

BV State Director

From: Peter J Betson (DEDJTR) <peter.betson@ecodev.vic.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 22 March 2020 1:46 PM
Subject: STAKEHOLDER UPDATE | SPORT, RECREATION & RACING - 22 MARCH 2020

The Victorian Government has announced a [\\$1.7 billion economic and jobs package](#) to help Victorian businesses and workers survive the impacts of coronavirus (COVID-19).

For many sporting, recreation and racing organisations, this will be welcome news. The package includes tax refunds for the 2019-20 financial year to small and medium-sized businesses with payroll of less than \$3 million and establishes a new \$500 million a Business Support Fund to the sectors most impacted, including recreation.

Read the [Premier's media release](#) for more information on the range of measures in the package and [register your interest with Business Victoria](#) to receive more details on the program.

This morning, the Australian Government also released the second stage of its economic plan to support people and businesses. Read more about this package [here](#).

I also encourage you to speak to your relevant association or peak body for tailored advice for your sport or sector.

You will also be aware that on Friday 20 March, the [Prime Minister announced](#) further social distancing rules, with a one person per four square metres restriction now in place for non-essential activities.

In addition to this, the Government has advised the community to practice social distancing of 1.5 metres between people.

The Victorian State of Emergency to combat coronavirus (COVID-19) remains in place and these further restrictions and guidelines will likely impact your club or organisation.

The bans on non-essential gatherings of 100 or more people indoors and 500 or more outdoors continues. These bans have the force of law, and penalties apply if they are breached.

An indoor gathering refers to a gathering within a single enclosed area (i.e. an area, room or premises that is or are substantially enclosed by a roof and walls, regardless of whether the roof or walls or any part of them are permanent, temporary, open or closed).

Under the bans, people are prohibited from organising and attending mass gatherings. People are also banned from allowing mass gatherings to occur on premises they own, control or operate.

The bans will remain in place until midnight on 13 April 2020 and certain gatherings are excluded. For further details, view the Victorian Government [media release](#) or find information on gatherings on the visit the [Department of Health and Human Services \(DHHS\) website](#).

At this point in time, sport, recreation and racing related activities can continue, but you will need to apply and assess whether the latest restrictions on public gatherings make it still viable and safe for your participants and members to participate in your club and sport related activities, such as training and games.

Please read the Commonwealth [community sport guidelines](#) and [DHHS' advice on physical distancing](#) to understand how your club or venue can reduce the risk of infection and slow the spread of the virus in the Victorian community.

The situation continues to rapidly change and we urge you to regularly check the [DHHS coronavirus website](#) for updates.

We'll continue to provide you with up-to-date industry advice as new information comes in, but for general health matters please check regularly with DHHS.

The following information is correct as of 22 March 2020. For the latest information, visit <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>

Common questions

How long will sport, recreation and racing be impacted?

Currently the State of Emergency declared in Victoria has been set until midnight 13 April 2020, but due to the evolving nature of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic this could be extended. We are closely monitoring the [DHHS coronavirus website](#) for updates.

Where do I get information about my sport, active recreation or racing sector?

The best source of specific information is your association or peak body, but please note the situation is constantly evolving.

If you are looking for health and social distancing guidelines refer to the Australian Government's [community sport guidelines](#) and [DHHS coronavirus website](#).

For further information on the bans and how they apply to indoor and outdoor mass gatherings, read the Victorian Government [media release](#) which outlines and defines the bans.

Can our sporting or racing club and active recreation organisation still operate?

At this point in time, sport and recreation related activities can continue, but you will need to apply and assess whether the latest restrictions on public gatherings make it still viable and safe for your participants and members to participate in your club and sport related activities such as training and games.

What financial support is available to my sporting, recreation or racing organisation?

The Victorian Government has announced a \$1.7 billion economic and jobs package to help Victorian businesses and workers survive the impacts of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Read the [Premier's media release](#) for the full range of measures included in the package and [register with Business Victoria](#) to receive more details on the program.

Speak to your relevant association or peak body for tailored assistance and advice for your sport or sector.

I'm in isolation – can I still take part in sport and active recreation?

If you are in isolation you cannot take part in community sport, but you can and should still stay fit and active. For great ideas, check out the [Premier's Active April](#) website.

The following information is correct as of **22 March 2020** and we'll continue to update you as new information comes to hand.

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