



NIACUS

Return to Play Protocols



Questions & Answers

no.	Date	Question	Answer
1	09/07/2020	do we have a list of who all the CSOs are at the clubs and a contact number? I see the protocol states we must contact the CSO prior to leaving the house that we don't have Covid symptoms.	The NCU were advised last night that we needed the list of CSO's early next week. Once received, we will send details to all members
2	09/07/2020	ECB regs contain a 'hygiene break' every six overs, or every 20 minutes, whichever comes first, for players and officials go sanitise their hands etc, do we have any procedures like this we could follow? Or are we happy to just do it between innings?	I also raised the sanitation item (conflict between ci and ecb) with iacus today and am told it was discussed but felt that each player would have their own sanitiser and a break not necessary, of course the ncu may decide to run with the 6 over / 20 minute break and if so ill get it out asap
3	09/07/2020	Given ecb regs differ in a number of way from ours eg ball sanitised by fielding team every 6 overs or 20 mins. Ball returned to stumps not umpire etc... will our insurance cover us if we don't use ecb methods?	The ECB document issued yesterday is Guidance for games hosted in England. It clearly states that "The ECB ACO insurance scheme will cover anyone who chooses to officiate these matches irrespective of whether they are friendly or league matches, providing the games are played in adherence to Government guidance." The CI R2P issued to us from CI / IACUS has been jointly signed off by the NI Executive and the Irish Government. The Insurance DOES NOT cover however for illness e.g. Covid-19
4	09/07/2020	What to do in a situation whereby social distancing is not being maintained at the grounds etc...	The actions to deal with this on field are contained in the R2P protocols. 1st warning, final warning, 5 penalty runs and potentially removing the player. NIACUS have also proposed that this is written into the "temporary" bye laws for 2020. Off pitch is the responsibility of the home clubs CSO
5	09/07/2020	Are all games 20/20, and do we use the 4 minutes per over	All cricket in 2020 will be T20 and it is proposed 4.5 minutes per over. The regulations are drafted and with the NCU for sign off. Once done, they will be sent out to all members
6	09/07/2020	Are we using our Yellow and grey gear for this season	Yellow & Grey will be the preferred on field clothing as per our dress code. Some newer members may not have that kit and if that is the case umpires can wear the blue or white providing both umpires wear the same
7	09/07/2020	My query is regarding new umpires who don't have any of the previous on field gear. Any thoughts on options for that and how that might work?	between us we should be able to get kit to the newbies although obviously consideration needs to be given to cleaning same it is unfortunate circumstances left the order unprocessed but a lot has not gone according to plan over the spring
8	10/07/2020	looks like my services might not be required this season due to the restrictions put on the over 70s	This is not the case. While there was a time recently the advice was to exclude those over a certain age or shielding from R2P, this was removed and the decision as to whether to stand or not is to rest solely with the individual. It is our job to advise of the protocols that have been put in place and ensure our members follow these hence the requirement to acknowledge receipt and understanding of same as per the Chairmans letter of 9/7/20. The protocols state this
9	10/07/2020	Do we still inspect the ball before play to ensure it is quartered, not damaged etc?	This is Law 43. A common sense is to be applied. Umpires instructed not to touch the ball at any stage. The protocols call for Team sheets / DLS to be easily viewed for officials and captains to see without touching. Same should apply to the ball. Umpires will not take control of the ball before the game as normal, nor touch during the game at any time. Again a discussion point at the toss for clarity with the captains
10	10/07/2020	Only the umpires "remake" the balls after they are dislodged (no helpful wicketkeepers!)	Correct. This is to be advised to the captains at the toss. No player will be permitted to be helpful and remake the wicket. As per protocols, it is advised each official carries their own sanitiser with them and should use same when re-making the wicket. Remember, more often than not the balls are owned by the umpire. In the event of a rain break and covers being required, it is only the umpire who should remove the stumps from the holes and when covers removed it is only the umpire who should put them back.
11	10/07/2020	What happens to the ball at FOW / Intervals. CB ACO regulations indicate it should be placed at base of stumps by fielding team	IACUS confirm that ball is to be retained by fielding team. The protocols speak of returning the ball directly to the bowler and avoid passing around the field. It is of course possible to keep an eye on what the bowler or fielders may be doing to the ball from an appropriate social distance
