

### **THE HKHDCA ON FIELD COVID19 POLICY:**

**This policy is drafted to be in line with recommendations of NSW Health, and does not at any time override those policies. Players should monitor health advice from NSW Health regarding social distancing and other recommendations around participation in sport.**

**THE BALL: AT NO TIME MAY A PLAYER USE SALIVA OR SWEAT TO CLEAN/POLISH THE BALL**

#### **PLAYER BEHAVIOUR:**

**Players are advised to use a hand sanitiser prior to taking the field at the start of a match and prior to resumption of play following a break. Players should:**

1. OBEY Physical Distancing, both on and off the field.
2. NOT use saliva or sweat to polish the ball.
3. NOT lick your fingers.
4. NOT high five or shake hands in the celebration process.
5. AVOID spitting.
6. NOT share towels.
7. NOT share drink bottles.

#### **CLEANING OF THE BALL**

The Fielding Team Captain, or their delegate, is responsible for the cleaning of the ball, **using an alcohol-based spray and microfibre cloth** at the fall of a wicket and scheduled breaks in play.

The umpire(s) (CAPTAINS), are to supervise this practice and ensure that it is carried out as prescribed.

#### **CHECKING CONDITION OF THE BALL**

When the umpire seeks to check the condition of the ball, the fielding captain should present the ball to the umpire, and if required, provide the ball to the umpire for repair, the umpire should utilise gloves or alcohol based spray and microfibre cloth whilst handling the ball in this situation, OR use a hand sanitiser immediately before and after handling the ball.

A fielder may:

Polish the ball on their clothing provided that no artificial substance or saliva or sweat is used.

Remove mud from the ball under supervision of the umpire

Dry a wet ball on a cloth that has been approved by the umpire.

#### **WHEN A WICKET FALLS, END OF SESSION.**

At the fall of a wicket, the player in possession of the ball should place the ball at the base of the stumps from which the next delivery will be bowled.

At the conclusion of a session, the fielding captain should place the ball back in the original box OR a plastic bag and give it to the umpire; this process is repeated at the end of play.

## **USE OF SALIVA OR SWEAT ON THE BALL**

### **ENFORCEMENT:**

If a player **unintentionally**, through habit, in the opinion of the umpire, deliberately applies saliva or sweat on the ball (this includes a player licking his/her finger prior to gripping the ball), the umpire, in the first instance, should:

1. Call dead ball
2. Call the player and their captain and inform them of the breach of the Playing Condition
3. The umpire will issue a first warning to the player and their captain, and record the name of the offending player and the time of the incident.
4. The umpire will direct the captain to undertake the ball cleaning procedure prior to play recommencing.
5. Play may then continue.

If a player, **following a second and final warning**, in the opinion of the umpire, **deliberately applies saliva or sweat** on the ball (this includes a player licking his/her finger prior to gripping the ball), the umpire should:

1. Call Dead Ball.
2. Call the player and their captain and inform them of the **third or thereafter breach of the Playing Condition**.
3. The umpire will report the incident **as a repetitive breach**, to the Executive Officer of the HKHDCA by email within 24 hours of the conclusion of the days play.
4. The umpire will direct the captain to undertake the ball cleaning procedure prior to play recommencing.
5. Play may then continue.

**NOTE:** Umpires (including player umpires) will award a five-run penalty to the batting side, if in their opinion, the **offence has been committed more than twice by a player within the innings**, and continue to do so if further breaches by that player are observed and noted.

**NOTE: It is recommended that the SQUARE LEG Umpire be primarily responsible for observing the fielding team's adherence to the above protocols with regard to the cleaning/polishing of the ball, in concert with their colleague, however, it is not to be considered that only they are monitoring the observations.**

### **DEFINITION:**

#### **UNINTENTIONAL:**

When a player, as a matter of habit, licks their fingers in the process of handling the ball, and, in the opinion of the umpire, behaving in a manner of previous routine.

**However, further repetition should NOT be interpreted as unintentional, following the second warning to that player and their captain.**

#### **PLAYING EQUIPMENT:**

Ideally, equipment such as helmets, pads and gloves should **NOT** be shared by players, however, if necessary, equipment, as listed above, may be shared, provided that it has been thoroughly cleaned and sanitised before transferring to another player.

**Groin protectors should not be shared by players.**

Hats/caps should not be held by umpires or players other than the original wearer.

#### **BOWLER'S HAT OR CAP.**

**If the bowler wishes to bowl without their cap or hat, there are three options:**

1. The bowler may leave their hat/cap outside of the boundary, if they are fielding near or on the boundary, when not bowling.

**OR**

2. The bowler may place their hat/cap behind the keeper, as is the usual situation with helmets at rest, however, no penalty runs will be awarded if the ball hits the hat/cap on the ground behind the keeper.

**OR**

3. The bowler may, with the permission of the umpire, place their hat/cap at the mark commencing their run, however, no penalty runs will be awarded if the ball hits the hat/cap on the ground behind the

#### **BOWLERS END STUMPS.**

#### **STUMPS**

The umpires should be the only people to set the stumps prior to play, each umpire responsible for their end stumps only, initially and when resetting the stumps.

When only one umpire is present, they will be responsible for the stumps at both ends.

#### **ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT: To be supplied by each captain/team/club**

1. Hand sanitizer
2. Alcohol based spray (ISOCOL) and microfibre cloth.

#### **TEAM SHEETS**

**Paper Team Sheets are to be completed in line with the competition rules, but NOT exchanged. It is recommended that the Umpires and the captains may take a photo of the team sheets to enable the information to be accessible throughout the match.**

#### **SCORING**

Each team should IDEALLY have the necessary electronic scoring device available for live scoring on MYCRICKET.

If this is not possible, manual scoring should be undertaken by one person per team, or, if shared, the pencil(s) should be sanitised prior to another taking over the scoring.