Barbados Cricket Association

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Contents

Covid-19 Protocols for Clubs for the 2022 Domestic Cricket Season 2

1. Safety 3

2. Government directives 3

3. Infrastructure 4

4 Protocols 4

4.1.1 All Persons at cricket Practice 4

4.1.2 Players 4

4.1.3 Coaches 5

4.1.4 Grounds staff 5

4.1.5 All other members, and staff 5

4.2.1 All Persons at cricket 6

4.2.2 Players 6

Match Days 6

4.2.3 Umpires 6

4.2.4 Scorers 7

4.2.5 Coaches 7

4.2.6 Grounds staff 7

4.2.7 Servers of beverages 7

4.2.8 Spectators 7

4.2.9 All other members, staff and visitors 7

5 Infrastructure 8

5.1 Pavilion & Changing Rooms 8

5.2 Washrooms 8

5.3 Bar & Food Service Personnel 8

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Covid-19 Protocols for Clubs for the 2022 Domestic Cricket Season

Traditionally, the Barbados Cricket Association's (BCA) competitions have started in April/May and run until December. In 2020, the Barbados Government imposed a number of restrictions following the detection of the COVID-19 virus in the country which eventually resulted in an island wide lockdown in April as the number of infected persons increased. This action by Government paid dividends and the number of new infections in Barbados were reduced nearly to zero. Restrictions having been relaxed, we played an incident free Twenty/20 season of cricket from August until November 2020.

2021 began with an increased number of cases and a spike in deaths we wish we could erase. Then came the ash fall from La Soufrière Volcano in St. Vincent, which severely restricted full physical activities outdoors. Barbados is far from being declared free of COVID-19 and new cases and deaths are still being recorded here. Though our vaccination programme appears to have gone well, and the positivity rate seems to be declining, safety must be paramount in the planning of any cricket competition being played under the auspices of the BCA. As the 2022 season approaches, the government has eased the restrictions due to the decreasing positivity rate. The BCA however, intends to continue its ongoing partnership with the Covid-19 Monitoring Unit to ensure a safe return to cricket.

The following protocols have been developed taking into consideration:

a) Safety for players, officials, and staff.
b) Government directives;
c) Infrastructure.

1. Safety

a) The wearing of masks, face shield or face covering which covers the mouth, nose and chin is mandatory in all public spaces. The BCA has adopted this directive at all cricket played under our auspices.

b) All personnel involved (including staff and officials) must be constantly brought up to date with respect to COVID-19 - modes of transmission, symptoms, good hygienic practices;

c) Signage with educational material should be utilized where appropriate;

d) Any individual showing symptoms should be isolated immediately and it should be reported on the COVID-19 24 hour hotline (546-4500, 546-4800);

e) Any individual who is sick or displaying symptoms should not come to the ground for any reason whatsoever (training or game) and should communicate with the relevant authorities;

f) Vulnerable individuals (over age 65, or with pre-existing conditions) should take extra precautions by avoiding human to human contact, wearing a mask and maintaining a physical distance of at least 3 feet from the nearest person (9 square feet);

g) Soap and water should be used wherever possible for the washing of hands. However, where water and soap are not available hand sanitizer with a minimum of 70% ethyl alcohol content may be used.

2. Government directives

a) Non-Contact outdoor sporting activities are permitted (according to Section 12(2) of the S. I. 2022 No. 15 Emergency Management (COVID-19) (Protocols) (NO. 4) Directive, 2022).

b) Spectators are allowed at cricket venues (according to Section 12(3) of the S. I. 2022 No. 15 Emergency Management (COVID-19) (Protocols) (NO. 4) Directive, 2022) for the

1.b.1. FULL capacity of spectators that the venue can accommodate if all spectators produce evidence that they

1.b.1.1. Are fully vaccinated; and

1.b.1.2. Have had a Rapid Antigen test administered no more than 24 hours prior to seeking to enter the event venue and the results of that test were negative; or

1.b.2. No more than 80% of spectators that the venue can accommodate, if all spectators produce evidence that they

1.b.2.1. Are fully vaccinated; or

1.b.2.2. Have had a Rapid Antigen test administered no more than 24 hours prior to seeking to enter the event venue and the results of that test were negative

c) Curfew hours to be observed when in effect.

d) Physical distancing in accordance with Ministry of Health protocols to be observed.

e) Persons must have their hands sanitised before entry to the facility

3. Infrastructure

Facilities at the clubs and schools must be equipped with the following:

a) Hand sanitizer;

b) Running water;

c) Fully functional wash rooms.

d) Only 1 person is allowed in the wash room at a time

e) Washroom must be sanitised after each use

f) Only 3 persons are allowed in the players dressing room at a time and the windows must be opened unless affected by rain.

