

DDCA - HELMET POLICY

Effective 1st October 2025

The helmet is defined as a British Standard (BS7928:2013) helmet, and specifies the requirements for materials and construction, for helmets and neck protectors in adult and junior cricket.

Helmet refers to head protection that must provide full face and head protection. Cricket Australia's position on helmets and neck protectors can be found at:

<https://play.cricket.com.au/community/clubs/managing-your-club/helmet-recommendations>

Key features:

The helmet has been tested separately against men's senior and junior sized cricket balls using realistic ball impact speeds.

Facial contact projectile test that assesses for penetration of the ball through the faceguard, and faceguard.

Coverage and impact attenuation test for neck protectors to reduce the frequency and severity of localised injuries to the base of the rear of the head and upper neck.

List of compliant helmets can be found at;

<https://www.icc-cricket.com/about/cricket/rules-and-regulations/helmets>

Strong recommendation is that batters in community cricket wear a neck protector alongside their helmet.

Junior / Under Age Competitions

The Batter, Wicket Keeper and the Fielder

The wearing of helmets whilst batting, keeping over the stumps or fielding within 10 metres of the pitch in all underage competitions is compulsory.

Senior / Open Age Competitions

The Batter

At all times where there is not a NSWCUA badged umpire officiating a DDCA match, a batter is required to wear a helmet whilst batting against all types of bowling.

Where a NSWCUA badged umpire is officiating a DDCA match, a batter is required to wear a helmet whilst batting against fast bowling, and a batter is strongly recommended to wear a helmet whilst batting against slow or medium paced bowling.

The umpires shall solely determine if the bowling is slow or medium pace before allowing a batter to remove their helmet.

The batter shall follow the umpire's instructions if they are requested to reapply their helmet at any time.

The Wicket-Keeper

At all times when wicket-keeping up to the stumps, the wicket-keeper shall wear a compliant helmet.

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 compliant helmet.

Replacing a Helmet

When being struck by a cricket ball, a proportion of the impact energy is absorbed by the helmet, thereby reducing the force of the blow sustained by the head, face, or neck.

The structure of the helmet might be damaged when absorbing this energy and any head protector component that sustains a severe blow needs to be replaced even if damage is not apparent.

Helmet Fitting Guide

The ideal position for the helmet to sit on the head is with the peak sitting just above the eyebrow. This allows for maximum vision for the player.

Once the helmet has been fitted, test the fit by trying to slide a thumb inside the back of the back of the helmet. The ideal fit will not allow the thumb to easily slide inside the helmet.

If the thumb slides easily into the back of the helmet, then a thicker rear foam pad should be used to help fill the void.

When adjusting internal foam padding, always start by adding thicker padding to the back of the helmet. This helps tilt the helmet forward and improves the player's vision.

Ask the player to:

- Not let their head twist and try to move the helmet from side to side
- Shake their head

The helmet should not move significantly, but there still should be a little bit of give.

The size of a player's head will increase on hot days during the summer, so take this into account when checking the fit of the helmet.

Once a helmet has been fitted, check that the player's jaw is covered;

- Slide two fingers between base of grill and player's chin
- Sufficient coverage = enough room for one to two fingers
- If grill is sitting very close to base of jawline, player may require a larger grill or a hybrid helmet make-up

