



Tolchards Devon Cricket League Statement regarding the Return of Recreational Cricket

The DCL is issuing this statement to demonstrate its continued intent to provide meaningful cricket this summer for those clubs that want it, once the ECB provide confirmation that recreational cricket can commence.

We had a 100% response rate to the recent survey issued to member clubs gauging clubs' thoughts about a 2020 match programme once the season gets underway. Many thanks to everyone who responded on behalf of their club; the survey responses have provided the League Management Committee (LMC) with an excellent early indication of club positions regarding a return to cricket this summer.

The Tolchards Devon Cricket League is fully committed to playing an active role in facilitating and providing cricket for those clubs and teams that want it. As such, we have been analysing the results of the survey to ensure we are ready for Step 4 of the ECB's Roadmap and can propose a workable match programme in good time.

As previously confirmed, the LMC reiterates here that any 2020 match programme would be outside of the normal divisional structure, with no promotion or relegation for the 2021 season.

With regards to any revised 2020 match programme, please note:

- **A match programme will not get underway until the ECB (in consultation with Govt.) state it is safe and legal to do so.**

It is currently prohibited for recreational cricket to take place. The main issues needing to be clarified ahead of moving to a return to recreational cricket are:

- The Govt. allows team sport matches to take place
 - There is an official increase in 'bubble size' for exercise to a point that allows a game of cricket to be played
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- Prior to starting any match programme, the ECB must provide clarity around several issues, including social-distancing requirements, hygiene factors and adapted gameplay details. It is anticipated this will be issued as a guidance document relating to Step 4 of the ECB's Roadmap (Adapted Gameplay).
 - No team or club will be penalised if they are unable to take part in a proposed 2020 match programme, or if they do not wish to do so.
 - The survey submissions showed that some clubs may not want to be play in an organised match programme, but instead play some localized friendlies. This is, of course, fine and the DCL will endeavour to support clubs in finding the friendly fixtures that they would like, should that be of interest.



- Once we receive the official go-ahead from ECB for matches to restart, plus the accompanying match-play guidance, the DCL will endeavour to give at least 14 days' notice of a proposed start date. During that period, we will:
 - Ask clubs to make a final decision on whether they want to compete in a DCL-organised match programme (appreciating that some clubs' decisions may be influenced by the detail of Step 4's Adapted Gameplay)
 - Produce a structure and fixture schedule for the clubs that have opted in
 - Notify clubs of their fixture schedule with as much notice as possible of their 1st fixture

The ECB released its *Roadmap for the Return of Recreational Cricket* on 10 June, viewable here: <https://www.ecb.co.uk/news/1679970>.

As of today, there has been no official announcement regarding the return of recreational cricket. We remain hopeful that, following government guidance, the ECB will at some point be able to progress to Step 4 of their roadmap, known as Adapted Gameplay. In anticipation for when cricket can return, we are encouraging clubs to do whatever they can to begin getting their facilities ready for cricket's return so that they are ready to begin playing cricket at 14-days' notice. This includes both playing facilities and off-field facilities.

Sport England have produced some useful examples of posters and signage that can be used by recreational sports clubs to help promote good hygiene messages. These resources can be downloaded here; <https://www.sportengland.org/hygiene>.

To assist us in creating a workable fixture schedule, once the ECB do announce a date for the return of recreational cricket, we will quickly seek updated information from member clubs confirming on which dates they are able to play, any revisions to the number of teams clubs' thought they will be able to field plus any update on their ground availability, particularly moving into September. Until the ECB make such an announcement, we are not able to move forward with provisional plans for a match programme, so we keenly await an update from them on when recreational cricket can return.

We look forward to cricket getting underway and thank the players, officials, and members of each of the DCL member clubs for their patience and understanding during this extremely challenging period.