

BV State Director

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Subject: Stakeholder Update | Sport, Recreation and Racing | 14 May 2020

This morning, Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) published [new guidance](#) to support sport and recreation organisations with their return to play plans.

Thanks to progress in slowing the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), restrictions on sport and recreation have eased under the latest [Restricted Activity Directions](#) from the Chief Health Officer.

From 13 May 2020, the Victorian Chief Health Officer has approved that some **community sport and recreation** activities can resume according to the following rules:

- Groups of up to 10 people only are permitted **outdoors** (or people from the same household), plus a coach/instructor or the minimum number of support staff reasonably required to run the activity
- Parents or other people are required to keep a reasonable distance or will be included in the group of 10
- **No indoor activity** – indoor physical recreation facilities must remain closed
- Maintain physical distancing of 1.5 metres wherever reasonably possible
- All activity and training must be non-contact, and no competitions are to take place. Contact sports must be modified so that you can maintain 1.5m distance
- No outside communal gyms, playgrounds or skateparks, these are still closed and must not be used
- No outdoor or indoor swimming pools (unless it is at your own private residence)
- No use of communal facilities, except for toilets
- If the activity is run by an operator of an indoor physical recreation facility (such as a gym, health club or fitness centre), a personal training facility (indoors or outdoors) or an arena or stadium, then the operator must keep a record of attendees including first name, phone number, date and time of attendance
- No shared equipment that touches the head or face or cannot be effectively cleaned i.e. soft materials or clothing
- Hand hygiene, frequent environmental cleaning and disinfection, use of own equipment where possible and minimise sharing of equipment.

The easing of restrictions means that community sport and active recreation associations and clubs can now plan and gradually roll out a return to activity.

High performance and professional sport can now resume full training and competition in line with Chief Health Officer's Directions, provided organisations have comprehensive risk management plans in place in line with the Professional Sports Guidance Note. This includes:

- Normal full-contact training allowed with strict hygiene and safety procedures in place
- Competition matches allowed outdoors, or in arenas and stadiums
- Use of indoor physical recreation facilities where the facility is only used by a single professional sporting team at any one time and is only used for the training purposes of that team.

High performance and professional sport is provided with this allowance on the basis that professional sports are undertaking these activities at venues that are a place of work and that professional clubs and associations are able to put in place comprehensive risk mitigation plans.

A full list of activities and how the current restrictions apply is now available on the [SRV website](#). These activities are examples only. Please ensure you review the Chief Health Officer's [Directions](#) to understand how they apply to you and how you can be consistent with the rules. The website also has helpful [FAQs](#) for organisations and participants.

We are committed to providing your organisation with support and have developed new guidance to help you develop return to play plans and risk mitigation strategies.

For **community sport**, State Sporting Associations (SSAs) are encouraged to prepare return to play plans consistent with the Chief Health Officer's [Directions](#) and SRV's [Community Sports Guidance Note](#). SRV can provide advice and support to SSAs in the development of these plans, noting SSA's are ultimately responsible for the plans and they do not require formal approval from the Victorian Government.

SSAs can then provide their return to play plans to clubs and organisations to assist them with developing their own plans at a local level. It is the responsibility of every club to ensure the safety of its participants, members, volunteers and staff, and ensure it operates within the current restrictions.

For high performance and professional sport, [new guidance for professional sport codes](#) will support National Sporting Organisations and professional clubs to develop their return to play plans and risk mitigation plan strategies. This will ensure professional players, coaches, trainers and support staff can return to their place of work and resume their jobs.

Professional teams will need comprehensive coronavirus (COVID-19) risk management and community safety plans and to adhere to strict hygiene practices in order to resume activities. Enforcement and compliance of the coronavirus (COVID-19) risk management and community safety plans will be the responsibility of individual peak sport and governing bodies.

The **racing industry** continues to be classified as a workplace and racing activities can continue with no spectators in an outdoor setting whilst complying with the restrictions in place and adherence to the latest physical distancing restrictions.

Ensuring sport and active recreation organisations survive this crisis and come back as strong as possible is critical to our economic and social recovery. Yesterday, the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events, Martin Pakula, announced the new [Experience Economy Survival Package](#) with support for Victoria's sport, tourism, racing and creative industries.

This package includes \$40 million for community sport, providing state sporting associations, leagues and clubs with valuable support over the next six months to ride out coronavirus (COVID-19) and help them to revive and recover.

A further \$16 million will go to national sporting organisations and professional teams to support them with return to training and competition. Support is also being extended to the State Sport Centres Trust and the Kardinia Park Stadium Trust.

The package also includes \$44 million in the state's racing industry, with a focus on securing jobs, maintaining animal welfare standards, and maintaining the viability of 125 racing clubs across the state. Further details on this new package will be provided in the coming days/week. Please continue to check the SRV website.

You and your organisation play a vital role in organising and promoting sport and recreation in our communities, bringing us together, and improving our physical and mental wellbeing.

The easing of restrictions mean that Victorians can begin to get back to the sport and recreation activities they love, however it's important we stick to the [physical distancing restrictions](#) to continue to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

If you have any queries about the updated restrictions for sport and recreation or the guidance available to your organisation, please first visit the [Sport and Recreation website](#) to read the latest guidance, FAQs and activity list. Please email any additional queries to info@sport.vic.gov.au

Remember, the situation continues to change and we urge you to regularly check coronavirus.vic.gov.au for updates.

Please forward this email to anyone in the sector who you think may benefit from this update.

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