12	10/07/2020	The ECB have suspended grading penalties for those who do not stand this season. Will the same apply to our own grades if we don't stand this year?	Given the public health situation and the circumstances under which cricket will be played this year, the grading of any NIACUS umpire who does not stand during the 2020 season will be carried forward to the 2021 season
13	10/07/2020	Will we be expected to car share? I'm always the first to offer a lift but this year is difficult with social distancing.	No. The advice is strictly travel solo.
14	10/07/2020	Team sheets on display so we shan't need to gather them, will this include undergarments as our normal ones do?	This will be case for all cricket if teams sheets are required to be completed
15	10/07/2020	I have issues re the insurance as I'm not sure ECB ACO appreciate our different govt protocols, has clarification been sought to confirm this?	Yes. We have written confirmation from the head of ECB ACO from 8th June on this. As per point 3 above however, Covid-19 is not covered
16	10/07/2020	I see we're starting matches at 2. Any idea when NCU will decide on which reg's they're playing?	As per the Chairmans letter of 9/7/20, the proposed playing regulations and temporary byelaws were drafted this week and with the Union for sign off. Once these are received, in whatever form they take, they will be issued directly to the membership
17	11/07/2020	When will the playing regulations for the various competitions be available	I spoke with Bryan Milford this morning and he has indicated they would be available early in the week. These will be circulated as soon as received. If appropriate at all members we would like to set up a Zoom meeting later in the week to go through same although we appreciate not all members use zoom.
18	12/07/2020	Are we responsible for policing the no spectator policy	Absolutely not. That is the role for at very least the home club CSO and possibly the PSNI. That is why it is vital that the club CSO is known to us prior to a match. They will be responsible for all activity at the venue outside of the boundary
19	14/07/2020	Is it only white ball in the Robinson Services Cup and LVS Cup only ?	Yes. The section 1 clubs (i.e. Robinson Services Trophy & LVS Trophy) wanted to stay with one ball colour for the season and agreed as red ball as is the Robinson services Bowl and all junior leagues
20	16/07/2020	Is there any extra time allowances in the various competitions ?	No. The union agreed to use the t20 competitions as a roadmap for all leagues this year and no additional time. The allowance for matches is 4.5 minutes / over so if your match is due to start at 2pm and doesn't, it becomes a 19 over game at 2.09pm, 18 overs at 2.18pm and so on
21	16/07/2020	What is travel protocol regarding clothing ?	We travel in on field gear. Work on assumption no changing room facilities are available.
22	16/07/2020	Can an umpire wear gloves during the match as opposed to sanitizing	The wearing of gloves (and masks) is currently a personal choice, however, the medical advice is Gloves can carry Covid - same as hands. If wear gloves we should also sanitise - care on removing gloves and disposing of gloves also essential.
23	17/07/2020	When teams have agreed to start earlier than 2pm but can't because of weather do we start losing overs immediately (4.5mins thereafter) or is there an option to wait until 2:05 before losing overs?	No. The overs will start being lost 9 minutes after the designated start. There is no additional time in 2020 regulations. Grounds are likely to be used for multiple matches in a day to maximise playing time for all. As an example, tomorrow (18th July) Waringstown 2's are playing at 1030 at the lawn in advance of the 1st XI game. If the 2nd XI match only started losing overs at 2.09, the 1st XI match would not start to late evening.
24	28/07/2020	What do we do if we arrive at a ground and there is no CSO or they are Playing ?	Firstly, the R2P protocols require that we contact the CSO before leaving the house. The contact details will be provided in advance of match day. Today (Tuesday 28th July) the NCU have written a strong communication to all clubs hosting games this week reinforcing that the CSO must be a dedicated role on match days, i.e. cannot be a player, scorer or an individual with any other duties on that day. It goes on to state that if the details are not submitted to the Union by 7pm on Thursdays, NIACUS will be instructed to withdraw the appointments for that game and it will be awarded to the visiting team. This reflects the seriousness with which the NCU (and NIACUS) are taking this role. The R2P protocols are government backed, they are not an NCU wish list, it is in effect the law. For Cricket to be played, this CSO role must be in place for every game, whether official umpires are appointed or not. As per questions 3 & 15 above, our Insurance cover is also only valid when the match is sanctioned by the government, i.e. in compliance with R2P protocols. If upon arrival at the ground the named officer is not in attendance (despite having spoken with you before you leave the house) you inform the captain that you are not standing in the game and report to myself or the Secretary who will advise the NCU. Again to stand