**Buxworth Cricket Club – Local Policies and Procedures for Matchplay Under ECB COVID Guidelines - Revision 2**

1. **Introduction and Scope** 
   1. The following instructions are intended for circulation to all senior players, club officials, scorers and the parents/guardians of junior players associated with Buxworth cricket club.
   2. In March 2021 the ECB published a set of incremental guidelines (with provisional dates) as to how cricket clubs might begin to resume competitive matches during the COVID-19 pandemic. The early phases of these guidelines (referred to as the ECB “roadmap”) describe adapted gameplay and restrictions in place on facility use to limit the risks of COVID transmission. The restrictions are progressively lifted at various dates(subject to changes in wider government guidance.
   3. This revision of the document is to be used in the 1st and 2nd phases of the roadmap beginning 29th March 2021 until at least the 17th May 2021.
   4. It is important to stress that this is NOT cricket “as normal”. The guidelines are quite stringent in a number of areas and it is vital that they are adhered to for the safety of all participants and the wider community. It must also be stated that cricket under these guidelines is not a risk-free activity. While every effort has been taken to reduce the risks of COVID-19 transmission during matches, those risks cannot be entirely eliminated. It is up to the individual participants (and the parents/guardians of junior players) to determine whether they accept the residual risk.
   5. The purpose of this document therefore is to lay out precisely how Buxworth Cricket Club intends to comply with the ECB guidelines and also to ensure that all participants are fully informed as to their own responsibilities in ensuring compliance.
2. **Self-Screening**
   1. Any person intending to enter the cricket ground must check for symptoms of COVID-19 in line with current UK government advice. At the time of writing, these symptoms were deemed to be:
      * A fever or raised temperature
      * Recent onset of a new continuous cough
      * A loss or change in normal sense of taste or smell
   2. Any person exhibiting these symptoms should NOT enter the ground
   3. Any person who has a member of their household with a possible COVID-19 infection or who has been asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace should also NOT enter the ground.
3. **Social Distancing and Personal Hygiene**
   1. Personal hygiene measures should be carried out at home before and after cricket activity.
   2. The game must be limited to a total of 30 participants (including officials and scorers, but not spectators).
   3. Participants should avoid the use of public transport and car sharing with individuals outside their own household when travelling to the ground.
   4. 2m social distancing rules should be maintained at all times at the cricket ground, with the exception of certain defined circumstances during gameplay (see below). Please take extra care near potential pinchpoints such as ground entrances and while waiting for toilet facilities.
   5. Spectators should not congregate in groups larger than 6 individuals.
   6. Segregated areas will be marked on the ground boundary for players and visitors to congregate whilst not on the field of play. Social distancing measures remain in force in these areas.
   7. The time on site prior to the match start should be minimised. A meet time will be sent to all participants by the captains/team managers – it is important that this is adhered to**.**
4. **Club Facilities**
   1. Due to the extra burden placed on car parking under the early phases of the guidelines, where possible the football pitch adjacent to the cricket ground will be utilised on matchdays. This provides ample parking provision allowing social distancing to be easily maintained. In addition, there are 3-4 entry points into the ground from this area, reducing potential pinchpoints.
   2. As the risks of transmission are markedly increased in confined indoor conditions, the main pavilion will remain CLOSED to all except club officials/keyholders and one person dealing with player refreshments/refreshment stand. Changing rooms will remain closed.
   3. Players must therefore arrive dressed in whites and ready to begin play. Where this is possible, all personal cricket equipment should remain in the participant’s car. Where no car is available a sheltered outdoor space will be available to store equipment bags.
   4. Drinks for players and officials will be provided by the club, but no food will be available. An outdoor refreshment stand may be in use subject to sufficient personnel.
   5. Toilets will remain open during matches. These must be cleaned by the club after each match. The following touchpoints will also require disinfection hourly by volunteers:
      * Toilet seat
      * Toilet flush
      * Toilet door handles
      * Taps
      * Light pull switch
   6. To reduce possible congestion, both gates at the pavilion entrance must be opened on matchdays.
   7. Only one scorer must be in the scorebox at any one time. No players are allowed in the scorebox. If scoring must be performed outside the scorebox a portable scoreboard is available. Use of communal scorebooks should be avoided.
5. **Adapted gameplay**
   1. On the field of play 2m social distancing must be maintained at all times. Wicketkeepers and the slip cordon ONLY may are allowed to maintain a 1m+ distancing. Particular care must be taken during drinks breaks, wicket celebrations and tactical discussions.
   2. No sweat or saliva may be applied to the ball. No spitting or rinsing of mouths is allowed.
   3. Contact with the ball must be limited. The wicketkeeper should return the ball directly to the bowler wherever possible. Spectators should be encouraged not to touch the ball if it leaves the field of play.
   4. Hygiene breaks will take place every 20 mins or 6 overs, whichever is the sooner. During these periods the ball and players’ hands will be sanitised/disinfected. Materials will be provided on the boundary edge to enable this. Batters should sanitise their bats when leaving the field of play.
   5. Caps and sweaters should not be given to the umpire while bowling; they should be left at the boundary edge during the over.
   6. The umpire will not touch the ball. During breaks in play the ball should remain at the base of the stumps. Only the umpire should replace stumps and bails after wickets, attempted stumpings or run-out attempts.
   7. All players should use their own equipment where possible, and the sharing of equipment kept to a minimum. Where shared equipment must be used, this must be disinfected thoroughly between each use.
   8. Failure to abide by these guidelines will lead to penalties/sanctions by match officials and may lead to player ejection or match cancellation.
6. **Wet weather arrangements**
   1. In the event of delays due to wet weather, all participants should return to their own car if possible. It is important that only members of the same household should shelter in the same car.
   2. Where it is not possible to return to a car, gazebos will be provided at senior matches to offer shelter from the elements. Depending on circumstances, this space may be at a premium - social distancing must still be maintained. It is therefore recommended that participants in senior games bring a suitable umbrella if a car is not available.
   3. It will not be possible to shelter in the main pavilion.
7. **Documentation**
   1. A register will be kept of all participants (players, scorers and officials) and their contact details for 21 days. This is to enable contact tracing in the event of any participant subsequently being found to be COVID positive. The register will be destroyed at the end of the 21 day retention period.
   2. It is the responsibility of the club official opening the facility to ensure that the register is completed.
   3. A checklist will be utilised to ensure that all measures required are in place each time that the facility is opened. These can be found in the main pavilion.
   4. An abridged version of this guidance will be prepared for circulation to visiting teams to ensure they are familiar with the restrictions in place at this particular ground.