Enforcement Procedures

Batting in a Match with a MVCUA appointed badged umpire

- After the fall of a wicket or the retirement of a batter, the incoming batter must, unless Time has been called, be in a position to take guard, or for the other batter to be ready to receive the next ball within 3 minutes of the dismissal or retirement and be wearing a British Standard 7928:2013 compliant helmet as required by clause 1 of Playing with a MVCUA appointed badged umpire. A helmet is also required to be worn where the bowler has changed from a slow bowler to a medium-pace or fast bowler.
- If this requirement is not met the umpires(s)/Team Captains are to direct the batter to comply with clause 1.
- If, having entered the field of play not wearing a helmet, a batter leaves the field in order to comply with clause 1, there shall be no loss of time/overs to the match solely due to this delay.
- If a batter does not to comply with this direction:
 - The umpire shall call time, if necessary
 - The umpires shall summon and inform the offending players captain of his/her refusal to comply with clause 1.
 - The umpire shall award 5 penalty runs to the fielding team
 - The umpires together shall report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to the Executive of the offending player's team and to the DDCA , who shall take such further action against the player, the captain, any other individuals concerned and, if appropriate, the team.
- If after the action in clause 4.0 the batter continues to not comply with clause 1.0 then:
 - The batter will be given out, Timed Out
 - In the event of a Timed Out dismissal, the bowler does not get credit for the wicket.
- In the event of an extended delay in which either no batter comes to the wicket wearing a British Standard 7928:2013 compliant helmet or a batter fails to wear a British Standard 7928:2013 compliant helmet and also fails to leave the wicket having been given out in accordance with clause 5.0, the umpires shall adopt the procedure of Law 16.3 (Umpire(s) awarding a match). For the purposes of that Law the start of the action shall be taken at end of clause 4.
- Further to clause 4.4, the umpires shall also report the occurrence of clause 5.1 to the Executive of the offending player's team and to the DDCA.
- For the purpose of this law no time/overs shall be lost to the game after the completion of any of the actions described in Clauses 3-5.

Batting in a Match WITHOUT a MVCUA appointed badged umpire, i.e. self-umpired matches

- After the fall of a wicket or the retirement of a batter, the incoming batter must, unless Time has been called, be in position to take guard or for the other batter to be ready to receive the next ball within 3 minutes of the dismissal or retirement, and be wearing a British Standard 7928:2013 compliant helmet as required by clause 1 of Playing without a MVCUA appointed badged umpire.
- If this requirement is not met, the umpire(s) must not permit the game to continue until:

- The batter complies with clause 1.0, or
 - The batter without a helmet leaves the field of play and is replaced by a batter complying with clause 1.0.
- Should clause 2.0 not be complied with, and the umpire(s) permits the game to continue, the captain of the fielding side must not permit his/her bowler to bowl any delivery until clause 2.0 has been complied with.
- Should the match be permitted to continue without clauses 1.0 – 3.0 being complied with, the following shall apply:
 - Upon receiving information regarding the incident, the DDCA shall take all reasonable and appropriate measures to investigate the instance(s).
 - Should the DDCA find that the match continued without clause 1.0 – 3.0 being complied with, they shall impose sanctions taken from, but not restricted to one or more of the following options:
 - Both teams will have all their match points from the match removed.
 - Both team captains will be reported to the DDCA for failure to comply with the competition's rules/by laws.
 - Any batter who failed to comply with clauses 1.0 and 2.0 will be reported to the DDCA for failure to comply with the competition's rules/by laws.
 - Any bowler who failed to comply with clause 3.0 may be reported to the DDCA for failure to comply with the competition's rules/by laws.
 - Any umpire who failed to comply with clause 2.0 may be reported to the DDCA for failure to comply with the competition's rules/by laws.
 - The DDCA shall take such action as they deem appropriate against the above participants.
 - Furthermore, the DDCA shall take action against the club(s) of the offending players in the match.
- In the event of an extended delay of 5 minutes in which either no batter comes to the wicket wearing a British Standard 7928:2013 compliant helmet or a batter fails to wear a British Standard 7928:2013 compliant helmet and also fails to leave the wicket to comply with clause 2.1 or 2.2, the fielding captain shall instruct his players to leave the field of play and the game will not recommence until clause 1.0 or clause 2.0 has been complied with.
 - If a delay as in clause 5.0 continues for a period of 10 minutes, the game shall be deemed abandoned and the fielding team shall report the instance to the DDCA as soon as practicable.
 - The DDCA shall take all reasonable and appropriate measures to investigate the instance(s) and take such action as they deem appropriate. The sanctions they impose may be taken from, but not restricted to one or more of the following options:
 - Remove all match points from the batting team whose batter(s) failed to comply with clause 1.0.
 - Award maximum points received by any team in that grade for that round to the fielding team.
 - Take appropriate action against each batter who failed to comply with clause 1.0.
 - Impose an appropriate sanction on the captain of the team of the batter(s) who failed to comply with clause 1.0 as the DDCA deem fit.

