POLICY No.8 - CORONAVIRUS-RELATED REPLACEMENT PLAYER

Where a player is unable to participate in a game or part of a game due to a requirement to self-isolate or to illness as a result of coronavirus the following shall apply:

Replacement Player:

Subject to compliance with this Policy including the required Declaration of Proof as set out below, a player affected by coronavirus may be replaced by a like-for-like player (best endeavours) after notification has been made to the Cricket Operations Manager at the earliest opportunity. Consequent replacements in lower grades shall be allowed and notified at the same time.

If not known in advance of a day's play, notification of replacement player(s) shall be made to the opposition Captain and Umpires as soon as practicable and before the replacement player taking the field. Umpires will record the names of all replacement players participating in the days play on their Match Report and will notify the CEO immediately after the conclusion of that day's play.

The opposing team shall not be unfairly disadvantaged by a team's choice of replacement player. A team shall take reasonable steps to replace a Covid impacted player with a like-for-like player: however, the status of the match may permit other types of replacements, for example:

- A batsman may be replaced by a bowler provided that the team will no longer bowl in the game.
- A batsman may be replaced by a bowler subject to the Captain's undertaking that the replacement will not bowl in the game.
- A bowler may be replaced by a batsman provided that the team will no longer bat in the game, or the bowler has been dismissed.

No alteration allowed after notification:

In all circumstances once notification has been given, no further alteration shall be allowed.

Requirements of replacement member:

A replacing player shall be subject to the provisions of the VSDCA Pennant Rules and The Laws of Cricket as would have applied to the player replaced if that player had continued playing in the match.

Substitute Fielder:

Where a replacement player has **NOT** been requested, a substitute fielder shall be allowed.

Notification of Substitute Fielder:

The Captain of the opposing team and the Umpires shall be informed of the use of a replacement player or substitute fielder before the fielder takes part in the game.

Withdrawal of Player:

Where a player withdraws from a game because of coronavirus related requirements the following shall apply:

- If a player is a not out batter, shall be treated under The Laws of Cricket 25.4.2 as retiring owing to unavoidable cause and recorded as "retired, not out".
- If a player retires under this clause and is a not out batter, shall be replaced at the crease by the nominated player.

Declaration of Proof:

As part of the process for requesting a replacement player, clubs must submit a declaration to the CEO which must cover the following items:

- Name & MyCricket Identification Number of the player.
- Date the player tested positive.
- Evidence of a positive test (club to cite category evidence provided by the player on which the club declaration is based, which may include a RAT test, PCR result, Department of Health reference number, medical certificate or verbal advice from player).

If it is found that a false declaration has been provided, the VSDCA Board can refer the matter to the Chairman of the Independent Investigation Committee who will investigate and determine whether any penalty (fine or suspension) is appropriate.

CONFIRMED CASE/S OF COVID-19:

If there is a confirmed case of coronavirus **prior to the game** the player is to be isolated as per the isolation rules in implementation from the Victorian State Government. That team shall continue with the game with the use of a replacement player (if a playing member/s are impacted).

If there is a confirmed case of coronavirus **during the game** the player is to be immediately isolated as per the isolation rules in implementation from the Victorian State Government. The game shall continue with the use of a replacement player/s (if a playing member/s are impacted) UNLESS the club sees more than four (4) players ruled out of a team due to positive COVID tests or subsequent movement of players to higher grades due to the impact of COVID, at which point the game will be abandoned, unless a first innings result has already been achieved prior to the abandonment of the game.

DETERMINATION OF MATCH RESULT:

[A] The VSDCA Board has the discretion to allocate points to a team where they are satisfied there are exceptional circumstances justifying the discretion being exercised.

[B] For the purposes of [A] above, what constitutes "exceptional circumstances" is to be determined by the Board on a case by case basis but would not ordinarily relate to weather events.

[C] Any discretionary points awarded pursuant to [A] above will be included in the calculation of Club Championship points.