

# ICC BIOSAFETY SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

DUBAI | APRIL 2021 **CONFIDENTIAL**

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been profound and persistent across nations and societies throughout the world. There has also been an observed disproportionate impact in all sports; there is no 'one size fits all' approach to managing elite, professional or recreational sport.
- 1.2. It is also clear that the COVID-19 virus and our understanding of the epidemiology and management of the pandemic is evolving over time; novel academic research is being published daily as a product of an intense scientific effort across the world.
- 1.3. It is also a reasonable and proportionate working assumption that nations and sport will have to deal with this phenomenon for a further sustained period; the current ICC planning assumption is that international, professional and recreational cricket will be played within the context of an active COVID 19 pandemic until at least mid-2022.
- 1.4. **A key recommendation of the ICC Medical Advisory Committee (ICC MAC) is to constitute, for each ICC Tournament, a Biosafety Scientific Advisory Committee to review and advise the Tournament Technical Committee on all medical and operational COVID 19 related matters that impact upon the health, wellbeing and staging of the event.**
- 1.5. The constitution of a bespoke independent Biosafety Scientific Advisory Committee is part of emerging good practice guidance from other world elite sports; these terms of reference should be read in conjunction with the ICC Tournament Safety Planning Framework and the ICC Good Practice COVID 19 Guidance for Members.

## 2. Purpose

- 2.1. This guidance builds on the 'ICC Back to Cricket Guidelines' first published in May 2020, the ICC Tournament Safety Planning Framework and the ICC Good Practice COVID 19 Guidance for Members. It cannot be neither prescriptive nor exhaustive due to the different national regulatory environments and our evolving understanding of COVID-19; but the ICC seeks to provide guidance and have a common understanding on the position as we know it at the current time.
- 2.2. To support the staging of elite ICC cricket tournaments the constitution of a **Biosafety Scientific Advisory Committee will enable the Tournament Technical Committee to have immediate access to expert advice on the medical and scientific aspects of any COVID 19 related issue that impacts upon the event. It is a key element of ensuring as far as is practicable the safety of all participants within an ICC Tournament.**

## 3. Strategic Intent

- 3.1. The strategic objective of the Biosafety Scientific Advisory Committee is **'To provide independent expert medical and operational advice to the Tournament Technical Committee in order to safeguard the health and wellbeing of all athletes, coaches, support staff and individuals participating in an ICC event.'**
- 3.2. The Biosafety Scientific Advisory Committee will utilise the most current academic and medical information to safeguard the health and safety of all participants in a collaborative and transparent manner consistent maintaining the confidentiality of individuals.
- 3.3. The Biosafety Scientific Advisory Committee will report to the Tournament Technical Committee on participants' health and wellbeing and provide guidance on the impact of host governmental regulations on the staging of the event.



#### 4. Key principles

4.1. The four key principles within which the Biosafety Scientific Advisory Committee will operate are:

- **Safety First:** The health and wellbeing of all participants is **the principal concern** of the ICC and Host Board when staging an ICC Tournament and includes oversight of the COVID-19 infection prevention strategies.
- **Government Regulation:** The Biosafety Scientific Advisory Committee **must** be guided by their host country's national and state government COVID 19 health mitigation regulations.
- **Education:** The **importance of education and communication** cannot be over emphasized. Participants should receive clear messaging and detailed information on COVID-19 protocols.
- **Risk Assessment and Mitigation:** To effectively plan for an ICC Tournament, the level of risk should be objectively assessed, and appropriate risk mitigation strategies developed and implemented.

4.2. It should be noted that these principles are relevant to biosafety planning and the operation of the Biosafety Scientific Advisory Committee whether or not a country has effectively mitigated and eliminated the pandemic within its borders, if there is still active local community transmission occurring or if participants/communities are vaccinated. The critical issue is the active medical management of individuals in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccination status travelling across borders in order to safeguard the health of all.

