



International Institute of Cricket Umpiring & Scoring

Unit 2 – Health & Safety



Health & safety considerations are central to the role of the umpire.

You have a duty of care to all players

You must ensure that you are physically and mentally prepared for your duties

PHYSICAL PREPARATION

The job of umpiring a cricket match at any level can be daunting because of

- the number of Laws to understand and apply
- playing conditions to remember
- umpiring techniques to perfect
- different personalities with which to interact
- pressure of the match situation
- and the challenge of important decisions to be made



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However deep may be your knowledge of the Laws of Cricket, however wide may be your experience, however good may be your feel for the game, your umpiring ability will suffer unless you can maintain a constant high level of focus and concentration throughout a match.

If you allow your concentration to lapse for a short time, something will happen in the game that will exploit your lapse. You may be caught out of position for a close run out decision or interpret a Law incorrectly or fail to see an infringement

The ability to put all other thoughts aside and focus entirely on the match is what separates the best umpires from the rest

FATIGUE

Umpires need to be physically and mentally prepared

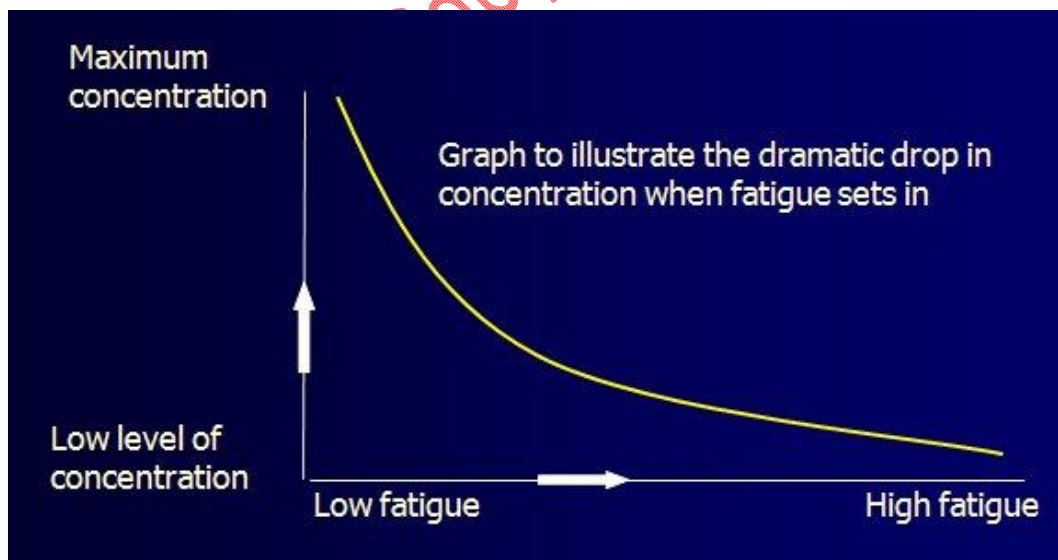
The physical demands can be extremely challenging

Umpires must maintain an extremely high level of concentration

These physical demands may result in fatigue

As the fatigue increases, so will your ability to concentrate become less.

The following chart is not intended to be an accurate representation – in any case, everyone differs from their neighbours – but it does indicate the general idea





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The higher the level of fatigue, the greater the drop in the ability to concentrate

MAINTAINING CONCENTRATION

You need to have a high level of physical fitness to enable you to resist the effects of fatigue and maintain optimum concentration levels

TRAINING

There are three main types of fitness that are necessary to cricket umpiring and they should be the basis of your training. They are:

- Aerobic endurance
- Agility
- Flexibility

In addition you must not neglect to do some strength training. Without it you can become more susceptible to muscle and tendon strain. In a general sense, it is not easy to do aerobic exercises without improving strength in some parts of the body. Your first aim should be to develop a well-balanced exercise programme, one that covers all the special requirements of cricket umpiring without neglecting other 'life activities' – for which you will probably need expert advice.

AEROBIC ENDURANCE

Aerobic Endurance is the body's ability to exercise whole muscle groups over an extended period of time at moderate intensity

When exercising to increase your aerobic endurance, you should become a bit 'out of breath'. Not too much, though, but certainly not too little. A good test of the upper limit is that you should be able to say all of the numbers from 1 to 12, in your normal conversational voice, without having to stop to take a breath.

Some activities that you could undertake to improve your aerobic endurance are

- walking – briskly, with exaggerated arm movement

- jogging – aim for endurance; beware, it can be hard on joints

- swimming – this is good exercise and is kind to joints, but you do need time on your feet as well



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cycling – this is good exercise and is kind to joints, but you do need time on your feet as well

These activities will be beneficial when undertaken at least three times a week for 30 minutes or so.

Exercise patterns need to reflect the fact that cricket umpiring requires you to spend a lot of time on your feet.

