

**Government of Meghalaya**  
**Sports & Youth Affairs Department**

No: SYA.91/2020/5

Dated: Shillong the 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2020

**SOP for Resumption of Cricket in Meghalaya through Sports Clubs and Associations**

Whereas, the Sports & Youth Affairs Department, Government of Meghalaya had earlier notified the SOP for Non-Contact and Indirect-Contact Sporting Activities vide **No. SYA.91/2020/1 dated Shillong, the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020**;

Whereas, the Sports & Youth Affairs Department is conscious of the impact COVID-19 has had on the sports ecosystem in the State, and therefore understands that it is crucial to draw up a detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for resumption of organised and structured Cricket activities through various Sports Clubs and Associations in the State that reassures all stakeholders involved.

Now, therefore, to ensure that all the key stakeholders of the cricket fraternity in the State follow all the health and safety protocols to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the following protocol is hereby notified in continuation to the SOP for the resumption of Non-Contact and Indirect-Contact Sports Activities and in reference to the SOP for resumption of Cricket as released by the International Cricket Council (<https://resources.pulse.icc-cricket.com/ICC/document/2020/05/22/b75e57b7-ed1e-4025-a542-a4059ceb9efb/ICC-Back-to-Cricket-Guidelines-May20-final-.pdf>)

**I. Introduction**

- a. This SOP for Resumption of Cricket through various Sports clubs and Associations in the State shall be in accordance to the Order of the Home(Political) Department, Government of Meghalaya dated 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 vide Order no. POL.75/2020/Pt.J1/51 and the general framework and protocols as stipulated in the SOP for Non-Contact and Indirect-Contact Sporting Activities and the State Health Department's protocols and guidelines on health, social distancing and hygiene.
- b. This SOP is intended solely for Sports Clubs and Associations for the conduct of Cricket training related activities only and not for the organisation of competitive Cricket or mass congregations
- c. At all times the Sports Clubs and Associations must respond to the directives of the Health Department and other authorities.
- d. The detection of a positive COVID-19 case in a Sporting Club or Association will result in a standard public health response, which shall include testing and quarantine of the individuals as per the protocols of the Health and Family Welfare Department.

**II. Stakeholder Responsibilities**

**a. Clubs and Associations**

Before Training

- a. As a club or coach organising a session, hand sanitisers must be made readily available and all trainees must carry their own hand sanitisers as well.
- b. Appointment of a Chief Medical Officer(CMO) in conjunction with the Department of Health who will monitor the compliance of the SOPs and the protocols. The officer shall ensure that the sports clubs and associations of the training sessions comply with the set-out protocols before and after each training session.
- c. All movement on and off field must be controlled by the designated session CMO.
- d. The CMO to educate/brief and conduct workshops on general hygiene practices – regular and thorough washing of hands with soap and sanitizing with an alcohol-based hand-rub, refraining from touching your eyes, nose and mouth and good respiratory

hygiene such as coughing or sneezing into your bent elbow etc. hygiene practices specific to cricket such as no sharing of drink bottles and towels and the safe management of the ball. Wherever possible, items of cricket equipment should not be shared with anyone else unless an appropriate cleaning protocol is followed.

- e. Support staff, officials and ground staff over 60 years of age and with individuals with underlying medical conditions are barred from attending training camps until “suitable guidelines are issued by the Government”.
- f. If collecting monies from players, online or contactless payment wherever possible.
- g. Consider the age and health of participants and discourage any high-risk individuals from participating in training or competition.
- h. Clear demarcation of team cricket equipment (e.g. numbered balls)

#### During Training

- a. In all settings before and after the session, and in any breaks, all participants should practise social distancing, in line with Government guidelines
- b. No spectators shall be permitted for the training sessions, except members of the Sports Club/Association.
- c. The respective club/association should ensure that no more than 30 personnel including coaches and support staff are
- d. Use of equipment such as cones and stumps should be limited but participants may use essential cricket equipment (i.e. bat, ball) for activities such as shadow batting, bowling, catching.

#### After Training

- a. Post completion of the training sessions the players should be encouraged to leave the venue rather than congregate.
- b. All shared equipment should be thoroughly washed, and disinfected, and clear delegation of the responsibility should be made at the start of the session.
- c. Warm-ups/cool-downs should always observe social distancing.
- d. Coaches are encouraged to maintain a record of the regular cleaning of club or team equipment that trainees use.
- e. Thorough disinfecting of all team cricket equipment after a session

