



SOMERSET CRICKET BOARD

Covid-19 Support Document for Clubs – 26th June 2020 Update

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Somerset Cricket Board updates

As we continue to adhere to Government guidelines and help to play our part in combating the spread of Coronavirus, we have reverted to reduced operations. The impact that this will place on our services is as follows:

- **Somerset Cricket Board staff:** We are now running at a much-reduced staffing structure and a number of staff are uncontactable. All enquiries should be directed to one of the following:
 - Executive Director – andy.fairbairn@somersetcricketboard.org – 07557783682
 - League & Club Development Officer – matthew.counsell@somersetcricketboard.org – 07772538068
 - Youth Development Manager- scott.chappell@somersetcricketboard.org
 - Summer Community Coach – emily.vickery@somersetcricketboard.org
- **Upcoming events:** All Somerset Cricket Board courses and related cricket activity is currently suspended until further notice.
- **Somerset Cricket Board offices:** The Somerset Cricket Board office will be closed to the public until further notice. We are still contactable by telephone or email, although our response times may be slower than usual due to remote working practices.

As you may have read, the recreational cricket season has been postponed until further notice. We must stress that all dates are fluid and subject to change dependent on this evolving situation. We will continue to evaluate these working practices and timescales on a weekly basis.

We will continue to support our clubs and communities. Based on the feedback you gave us we will be focussing on three main areas:

1. People

- Players – Communicate ideas and activities to keep players engaged with cricket and developing their skills.
- General membership – Encourage and support clubs to engage with their general membership and continue to bring people and communities together (remotely of course)

2. Finance – Communicate regularly about funding pots, ways to cover fixed costs and reduce general outgoings.

3. Facilities – In particular maintenance of grounds and squares. Collate and distribute latest information and guidance for clubs and groundskeepers.

With the above in mind this document has been created to help provide the most up to date info on Covid-19 and the three focus areas for us. The situation with Covid-19 is fast-moving, so clubs should check key sources of info including Government, ECB & Sport England.

Note to clubs: We are operating in unprecedented times and the information within this document, while accurate to the best of our knowledge, may contain details that are no longer 'current'. If clubs have any comments or suggestions for future content, please do not hesitate to contact us at the following address: Matthew.Counsell@Somersetcricketboard.org

Latest News

There have been many updates from the ECB for Clubs & Leagues. The links to these can be found in the table below:

ECB Clubs and Leagues	26/6/20	https://ecb-comms.co.uk/t/1FT6-6XCZP-807DM4VQ7F/cr.aspx
National Programmes & National Competitions	24/6/20	https://ecb-comms.co.uk/1FT6-6X0BG-647G0AC42F/cr.aspx
ECB Roadmap FAQs	19/6/20	https://ecb-comms.co.uk/t/1FT6-6X147-7DM4VQ-43G7N6-1/c.aspx
ECB Clubs and Leagues	19/6/20	https://ecb-comms.co.uk/t/1FT6-6X147-807DM4VQ7F/cr.aspx
ECB Roadmap for Recreational Cricket	10/6/20	https://www.ecb.co.uk/news/1679970/roadmap-for-return-of-recreational-cricket
ECB Clubs and Leagues	5/6/20	https://ecb-comms.co.uk/t/1FT6-6WBAL-2E2203387/cr.aspx
ECB Update: Updated guidance for return to activity in club setting	5/6/20	https://ecb-comms.co.uk/t/1FT6-6WBAL-2E2203387/cr.aspx
ECB Clubs and Leagues	29/5/20	https://ecb-comms.co.uk/1FT6-6W10A-E5ATUWIZF8/cr.aspx
ECB Domestic & Recreational Cricket Update	28/5/20	https://www.ecb.co.uk/news/1673749/ecb-update-on-the-domestic-and-recreational-game
ECB Clubs and Leagues	22/5/20	https://ecb-comms.co.uk/1FT6-6VODJ-647G0AC42F/cr.aspx
ECB Net Guidance FAQs	22/5/20	https://www.ecb.co.uk/news/1671670
WEPL Pyramid Statement	19/5/20	https://www.somersetcricketboard.co.uk/west-of-england-cricket-leagues-joint-statement-19th-may/
ECB Clubs and Leagues	15/5/20	https://ecb-comms.co.uk/1FT6-6VE30-2EWPJD1E21/cr.aspx
ECB guidelines for the use of outdoor cricket facilities in lockdown	15/5/20	https://www.ecb.co.uk/news/1668576/ecb-guidelines-for-the-use-of-outdoor-cricket-facilities-in-lockdown

Safeguarding

Despite the break in activity, we remain fully committed to keeping our players, coaches, officials and volunteers 'safe' within cricket environments in the County. We have had to make some changes to the standard practices during the pandemic, and these changes are outlined in the below article

<https://www.somersetcricketboard.co.uk/ecb-guidelines-around-interim-safeguarding-measures/>

This week the ECB sent communication to introduce their new online Safe Hands Online Management System will strengthen the network and continue to make cricket a safe game for young people, their families and all those around them to enjoy which will be launched.