AGILITY

You need the ability to move and change direction quickly e.g. making position for a run out at the bowler's end

Some activities that you could undertake to improve your agility are

gym sessions tailored to agility; including short sprints, quick turns

games such as table tennis, tennis or squash

FLEXIBILITY

The range of movement around a joint or series of joints

Flexibility in some joints can be increased to a certain degree by exercise, with stretching a common exercise to maintain flexibility

Stretching should only be started when your muscles are warm and your body temperature is raised

The development of flexibility is necessary for the prevention of injuries such as muscular tears and strains which can occur when undertaking endurance training activities.

Stretching before and after each training session and before and during a cricket match will improve flexibility

PREPARATION FOR TRAINING

It is recommended that prior to undertaking any training programme, you have a thorough physical check-up by your general practitioner to ensure that it is safe to undertake the programme

It is important that any training programme is developed by a qualified person and that it is specific to cricket



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Organisations (such as your local cricket club or gym) may have qualified training instructors who may be prepared to assist with developing an appropriate programme

AVOIDING INJURY

Increasing fatigue causes you to lose alertness, which in turn increases your risk of injury. You fail to pick up the path of the ball early enough. Not only can that result in bruising, but a late attempt to avoid the ball might result in a sprain or even a break.

Many minor injuries can be avoided by maintaining fitness levels

Stretching before and during a match which will help avoid strains and the onset of cramp

There are a number of ways in which an umpire can be injured during a match, some of the most common are

being hit by the ball from the striker's bat

being hit by a throw from a fielder

colliding with a batsman whilst he is attempting a run

twisting an ankle or a knee or tearing a muscle when moving quickly for a run out at the bowler's end

Not only will the conscientious following of an exercise programme help you avoid many such injuries, but so also will stretching before and after matches

Most tears and strains result from tight muscles and tendons, so be sure to use stretching exercises to relax muscles and tendons following exercise or strenuous activity.

TREATING INJURY

In the event that an injury to an umpire or player does occur, whether in a match or at training, the following procedure should be implemented:

Leave the field and apply the following procedure **PRICE**:

P Protect from further injury

R Relative rest

I Ice should be applied for 15/20 minutes every couple of hours during the first 2/3 days after the injury occurs



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C Compression must **NOT** be used in an attempt to prevent swelling

E Elevate the limb to help drain any swelling from the injured area

PROTECTION

Umpires can stand in a match for anything between 3 and 7 hours a day

Many of those hours may be spent in cold conditions or under a blazing sun

It is essential that you protect yourself from the cold and the damaging effects of the ultraviolet rays of the sun

Cold

You cannot concentrate if you are cold. In cold weather conditions ensure you wear enough clothing to keep warm

Several layers of light clothing are more effective than a single, bulky jumper

Wear thermal socks

Consider wearing thermal underwear

Keep extra clothing in your bag; the temperature often drops sharply after late afternoon

Sun

Too much exposure to direct sunlight can be dangerous. For the sake of your health you should take due note of the following recommendations

Use a high-protection factor sun screen. Remember that it becomes **less** effective if you rub it into your skin – it is better if it is allowed to form a surface layer

Wear a wide brimmed hat to shade your face, ears and the back of the neck

If the hat is an open weave, ensure that a block out material covers the inside of the top of the hat

Sun penetrating the open weave of the top of the hat can cause severe sunburn to the top of the scalp

Clothing of a suitable block out material should cover as much of the body as practical



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Eyes

It is important that an umpire has good distance vision

It is recommended that thorough eye tests should be performed every 2 years to ensure that vision is up to the standard required

Sunglasses and tinting are also important

Tints should be as dark as necessary, but not too dark that they reduce the quality of vision

Wrap around sunglasses give the best wind and glare protection

Hot, dry winds can cause drying of the tears, so lubricating eye drops may be beneficial

Contact lens wearers will find the need for lubricants essential

Hydration

The brain needs water; dehydration results in the brain not working as well as it should. Headache, followed by lack of ability to concentrate are early signs that there is a problem. Do not let yourself get to that stage – it is dangerous as well as not helping your umpiring.

Drink before you feel thirsty

Carry a water bottle at all times

Experiment with different fluids during training

Be well hydrated before you begin umpiring

Avoid alcohol in any form prior to and immediately after exercise

Drink regularly throughout training & matches

Don't forget to replace fluid losses after each innings and end of play

Summary

It is easy to overlook these precautions

You must be diligent and develop a routine prior to the match which includes taking all



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necessary precautions to protect yourself from the cold, heat and sun

If not:

You will lose your concentration and focus and your control, decision making and communication will deteriorate

GUIDELINES

The Governing Body for cricket in each country, for example England and Wales Cricket Board or Cricket Australia or Board of Control for Cricket in India, may issue guidelines for the protection of young people playing competitive cricket

The areas of protection may include

the wearing of helmets by young batsmen and the wicket-keeper

limiting the number of overs bowled in a spell by young bowlers

preventing young fielders standing too close to the striker

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