AII,

As we navigate our way through a turbulent and unsettling start to 2021, we want assure you that ECB and your County Cricket Board are here to support. The impact of this pandemic is far reaching on communities right across England and Wales, with the ongoing rise in prevalence of the virus causing great loss in so many ways. As we saw last summer – when the cricket family comes together, we can help reconnect communities and bring joy to people's lives, through our great game.

Whilst we don't yet know how the season ahead will be impacted, we want to make sure that we continue to support your cricket community to be ready to play – as soon as it is safe to do so. At all times, the game will be medically led in our decision making and work in close partnership with Government to do all that we can to facilitate a safe and full summer of cricket.

For clubs who are in a position to begin their behind-the-scenes preparations for the season ahead, you will find more information in the bulletin below:

Clubmark requirements 2021

During 2021 we will continue to reflect on how the ECB scheme works and consult with clubs and county boards to ensure the scheme provides a solid base for clubs to grow whilst recognising the time pressures which we know exist for volunteers within the game. For accredited clubs there will be no full re-accreditation or annual health check to complete in 2021, although clubs will have to evidence they are meeting the required safeguarding standards via the new Safe Hands Management System (SHMS). Clubs will require to be compliant on SHMS on either 31st July 2021 or another earlier date specified by their local County Board to retain their accreditation. Clubs who do not currently have access to SHMS will receive access over the next few weeks.

Clubs who are part way through the accreditation journey or are looking to regain accreditation status will hopefully be able to complete the process in place for previous seasons. Because of restrictions in place due to the Covid-19 pandemic site visits are currently suspended, but we will regularly review this and announce when this changes.

All Stars & Dynamos 2021

On Tuesday, we communicated that from this week we are actively encouraging all clubs to begin uploading your All Stars and Dynamos Cricket courses to the ClubSpark platform, this is for both delivery windows from 7th May for the summer term, and mid-July for the summer holidays. Click below for a link to the Clubspark sign up page.

SET UP COURSES

There has also been a great response to the invite to the Club national programmes seminar on Tuesday 9th February at 6pm. If you haven't done so already, click below to register and pass on the link to relevant members of you club.

REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE

England & Wales Cricket Board, Lord's Cricket Ground, London, NW8 8QZ