

COVID REPLACEMENT REGULATIONS



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1 COVID REPLACEMENT REGULATIONS

1.1 These Covid Replacement Regulations (the “**Regulations**”) apply in relation to a positive COVID-19 test.

1.2 These Regulations come into full force and effect on the Effective Date.

2 DEFINITIONS

In these Regulations:

Appropriate Medical Professional means the most appropriate medically qualified person available at the relevant Match.

Covid Player means a player for whom a formal notification has been made in accordance with Regulation 7.

Covid Replacement means a player who has been formally nominated to replace a Covid Player in accordance with Regulation 7.6 who must meet the relevant eligibility and/or registration requirements that apply to the Match.

Covid Replacement Report Form means the form completed by the Appropriate Medical Professional notifying the Match Referee and/or umpires of a positive COVID-19 test.

Cricket Discipline Panel means the panel of individuals responsible for adjudicating on regulatory cases on behalf of the ECB.

Cricket Organisation means the Cricket Organisation (as defined in the Disciplinary Procedure Regulations) which is responsible for the relevant Team.

Disciplinary Procedure Regulations means the regulations governing the disciplinary procedure for regulatory cases brought before the Cricket Discipline Panel as in force and amended from time to time.

ECB Domestic Cricket Operations Department means the ECB department responsible for overseeing domestic professional cricket in England and Wales.

Effective Date means 3 March 2025.

Match means a match in the County Championship.

Match Referee means the official appointed by the ECB to officiate as match referee at a Match.

Participant means any person or entity subject to the jurisdiction of the ECB as set out in Regulation 2.1 of the Disciplinary Procedure Regulations.

Team means any team competing in any Match.

3 JURISDICTION

3.1 These Regulations apply to the County Championship only.

3.2 These Regulations apply from the nomination of teams prior to the relevant Match until the conclusion of the relevant Match.

4 APPROPRIATE MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL

Each Team or host Cricket Organisation must ensure that it has an appropriately qualified medical professional present at a Match, who will be the Appropriate Medical Professional for that Team.

5 FAILURE TO COMPLY

Failure by any Cricket Organisation (in respect of its Team or otherwise) or any Participant to comply with any of these Regulations may be referred to the Cricket Discipline Panel. However, this will not exclude the possibility of a complaint being made to or action taken by any other body, such as the relevant professional body of a medical professional.

6 POSITIVE COVID TEST

6.1 It is not mandatory for a player or umpire to be replaced if they have tested positive for COVID-19. Players / umpires who are COVID-19 positive may be selected to play / officiate and may continue to play / officiate if they test positive for COVID-19 during a Match.

6.2 For the avoidance of doubt, a player who tests positive for COVID-19 before the start of a Match can be selected to play and continue to play in the Match.

6.3 A player or umpire's health will be assessed by an Appropriate Medical Professional as required.

6.4 If during the Match, a player or umpire is too unwell to continue due to COVID-19, the player or umpire will be removed from the Match immediately. A Covid Replacement may be requested for the player in accordance with Regulation 7.

6.5 A not out batter that tests positive for COVID-19 and is deemed too unwell to continue, is deemed to have retired pursuant to Law 25.4.2.

6.6 If a team is 9 wickets down and has a batter that tests positive for COVID-19 and is deemed too unwell to continue, no additional time will be allocated to the innings in order for a Covid Replacement to be effected.

6.7 Where an umpire tests positive for COVID-19 or has tested positive prior to the start of the Match and is deemed too unwell to continue, Playing Condition 2.3 will apply.

6.8 If a player or umpire tests positive for COVID-19 and is deemed too unwell to continue, then their return to play in future Matches will be determined by the relevant Team's medical guidelines.

7 ACTIVATION OF A COVID REPLACEMENT

7.1 A Covid Replacement cannot be activated without the formal notification of the positive COVID-19 test of the Covid Player to the Match Referee and/or umpire(s) in accordance with this Regulation 7.

7.2 The Appropriate Medical Professional must formally notify the Match Referee and/or umpire(s) (either orally or in writing) of the positive COVID-19 test and confirm that the player is too unwell to continue.

