such waiver should be drafted in accordance with local state laws and provisions.



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COVID-19 rules/guidelines for TCL Matches

1. Below are the rules/guidelines that need to be followed by all the teams while participating in a TCL organized match. These rules will supersede if they contradict any of the rules mentioned above.
2. **No team or player(s) can make ruckus/tease/make fun of these rules/procedures if followed. If its brought to TCL Committee's attention that a player(s) made ruckus/tease/or made fun of these then it will be dealt sternly.**
3. Its required to maintain 6ft distance in the ground, restrooms, etc., and when not possible please use a face mask.
4. It is the responsibility of the captains to ensure that none of the teams' players are playing when they are sick. Captains should ensure that all team members are not having any symptoms of COVID-19 as published by CDC guidelines.
5. When TCL publishes the schedule, it is published in the format of "Team A vs Team B in Ground Name". So always the first team will use the bleacher that is in the center and then towards their ground, Evans 1/2. And the first team will always use the center gate. The second team will use the gate closer to the pitch. For example: "Team A vs Team B in Evans 1", In this case Team A will use the center gate and once entered the ground will use the bleacher to their right, and Team B will enter from the gate that is closer to I4 and use the bleacher there. If "Team C vs Team D in Evans 2 ", then Team C will use the center gate and use the bleacher to their left and Team D will use the gate closer to the school and use the bleacher there.
6. TCL mandates that if any of their players is infected by COVID-19, then it should be notified to TCL Committee immediately. There is no need to mention the name of the person. This is the responsibility of the captain/vice-captain/any of the team players in case where captain/vice-captain are unable to do so.
7. TCL committee might request the list of players that played/attended the match, then it is the responsibility of the captain/vice-captain, or any of the team member (that committee reached out to) should provide the complete list of players to TCL committee.
8. Once a player in the team is affected by COVID-19, then TCL will reschedule their games for the next 2 weeks and the team or its players are not allowed to book practice sessions. This is to ensure that the virus is not transmitted to others. After 2 weeks the entire Team players are required to get COVID-19 tests done and provide the negative results to TCL Committee. This is needed to ensure the safety of all the participants in the league.
9. If Team A has played against Team B over the weekend and during the next week or two its identified that one the players who played the match is infected by COVID-19, then TCL will reschedule the matches of Team A and Team B for the next 2 weeks and both of these teams are not allowed to book the grounds for practice session during this time. After 2 weeks both Team A and Team B are required to get COVID-19 tests done and provide the negative results to TCL Committee. This is needed to ensure the safety of all the participants in the league. Once TCL committee gets the info they will notify the umpires for that match and the umpires also need to get the COVID-19 tests done after 2 weeks of the incident and provide the negative result to participate in the TCL matches.



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10. TCL allows that all players and umpires temperature check can be done before the start of the game. If any player/umpire has 100.4°F or more then the team have the right to call off the game and notify TCL committee with evidence (such as a photo). This for the safety of all members involved. *All the team players should comply to this and should not object for this check, as this is for the safety of all involved and to stop the spreading of the virus and no personal vendetta is involved.*
11. TCL requires that umpires wear mask during the umpiring session as they come close to the players during the game
12. Any team wants to withdraw in the middle of TCL tournament due to COVID-19 impact, then they can request the committee with valid reasons and proof. TCL organizing committee will decide on the validity and decide if any refund of the entry fees will be done.

In accordance with Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation Department and Tampa Cricket League Inc I, _____ as _____ Team's Representative, with authority to bind the Team, do hereby certify compliance with the COVID-19 guidelines as set forth by Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation Department and Tampa Cricket League. The roster issued by the Team reflects compliance by the Team for the mandatory COVID-19 Guidelines for all coaches/parents/guardians/volunteers and athletes. The roster will be updated annually or as needed prior to each league's preseason/season and ensure the COUNTY and League always has an updated roster. The Team takes responsibility for the Covid-19 Guidelines compliance and understands the Team is solely responsible for implementing and enforcing all coaches/parents/guardians/volunteers and athletes are following the guidelines.

Signature _____
Date _____