

2021 Netball COVID-19 Safe Guidelines

As at 29 March 2021

Introduction

The priority of Netball NSW is to continue to safeguard the health and wellbeing of the community to undertake its social responsibility to do everything it can to slow down the spread of COVID-19. The key point of reference in all considerations and guidelines has been the measures recommended and implemented by both the Federal and State Governments.

These Netball Guidelines and the COVID-19 Safety Plan have been developed in line with the template provided by the NSW Government but may require alteration(s) as Public Health Orders change.

These are guidelines, not regulations and are provided to ensure the health and safety of everyone involved in our game.

NSW Public Health Order as at 29 March 2021.

The NSW Government have announced a relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions relating to community sport.

Full details can be obtained at the NSW Office of Sport website by clicking [here](#) or for the full Public Health Order please [click here](#).

The main points to note from this announcement and the links above are as follows:

- This Public Health Order replaces any previous Health Orders.
- Organised outdoor gatherings including community sport and recreation activities will be permitted to have up to 5,000 people, inclusive of people taking part in the activity, officials and spectators (subject to the one person per 2sqm rule).
- The exemption order previously in place for Netball is no longer valid with the introduction of this Health Order, so the maximum number of 5,000 is for the whole site and the site can no longer be split into different zones.
- More than one parent may attend community sporting activities if physical distancing of at least 1.5 metres can be maintained between people that are not from the same household as long as the total number on site does not go over 5,000.
- All community sporting organisations must still ensure their activity is delivered in compliance with the Public Health Order and their up-to-date COVID-19 Safety Plan.

COVID Safety Plans are Mandatory

Complete the plan in consultation with volunteers/staff, then share it with them. This will help slow the spread of COVID-19 and reassure your visitors that they can safely participate in activities. You may need to update the plan in the future, as restrictions and advice changes.

Keep your plan up to date

You may need to update the plan in the future, as restrictions and advice changes.

You will need to have an up-to-date plan at your premises at all times and be able to show it to an authorised officer if requested.

Netball NSW has updated the COVID -19 Safety Plan information on the website for the benefit of Associations/Clubs and it can be found [here](#).

Prior to attending training, games or other netball activities

Before participating in any netball activity, participants should not attend training or play in a match, if:

- unwell or had any flu-like symptoms, or
- been in contact with a known case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days, or
- been overseas or exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days, or
- any sudden loss of smell or loss of taste, or
- are at a high risk from a health perspective, including the elderly and those with pre-existing medical health conditions.

Check the NSW Government website link advice regarding the full list of symptoms associated with COVID-19 infection: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/symptoms-and-testing>

What should be avoided when you're playing?

- Team handshakes prior to start of the game
- Team huddles, handshakes and high fives
- Multiplayer celebrations
- Spitting
- Team members sharing uniforms and drink bottles

Facility Attendance – Considerations around the 5,000 participants

The current Public Health Order directs the organizer of a community sporting activity must ensure that gathering for the activity involved has no more than 5,000 participants, inclusive of people taking part in the activity, officials and spectators (subject to the one person per 2sqm rule)

Participants include the following:

- a) A person engaged in the sporting activity

- b) An official involved in the conduct or organization of the sporting activity
- c) A spectator of the sporting activity

In order to ensure compliance with the order the following options can be used as required:

- More than one parent may attend community sporting activities if physical distancing of at least 1.5 metres can be maintained between people that are not from the same household as long as the total number on site does not go over 5,000.
- Longer gaps between games
- Ensure there is a safe drop off and pick up point for participants, similar to “kiss and drop” at schools
- Organised collection points for participants for coaches / managers of teams
- Limiting the number of courts in use at any one time
- Competitions played across multiple days
- Competitions being played at night under lights
- Competitions being played across multiple venues

Conditions for training, playing or other netball activities

These are the steps Netball NSW recommend that clubs take to ensure they keep participants and their families safe.

When conducting training, games or other netball activities the following conditions are to be implemented by the coach/ club officials:

- Where practical, observe recommended social distancing wherever possible.
- Any handling of equipment is to be kept to a minimum.
- Use of changerooms, gym, wet or inside areas should be limited to players and team staff and thorough cleaning is recommended between use.
- If bibs are used, these are required to be taken home and to be washed. These are not to be shared between teams.
- Regular breaks are to be provided for the purpose of rehydrating and hand sanitising.
- Toilets are to be open for use. Clear signage indicating the restrictions of the number of people (dependent on the space of the amenities) entering the toilet facility at one time should be displayed.
- Soap and sanitiser to be available in the toilets at all times.
- Social activity once training sessions or games have concluded should be limited to essential gatherings and within government guidelines.

When participating in training sessions, the following conditions are to be implemented by the player/ parent

- Ideally, players are to come already prepared to train.

- Players should bring their own clearly labelled drink bottle. No sharing of drink bottles is permitted.
- Players should leave the venue as swiftly as possible once their training session has concluded.

Other considerations

Ongoing communication amongst members

Ensure your Association/club is regularly communicating with all members and stakeholders. As much as possible, provide clear and coordinated guidance to participants and stakeholders across a range of communication channels on how netball will be managed in 2021.

Reinforce clear messaging and actions across your Association/Club's digital media (e.g. website or Facebook page). This enables you to share timely and accurate information to members quickly. Teams should communicate via traditional platforms such as SMS/email/WhatsApp or through TeamApp - whatever method your team would normally discuss fixtures, cancellations and so on.

