



Memo

Date: Wednesday July 8, 2020
To: All Affiliates and Regions
From: Dean Russell- General Manager
Subject: General Managers Message

It has been a long wait but Touch Footy is finally back in NSW!

It is pleasing to see that several of our Season 1 competitions are recommencing or starting shortened competitions in the coming weeks. In doing so Everyone must continue to stay up to date with the latest NSW Government COVID-19 information. The following is provided to update you all on current Public Health Orders, NSWTA Staff and the current situation unfolding in Victoria.

New Public Health Order

On Tuesday, June 30 2020, the NSW Minister for Health and Medical Research, The Hon Brad Hazzard MP, made the *Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order (No 4) under the Public Health Act 2010*. This Order revokes all previous Public Health Orders and, amongst other areas, provides the rules governing the conduct of sport and active recreation. The full Order may be viewed [here](#). Attached is a brief of the Order and relevant sections.

While a return to play is allowed, there remains a limit of **no more than 500 persons** (participants, officials, and spectators) at an outdoor sporting venue at any one time. Social distancing measures are always also to be maintained.

It is also important to note that a **COVID-19 Safety Plan is mandatory** under the Public Health Order and **must be kept at the venue/clubhouse** with the Committee aware of its location for access and inspection by an authorised officer if required. The NSWTA staff are available to assist all our affiliates with their Safety Plans, and we also provide this link to the Safety Plan developed in conjunction with TFA. [Click Here](#)

NSWTA Staff

We realise that with the Return to Play now active that the affiliates, in a COVID-19 environment do require extra support from us. We certainly appreciate the patience shown by all our affiliates and regions with current response times due to all NSWTA staff on reduced hours. We recognise now that the sport is being switched back on in NSW that affiliates are planning for recommenced or upcoming competitions. Also, the transition to





MySideline is occurring, implementation of the new Affiliate websites is underway, development of COVID-19 Safety Plans is a priority, and the impending representative season is upon us. The NSWTA Board understand that our Affiliates, Regions, and members are going to require a higher level of assistance. Therefore, they have agreed to bring back all NSWTA staff to fulltime hours commencing on Monday, July 13 to help provide this support to the membership.

The General Manager is also looking to transition staff back into the office from July 20. While this transition is ongoing, external visitors to the office will need to be managed accordingly.

Victorian Situation

With the current outbreak in Victoria and the border lockdown, the government has provided the following public health advice for people who have travelled from Victoria or Melbourne in the last 14 days.

If a person who has been in a hotspot location within the last 14 days is already in NSW or arrives in NSW, they must self-isolate for 14 days from the time they were last in a COVID hotspot location.

The NSWTA Actions for both Return to Train and Return to Play:

- If you have had contact in the past 14 days with a known or suspected case of COVID-19 or from a hotspot including Melbourne in the last 14 days you must not attend a competition or training & seek medical clearance before returning.
- Participants- if returned from Melbourne in the last 14 days are to remain at home and self-isolate.

Further information will be published on the NSWTA COVID-19 page as it becomes available.

Best wishes and stay safe.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dean Russell', is positioned above the printed name.

Dean Russell
General Manager



NSW PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER No 4 - SUMMARY

This Summary provides some explanation that may assist your Affiliate/Region, with information on:

1. New Public Health Order
2. Highlighted Points for Sporting Organisations
 - a. Definitions
 - b. COVID-19 Safety Plan
 - c. How Many People at a Venue?

1. New Public Health Order

On Tuesday, 30 June 2020, the NSW Minister for Health and Medical Research, The Hon Brad Hazzard MP, made the *Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order (No 4) 2020* under the *Public Health Act 2010*.

This Order revokes all previous Public Health Orders and, amongst other areas, provides the rules governing the conduct of sport and active recreation. The full Order may be viewed [here](#).