4 Protocols

Listed below are the protocols which will govern all personnel attending cricket at BCA sponsored events for the 2022 season or until such time as Government issues new directives.

4.1 Training

4.1.1 All Persons at cricket Practice & Matches

a) Should travel with their own water bottles, hydration fluid and supplements;
b) Place all trash in lined garbage bins;
c) Wash their hands thoroughly and frequently with soap and water throughout the day;
d) Observe strict minimum physical distancing protocols as specified by the Ministry of Health;
e) Avoid touching mouth, eyes and nose on or off the field;
f) There is to be no spitting on the field of play

4.1.2 Players

a) Wear a mask, face shield or face covering in all public places;
b) Wherever possible arrive at the ground fully dressed for practice;
c) Keep gear bags in their vehicles or in a sheltered area at the ground, provided by the club or school;
d) Have their hands sanitized on arrival at the ground;
e) Wash their hands thoroughly and frequently with soap and water as necessary;
f) Observe strict minimum physical distancing protocols as specified by the Ministry of Health (when outdoors, 6 feet if not wearing a mask and 3 feet if wearing a mask, according to Section 19(1)(a) and (b) of the S. I. 2022 No. 15 Emergency Management (COVID-19) (Protocols) (NO. 4) Directive, 2022).
g) Wear a mask, face shield or face covering when off the field;
h) Avoid touching mouth, eyes and nose during training;
i) Keep their personal equipment for their own use only;

j) Use only sweat to shine the ball – use of saliva on the ball is strictly prohibited.
k) Use disinfectant wipes to clean personal equipment after use, including mobile phones;
l) Leave the ground as quickly as possible after practice is finished.

4.1.3 Coaches

a) Wear a mask, face shield or face covering in all public places;
b) Whenever possible arrive at cricket fully dressed to take the field;
c) Wear a mask, face shield or face covering when conducting sessions with the players;
d) A maximum of 4# players are to be attended to at a time see j) below;
e) Travel with their own equipment for their duties inclusive of drinking water;
f) Travel with their own hand sanitizer for use while on the field:
g) Have their hands sanitized by an official of the club or school on arrival at the ground;
h) Wash hands thoroughly and frequently with soap and water throughout the day;
i) Observe strict minimum physical distancing protocols as specified by the Ministry of Health from the nearest person when on or off the field (when outdoors, 6 feet if not wearing a mask and 3 feet if wearing a mask, according to Section 19(1)(a) and (b) of the S. I. 2022 No. 15 Emergency Management (COVID-19) (Protocols) (NO. 4) Directive, 2022);
j) Leave the ground as quickly as possible at the end of the day's play.

4.1.4 Grounds staff

a) Wear a mask, face shield or face covering in all public places;
b) Have their hands sanitized by an official of the club or school on arrival at the ground;
c) Wash hands thoroughly and frequently with soap and water throughout the day;
d) Observe strict minimum physical distancing protocols as specified by the Ministry of Health (when outdoors, 6 feet if not wearing a mask and 3 feet if wearing a mask, according to Section 19(1)(a) and (b) of the S. I. 2022 No. 15 Emergency Management (COVID-19) (Protocols) (NO. 4) Directive, 2022);
e) Leave the ground as quickly as possible at the end of the day's play.

4.1.5 All other members, and staff

a) Wear a mask , face shield or face covering in all public places;
b) Have their hands sanitized by an official of the club or school on arrival at the ground;
c) Wash hands thoroughly and frequently with soap and water as necessary;
d) Observe strict minimum physical distancing protocols as specified by the Ministry of Health;
e) Leave the ground as quickly as possible after practice is finished.

4.2 Match Days

4.2.1 All Persons at cricket

a) Travel with their own water bottles, hydration fluid and supplements;
b) Place all trash in lined garbage bins;
c) Wash their hands thoroughly and frequently with soap and water throughout the day;
d) Observe strict minimum physical distancing protocols as specified by the Ministry of Health;
e) Avoid touching mouth, eyes and nose on or off the field;

4.2.2 Players

Match Days

a) Wherever possible arrive at cricket fully dressed to take the field;
b) Keep gear bags in their vehicles or in a sheltered area at the ground, provided by the club or school;
c) Have their hands sanitized by an official of the club or school on arrival at the ground;
d) Wear a mask when off the field;
e) Keep their personal equipment for their own use only;
f) Maintain possession of all belongings while on the field or place any item which is not needed beyond the boundary – for example caps, hats and sunglasses;
g) Use only sweat to shine the ball – use of saliva on the ball is strictly prohibited.
    1. Should saliva be smeared to the ball, the umpires will issue a caution initially.
    2. Sanitiser will be applied to the ball and allowed to dry naturally.
    3. At any occurrence thereafter the bowler's end umpire shall summon the offending player's captain and issue a first and final warning which shall apply to all members of the team for the remainder of the match.
    4. If there is a subsequent offence, by that side, the bowler's end umpire shall award 5 Penalty runs to the opposing side at each occurrence.
h) Observe strict minimum physical distancing protocols as specified by the Ministry of Health between players during celebration at the fall of a wicket;
i) Use disinfectant wipes to clean personal equipment after use, including mobile phones;
j) Leave the ground as quickly as possible at the end of the day's play.

