

SCHEDULE 10: SKIN SAFETY



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DOCUMENT CONTROL

Name:	Skin Safety Guidelines for Elite Cricket
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Owner:	Chief Medical Officer (CMO)
File location:	AMS and AC Performance Services ZenDesk
Document type (& enforceability):	Guidelines (recommendation)
Responsible parties:	CA Doctors, State Medical Officers
Beneficiaries:	All players, match officials, and coaches participating in match and training as a part of an AC program
Applicable setting:	Training and match HP environments

RELATED DOCUMENTS & LINKS

Document Name	Location
AIS Sun Safe Sport Policy	https://www.ausport.gov.au/ais/position_statements/sun-safe-sports
Rates of Self-Reported Skin Cancer in Current and Retired Elite Australian Cricketers	https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ajd.70055
List of published research papers informing this policy	ZenDesk

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1** Australian Cricket (**AC**) considers it critical to pursue best practice in prevention and early detection of skin cancer. The rationale for the skin safety guidelines are included as [Appendix 1](#).
- 1.2** This guideline is separate from but should be read in conjunction with the Heat guidelines in SSSM principles. The risk associated with heat stress (in the short term) and skin cancer (in the long term) of warmer, sunnier weather is very similar, but the practical considerations differ slightly.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1** The skin screening principles in these guidelines apply to all male and female elite (contracted) players.

- 2.2** Skin safety is also important for staff members (especially those working outdoors), albeit it is a consideration relevant to work health and safety (whereas SSSM principles relate to player care). It is also important for retired players and this is a consideration for the Australian Cricketers Association (ACA).

3. SUN PROTECTION PRINCIPLES

- 3.1** Skin cancer risk relates to lifetime UV exposure.
- 3.2** Skin sun (UV) protection is important to reduce cumulative individual outdoor sun exposure, and also to serve as role-modelling for community cricket and for spectators at the cricket.
- 3.3** There is room for individual variation in clothing and sun protection choices based on both skin type (dark vs fair) and location/season (e.g. training in winter and/or in locations where the UV index will be low).
- 3.4** Individuals should be encouraged to have their own;
- a) sunscreen
 - b) hats
 - c) lip balm
 - d) long-sleeved uniform
 - e) sunglasses
- at all cricket training and matches. It is common practice for sunscreen, hats and long-sleeved uniforms to be provided by the Team, while individuals are generally responsible for the provision of lip-balm and sunglasses.
- 3.5** Teams should be encouraged to always have communal sunscreen available in places like the dressing room and team dugout. Sunscreen of the highest SP factor is strongly recommended.
- 3.6** When not on the field, where possible seek shade. Team dugouts should have shading provided where possible. This is considered the responsibility of the home team to provide for both teams.
- 3.7** These guidelines acknowledge the historical cultural prominence of the “Baggy Green” cap in Australian Cricket. Additionally, protective helmets are mandatory for most batting situations and some fielding positions. Subject to this, where possible broad-brimmed hats should be used when fielding. It is recommended that team uniform options include an official team broad-brimmed hat for Participants, in addition to caps.

4. SKIN CANCER DETECTION AND SCREENING

- 4.1** When considering the possible pre-existing higher risk for skin cancer in cricketers Cricket Australia recommends that elite players be offered the opportunity for an annual screening appointment that focuses on the detection of suspicious skin lesions and potential skin cancer. Cricket Australia also recommends that skin screening is conducted by a Dermatologist or, in lieu, a doctor who is well-trained in skin screening (e.g. Fellowship with Skin Cancer College Australasia).
- 4.2** It is recommended that each state program has their State Medical Officer provide Skin Safe education annually, and all staff and players should take responsibility for their own adherence to Skin Safe guidelines.

- 4.3** It is recommended that each state program annually arranges a skin screening session on a day convenient to when a large proportion of players can easily attend. Players who are unable to attend the screening session for any reason (including playing overseas at the time of the screening) can be provided with a referral from the team doctor so they can make alternate arrangements such as booking their own appointment with a dermatologist or other skin specialising doctor. Part of the rationale for an annual skin screening day is to develop relationships between
- a) team doctors and dermatologists; and also
 - b) players and dermatologists,
- so that any lesion presenting outside the designated screening time is most likely to have prompt specialist attention available.
- 4.4** An opt out process (without needing to sign a waiver) should be available for all players who prefer not to have an annual skin screen.
- 4.5** Players should be encouraged to present early to their team doctor if they notice a change in any pigmented skin lesion. This should be recorded by the Medical Officer in the AMS.
- 4.6** It should be emphasised to players (and staff) that annual skin screening does not guarantee that they will not develop a cancerous lesion in the time prior to the next screening, so players and staff should be encouraged to be vigilant in looking for suspicious new or changing lesions and seek medical advice as soon possible from an appropriately qualified skin doctor. This may include photo dermatology as part of the triage process when there is no immediate access to in-person medical practitioner consultation, particularly in terms of helping to decide urgency of requirement for immediate appointment.
- 4.7** Team doctors should have a low threshold for immediate referral to a dermatologist or other skin specialist for any potentially concerning skin lesions.

5. MANCAD (MELANOMA ASSESSMENT NETWORK OF CRICKET AUSTRALIA DERMATOLOGISTS/DOCTORS)

- 5.1** The MANCAD panel is an informally convened honorary group of Dermatologists (and their corresponding state doctors with whom they have a relationship) that was formed in 2023.
- 5.2** The role of the MANCAD panel is;
- a) to assist with efficient annual skin screening of elite Australian cricketers,
 - b) provide networking and support for Australian Cricket doctors on skin related medical matters,
 - c) provide advocacy in skin health practices in cricket in Australia Cricket, and
 - d) oversee skin related research or audits with Australian Cricket.
- 5.3** The panel is overseen by the CA Chief Medical Officer and the CA Head of Performance Services
- 5.4** The MANCAD panel endorses the AIS Sun Safe Sports Policy (2023).

REVISIONS

Date	By
June 30, 2025	CA Chief Medical Officer, CA Deputy CMO, CA Men's Team Doctor, CA Head of SSSM, Cricket Victoria SMO; reviewed by Leona Yip and Alex Chamberlain for MANCAD panel
June 30, 2026	CA Chief Medical Officer, CA SSSM Research Specialist, MANCAD panel