

FAQS ON INTERIM PLAYING REGULATIONS

Why have these interim playing regulations been introduced?

These are to allow international cricket to resume as safely and as quickly as possible after the disruption caused due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

What are the key changes that will be seen?

1. **COVID-19 Replacements** – During a Test match, a team will be allowed to replace a player who (i) has tested positive for COVID-19, or (ii) is displaying symptoms of COVID-19, or (iii) has been forced to isolate because of contact tracing. In line with Concussion Replacements, the Match Referee will approve the nearest like-for-like replacement.
2. **Ban on applying saliva to the ball** – Players will not be permitted to use saliva to shine the ball. If a player does apply saliva to the ball, the umpires will manage the situation with some leniency during and initial period of adjustment for the players, but subsequent instances will result in the team receiving a warning. A team can be issued up to two warnings per innings but repeated use of saliva on the ball will result in a 5-run penalty to the batting side. Whenever saliva is applied to the ball, the umpires will be instructed to clean the ball before play recommences.
3. **Non-neutral umpires** – The requirement to appoint neutral match officials will be temporarily removed from the playing conditions of all international formats. The ICC will be able to appoint locally based match officials from the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Officials and the Emirates ICC International Panel of Match Officials.
4. **Additional DRS Reviews** – Teams will get an additional DRS review in each innings, increasing the number of unsuccessful appeals per innings for each team to three for Tests and two for the white-ball formats.
5. **Code of Conduct** – The ICC Cricket Operations team will support Match Referees when processing Code of Conduct breaches and a neutral Emirates ICC Elite Panel Match Referee will conduct any hearings remotely via video link.
6. **Additional logo allowed** – A logo, not exceeding 32 square inches in size, may be placed on the chest of the Test match shirt and sweater in addition to the three other logos allowed as per regulations. This will apply through to the end of the 2020-21 season.

When will these interim changes be reviewed?

The changes will be reviewed every three months.

Saliva is now banned but not sweat. Why so?

The ICC Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) has recommended that saliva is not used on the match ball because of the elevated risk of transmission of the virus through saliva and as such, the use of saliva to polish the ball is prohibited. The MAC advised, that it was highly unlikely that the virus can be transmitted through sweat and saw no need to prohibit the use of sweat to polish the ball, whilst recommending that enhanced hygiene measures are implemented on and around the playing field.

The bowlers could apply saliva out of habit rather than intent but still be penalized.

The umpires will be instructed to show leniency during the initial period of adjustment, although players would have been used to the change in training and warm-up matches. Two official warnings will be given in each innings before any 5-run penalty is applied. Should saliva be used, the umpires will clean the ball before play resumes.

Why are there COVID-19 Replacements in Tests but not in ODIs and T20Is?

Players will go through pre-match medical screening each day, and it is less likely that any of the criteria that would trigger a COVID-19 replacement could present during a one-day match.

Who decides that a player needs to stand down?

The team medical representatives will decide whether a player needs to be withdrawn from a match.

Does this work like a Concussion Replacement?

Yes. The replacement will be for the entire duration of the match and the match referee will sanction any like-for-like replacements.

What about hygiene measures?

There will be enhanced hygiene measures around the field of play and the Host Board will be responsible for providing the facilities at venues. Member Boards will be responsible for educating their players. On field, umpires will keep the ball clean with an appropriate cloth each time a player uses saliva on the ball.

What happens if a player tests positive during the England v WI series?

The ECB has worked closely with public health authorities in the UK and will have a dedicated COVID-19 Medical Officer throughout the series. If a player or match official becomes unwell, they will be isolated immediately, and the COVID-19 Medical Officer will manage the situation on the ground in line with government policy and Public Health England will be informed. The game can continue unless, there are close-contacts as defined by government policy and / or other symptomatic individuals and of course COVID-19 replacements can be deployed as per the regulations.

Who appoints match officials now?

The ICC and home Boards continue to appoint match officials the way they have been doing.

	Match Referee	Field Umpire 1	Field Umpire 2	3rd Umpire	4 th Umpire
Test	ICC	ICC	ICC	ICC*	Host
ODI	ICC	ICC	Host	ICC*	Host
T20I	ICC	Host	Host	Host	Host

*The Host Board will appoint the 3rd Umpire if DRS is not in use.

Will the ICC prioritize the appointment of Elite Panel match officials?

Yes, the ICC will appoint Elite Panel umpires and match referees wherever possible.

Why the increase in number of reviews?

This is to support the less experienced umpires that may be officiating more often during this interim period. Teams will now get three unsuccessful decisions per innings per side in Tests and two unsuccessful decisions per side in ODIs and T20Is.

What about Match referees hearing Code of Conduct charges involving players from their country?

The ICC Cricket Operations department will support Match Referees when processing all Code of Conduct charges by vetting any sanctions proposed by the Match Referee for accuracy and consistency. Also, any hearings will be conducted by a neutral match referee from the Elite Panel via video link.