### **b. Venue Owners/Management**

#### Before Training

- a. Keep attendance records for all session inclusive of trainees, coaches and management.
- b. It is recommended to have adequate time in between bookings to sanitise and disinfect the courts before and after every usage
- c. A designated space for immediate isolation of the participant (if at training or match venue), Emergency supply of PPE to the participant and his/her close contacts
- d. Hand sanitisers should be made available at the entrance and notice on proper sanitation guidelines should be displayed.
- e. Limit contact/interactions, e.g. one-way systems in buildings and keeping doors open.
- f. If the venue management is hosting back to back training sessions, no players from the first session can attend the second session
- g. To operate safely, changing rooms, club rooms and shower facilities shall be closed. Only access to the toilets shall be made permissible.
- h. Deployment of sufficient housekeeping staff with the adequate sanitation and disinfectants in common areas and toilets.
- i. Clear signage (e.g. for one-way systems) to manage entry, parking arrangements, traffic flow and general movement around the venue which ensure social distancing can be maintained.
- j. In line with current Health Department guidelines and protocols, all participants (Players/Trainees, coaches, clubs/associations) should be checked for symptoms of Covid-19. Any temperature above 38 Degrees Celsius should not be permitted to

participate in the training sessions and should be reported immediately to the Covid-19 Officer for further investigation.

#### During Training

- a. Consistent sanitisation and disinfection of common utilities and fixtures i.e. doorknobs/handles washrooms toilets etc.

#### After Training

- a. Sanitisation of change rooms, washrooms toilet facilities and fixtures.
- b. Sanitisation of sports equipment and material belonging to the venue management.

### **c. Players/Trainees**

#### Before Training

- a. Where possible, players should travel alone to and from trainings and matches unless they are living in the same household. Where this is not possible, social distancing should be maintained.
- b. Where using public transport to travel, players should avoid travelling at 'peak' transport times to limit contact with others.
- c. Players should bring along their own equipment. Strictly no sharing of sports equipment, drink bottles, towels etc. Personal equipment should be sanitized before and after use (training and competition). The use of external equipment should be limited where possible.
- d. Warm-up and cool down should be done individually
- e. Wipe down the equipment before and after training sessions.
- f. Practice personal hygiene: handwashing, use of sanitizers.
- g. Ensuring adequate sleep, proper nutrition.
- h. All participants should adopt a 'ready to train' approach, i.e. come to training prepared without the need to use any communal facilities such as changing rooms or showering facilities. Players should be advised to minimise the use of changing rooms, shower facilities and other common areas. Where possible, players should be encouraged to shower and change at home instead of at match and training venues.
- i. Covid-19 self-assessment using Arogya Setu-App and self-monitoring for symptoms.
- j. Submission of duly filled consent form for training as enclosed in Annexure I of the earlier notified SOP for Non-Contact and Indirect-Contact Sporting Activities.

#### During Training

- a. Avoid using/touching other equipment where possible, if it is essential, ensure the trainees wash their hands immediately afterwards in line with Government guidance.
- b. Regular hand sanitising when in contact with the ball, do not touch eyes, nose, and mouth after making contact with the ball
- c. Saliva not be used on the ball.
- d. Instead of shaking hands, nod/put their hand across their chest when greeting the match officials
- e. No team celebrations with body contact. No High Fives, Hugs and Other Physical touches
- f. Players should be encouraged to take responsibility for their own items (sunglasses, cap, jumpers, towels etc.) and instructed against handing over any items to umpires or teammates.
- g. Covering of mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
- h. Maintaining social distancing throughout the training sessions.
- i. All participants must remain socially distanced during breaks in play, with spaced areas for equipment and refreshment storage for each individual including officials and substitutes.

#### After Training

- a. After the conclusion of the training session, all Players/Trainees should immediately wash their hands with liquid soap as per the Health Department Protocols.

- b. The training clothes worn by the Players/Trainees should be immediately changed with fresh clothing before departing from the venue and the sanitary gloves should be disposed of at a designated dustbin.
- c. All training clothing material worn during the session i.e. jerseys, shorts, socks etc. should be packed into separate bags/containers which are to be brought by all the players/trainees which should be immediately washed with disinfectants and adequate quantities of detergent.
- d. Proceed to leave the venue immediately after cool-down exercises and technical briefings.

**SD/-**  
**Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya**  
**Sports & Youth Affairs Department**

Memo No: SYA.91/2020/2(A)

Dated: Shillong the 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2020

Copy to:

1. P.S. to Minister I/c Sports & Youth Affairs for Information of Minister.
2. P.S to Chief Secretary, to the Govt. of Meghalaya, for information of Chief Secretary.
3. P.A to Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Sports & Youth Affairs, Department for Information.
4. The Deputy Commissioner, East Khasi Hills District, West Khasi Hills District, South West Khasi Hills District, Ri-Bhoi District, West Jaintia District, East Jaintia Hills District, West Garo Hills District, East Garo Hills District, South Garo Hills District, North Garo Hills District, South West Garo Hills District for information and Necessary action with a request to circulate the all Meghalaya Sports Clubs and Associations.
5. The Chief Engineer, State Sports Council Meghalaya for information and Necessary Action.

By Order Etc.,

**Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya**  
**Sports & Youth Affairs Department**