



CRICKET AUSTRALIA



HELMETS

Helmets must be a specifically-designed, properly-fitted cricket helmet with a face guard.

Current 'best of breed' helmets are those that are compliant with the British Standard for helmet safety (BS7928:2013 *Specification for head protectors for cricketers*). This Standard has been described by the International Cricket Council (ICC) as the de facto international standard for helmets and now supersedes the existing Australian Standard for cricket helmets, which dates from 1997.

Following an ICC directive, on 1 October 2015 it became mandatory for elite cricketers* in Australia to only wear helmets that are compliant with BS7928:2013.

Any individual taking responsibility for players should take all reasonable steps to ensure that the guidance below is followed.

JUNIOR CRICKET (UNDER 18)

HELMETS ARE MANDATORY FOR JUNIOR CRICKETERS (THOSE UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE), INCLUDING WHEN THEY ARE PLAYING SENIOR CRICKET.

In junior cricket helmets must be worn when batting and/or in certain circumstances when wicket-keeping. Helmets are not mandatory for junior cricketers while fielding, as junior cricketers are not permitted to field in close proximity to the batter i.e. within 10 or 15 metres of the batter depending on the junior format being played - refer to the Game Formats section on pages 22 - 31 inclusive.

JUNIOR WICKET-KEEPERS (UNDER 18)

Helmets must be worn by all junior wicket-keepers when keeping up to the stumps.

Association administrators, club coaches, team managers, parents and other volunteers are also encouraged to consider mandating the use of helmets for junior wicket-keepers (even if 'standing back' to medium/fast bowlers) if there are concerns about the skill level of the wicket-keeper, bowlers and fielders. In many instances, the skill levels of the wicket-keeper, bowlers and fielders may still be developing and when combined with variable pitch/ground conditions it may place wicket-keepers at greater risk of receiving a facial/head injury from the ball.

SENIOR CRICKET

Cricket Australia also strongly recommends that all senior cricketers wear a helmet when batting, wicket-keeping up to the stumps and fielding in close (or in a zero reaction time position). In elite cricket a zero reaction time position is considered any position within 7 metres of the batter except any position behind square on the off side - therefore, if fielding at silly mid-off or short-leg you would need to wear a helmet, whereas you would not if fielding at gully or (regulation) slip to a spinner.

It should also be noted that helmet development is going ahead by expert manufacturers and developers to design a helmet better suited to wicket-keeping and umpiring. Cricket Australia will communicate when these products are available.

Players should be aware that under the British Standard, helmets can only be tested against men's/women's and/or junior balls (156 grams and 142 grams). Accordingly, players must wear helmets that have been tested against the type of ball they will be utilising in match and training conditions. Suitable helmets for women's cricket therefore, are those that have been tested against both a men's and junior ball and a list of such helmets is maintained and regularly update at www.ecb.co.uk/information/ecb-and-pa-guidance-head-protectors/helmets

UPCOMING CHANGES TO HELMET REGULATIONS

At the commencement of the 2019-2020 cricket season, all community cricketers (whether junior or senior) will be required to wear BS7928:2013 compliant helmets at all times when batting, wicket keeping up to the stumps and fielding in close. More guidance will be provided in due course.

UMPIRE SAFETY

Umpires should also consider what protective gear they feel is necessary for them. Advancements in bat technology mean that the larger bats available today are capable of producing stronger and faster shots which may be directed towards the main umpire (or the square leg umpire). This is particularly relevant for modified formats of the game such as T20 and Super Sixes, however also applies to traditional formats. Umpires should consider the use of shin pads, and some kind of facial/head protection. Accordingly, some umpires may elect to wear a helmet compliant with BS7928:2013 and other protective equipment. This is encouraged by Cricket Australia.

*CA or State/Territory contracted players, members of CA or State/Territory squads, BBL/WBBL contracted players, members of underage state teams (male and female), and any player invited to train with any of those teams or squads.

