



16 July 2020

URGENT: UPDATE REGARDING COMMUNITY SPORT

As a result of the rising case numbers on COVID-19 in NSW, the Chief Health Officer, Dr Kerry Chant, has today advised that NSW Health will be updating the COVID-19 Safety Plan templates.

The below letter from Dr Chant documents key changes that will need to be implemented by community sports organisations as a matter of priority. Updated COVID-19 Safety Plan templates from the NSW Office of Sport will be available from this evening at the link [here](#).

Please note that sport and recreation organisations will be required to *“Take all reasonable steps to minimise the number of spectators attending community sport events.”*

What do State Sporting Organisations need to do?

Community sport and recreation organisations will need to update their respective COVID-19 Safety Plans detailing actions that will be put in place to address these additional requirements.

Where possible, it is requested that all community sports clubs and associations put plans in place to minimise spectators to parents and carers only.

Measures that may assist implementation include:

- Limiting entry to indoor facilities and fenced venues to one person per participant at junior sport (where practical);
- Restricting spectator entry at adult community sport;
- Provide communication to participant databases via e-newsletters, social media and organisations' websites strongly suggesting that only parents and carers should attend community sports activities where possible;
- Increase signage in venue carparks and at common entry points at outdoor venues;

- Make PA announcements (where the facility exists) at venues reminding people to minimise spectators to parents and carers where possible.

Please communicate this information with your clubs and associations as a matter of urgency.

Will this proposed reduction in spectators at community sport events result in changes at major recreation venues for semi-professional and ticketed matches?

Due to major recreation facilities already requiring a more extensive COVID-19 Safety Plan and the environment being more controlled through measures such as ticketing and enclosed facilities, at this point in time there are no proposed changes for major recreation facilities.

Organisations using major recreation facilities for ticketed events are reminded of the importance of adhering to their COVID-19 Safety Plans, especially in relation to the 1.5m physical distancing of spectators and the movement through common spaces such as bars, catering outlets and toilets.

Please remain vigilant

We all have a part to play in protecting ourselves and those with whom we interact.

NSW Health continues to monitor the situation. The Office of Sport and Sport NSW will communicate any future changes to COVID-19 Safety Plans or Public Health Orders that impact community sport.

Thank you for your support in helping to keep community sport COVID-19 safe.

Steve Loader
Chief Executive Officer

For information and updates, please refer to:

NSW Office of Sport
<https://sport.nsw.gov.au/novel-coronavirus-covid-19>

NSW Government
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/what-you-can-and-cant-do-under-rules/changes>



Health

Dear Community Sport Organisations

I am writing to advise you we will be updating the COVID-19 Safety Plan for community sport organisations in response to rising case numbers in NSW and the ongoing risk of transmission in the community. I am requesting the cooperation of community sport organisations to help decrease the number of people gathering at these events.

In addition to the current requirements of the COVID-19 Safety Plan for community sports (<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/industry-guidelines/sports-recreation-and-gyms>), could you please ensure the following additional steps are promptly incorporated into your Safety Plan;

- Ensure processes are in place to exclude participants (including spectators and officials) if they have visited Victoria in the 14 days prior.
- Ensure processes are in place to exclude participants (including spectators and officials) if they have attended any of the reported case locations listed on the NSW Health website (<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates>).
- Take all reasonable steps to minimise the number of spectators attending community sport events.
- If sufficient numbers to field teams cannot be achieved, prioritise delaying the event rather than substituting with people from other teams or from the community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the community sport organisations for all the work done to date to carefully develop and implement their COVID-19 Safety Plans. These events are so important to the health and cohesion of communities, and so it is imperative that we take these additional steps to protect them at this time. I trust I can rely on your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Dr Kerry Chant PSM
Chief Health Officer and Deputy Secretary
Population and Public Health

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