4.2.3 Umpires

a) Whenever possible arrive at cricket fully dressed to take the field;
b) Travel with their own equipment for their duties inclusive of drinking water;
c) Travel with their own hand sanitizer for use while on the field:
d) Have their hands sanitized by an official of the club or school on arrival at the ground;
e) Wash hands thoroughly and frequently with soap and water throughout the day;
f) Observe strict minimum physical distancing protocols as specified by the Ministry of Health from the nearest person when on or off the field;
g) The Umpire at the bowlers end may wear a mask(when on the field of play), and both must wear a mask when off the field;
h) Leave the ground as quickly as possible after all duties are taken care of at the end of the day's play.

4.2.4 Scorers

a) Have their hands sanitized by an official of the club or school on arrival at the ground;
b) Wash hands thoroughly and frequently with soap and water throughout the day;
c) Observe strict minimum physical distancing protocols as specified by the Ministry of Health;
d) Wear a mask;
e) Leave the ground as quickly as possible after all duties are taken care of at the end of the day's play.

4.2.5 Coaches

Follow the same guidelines as per training day as 4.1.3 above

4.2.6 Grounds staff

Follow the same guidelines as per training day as 4.1.4 above

4.2.7 Servers of beverages

a) Have their hands sanitized by an official of the club or school on arrival at the ground;
b) Wash hands thoroughly and frequently with soap and water throughout the day;
c) Observe strict minimum physical distancing protocols as specified by the Ministry of Health;
d) Wear a mask;
e) Leave the ground as quickly as possible at the end of the day's play.

4.2.8 Spectators

a) Have their hands sanitized by an official of the club or school on arrival at the ground;
b) Wash hands thoroughly and frequently with soap and water throughout the day;
c) Observe strict minimum physical distancing protocols as specified by the Ministry of Health;
d) Wear a mask;
e) Leave the ground as quickly as possible at the end of the day's play.

4.2.9 All other members, staff and visitors

a) Have their hands sanitized by an official of the club or school on arrival at the ground;
b) Wash hands thoroughly and frequently with soap and water as necessary;
c) Observe strict minimum physical distancing protocols as specified by the Ministry of Health;
d) Wear a mask;
e) Leave the ground as quickly as possible after practice is finished.

5 Infrastructure

The requirements for facilities at the clubs and schools are as follows:

5.1 Pavilion & Changing Rooms

a) Strict physical distancing protocols must be maintained as specified by the Ministry of Health;
b) One hand sanitizer must be installed at each entry point and kept charged with hand sanitizing suspension;
c) The use of showers and locker rooms should be avoided. In the event that a person must shower, there should be no sharing of soap nor shampoos, and there should be one person in the shower area at a time. Other persons should wait 10 -15 minutes before entering the showering area;
d) Must be cleaned at the end of every practice day. Frequently touched area (rails, door knobs, toilet areas, tables, counter tops) should be disinfected often throughout the day.

5.2 Washrooms

a) Must be furnished with adequate supplies of soap at all times;
b) All taps must provide steady running water;
c) Hand sanitizer dispensers must be installed and kept charged with hand sanitizing suspension;
d) Must be equipped with a paper towel holder and paper towels;
e) A lined garbage bin must be in place for reception of used paper towels;
f) Toilets must be in perfect working order;
g) Toilets must be equipped with toilet paper;
h) The toilet lid, if available, should be closed before flushing;
i) Use of hand blowers is prohibited;
j) Avoid holding toilet doors and handles with hands. If possible, use tissue, elbows or the side of your body to open doors;
k) Wash and wipe hands properly with disposable paper towels.

5.3 Bar & Food Service Personnel

a) Wear a mask, face shield or face covering in all public places;
b) Wear a mask and face shield when on the premises; and whilst serving
c) Beverages are to be poured into and served in disposable plastic cups;
d) Hands must not be used to pick up ice to be served to customers;
e) A lined garbage bin must be in place for reception of all refuse;
f) Get acquainted with the "**COVID-19 framework for the recommencement of the restaurant and food services industry**"
g) Get acquainted with the "**Revised COVID-19 Protocols for Bars and Entertainment Establishments_v2**".