Full Detail can be found at: <https://ecb-comms.co.uk/t/1FT6-6U9JQ-807DM4VQ7F/cr.aspx>

Interim Safe Hands training for Welfare Officers

The welfare of people in cricket is vitally important so we pleased to be able to share with you information on interim Safe Hands training for Welfare Officers who had training cancelled in March/April or those clubs who haven't got qualified Welfare Officer.

Full Detail can be found at: <https://www.somersetcricketboard.co.uk/interim-safe-hands-training-for-welfare-officers/>

People

From the "How is your Club?" Questionnaire and club phone calls, staying connected with players and membership during Covid-19 was a concern for many clubs.

We have put together several resources and examples of what clubs are doing to engage with players and members.

Activities and challenges for juniors

In the below are a few free online resources that have drills that are suitable to be carried out at home. There are a nice mix of activities that cater for all ages, abilities and spaces which you can send out to your junior players to get them to try at home which now includes the All Stars activity book:

<https://www.somersetcricketboard.co.uk/lockdown-fun-for-kids/>

Communication with members

One challenge that many clubs are facing during the lockdown period is maintaining engagement with members. It is very important that communication with members is regular and ideally a mixture of formal and informal. The clubs that have done this really well are those who have come up with innovative ways of staying in touch that puts a smile on people's faces

Below is a link to some ideas and examples to help keep all your members engaged with cricket and with your club:

<https://www.somersetcricketboard.co.uk/communicating-with-members/>

Online training courses to help clubs

Recreational cricket across the country can only function due to the fantastic volunteer network that exists within clubs and leagues. When cricket finally returns this network is going to be vital for the game to flourish.

We have compiled details of online courses that are available to complete from home to help clubs develop their volunteer workforce

<https://www.somersetcricketboard.co.uk/online-training-courses-to-help-clubs/>

We urge clubs to share this link with Players, Parents, Existing Volunteers and People connected with the club

Google Digital Garage

Cricket clubs across England and Wales can benefit from digital skills webinars as part of a new partnership between the ECB and Google Digital Garage.

Google Digital Garage is one of Google's flagship investment programmes in the UK, where anyone can learn free digital skills through a range of courses and sessions.

Monday 29th June 09:30 – [Register here](#)

Get Your Business Visible on Google – Learn how to increase your visibility to reach more people online.

Sport England – Club Matters

Club Matters is Sport England's one stop shop for clubs, groups and organisations involved in the delivery of physical activity and sport. Club Matters provides free, convenient, practical

resources to help organisations to develop, grow and become more sustainable and successful.

[Find an Online Module](#)

Please stay in touch with us and let us know of any other clubs who you think are doing a great job of staying in touch with their players and members so we can keep on sharing best practice. Please let us know by emailing emily.vickery@somersetcricketboard.org

Finance

With no date for recreational cricket to restart there are lots of club who have concerns over the about the potential financial impact of Covid-19. Whilst there are some savings clubs can make whilst cricket is suspended (detailed in the Facilities section), the lost revenue from membership subscriptions, match fees and social activity is a very live concern.

Below we have attempted to summarise the schemes available at present which clubs should investigate:

Government support

All clubs should look to explore the support for businesses which the Government have put in place due to Covid-19. Cricket falls within the 'leisure' or (for some of bigger clubs) the 'hospitality' sector and as such you may be eligible for support under one or more of the following schemes:

1. **Cash grants for retail/hospitality/leisure sector** - The Small Business Grant Fund (and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant could provide clubs with grants of between £10,000 and £25,000 depending on the rateable value of your property and your current business rates arrangement with the local authority.
<https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/cash-grant-for-retail-hospitality-and-leisure/>
2. **Business Interruption Loan Scheme** - Supports small and medium-sized businesses to access loans, overdrafts and other financial support.
<https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/coronavirus-business-interruption-loan-scheme/>
3. **Business Rates Holiday** - Businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors in England will not have to pay business rates for the 2020 to 2021 tax year. For more information and to check eligibility <https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/business-rates-holiday-for-retail-hospitality-and-leisure/>
4. **Deferral of VAT payments** - The government has announced temporary changes to the VAT payments due between March 20th and June 30th to help businesses manage their cash flow. See <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/deferral-of-vat-payments-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19>

