

# Australian Cricket's British Standard Helmet Recommendations 2019/20 FAQ's



## General

### 1. **Why is Cricket Australia (CA) making these recommendations?**

The ICC adopted a new international standard for helmets which is 'British Standard - BS7928:2013'. CA is supporting the international standard, which means that anyone who plays hard-ball cricket in Australia is strongly recommended to wear British Standard helmets which meet this highest safety standard.

Cricket Australia is committed to player safety and because of this and the ICC's directive, it is mandatory for all CA, state and pathway players in CA managed competitions to wear BS7928:2013 helmets when batting, wicket-keeping up to the stumps and fielding in close to the batter.

### 2. **Why such a short transition period? Can we transition into this over the next few seasons?**

These recommendations are all about safety and therefore it's essential Associations mandate this as soon as possible. The aim of this transition is to have community cricketers in safer helmets but also to provide the safest possible environment to play cricket

### 3. **What is a British Standard helmet?**

To improve helmet safety, the ICC worked with British sports protection experts and consequently it is the British Standard that has been updated and chosen to be the de facto international standard for helmet safety. The British Standard sets a higher all-round standard for helmet safety and its key benefits include:

- an enhanced test for projectile-facial contact that assesses for penetration of the ball through the faceguard and subsequent contact of the faceguard onto the face
- a separate test for men's and junior sized balls
- a new test for improved protection of the temporal (side) region of the head
- a new test for improved occipital (rear) protection of the head
- More information can be found [here](#)

### 4. **What are other countries doing?**

The ICC's directive was issued to all Member nations to adopt the new international standard (British Standard BS 7928:2013). The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) have made have also made similar recommendations.

### 5. **Are you making helmets mandatory for all cricketers?**

The wearing of helmets at junior level and senior cricket while batting, fielding in close or wicket-keeping up to the stumps is **strongly recommended**. The ownership over the management of competitions sits within associations and as such, Cricket Australia is strongly recommended associations make the wearing of British Standard helmets mandatory.

6. **Who do these changes apply to? Has this change been made at elite level as well?**

This change applies to community cricketers in Australia. Elite Australian and State cricketers have already transitioned. All CA pathway, state competition matches, BBL and community championships must comply with the British Standard.

**Enforcement**

7. **Will this helmet change be enforced? How? Who will monitor it? Will I be penalised if I don't wear a British standard compliant helmet from 2019-20?**

We have developed several support materials including template playing conditions to assist clubs and associations with the enforcement and monitoring of these new requirements. You can find these [here](#). It will be at the discretion of the Association as to how the rule is monitored and the enforcement options.

8. **How will the umpire/association/club check that I'm wearing a British Standard helmet?**

This will depend on the playing conditions your Association chooses to adopt.

9. **What happens if an association says they want to use their own enforcement standards?**

Cricket Australia understands there may be a desire from associations to tailor enforcement standards for their own preferences. CA is supportive of this if player safety is still the primary consideration by ensuring British Standard helmets are worn. Different playing conditions templates have been provided to allow for different enforcement methods as determined appropriate by associations.

10. **What happens if an association says that they don't want to adopt any enforcement standards?**

This would be inappropriate. The new requirements are intended to have community cricketers participating in safer helmets than those currently being used, and the support of clubs and associations is critical in achieving this outcome. It is within all clubs and associations best interests to provide the safest environment for players.

11. **Can I still wear a non-compliant helmet during training?**

The recommendation to use only British Standard helmets applies during training as well as during practice matches and competition.

12. **How will this impact our insurance for the 2019/20 season?**

The implementation of mandatory British Standard helmets will not impact your insurance for the coming season.

**Price/Availability**

13. **What helmets can I buy that will comply? How much are they? Who is selling them?**

Most helmet manufacturers already have only British Standard compliant helmets available. These helmets come in at a variety of different price-points as agreed between the manufacturers and retailers. A list of compliant helmets (including junior helmets) is maintained by the ICC and can be viewed [here](#). Many of these helmets will already be available for sale in Australia either in store or online and most helmets sold by trusted retailers and suppliers will already be British Standard compliant.

**14. If I go into the shops to buy a British Standard-compliant helmet, is there an easy way to tell what helmet I should buy?**

Shop staff will be able to assist with ensuring your new helmet is British Standard compliant, and British Standard compliant helmets will carry one or more marks advertising this, both on the box and inside the helmet itself. These marks may include:

- the British Standards Institute (BSI) mark, which looks like this: 
- the "CE" mark, which looks like this: 
- the words "conforms to BS7928", "certified to BS7928" or similar
- the words "conforms to BS7928:2013", "certified to BS7928:2013" or similar

Any helmets without a compliance sticker or notation should be considered non-compliant. A list of compliant helmets can be viewed [here](#). Many of these helmets will already be available for sale in Australia either in store or online.

**15. What compliant helmets are available for kids?**

The new British Standard includes a category for certification of junior helmets. This category certifies that helmets are British Standard compliant when faced with the smaller ball used in junior cricket, and that the smaller ball will not penetrate the gap between the helmet peak and the faceguard (or grill). A list of compliant helmets (including junior helmets) can be viewed [here](#). Many of these helmets will already be available for sale in Australia either in store or online.

**16. What compliant helmets are available for women?**

Female cricketers wear the same helmets as male cricketers, and there is no differing standard for women's helmets as against men. However, given the use of a smaller ball in women's cricket, female cricketers should ensure their new British Standard helmet has been tested against both the senior and junior sized ball. A list of compliant helmets can be viewed [here](#). Many of these helmets will already be available for sale in Australia either in store or online.

**17. Aren't all British Standard helmets expensive?**

British Standard helmets come in at a variety of different price-points as agreed between the manufacturers and retailers. There are a wide range available at different prices at local cricket stores across Australia.

**18. I recently bought a new helmet and now you're making me buy another one?**

The ICC determined that the new British Standard 7928:2013 be adopted by each member as the de facto international standard for helmets and that all players wear helmets that meet the highest safety standards. We are following through on this directive to ensure our participants are kept as safe as possible while playing the game.

**19. I just bought a new helmet that doesn't meet the new standards – what should I do?**

If you have not yet used your 'new' helmet you can seek to return it (and get a refund for it) and buy a new one that complies with the new British Standard.

**20. What should I do with my old non-British Standard helmet?**

As with any safety equipment that no longer meets the best available standard, it should be retired from use. It should not be passed on to another club or family member for use.

21. **Can I add neck protectors to my current helmet to increase its safety standard?**  
Neck protectors such as the Masuri Stemguard™ are recognized as providing enhanced protection for those areas of the neck and head that are not covered by a traditional cricket helmet. However, if the helmet itself is not of British Standard this is not acceptable as it hasn't passed specific British Standard testing.

### **Other**

22. **What about school cricketers?**  
CA urges school cricket associations to adhere to this helmet directive and ensure only British Standard helmets are worn in their competitions. The new British Standard sets the highest possible standard and schoolchildren should be wearing the safest helmet available.
23. **What about Indoor Cricket?**  
Helmets are not required in Indoor Cricket due to the differing conditions in which the game is played.
24. **What about Woolworths Cricket Blast?**  
Helmets are not required in Woolworths Cricket Blast due to the softer ball used.
25. **Where can I go for help? Who can I speak to?**  
<https://www.community.cricket.com.au/clubs/helmets> is your source of truth for all things British Standard Helmets. You'll find a suite of resources and videos to support you on our journey to ensure community cricket is a safe sport for all. **You can also speak to your local cricket manager for more information and to ask any questions you have.**