7.3 Once this formal notification has been made it may not be withdrawn under any circumstances.

- 7.4 If initial formal notification is made orally, it must be followed up in writing from the Appropriate Medical Professional to the Match Referee and/or umpire(s) as soon as practicable with a copy of the completed Covid Replacement Report Form and the Appropriate Medical Professional must also ensure that relevant medical records are completed and uploaded onto the ECB Medical Records System.
- 7.5 Activation of a Covid Replacement can take place at any time following the formal notification(s) made in Regulations 7.2 and 7.4 above, subject to Regulations 7.6, 7.7 and 7.8 below.
- 7.6 Following the formal notification, if the Covid Player's Team wishes to activate the Covid Replacement, it must have its captain (or coach where the captain cannot reasonably practicably do so) formally nominate a player to the Match Referee and/or umpire(s) for approval as the Covid Replacement for that Covid Player for the remainder of the Match concerned. A 'like for like' (or close to like for like) player will be approved as a Covid Replacement, subject to the following:
- 7.6.1 In circumstances where a Covid Replacement is required for an all-rounder the Match Referee and/or umpires(s) may take into account the role that the Covid Player would have been likely to play in the remainder of the Match.
- 7.6.2 The Match Referee and/or umpires may accept a Covid Replacement on a conditional basis, for example an all-rounder replacing a batter on the condition that the Covid Replacement does not bowl spin or does not bowl at all. A signed written undertaking detailing any conditions, or stating that there are no conditions, must be submitted by the captain of the team (or their nominee) to the Match Referee and/or umpires(s) prior to a Covid Replacement being permitted.
- 7.6.3 In circumstances where a Team has more than one Covid Player and requests to activate more than one Covid Replacement, the Match Referee will take into account the overall loss of resource by the Team, in addition to the cricket still to be played in the Match, when considering approval for the second or subsequent Covid Replacements. Conditions attached to a previous Covid Replacement(s) may, for example, be withdrawn.
- 7.6.4 In circumstances where a Covid Replacement is required for a Covid Player who has clearly obtained an injury which has impacted their ability to bowl prior to the positive COVID-19 test, the Match Referee and/or umpires(s) will take into account the role that the Covid Player would have been able/likely to play in the remainder of the Match given the injury that has been sustained.
- 7.7 A Covid Replacement must be at the venue in order for that replacement to be confirmed or, if needing to travel, they must arrive as soon as reasonably possible. The replacement player may not remain playing in an existing match (for example a second XI fixture) when they are nominated and activated as a Covid Replacement.
- 7.8 Where a player is not 'like for like' (or close to like for like), taking into account Regulation 7.6 above, the player will not be approved as a Covid Replacement.
- 7.9 The Match Referee and/or umpire(s) will make the final determination (in consultation with ECB Domestic Cricket Operations Department if required) on whether to approve the nominated player as a Covid Replacement for that Covid Player, and any conditions that must apply. The Match Referee's and/or umpire(s)' decision is final and there will be no right of

appeal.

- 7.10 The Team(s) activating the Covid Replacement have sole responsibility for ensuring that the nominated Covid Replacement meets the relevant eligibility and/or registration requirements that apply to the Match.
- 7.11 If the Covid Replacement is not immediately available, a substitute will be allowed in accordance with Playing Condition 24.
- 7.12 If, at the time of activation, the Covid Replacement is replacing a:
- 7.12.1 Covid Player who has “retired not out” during their Team’s current batting innings, the Covid Replacement may only bat in that innings (where possible) pursuant to Law 25 as though they were a batter returning to their innings; or
- NOTE:** For scoring and statistical purposes, the Covid Replacement will be entered as an additional batter and their innings will be considered separate to the innings of the Covid Player (who will remain “Retired – Not out”). However, the fielding side still only needs to take 10 wickets to end the batting Team’s innings.*
- 7.12.2 Covid Player who has “retired not out” during their Team’s previous batting innings and that batting innings has since concluded, the Covid Replacement may bat at any position in the batting order in that team’s subsequent batting innings (if any); or
- 7.12.3 Covid Player from the fielding Team, the Covid Replacement may enter the field of play pursuant to Law 24 as though they were a member of the fielding Team returning to play and without needing to serve any further Penalty time to any already being served by the Covid Player.
- 7.13 In accordance with Law 1.2.3.2, any warnings or suspensions that applied to the Covid Player in the match will be inherited by the Covid Replacement.
- 7.14 Once a Covid Replacement has been activated, and a signed written undertaking has been submitted by the captain of the Team (or their nominee) to the Match Referee and/or umpire(s) in accordance with Regulation 7.6.2, the Covid Replacement becomes a nominated player in the Team immediately, and the Covid Player may take no further part in the Match concerned.
- 7.15 There is no maximum number of Covid Replacements which may be made in a particular Match.
- 7.16 The Match Referee, and/or umpire(s), will inform venue operations, scorers, and where appropriate, any other relevant personnel whether a Covid Replacement has been approved as soon as practicable.