Clubs can check their rateable value at: <https://www.gov.uk/correct-your-business-rates> and we advise clubs to contact their LA to clarify the eligibility & timing of any grant:

BANES	Bristol	Mendip	North Somerset
Sedgemoor	Somerset West & Taunton	South Somerset	

ECB financial support

ECB have launched their Emergency Support Programmes for Clubs in the form of their Loan Scheme and Return to Cricket Grant.

Full details of these Programmes including Eligibility Criteria & Applications process are available at: <https://www.somersetcricketboard.co.uk/ecb-emergency-funding/>

It is important to note that the advice from ECB is the Government Schemes and the Sport England Fund should be clubs initial port of call.

EWCT Interest Free Loans

The Trustees of the England and Wales Cricket Trust (ECB's subsidiary charity) have agreed that all repayments on existing loans for capital projects will be suspended until May 2021. All other terms & conditions remain in place. Any questions, please contact loans@ecb.co.uk.

NatWest Cricket Club Financial Guide

Given the impact Coronavirus has had on the start of this year's cricket season, NatWest together with the ECB have launched a new online financial guide to help cricket leagues, clubs and volunteers efficiently manage their finances and help clubs thrive.

The NatWest Club Cricket Financial Guide offers practical advice and tools including how to deal with the impact of Coronavirus, looking after the cricket community and guidance on how to boost income through tips on memberships, facilities and sponsor support.

The Guide is available [here](#) for clubs to download and access.

Other sources of funding

There have been some superb examples of income generation from sports clubs up and down the county many which help with member & player engagement.

Listed below are a few suggestions of what we have picked up from clubs:

- Online quizzes – virtual 'pub quiz' (can be cricket themed) with members
- Virtual Horse Racing- Set Cash Prize and people pay predict the top 2/3 placed horses for a share of the prize pot/
- Bonus ball – return of the once popular National Lottery game
- Voluntary membership donation/Reduced membership – those who are able contribute part of season's membership
- Renewed sponsorship – club sponsors continue to support via the digital sphere
- Remote prize draws – Members donate prizes, tickets sold in aid of club funds
- Easy Fundraising– raise money via online shopping:
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>
- Grants Online – Coronavirus Funds <https://www.grantsonline.org.uk/coronavirus.html>
- Sport England Funding ideas - <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/our-funds>

Facilities/ Groundkeepers

Maintenance of grounds-Updated 28th May

Both ECB and The Grounds Management Association have released guidance for clubs on how to manage the maintenance of grounds during the current situation that was updated on 14th May and is available at:

<https://www.somersetcricketboard.co.uk/important-advice-to-clubs-regarding-ground-maintenance/>

We wanted to let you all know of two opportunities for club Groundskeepers and their teams/helpers which we hope will benefit them and their clubs.

(ONLINE) Level 1 Cricket Grounds Maintenance

The Grounds Management Association (GMA) have a range of training courses that are suitable for the professional to the grass roots volunteer and have launched a new online Level 1 module on Cricket Grounds Maintenance to allow you to gain an awareness and general understanding of the tasks involved in maintaining playing surfaces.

What does the course content cover?

There are 3 modules to this training course. All are designed to either give you a new understanding or build on your experiences so far.

- Requirements of the groundsperson and pitch
- Maintenance activities (Equipment and Machinery)
- Safe use and storage (Materials)

Each module has an informal self-assessment test, plus there is a formal end of course multiple choice assessment test, which is also online.

After you have completed these 3 modules, we will also suggest other topics of progression should you wish to continue to learn.

How much does it cost?

£25.00 (Incl. VAT)

For more info and booking visit: <https://portal.iog.org/education/course/379841>

ASK THE GROUNDSMAN - SCOTT HAWKINS ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

Recently SCCC invited supporters and fellow groundskeepers across the South West to submit their questions for Somerset Head groundsman Scott Hawkins. Whether it was advice on how to restart preparations on your Club ground or a query on mowing the lawn – Scott took a selection of your questions and responded via a video created for this purpose.:

<https://www.somersetcountycc.co.uk/news/club-news/ask-the-groundsmen-scott-hawkins-answers-your-questions/>

The GMA Back to Play Webinar

On Wednesday 13th May the GMA ran their first webinar on “Back to Play” which proved very popular! You can [Watch the Recording](#) of the webinar back using the link if you missed it!

