

HELMET POLICY

INTRODUCTION

This policy was introduced in 2019 when all Cricket NSW affiliates agreed to adopt Cricket Australia's Helmet Policy.

The mandatory use of helmets whether facing fast or medium paced bowling, keeping up to the stumps or fielding close to the batter has been introduced to better manage the risk of injury and to promote better health and safety across all formats of the game.

Consequently, Cricket NSW instructed all affiliates to adopt the policy and the Helmet Policy now forms part of the SCA's Playing Conditions.

All clubs are required to reinforce the Policy with all players so that they understand and appreciate the following condition -

"A player undertakes and agrees that a player will not hold a club or the Sydney Cricket Association responsible for any injury or accident the player may suffer as a result of taking part in a match, or attending practice activities conducted by a club and that the player will not make any claim or take any action against a club or the Sydney Cricket Association to recover any loss or expense incurred by the player as a result of any such injury or accident".

It is ultimately the player's responsibility to adhere to this policy.

APPLICATION

This Policy shall apply to all NSW Premier Cricket, Women's Premier Cricket and Shires competition matches.

1. The Batter

A player shall wear a helmet at all times while batting against fast or medium paced bowling. The helmet is defined as a British Standard (BS7928:2013) helmet.

2. The Wicket-Keeper

At all times when wicket-keeping up to the stumps, the wicket-keeper shall wear a British Standard (BS7928:2013) helmet.

3. The Fielder

At all times when fielding in a position closer than 7 metres from the batter's position on the popping crease on a middle stump line (for example, short leg or silly point), with the exception of any fielding position behind the popping crease (on both the off and on sides), a fielder must wear a British Standard 7928:2013 compliant helmet.

Women's Premier Cricket only: the reference to 7m is amended to 10m as per competition playing condition. The words "with the exception of any fielding position behind the popping crease (on both the off and on side)" are also replaced by "except when fielding behind the wicket on the off-side" as per competition laying conditions.

TRAINING:

It is recommended that adherence to the policy should also extend to training sessions.

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COMPLIANCE

1. It is not the intention to penalise a player who may use a non-compliant helmet, however every effort should be made to have a helmet that complies with the British Standard. The SCA acknowledges the cost to either acquire a new helmet or upgrade an existing helmet, however, it is in the player's best interests to be using an approved helmet.
2. Clubs, officials and captains shall take a proactive approach to ensure that all players adopt the Policy and work with Umpires to achieve this goal.
3. Umpires have sole responsibility in deciding when a Helmet should be worn at any stage of a match. Umpires will not engage in inspecting whether a helmet is British Standard compliant.
4. Umpires have the authority to issue a direction to the player and/or captain for a player to adhere to the policy.
5. In the event that the umpire's direction is ignored, the umpires will record the breach of this policy in their match report to the SCA.

PENALTY:

1st offence:

The reported player is issued with a Caution, together with an instruction to act in accordance with the SCA's Helmet Policy in future matches.

2nd offence:

The reported player is suspended from playing in any competition under the auspices of the Sydney Cricket Association until such time that the player undertakes, in writing, to act in accordance with the SCA's Helmet Policy in future matches.

Where it is reported that a player exhibits behaviour that demonstrates non-compliance with this policy, the SCA may take any disciplinary action considered necessary in the circumstances.