Use every opportunity to remind and encourage participants to maintain good hygiene behaviours so as to reduce risk of transmission.

Advise players, coaches and others not to attend training or games if unwell, if they have travelled overseas or if they have been exposed to a person with COVID-19 in the preceding 14 days or if they are an "at risk" individual due to age or medical condition.

Display posters and distribute information about COVID-19 across both your digital channels and at appropriate spots around your Association/ club house or venue.

Where appropriate, identify and address potential language, cultural and disability barriers associated with communicating COVID-19 information to players, members and other stakeholders.

Attendance

Some Associations may choose to still limit spectator numbers at matches, subject to the protocols within their COVID-19 Safety Plans and based on factors such as the size of their venue, match scheduling or hiring requirements placed on them by venue operators.

Associations must take precautions to minimise transmission risk such as spreading spectators throughout viewing areas and designating the use of specific seats/areas that meet physical distancing requirements.

All players, coaches, team officials, technical officials and volunteers are required to register and provide contact details through Netball Australia's National online registration system - MyNetball. All fixtures are administered through an online Competition Management System (CMS). If required the Competition Administrator can identify which clubs, specific teams, players, team officials and technical officials participated in any given fixture. The CMS is also complemented by team sheets.

For the purposes of contact tracing, accompanying parents/spectators will be able to be contacted through the relevant players' mandatory online registration. All participants are encouraged to download the COVIDSafe App and check in directly.

Alternatively an Association may choose to utilise QR Codes. Fast access to accurate and complete electronic records helps NSW Health to quickly alert people who may have been in contact with a person with COVID-19 while visiting your business or organisation. Further information can be found here: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/covid-safe/customer-record-keeping/qr-codes>

Facilities

Liaise and work with venue/facility owners - e.g. Local Councils, schools (public/private), or private owners to comply with any specific requirements they may have.

Determine physical distancing protocols to be used within shared facility spaces (e.g. bar/canteen, change rooms, toilets, spectator viewing areas, entrance foyers, corridors and club house/rooms), and where necessary, clearly demonstrate these protocols through marking tape and/or signage.

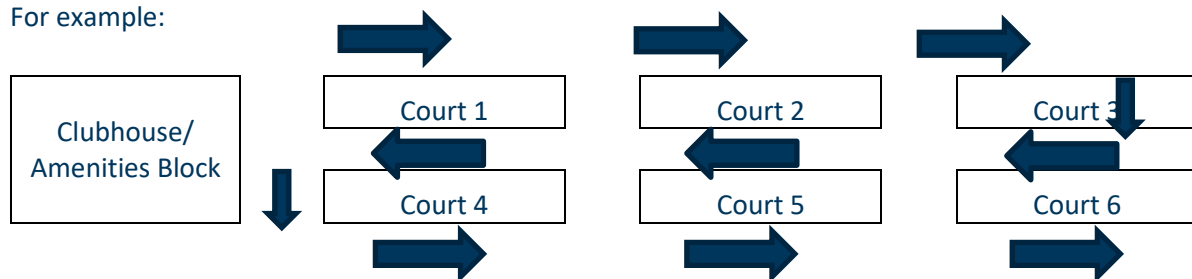
Encourage individuals to be respectful of shared space, minimise time spent in these areas and observe physical distancing measures.

Consider whether to permit canteen operations – if so:

- Implement queuing requirements to maintain physical distancing;
- Ensure appropriate food/beverage and cash handling arrangements;
- Implement low(er) risk menu options such as those requiring less direct food handling/contact; and
- Implement hygiene measures including hand sanitiser at point of sale, gloves and facemasks for bar/canteen volunteer and consider the use of protective physical barriers/shields.
Ensure volunteers understand the protocol of regularly changing gloves between customers.

Encourage traffic flow around the facility allows the ability to maintain physical distancing. This could include recommending a one-way traffic flow around the venue and providing directional signage.

For example:



Clothing and Equipment

Implement arrangements to minimise the shared use of equipment where possible.

Players should be responsible for the cleaning of their own playing and training uniform.

Where possible players uniforms should be washed between matches.

Also, avoid sharing of articles of clothing such as volunteer high visibility vests (jacketed marshals should take their own vest home to wash).

Players and coaching staff should not share personal equipment including playing equipment, playing uniform, drink bottles and towels and should not leave personal equipment on surfaces.

Avoid sharing of stationery (pens, clip boards etc.), other personal IT equipment (laptops, iPads, headphones, etc.); and technical officials should not share whistles or other equipment.

Where possible, shared equipment (particularly balls and bibs) should be rotated, washed or wiped with antibacterial wipes or alcohol-based sanitiser prior to and after each use and at each activity break. In the case of bibs, there should be at a minimum of 1 set of bibs per team.

General Safeguards

Netball NSW has developed the following **Community Guidelines** to assist you to educate your members further:

- [Essential Hygiene Protocol](#)
- [Return to train and play guidelines for players](#)
- [Community Netball Guidelines – Participants & Spectators](#)
- [Community Netball Guidelines - Venues](#)
- [3 Steps to sanitising a netball](#)
- [A guide on using Bibs](#)

Further Information and resources can be found on the [Netball NSW Website](#)