

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) SPORTS SECTOR UPDATE



I write to the sport and active recreation sector to provide an important update following the National Cabinet meetings over the weekend.

New Information

On Sunday 29 March 2020, the National Cabinet agreed to limit both indoor and outdoor gatherings to a maximum of two persons only. This limit excludes people in the same household going out together and family units.

In addition, National Cabinet's strong guidance to all Australians is to stay home unless people are undertaking the following activities:

- shopping for what you need - food and necessary supplies;
- medical or health care needs, including compassionate requirements;
- exercise in compliance with the public gathering requirements;
- work and study if you can't work or learn remotely.

As of midnight tonight, Monday 30 March 2020, the National Cabinet agreed that **playgrounds, skate parks and outside gyms in public places will be closed**. Bootcamps will be reduced to two persons, including the trainer. This is in addition to venues that were already included under the prohibited activities and venues list announced last week.

National Parks and Wildlife Services has made the decision to close all campgrounds, most visitors' centres, cafes, and high-visitation areas within its National Parks. At this point in time, other parks and recreation spaces not covered under Public Health Orders are up to the decision of the respective facility managers (e.g. councils, State Forests, Place Management NSW etc.). Organisations are encouraged to stay up to date with the NSW Public Health Orders.

What does this mean for Sport and Active Recreation Organisations?

I understand there have been significant questions from the sport and active recreation sector seeking clarity on what activities are and aren't considered to be in adherence with the guidelines.

Each organisation is responsible for ensuring it undertakes its own assessment regarding what activities meet current and future recommendations and legislative requirements.

As of today, Monday 30 March 2020, the Office of Sport, in consultation with NSW Health, now considers that all organised sport and recreation activities to be classified as non-essential activities, and therefore strongly recommends that these activities cease as of midnight Monday 30 March 2020

For the avoidance of doubt, the following list of activities considered to be non-essential by the Office of Sport and NSW Health are detailed below, and includes some activities that have already been included in Public Health Orders:

- All team sporting activities
- Motorsport activities
- Golf (both social and competition)
- Tennis (both social and competition)
- Group activities including but not limited to group fitness, personal training, walking, jogging, ocean swimming, shooting, bush walking, surfing and cycling groups of more than two people even if distanced apart)

The Office of Sport has cancelled all Sport and Recreation Centre and Olympic Sport Venue bookings in line with the recommendations above.

I understand the significant ramifications of these recommendations on the sector, however we are now at a point where we need everyone to do what they can to restrict unnecessary travel and interactions to reduce the severity of COVID-19 on society in the long term. I trust this information will help your organisation to make informed decisions.

Support for the Sector

The Commonwealth and NSW Governments have announced a range of economic and financial support measures to assist individuals and organisations through this uncertain time. The Office of Sport has developed a [Supporting the Sector](#) page, to provide guidance on the resources and initiatives available to sport and recreation sector organisations.

Staying Physically Active

Despite the significant disruption to normal sport and recreation activities, we all understand the importance of staying physically active whilst adhering to social distancing and gathering requirements.

The Office of Sport is working with the NSW Institute of Sport to develop resources for communities as we adjust to spending more time at home and exercising without friends and team mates.

Resources will be published on the NSWIS [High Performance at Home](#) page, with further activities to come in the coming weeks.

Further Information

I encourage you to stay up to date on COVID-19 through the following channels:

- [The Office of Sport COVID-19 page](#)
- [NSW Government COVID-19 page](#)
- [Further NSW Government Community Advice](#)
- [Commonwealth Government Health COVID-19 page](#)
- [aus.gov.au/whatsapp](https://www.aus.gov.au/whatsapp)
- Call the National Coronavirus Health Information Line on 1800 020 080 for general advice or healthdirect on 1800 022 222 if you have symptoms. If you require translating or interpreting services, call 131 450.
- Help line for businesses - Businesses impacted by COVID-19 can call 13 28 46.