ECB guidelines for the use of outdoor cricket facilities- Updated 5th June

Read below for the ECB guidance for cricket clubs relating to opening of nets and outfielders for

physical activity which includes details on 6 people training or being coached (1 Coach- 5 People)

Please note, this guidance is provided to support the advice of government and medical experts, as well as to offer practical guidance to players and clubs on the steps they should take to remain safe whilst undertaking exercise in an outdoor cricket club environment. **Equally, no club should reopen their outdoor facilities if they feel unable to meet the requirements.**

Please read the advice document carefully before opening your club facilities should you wish to or making changes to your current opening operations, and we urge players and parents to be patience with clubs whilst they work out if they can open facilities or make changes.

View the guidance document [here](#)

View the infographic [here](#)

Examples of booking systems clubs are using:

1. [Setmore Appointments](#)
2. [Facebook Appointments](#)
3. [Skedda](#)
4. [TeamUp Calendar](#)
[Doodle Calendar/Poll](#)

If you have any further questions please [contact ECB here](#).

Sport England Signage and Resources

Whether you're a player, coach, spectator, employee or volunteer, it's vital we all take sensible measures to maintain good hygiene – now more than ever.

Sport England have created a webpage which includes the latest government advice on how we can help stop the spread of coronavirus and includes measures such as social distancing and best practice for cleaning equipment.

It also includes general good practice, and outlines things we should already have been doing before the pandemic.

The advice has been developed to help organisations implement good hygiene across their facilities simply and effectively, no matter the activity, sport or venue.

It's been developed with the [Advanced Wellbeing Research Centre](#), the [National Centre for Sport & Exercise Medicine](#), and [The Centre for Behavioural Science and Applied Psychology](#) at Sheffield Hallam University.

Sport England have produced several resources to help you clearly communicate the key hygiene messages outlined on this page to people taking part in sport and physical activity.:

<https://www.sportengland.org/hygiene>

Sport England resources to help prepare for a return to play

As restrictions ease and the sport and physical activity sector begins to reopen, Sport England have produced several resources to help it do so.

In recent weeks they been consulting with partners (Inc ECB) to get a sense of what would be helpful.

And while the government has not yet given the green light to the wider reopening of facilities

and the restarting of recreational sport, we believe it's important to prepare for these changes now – as much as possible.

The published resources will help plan for a safe return and support the sector to keep staff, volunteers, members and participants informed of their responsibilities around social distancing and hygiene and will work alongside both existing and forthcoming government guidance.

The resources are available at: <https://www.sportengland.org/news/new-resources-help-prepare-return-play>

Hospitality Sector Guidance

As it stands before 4th July Clubhouse & Bars cannot open in line Govt Guidelines unless they are able to operate as a Takeaway service.

New Govt Guidelines are place from 4th July, and it is up to clubs if they can comply with Govt Guidelines and their decision ultimately open.

Here is the link to the Govt section on Hospitality: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/restaurants-offering-takeaway-or-delivery>

Managing Vacant Buildings and Operating Safely – A Guide for Recreational Cricket Clubs

Further to last week's guidance on the use of outdoor cricket facilities in lockdown, we thought it would be helpful to provide guidance on the management of health and safety for vacant or low occupancy buildings or spaces at recreational grounds. Please click [here](#) to access the guide.

It highlights key considerations and actions to help prevent infection and transmission of COVID-19. It is aimed at all clubs, venue providers, facilities managers, and others responsible for managing these areas at grounds and venues.

Future updates to follow will include information on bringing these spaces into use as government advice changes. If you have any questions, please contact ECB at enquiries@ecb.co.uk.

Managing temporarily closed / unoccupied buildings

Temporarily closed or permanently unoccupied buildings can be at greater risk from arson, antisocial behaviour, theft, and escape of water. ECB-appointed broker Howden have provided some advice and solutions to manage this increased risk.

Please click [here](#) for further advice on these areas or visit Howden's dedicated COVID-19 information hub [here](#).

Other resources of use

- Government - <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- ECB - <https://www.ecb.co.uk/news/1648243/ecb-covid-19-announcements-and-updates>
- Sport England - <https://www.sportengland.org/news/coronavirus-information-sector>
- Club Matters Club Support Resources- <https://learn.sportenglandclubmatters.com/course/view.php?id=71>
- Sport and Recreation Alliance Resources- <https://www.sportandrecreation.org.uk/news/covid-19>