#### 5. Classification of Participants

5.1. The participants for cricket in most cases will include a disparity of different groupings of individuals belonging to various functional areas and the safety, health and wellbeing of all groups involved should be the priority for the Biosafety Scientific Advisory Committee. The groups include:

- Players
- Player Support Personnel
- Match Officials
- Operations team
- Member Board staff
- Local Suppliers (caterers, baggage handlers, security, medical, groundsmen etc)
- Broadcast technicians and commentators

5.2. This should not be viewed as prescriptive nor exhaustive; the Biosafety Scientific Advisory Committee should not be constrained from being consulted on any COVID 19 related matters which may impact upon the health, wellbeing and the staging of an ICC Tournament.

#### 6. Biosafety Scientific Advisory Committee

6.1. **Responsibilities:** The Biosafety Scientific Advisory Committee will have the following key responsibilities:

- Support the biosafety planning process from its' earliest stages
- Supervise the provision of health care of participants competing in an ICC tournament.
- Delivering evidence-based advice on health and event staging to the Tournament Technical Committee within the context of the COVID 19 pandemic.

- Promote biosafe health practices.
- Exploring the potential of technology to optimise athletes' health and wellbeing.
- Respect individual medical confidentiality whilst providing transparent organisational advice.
- Recognise and share best practice with respect to the management of biosafe sporting environments with the ICC MAC and Member Boards.
- Provide expert advice on emerging COVID-19 related issues during the course of the competition

6.2. **Membership:** The membership of the Biosafety Scientific Advisory Committee will be nominated and funded by the ICC in advance of the tournament should include, as a minimum:

- ICC COVID Compliance Officer (this will usually be the ICC Security Manager) – Co Chair
- Independent Medical Practitioner – Co Chair
- Host Board CMO
- Tournament Safety and Security Manager
- Host Board designated member
- Representative of participants (this will normally be a player representative)
- Representative of Host Nation Governmental/State Health Department
- Medical and scientific experts potentially encompassing infectious diseases, public health and epidemiology

6.3. **Functioning:** The Biosafety Scientific Advisory Committee will:

- Support the biosafety planning process from the earliest stages
- Be convened at the start of the Tournament Team support period and be concluded post the final game.
- Be available to convene upon each day of the tournament, and at short notice if a critical issue arises.
- Meetings may be virtual, in person or an admixture of virtual and in person.
- Receive daily reports from the respective team CMOs and the Tournament Safety and Security Manager on any medical or COVID 19 related issues.
- Make recommendations to the Tournament Technical Committee upon the impact of any COVID 19 related issue with respect to the staging of the event.
- Document any recommendations made to Team CMOs, the Tournament Safety and Security Manager and the Tournament Technical Committee so that an audit trail is maintained of advice given.
- Keep any urgent COVID 19 critical issues under daily review; this will include
  - the health of any participants who may be infected with COVID 19
  - any positive COVID 19 tests
  - the pandemic situation in the Host nation and any changes in health protection measures
  - Effectiveness and efficacy of the Tournament Biosafety Protocols
- Complete a 'hot' debrief immediately post tournaments and document a lessons learned report post Tournament; this will be shared with the ICC Board and MAC to inform the planning and staging of future tournaments.

## 7. Summary

7.1. The convening of a bespoke Biosafety Scientific Advisory Committee is a critical recommendation of the ICC MAC to support the safe staging of ICC Tournaments within the context of the COVID 19 pandemic.

7.2. These Terms of Reference seek to articulate how this recommendation may be operationalised in order for the Tournament Technical Committee to have immediate access to independent

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**ICC Biosafety Scientific Advisory Committee Terms of Reference**

Dubai | April 2021



medical and operational advice in order to safely manage the staging of ICC Tournaments and safeguard the well-being of all participants.

- 7.3. The managing of sport and our understanding of the health effects, mitigation measures (treatments and vaccinations) and impact of the COVID 19 pandemic is evolving constantly. These protocols and terms of reference will be kept under constant review and updated as necessary.

**David Musker**  
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**8<sup>th</sup> April 2021**