

## 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.