

MEDIA PROTOCOLS

The media protocols have been designed to ensure the health and safety of all those who will be involved in the 2020-21 domestic cricket season during this unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic. These are overarching guidelines, which may change and amend at last minute as Covid-19 is an evolving situation.

a) Accreditation

Due to limited facilities, spaces and resources, and to ensure health and safety of the working media, accreditation will be limited to only the **FOUR** Test centres i.e. Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore; Multan Cricket Stadium, Multan; National Stadium, Karachi; and Pindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi, for the National T20 Cup and Quaid-e-Azam Trophy tournaments.

Media accreditation will be done as per the following:

- i) National T20 Cup (first XI) – Tournament pass
- ii) Quaid-e-Azam Trophy (first-class) – Match-by-match
- iii) Pakistan Cup One-Day (first XI) – to be confirmed in due course
- iv) HBL Pakistan Super League 2020/2021 – to be confirmed in due course
- v) Women and U19 events – to be confirmed in due course

In the lead up to National T20 Cup and Quaid-e-Azam Trophy, the respected members of the media will be required to express their interest in attending the matches via email to Mr Shakeel Khan (shakeel.khan@pcb.com.pk), at least, three days before a match.

The respected members of the media should get an approval to the request ahead of the events from the PCB accreditation team. **Please, do not attempt to attend the match you have not been granted approval as you will be denied access inside the venue.**

b) Seating

To ensure two-metre social distancing is maintained in the press working area, the tournament and match-day accreditation will be done as follows:

- i) Gaddafi Stadium – Far End building
- ii) Multan Cricket Stadium, Multan; Press Box
- iii) National Stadium, Karachi; Press boxes, Media gallery and Chairman's Box
- iv) Pindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi; Press box

While accrediting media and allocating seats and to ensure maximum representation, the PCB will accommodate one representative per media outlet as per the following pecking order:

- i. International news agency
- ii. Domestic news agency
- iii. National daily newspapers
- iv. State-run TV and Radio news Channels
- v. Private TV News Channels
- vi. Regional/weekly newspapers
- vii. Regional TV News Channels
- viii. Dedicated and leading cricket websites/portals/magazines
- ix. Others

c) Match-day covering media

Print and electronic media will be given match-day accreditation depending on the available space, as per the pecking order (above).

The movement of the reporters/correspondents will be limited **strictly** to their designated working areas.

According to the Covid-19 SOPs, the field of play is out of bound for the respected members of the media. As such, the photographers and camerapersons will be accommodated in public enclosures on either side of the media centres.

To prevent over-subscribing as well as to ensure health and safety of their colleagues, the photographers and camerapersons will be limited to their designated working areas only.

While performing their professional duties from the public enclosures, the photographers and camerapersons will be responsible for maintaining the two-metre social distancing.

While working from public enclosures, the photographers and electronic media will **NOT** touch or pick the cricket ball if it lands close to where they are working from.

Media will use normal entry points for coverage purposes, but further clarity will be provided closer to time.

d) Player interactions

Due to a bio-secure environment, there will be no player-media interactions at team hotels, training and match venues. The PCB will try to arrange / organise all interviews online, either through its media team (pre- and post-match press conferences) or team managers (off-site interviews).

In this relation and at venues where there are common entry gates, such as the National Stadium in Karachi, the respected members of the media will only be allowed to enter or leave venue after the teams have either arrived or left the venue if they decide to stay back at the venue till after close of play.

In order to ensure health and safety of all concerned and to maintain the two-metre social distancing from teams and officials as per the Covid-19 Protocols, media members are strongly encouraged to arrive at the venue **NOT** before 30 minutes to the start of play and likewise, leave the venue as soon as the day's play is over **OR** well close of play to avoid being held back at the venue.

e) Media catering

On match-days, the PCB will only provide running tea, coffee and water.

However, the PCB strongly encourages respected members of the media to bring their own food, drinks and cutlery.

f) PCB coverage

During the season and as per its standard operating procedures, the PCB will provide the following content, which will be strictly for editorial purposes:

- i. Match previews and reviews
- ii. Action photos
- iii. Ball-by-ball coverage at www.pcb.com.pk from select matches
- iv. Scorecards of all matches
- v. Match highlights from select matches (*cannot be used for commercial purposes or on private social media channels*)
- vi. Virtual media conferences from select matches

g) Additional and important guidelines

- If you are experiencing any Covid-19 symptoms, please don't attempt to arrive at the venue to cover the match and contact your employer for guidance and support

- Upon arrival, there will be thermal temperature checking
- No media-player interaction is allowed in the team hotel, training and match venues
- Please always ensure two-metre social distancing when at the venue
- Please wear masks at all times when at the venue
- Accredited media is strongly advised to avoid gatherings when at the venue
- Only 50+ members of the media or those with special needs will be allowed to use the venue lifts and only one person at a time can use the service
- Photographers/camerapersons are prohibited from picking or touching the cricket ball when at the venue
- There will be hand sanitisers in the media working areas but the accredited media are encouraged to also bring their own sanitisers just in case these are short at match venues
- During the day, there will be random inspection by the concerned officials
- The PCB reserves the right to eject any accredited journalist or cancel his/her accreditation for rest of the season if his/her action(s) can cause health and safety issues to people around him/her

The PCB thanks all the respected members of the media in advance for their support and cooperation in keeping all those involved in the 2020-21 domestic cricket as safe as practically possible.