

Association Carnival Guide

July 2020

Netball NSW understands that many Associations are keen to host their regular carnival in the short lead-up to State Titles. When the revised carnival schedule was released Netball NSW included the following information:

The running of carnivals in 2020 will be required to comply with the Government restrictions in place at the time with regard to the size of gatherings, total people allowed at a venue, social distancing and hygiene requirements. These restrictions are subject to change and it is the responsibility of the host Association to ensure that their event will comply with the restrictions in force at the time.

It is strongly suggested that Associations consider the format of their carnival and think about the size of the carnival and alternate options should numbers be restricted. Options may include working with an Association in their region to jointly host a carnival splitting the age groups across two or three Associations.

The COVID-19 landscape in NSW is constantly evolving, from a period where restrictions were easing in late June, to the current state of heightened awareness around larger gatherings. As a result, carnivals held in early August may face quite different circumstances to carnivals held in late September however Netball NSW strongly suggest that planning for all carnivals is on the conservative and cautious side rather than replicating previous years.

Due to the nature of netball gatherings we have seen in recent weeks that NSW Health officials have been visiting venues on competition days to ensure compliance with COVID-19 Safety Plans. Carnivals are no different to regular competition days in that they must comply with the Association's COVID-19 Safety Plan and, if anything, be more strict on attendees given that they will be present for an extended period on the day.

Netball NSW recommendations for the conduct of carnivals are shown below.

Venue Considerations

The total number of people allowed at a venue will depend on whether the Association's venue has an exemption to operate in discrete zones (refer to the Netball Exemption under Public Health Order list available on the Netball NSW website <https://nsw.netball.com.au/covid-19-toolkit>):

- Venues not on the list must stay below 500 people in total at the venue at any one time on the day.
- Venues on the exemption list must stay below 500 people per zone. At no time during the day can any team players, team officials, spectators or umpires cross zones.
- At all times there must be adequate room to allow for 1.5 metre social distancing between people off courts.

Netball NSW strongly discourages the use of tents at carnivals this year. If tents are to be used:

- The number of people allowed in a tent at any one time will be calculated on the 1 person per 4 square metre rule. Therefore a tent which measures 6m x 3m is 18 square metres in total and could hold a maximum of 4 people.
- People in the tent area would be counted in the total venue count at all times. This means the 500 person limit applies to the entire venue (or zone) whether people are in the tent village or on courts.
- If a venue is split into zones, tents would need to be specific to the individual zone. There is no crossing of zones under any circumstances and tents could not be erected in a 'neutral area' where people leave their zone to go to a tent.
- Shade structures (ie, with no 'walls') should be considered in place of tents. Shade structures would need to be specific to individual zones. While they would not have a capacity limit, they would be bound by the 1.5 metre social distancing requirement under the structure.

Canteens and BBQ's are both areas where people may congregate, and also pose concerns for those Associations who are looking at splitting the venue into zones:

- Associations should strongly re-consider whether running a canteen is needed in the current climate.
- Attendees should be encouraged to bring their own individual food. Setting up of share plates or group buffet style arrangements is also not recommended.
- If a canteen or BBQ is run, strict queuing and distancing protocols must be in place, as well as cleaning and hygiene regimes for frequently touched surfaces.
- If a venue is to be split into zones, consider providing the ability to purchase food in each zone (maybe via a secondary pop-up location) to prevent people crossing zones.
- Operation of any food locations will need to be addressed in the COVID-19 Safety Plan.

Toilets are another important consideration. Under the normal competition guidelines for 2020 of 'Arrive, Play, Leave', considerably less people need to use a toilet in the time they are at the courts. At a carnival, everyone will need to use the toilets at some point:

- Ensure a regular cleaning regime is in place for all toilets.
- If a venue is to be split into zones and there is only one amenities block, strongly consider the hiring of port-a-loos to prevent people crossing zones.

Competition Considerations and Format

When planning a carnival it will be necessary to consider the capacity of the venue and how many people can be in the venue or zones at any one time, hence how many entries can be accepted. Re-consider the age categories you are hosting as it might be possible to co-host with a neighbouring Association.

With restrictions on team numbers Associations should look to host local Associations only where possible at carnivals and avoid unnecessary travel between metropolitan and regional areas for attendance at carnivals.

Netball NSW recommends that carnivals be restricted to 24 teams, with no more than 18 people per team in attendance (inclusive of players, coaches, officials and spectators). This is a total of 432, which then allows for the necessary number of umpires plus host Association officials and volunteers to be added while remaining under the 500 person limit.

If a venue is splitting into zones, the same guideline as above can be used per zone. Netball NSW strongly recommends that an Association which is splitting its venue into zones runs their carnival with no more than two zones in operation. An option also exists for the format to be changed to 'mini carnivals' whereby an Association may host an age group in the morning, then a separate age group in the afternoon.

Ensure in any communication regarding the carnival that it is clear there are restrictions on team entries and total numbers in attendance.

Other competition format and fixture matters which should be taken into consideration are:

- Allow a longer time between games, providing time for teams to finish and arrive at their designated court.
- Consider the courts you are using, can you have spare courts allowing for social distancing around courts in play.
- There is no restriction on the length of a match, consider shorter game times.
- There is no restriction on when the carnival should start and finish on the day.
- There is no minimum amount of games that each participating team must play.
- Players MUST only play for one team for the duration of the carnival.

Remember that carnivals should be about match play and practice for the teams participating.

Health & Hygiene

With regard to equipment, it is important to adhere to health and hygiene practices throughout the day, such as:

- Wiping down of goalpost pads with disinfectant wipes after each game (this can be done by players).
- Ensuring a fresh ball is used for every game, with balls to be wiped down with disinfectant wipes prior to their next use.
- Scoring being the responsibility of one person, no sharing of pens, clipboards or other equipment without that equipment being cleaned between use.
- Scoresheets to be collected by officials to prevent people needing to congregate at a control tower.
- Teams to stick to one set of bibs for the day per team. Players should use hand sanitizer before and after changing bibs / patches where possible and bibs / patches can be wiped down with disinfectant wipes between games if required.
- Adequate bins provided throughout the venue for disposal of wipes and other rubbish, with bins also emptied as required.

As a precautionary health measure Netball NSW has developed a Player Wellness Survey which is a requirement of participation on every competition day of Metro League and Premier League at Netball Central for players, umpires and officials. Associations should also consider asking all carnival attendees to complete a similar survey. The Player Wellness Survey has been added to the COVID-19 Toolkit page of the Netball NSW website for use as required: <https://nsw.netball.com.au/covid-19-toolkit>

Netball NSW are fully aware that the guidelines and recommendations above will make the hosting of carnivals in 2020 very different to previous years, however it goes without saying that we are in unprecedented times. Please take every possible precaution to ensure that carnivals are held safely and within the limitations set down by the current Public Health Order and Exemption provided to selected netball venues.

As mentioned above, NSW Health officials will visit Netball Associations throughout the season with carnivals of particular interest to them, so adhering to all the Public Health Orders and your own COVID-19 Safety Plans is essential. And a reminder that a hard copy of your COVID-19 Safety Plan must be on the premises at all times.

Finally, for clarification on any of the above, or questions related to the running of your carnival, please don't hesitate to contact Netball NSW for further information.

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