The most relevant section pertaining to community sport is shown in **Division 3, Clauses 15 – 17** (inclusive) which is:

Division 3 Community sporting activities **15 Definitions**

In this Division –
community sporting activity includes a training session for a community sporting activity.
organiser means –

- a. for an activity conducted by or on behalf of an entity that is registered under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009, the public officer of the entity, or
- b. for an activity conducted by or on behalf of an entity other than an entity referred to in paragraph (a), the chief executive officer of the entity, however described, or
- c. in all other cases, the person who made the arrangements for the activity.

participant includes –

- a. a person engaged in the sporting activity, and
- b. an official involved in the conduct or organisation of the sporting activity, and
- c. a spectator of the sporting activity



16 Direction of Minister requiring COVID-19 Safety Plans

The Minister directs that the organiser of a community sporting activity that involves a gathering of more than 20 participants must –

- a. develop and comply with a COVID-19 Safety Plan that addresses the matters required by the COVID-19 safety checklist approved by the Chief Health Officer for community sporting competitions and published on the New South Wales Government website (www.nsw.gov.au), and
- b. keep a copy of the COVID-19 Safety Plan and make it available for inspection by an authorised officer as requested.

N.B. The COVID-19 Safety Plan developed by TFA, NSWTA and QTF meet the requirement set by Chief Health Order. [Click Here](#)

17 Direction of Minister concerning maximum number of participants

The Minister directs that the organiser of a community sporting activity must ensure that a gathering for the activity involves no more than 500 participants.

2. Highlighted Points for Affiliates and Regions (Note – All references are to Public Health Order No.4)

a. Definitions

To ensure clarity, references in the Order to:

- *community sporting activity* includes both competition and training for a community sporting activity;
- *participants* includes participants, officials and spectators

b. COVID-19 Safety Plan

A COVID-19 Safety Plan is mandatory and must be kept at the venue / clubhouse with the Duty Officer aware of its location for access and inspection by an authorised officer if required (**Clause 16**).

The Touch Football COVID Safety Plans developed by the NSWTA in conjunction with TFA and QTF are compliant with the NSW Government approved Safety Plans. The NSWTA staff are able to assist with this template.



c. How Many People at a Venue?

i. The four square metre rule

At all sporting venues, the number of people allowed to 'gather' is calculated by dividing the square metre size of the premises by 4.

This calculation will allow for the required 4 square metres per person and provide the maximum number of people allowed (subject to points (iv) and (v) below).

(ii) Calculating the number of people

In calculating both the space available for each person on any premises and the number of persons on the premises, the following persons are not to be included in any calculations –

- (a) any person engaged in work on the premises,
- (b) if the premises are food and drink premises, any person ordering or collecting food or drink to consume off the premises. (**Clause 4(1)**)

(iii) Calculating the size of the premises

In calculating the space available for each person on any premises the following areas are to be included in the calculations –

- (a) if the size of the premises is not more than 200 square metres of floor space, the entire premises,
- (b) if the size of the premises is more than 200 square metres of floor space, only those areas that are open to the public (**Clause 4(2)**)

(iv) Maximum Number of People at a Single Sporting Venue

The maximum number of people at a single sporting venue is 500 participants (see definition of 'participants' above).

This includes venues with multiple fields / courts / areas of play for the same sporting activity.

The only exception to the maximum number is if an exemption to this Public Health Order No.4 has been applied for and granted by the NSW Government. (Application is by the State Sporting Organisation)

v) Large Sporting Complexes with Multiple Sporting Venues

Where a large sporting complex has multiple different sporting venues for different sporting activities that are each being undertaken under the auspices by the club or association of separate State Sporting Organisations, the limit is 500 people per individual sporting venue.

Clause 17 advises that the *organiser of a community sporting activity must ensure that a gathering for the activity involves no more than 500 participants.*

An 'organiser' is defined *as an activity conducted by or on behalf of an entity that is registered under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009.* Therefore, each community sport activity



conducted by a different 'organiser' (e.g. separate sporting organisation) each have a 500 person capacity at their venue within a larger complex.

THIS IS SUBJECT TO each individual sporting venue complying with the 4 square metres per person restriction.

For example, a large sporting complex that may have netball courts, football fields, rugby fields and an athletics track located in the same large area, would have a total capacity of 2,000 people (i.e. 500 per individual sporting venue within the sporting complex). NB. This will only apply where the participants for each sporting activity do not interact – but each sporting venue would be required to have a area of no less than 2,000 square metres to allow for the maximum amount of participants, officials and spectators (i.e. 500).