

Australia Hit by Injury Woes as Josh Hazlewood Set to Miss Early T20 World Cup 2026 Matches



Australia's preparations for the **ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026** have suffered a significant setback, with star fast bowler **Josh Hazlewood** reportedly set to miss the opening matches of the tournament due to injury. The development has raised concerns within the Australian camp, especially as the team aims to defend its reputation as one of the most dominant forces in world cricket.

Josh Hazlewood Injury Update: What Happened?

Josh Hazlewood, Australia's pace spearhead, has been dealing with a persistent fitness issue that has ruled him out of full-intensity training in the lead-up to the tournament. According to team sources, the management has decided to prioritize his long-term fitness, making him unavailable for the **early T20 World Cup 2026 fixtures**.

The injury comes at an unfortunate time, as Hazlewood was expected to play a key role on subcontinent pitches, where his bounce, accuracy, and powerplay discipline are vital assets.

Why Hazlewood's Absence Is a Big Blow for Australia

Hazlewood's importance in **T20 international cricket** has grown significantly over the years. Known for his ability to strike early and control the run rate, he has been a crucial part of Australia's bowling attack in global tournaments.

Without Hazlewood:

- Australia lose a reliable **new-ball wicket-taker**
- The pressure increases on other fast bowlers
- Death-over bowling strategies may need adjustment

His absence also puts added responsibility on senior players like **Pat Cummins** and emerging pacers to step up on the biggest stage.

Also Read: [**Pat Cummins Ruled Out of T20 World Cup 2026**](#)

Australia's Backup Options and Squad Depth

Despite the injury concerns, Australia boasts a strong bench. Players such as **Mitchell Starc**, **Nathan Ellis**, and young fast-bowling prospects could be called upon to fill the void. However, replacing Hazlewood's experience and calmness in crunch moments will not be easy.

The team management is expected to rotate bowlers carefully in the initial matches, keeping an eye on workloads and conditions.

Can Hazlewood Return Later in the Tournament?

The positive news for Australian fans is that Hazlewood is not ruled out of the entire tournament. If his recovery progresses as planned, he could return for the **business end of the T20 World Cup 2026**, including knockout stages.

Australia's medical team remains optimistic, but no risks will be taken given the packed international calendar ahead.

Final Thoughts

Josh Hazlewood missing the early matches of the [T20 World Cup 2026](#) is undoubtedly a concern for Australia. While the squad has the depth to cope in the short term, his experience and match-winning ability will be sorely missed. All eyes will now be on Australia's bowling combinations—and Hazlewood's recovery—as the tournament unfolds.