- Impose an appropriate sanction on the club of the batter(s) who failed to comply with clause 1.0 as the DDCA deem fit, including, but not restricted to:
 - Financial penalties
 - Removal of match points from one or more club teams
 - Denial of one or more club teams from taking part in finals

Wicketkeeping in a Match with a MVCUA appointed badged umpire

1. At anytime as required by clause 1 of Wicketkeepers Standing up to the Stumps a wicketkeeper must wear a British Standard 7928:2013 compliant helmet.
2. Should a wicketkeeper fail to wear a British Standard 7928:2013 compliant helmet at anytime as required by the by-laws or as directed by an umpire(s), the umpire(s) shall not permit the game to continue until the wicketkeeper does one of the following:
 - Wears a British Standard 7928:2013 compliant helmet.
 - Moves his/her position to one that does not require him/ her to wear a helmet
 - The fielding team changes wicketkeeper to a different player who is complying with clause 1.0
3. In the event of an extended delay in which the wicketkeeper fails to wear a British Standard 7928:2013 compliant helmet and fails to comply with clauses 2.1 - 2.3, the umpire(s) shall adopt the procedure of Law 16.3 (Umpire(s) awarding a match).
4. Further, each wicketkeeper that fails to comply with clause 1.0 shall be reported to the Executive of the offending player's team and to the DDCA responsible for the match by the umpire(s). The DDCA shall take any action it deems appropriate against each offending wicketkeeper.

Wicketkeeping in a Match WITHOUT a MVCUA appointed badged umpire i.e. self-umpired match

1. At anytime as required by clause 1 of Wicketkeepers Standing up to the Stumps, a wicketkeeper must wear a British Standard 7928:2013 compliant helmet.
2. Should a wicketkeeper fail to wear a British Standard 7928:2013 compliant helmet at anytime as required by the by-laws or as directed by an umpire(s), the umpire(s) shall not permit the game to continue.
3. Should the umpire(s) not comply with clause 2.0 and permit the game to continue, the batters together shall refuse to take a position to receive the ball until clause 1.0 is complied with.
4. Should the match be permitted to continue without clauses 1.0 – 3.0 being complied with, the following will apply:
 - Upon receiving information regarding the incident, the DDCA shall take all reasonable and appropriate measures to investigate the instance.

- Should the DDCA find that the match continued without clause 1.0 – 3.0 being complied with, they shall impose sanctions taken from, but not restricted to one or more of the following options:
 - Both teams will have all their match points from the match removed.
 - Both team captains will be reported to the DDCA for failure to comply with the competition's rules/by laws.
 - Any wicketkeeper who failed to comply with clauses 1.0 and 2.0 will be reported to the DDCA for failure to comply with the competition's rules/by laws.
 - Any batter who failed to comply with clause 3.0 may be reported to the DDCA for failure to comply with the competition's rules/by laws.
 - Any umpire(s) who failed to comply with clause 2.0 may be reported to the DDCA for failure to comply with the competition's rules/by laws.
 - The DDCA shall take such action as they deem appropriate against the above participants reported to them.
 - Furthermore, the DDCA shall take action against the club(s) of those offending players in the match.

5. In the event of an extended delay in which the wicketkeeper fails to wear a British Standard 7928:2013 compliant helmet or fails to move his/her position to one where British Standard 7928:2013 compliant helmet is not required, the captain of the batting side shall instruct his/her batters to leave the field of play and the game will not recommence until clause 1.0 has been complied with.

- 1) If a delay as in clause 5.0 continues for a period of 10 minutes, the game shall be deemed abandoned and the batting team shall report the instance to the DDCA as soon as practicable.
- 2) The DDCA shall take all reasonable and appropriate measures to investigate the instance(s) and take such action as they deem appropriate. The sanctions they impose may be taken from, but not restricted to one or more of the following options:
 - a) Remove all match points from the fielding team whose wicketkeeper(s) failed to comply with clause 1.0.
 - b) Award maximum points received by any team in that grade for that round to the batting team.
 - c) Take appropriate action against each wicketkeeper who failed to comply with clause 1.0.
 - d) Impose an appropriate sanction on the captain of the team of the wicketkeeper(s) who failed to comply with clause 1.0.
 - e) Impose an appropriate sanction on the club of the wicketkeeper(s) who failed to comply with clause 1.0 including, but not limited to:
 - i) Financial penalties
 - ii) Removal of match points from one or more club teams
 - iii) Denial of one or more club teams from taking part in finals

Fielding: Outside arc from gully to leg gully

Fielding in a Match with a MVCUA appointed badged umpire

1. Should a fielder fail to wear a British Standard 7928:2013 compliant helmet at anytime as required by the by-laws or as directed by an umpire(s). The umpire(s) shall not permit the game to continue until the fielder does one of the following:

1.1 Wears a British Standard 7928:2013 compliant helmet.

1.2 Moves his/her position to one that does not require him/ her to wear a helmet.

1.3 The fielding team changes the fielder in the position, to a different player who is complying with clause 1.0.

2. In the event of an extended delay in which the fielder fails to wear a British Standard 7928:2013 compliant helmet and fails to comply with clauses 1.1 -1.3, the umpire(s) shall adopt the procedure of Law 16.3 (Umpire(s) awarding a match).

