



17 August 2020

NEW RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMUNITY SPORT **FROM NSW HEALTH**

Due to uncertainty in the continually changing health environment, shown below are new recommendations for community sport that have been advised today by Dr Kerry Chant, Chief Medical Officer, NSW Health.

Sporting organisations are requested to commence implementation of these recommendations by Wednesday, 19 August and it is anticipated that they will be in place for the next six (6) weeks.

At this stage, community sport may be able to continue as it is currently being implemented **providing that it does not require inter-regional mixing** including activities which bring together participants (including spectators and officials) from organisations in different regions of Sydney, from a rural area into a metro area and vice versa, and movement between different rural areas.

It is essential that all community sports organisations have a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place, and are fully compliant with their Plan: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/industry-guidelines/community-sporting-competitions-and-full-training-activities>

Shown below are some Frequently Asked Questions from the NSW Office of Sport relating to these new recommendations.

NSW Health continues to monitor the situation throughout the State, and the Office of Sport and Sport NSW will communicate any future recommendations, 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



Our ref: H20/87983

Dear Community Sports Organisations

MINIMISING THE RISK OF COVID-19 TRANSMISSION IN COMMUNITY SPORTS

In response to increased cases of COVID-19 in NSW, I am advising of further public health measures to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission related to participation in community sports. These updated recommendations will help us to meet the NSW Government's aim of achieving no community transmission in NSW and will support community sports to continue operating safely.

It is essential that community sports organisations have a COVID-19 safety plan in place, and are fully compliant with this plan: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/industry-guidelines/community-sporting-competitions-and-full-training-activities>

In addition, please implement the following updated public health recommendations:

- Cease activities that result in the mixing of participants and staff from different regions, for example by ceasing zone, regional or state championships or competitions¹
- Cease any activities that result in overnight stays (e.g. multi-day training camps) due to increased risk of COVID transmission in residential-type settings with shared facilities
- Cease face-to-face social activities relating to community sports (e.g. award ceremonies, end-of-season social gatherings, post-training group dinners)
- Avoid carpools or bus travel with people from different household groups where possible
- For local activities, limit spectators to one parent only, where the child requires parental supervision during the sporting activity.

Please commence implementation of these recommendations by Wednesday 19 August.

I anticipate that these recommendations will need to be in place for the next 6 weeks. I will continue to update you in relation to the continued need for these public health measures.

I would like to thank your organisation for your support and ongoing attention to providing a COVID-19 safe environment for community sports participants.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Chant'.

**Dr Kerry Chant PSM
Chief Health Officer
NSW Health**

14 August 2020

¹ Examples of inter-regional mixing include activities which bring together participants (including spectators and officials) from organisations in different regions of Sydney, from a rural area into a metro area and vice versa, and movement between different rural areas



Frequently Asked Questions Chief Health Officer Letter: 17 August 2020

Why are these additional recommendations being put in place for community sport?

Since the return of community sport on 1 July, we have seen an increased number of COVID-19 cases in NSW.

It is essential we implement a range of additional measures across industries and sectors where there is a high risk of community transmission, or where many people may come into social contact with others that they do not usually mix with.

Why is there a concern about mixing participants from zones?

We have seen over the past few weeks how easy it is for the virus to be transmitted across local communities by people going about their regular activities prior to testing positive for COVID-19.

By bringing people together from different regions of greater Sydney and more broadly across NSW, there is an increased risk of introduction of new infections into communities, as well as ongoing community transmission once established.

Community sport is one of several sectors and industries where there is increased interaction of people from outside their local communities, therefore these additional recommendations look to limit this interaction to minimise the risk of community transmission.

Why are additional restrictions being placed on community sport?

Sport brings together a range of people from across different communities, increasing the risk of community transmission.

The public health advice is that these additional recommendations are needed for a period of 6 weeks in the first instance, to reduce the risk of community transmission.

Our competition has already commenced, our scheduling has been finalised and our fixtures and activities take place across multiple locations and regions – what should we do?

You should consider what steps you can take to cease activities that result in the mixing of participants and staff from different regions. This may require the postponement or cancellation of fixtures including but not limited to zone, regional or state championships or competitions. Alternatively, it may be possible to alter or split a competition or event so that fixtures remain local.

Does this affect competitions that are played across local government areas?

These recommendations may impact competitions and activities that take place across local government areas. Consider the size and proximity of the local government areas involved.

What does this mean for scheduling of upcoming finals and events?

The additional recommendations are anticipated to remain in place for the next six weeks. Organisations may need to consider the scheduling of finals in the context of these additional recommendations.



Will this be updated in the COVID-19 Safety Plans as a requirement for community sport organisations?

At this time, these recommendations have not been included in the COVID-19 Safety Plan checklist for community sport.

NSW Health is seeking the cooperation of community sport organisations in complying with these additional recommendations. Should community transmission continue or increase, the Public Health Orders and COVID-19 Safety Plan requirements may be reviewed and amended accordingly.

Why is there such a short time frame to implement the additional recommendations?

We are at a critical time in the pandemic. It is essential that we act quickly and implement additional measures to protect local communities from the risk of community transmission.

What does this mean for inter-region / state championship events scheduled for October Long weekend and beyond?

Community sport organisations should consider contingency plans for postponement for events and activities on the October long weekend in case the recommendations remain in place for more than 6 weeks.

Summer season activity organisers should consider scheduling local fixtures and activities, aligned with these additional recommendations.

NSW Health will continue to monitor and evaluate the situation over the next six weeks and provide advice as the situation evolves.

Are there any changes to the current gathering sizes?

No, at this point in time there is no change to the current gathering size restriction of 500 people at community sport activities.

For local activities, they include a requirement to limit spectators to one parent only, where the child requires parental supervision during the sporting activity.

How are sports supposed to monitor the one parent per child rule at open sports grounds and venues?

Community sport organisations should already be considering measures within their COVID Safety Plans to minimise spectators at community sport. This may include communicating in advance with parents, erecting signage in the carpark around the grounds and through PA announcements at the venue.

If I arrange my own accommodation rather than communal/residential accommodation arrangements, is it OK to part participate in multi-day activities?

Community sport organisations should cease activities that result in the mixing of participants and staff from different regions. If your activity is going to result in travelling that requires participants to stay overnight, then it is recommended that the activity should cease for 6 weeks.