



## Merrion Cricket Club

### Pandemic and Club Cricket

#### Latest Update on Phased Return to Sport [5<sup>th</sup> May 20120]

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The Government released their latest guidance on the Roadmap for a phased resumption of activity in response to Covid 19. Part of this Roadmap dealt with the return of sport.

The gradual relaxation of restrictions will, subject to the control of the virus progressing as planned, take place at three-week intervals over the summer.

Phase 1                      18<sup>th</sup> May                      Small groups [up to four] who are not part of the same household can meet outdoors. Certain sectors of the economy such as construction and some retail outlets will be allowed open, including **outdoor public sports amenities [pitches, tennis courts, golf courses etc] where social distance can be maintained. Small groups to take part in outdoor sporting activity [up to 4] providing no contact.**

Phase 2                      8<sup>th</sup> June  
Return to work subject to compliance with social distancing. More retail outlets opened. **People will be permitted to engage in outdoor sporting and fitness activities, involving small group team sports training [but not matches] which social distancing can be maintained.**

Phase 3                      29<sup>th</sup> June  
Phased introduction of remaining retail outlets subject to controls on numbers. Open playgrounds. **Sporting activities [behind closed doors] where arrangements are in place to enable participants to maintain social distancing.**

Phase 4                      20<sup>th</sup> July  
Customer contact enterprises [e.g. hairdressers] return. Museums and other cultural outlets open [subject to social distancing measures]. **Sports teams leagues [e.g. soccer and GAA] but with limitations on spectators. Open public swimming pools.** Hotels and other tourist venues opened but bars remain closed.

Phase 5                      10<sup>th</sup> Aug  
General return to work but with customised safety plans for higher risk organisations. Theatres reopen. **Physical contact sports return. Gyms open [subject to increased hygiene measures]. Limited gatherings of spectators for matches. Bars can reopen but only with social distancing and cleaning measures in place.**

In response to the Government roadmap, Cricket Leinster released the following statement.

*In response to the 'reopening phases' published by the Government last Friday, it is now hoped that club cricket in Leinster can commence from 'phase 4' onwards which has been defined as being from 20th July.*

*That said, everyone must understand that this will remain subject to uncertainty in the intervening period as it relies, amongst other things, on successful implementation of the prior phases as defined by the Government & Health Authorities.*

*As you would expect, we are working with Cricket Ireland and Sport Ireland on 'return-to-play' safety protocols which will greatly assist in supporting cricket to be played within the defined social distancing guidelines and we will advise further on this shortly. It is also important to note that Cricket in Leinster is part of the totality of cricket on the island and we are therefore keen to understand the UK Government and Northern Ireland Executive positions (when announced) and how they will impact on the playing of cricket in the NCU and NWCUC areas and across the island.*

*We are also working on a revised competition and fixtures schedule which will be published once approved by the relevant Cricket Leinster Committees and the Cricket Leinster Board.*

*It is expected that practicing and net sessions can take place from an earlier date subject to adherence to protocols (e.g., small numbers of people) for which we will also provide clear guidance. This has to be confirmed which we will do very shortly.*

*Please be assured that the health and safety of our volunteers, players, staff, coaches and families within the cricket community will continue to be our key priority and we will continue to take all necessary actions to do our part in limiting the spread of the Coronavirus.*

*In line with the Governmental guidelines, our offices will continue to remain closed during this time with staff working remotely whilst all meetings (including committees) will continue to be fulfilled by video/teleconferences.*

*Cricket Leinster staff will continue to provide support to our clubs by phone and handle all queries as normal.*

*In addition to fulfilling their Local Authority and club accountabilities, our Development and Operations staff are working on plans to ensure we maximise what we can deliver in a safe manner once we can return to play as expected in July.*