3. Further, each fielder that fails to comply with clause 1.0 shall be reported to the Executive of the offending player's team and to the DDCA by the umpire(s). The DDCA shall take any action it deems appropriate against each offending fielder.

Fielding in a Match WITHOUT a MVCUA appointed badged umpire i.e. self-umpired match

1. At any time as required by clause 1 of fielding, a fielder must wear a British Standard 7928:2013 compliant helmet.

2. Should a fielder fail to wear a British Standard 7928:2013 compliant helmet at anytime as required by the by-laws or as directed by an umpire(s). The umpire(s) shall not permit the game to continue.

3. Should the umpire(s) not comply with clause 2.0 and permit the game to continue, the batters together shall refuse to take a position to receive the ball until clause 1.0 is complied with.

4. Should the match be permitted to continue without clauses 1.0 – 3.0 being complied with, the following will apply:

- Upon receiving information regarding the incident, the DDCA shall take all reasonable and appropriate measures to investigate the instance.
- Should the DDCA find that the match continued without clause 1.0 – 3.0 being complied with, they shall impose sanctions taken from, but not restricted to one or more of the following options:
 - Both teams will have all their match points from the match removed.
 - Both team captains will be reported to the DDCA for failure to comply with the competition's rules/by laws.
 - Any fielder who failed to comply with clauses 1.0 and 2.0 will be reported to the DDCA for failure to comply with the competition's rules/by laws.
 - Any batter who failed to comply with clause 3.0 may be reported to the DDCA for failure to comply with the competition's rules/by laws.
 - Any umpire who failed to comply with clause 2.0 may be reported to the DDCA for failure to comply with the competition's rules/by laws.
 - The DDCA shall take such action as they deem appropriate against the above participants reported to them.

- Furthermore, the DDCA shall take action against the clubs of those offending players in the match.

5. In the event of an extended delay in which the fielder fails to wear a British Standard 7928:2013 compliant helmet or fails to move his/her position to one where British Standard 7928:2013 compliant helmet is not required, the captain of the batting side shall instruct his/her batters to leave the field of play and the game will not recommence until clause 1.0 has been complied with.

- If a delay as in clause 5.0 continues for a period of 10 minutes, the game shall be deemed abandoned and the batting team shall report the instance to the DDCA as soon as practicable.
- The DDCA shall take such action(s) as they deem appropriate. The sanctions they impose may be taken from, but not restricted to one or more of the following options:
 - Remove all match points from the fielding team whose fielder(s) failed to comply with clause 1.0.
 - Award maximum points received by any team in that grade for that round to the batting team.
 - Take appropriate action against each fielder who failed to comply with clause 1.0.
 - Impose an appropriate sanction on the captain of the team of the fielder(s) who failed to comply with clause 1.0.
 - Impose an appropriate sanction on the club of the fielder(s) who failed to comply with clause 1.0 including, but not limited to:
 - Financial penalties
 - Removal of match points from one or more club teams
 - Denial of one or more club teams from taking part in finals

Other Considerations

For the avoidance of doubt

1. Caught: A batter can be out caught where the ball rebounds or ricochets directly or indirectly off the helmet worn by any player.
2. Run Out: A batter can be out run out where the ball rebounds or ricochets directly or indirectly onto the stumps off the helmet worn by a fielder.
3. Stumped: A batter can be out stumped where the ball rebounds or ricochets directly or indirectly onto the stumps off the helmet worn by a wicketkeeper.
4. Replacement helmets: Helmets should be replaced immediately in accordance with the manufacturers recommendations following a significant impact.
5. 7 metre distance: Research shows that the minimum distance for a fielder to react to a batter hitting the ball is 7 metres.

