

22 May 2020

## **Update: The Return of Sport in NSW**

The NSW Office of Sport today released a Sports Sector Update (shown below) reiterating the requirement for State Sporting Organisations (SSOs) and SSOs for people with a Disability (SSODs) to comply with current Public Health Orders.

Included in this Update:

1. Application to Request an Exemption to the Public Health Order
2. Council Facilities
3. NSW Office of Sport – Sports Sector Update (22 May 2020 – extract only)
4. A Review of Recommended Guidelines for Sport (from 18 May 2020)

### **1. Application to Request an Exemption to the Public Health Order**

If your sport requires an exemption to the Public Health Orders – for example, more than 10 people participating, or undertaking indoor sporting activities etc. – then an application requesting an exemption is required. The application is to be sent to the NSW Office of Sport for consideration by the Government’s Task Force.

There is no template for the application for an exemption request. It may, for example, provide the pathway for a return to ‘full competition’ showing the detailed framework, plans and guidelines that will be put in place relating directly to the sport’s proposed COVID-19 policies and procedures.

**All applications for exemption requests should be sent to:**

[sectorcapability@sport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sectorcapability@sport.nsw.gov.au)

The NSW Office of Sport advises that the Task Force consists of:

- The Hon. John Barilaro MP Deputy Premier and Minister Regional NSW, Industry and Trade
- The Hon. Dominic Perrottet MP NSW Treasurer
- The Hon. Victor Dominello MP Minister for Customer Service

A timeframe for responses from the Task Force is unknown and compliance with the Public Health Order must be maintained at all times until an exemption is granted.

## 2. Council Facilities

Councils across NSW have been varied in their actions and responses regarding the opening of, or access to, council sporting facilities requested by local sporting clubs, regional associations or SSOs / SSODs.

The Office of Local Government has developed a [local government FAQs](#) document which includes information relating to sport and recreation activities and venues. This information is shown on pages 4 to 10.

## 3. NSW Office of Sport – Sports Sector Update (22 May 2020 – extract only) (<https://sport.nsw.gov.au/novel-coronavirus-covid-19>)

The current Public Health Orders do not prevent any sporting organisation from resuming training.

NSW State Sporting Organisations can start training immediately as long as they comply with the current Public Health Orders, including training in maximum groups of 10 people and following the recommended physical distancing measures of 1.5 metres.

It is up to the sporting organisation to adapt or modify their sport, to be in line with the Public Health Orders.

### Current Public Health Orders

The NSW Government has enacted several Public Health Orders which directly impact on the Sport and Active Recreation Sector.

### Friday, 15 May: Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order (No 2) 2020

On 19 May the following exemptions were granted:

- An exemption for operators of (non-commercial) recreational vessels, where all persons on the vessel are members of the same household and/or any non-family members maintain a physical distance of 1.5 metres.
- An exemption for lawn bowling up to a maximum of 10 persons where physical distancing of 1.5 metres is maintained and the registered club or pub complies with specific recording requirements in addition to all other requirements of the Public Health Order.

- An exemption for swimming pools with a length of 25 metres or greater for squad training in line with set requirements.

NSW residents can exercise in maximum groups of ten in public, complying with physical distancing measures.

#### **4. A Review of Recommended Guidelines for Sport (from 18 May 2020)**

To minimise the risk of contracting or transmitting COVID-19, at all times:

- Do not attend any sport if you are unwell and experiencing symptoms such as a cough, sore throat, fever, fatigue or shortness of breath;
- Do not attend sport if, in the last 14 days, you have been unwell or had close contact with a known or suspected case of COVID-19;
- Anyone who is unwell should see a doctor in accordance with NSW Public Health Authority guidelines.

In NSW, restrictions from Friday, 15 May 2020 include:

- A total of ten (10) people may gather;
- A maximum of 500 people in any single venue at one time (note: this is the responsibility of the venue owner or council);
- Physical distancing must be maintained at all times (i.e. 1.5m apart);
- Change rooms to remain closed – toilets may be available for use. If a toilet is accessed via a change room, the toilet may be used, the change room may not;
- Outdoor sport only - no indoor sport at any time.

To ensure consistency, sport related guidelines are:

- The basic rule is “arrive, play sport, leave”
- All participants should be strongly encouraged to download the Government’s CovidSafe app;
- Gathering as a group before or after sport is not possible;
- No close contact or tackling is allowed as it is within 1.5m;
- An area of 4m<sup>2</sup> is required per person (i.e. a minimum of 40m<sup>2</sup> for 10 people);
- There may be more than one group of 10 people at the same time at the same outdoor venue providing that clearly defined and separated areas of more than 40m<sup>2</sup> for each group are allocated;
- No ‘mixing’ of people (including coaches) between separate groups of 10 people;
- Coaches, referees and spectators are included with participants in the total number attending (i.e. a maximum total of 10 people);

- Spectators or people providing transport should remain in their vehicle or leave the venue where possible.

It is strongly suggested that all participants:

- Prepare or dress for sport at home;
- Shower at home before and after sport;
- Bring hand wash or sanitiser to wash / sanitise your hands before and after sport;
- Bring their own drink bottle, towel etc;
- Avoid unnecessary contact (i.e. shaking hands, 'high fives' etc);
- If required, changing or putting on gear before and / or after sport should be done in, or near to, your own vehicle – or elsewhere away from the playing area;
- All equipment (particularly if touched by hands) should be wiped clean afterwards (e.g. balls, temporary goals etc);
- If there is a playing group of less than 10 and spectators are present, 1.5m distancing must be observed by spectators;
- Participants should gradually return to training to reduce the risk of injury.

Insurance cover for participants may be required by some councils / venue owners prior to opening their facilities. In most cases, a return to sanctioned / official training by an SSO / SSOD will trigger insurance coverage for registered participants. In addition, sanctioned training may incur ongoing maintenance costs from the council / venue owner.

Steve Loader  
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For further 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>