

# Memo

**To** Association Executives, Netball NSW Life Members

**From** Tain Drinkwater, Netball NSW CEO

**CC** Nicole Toohey, Executive GM – People & Culture; Ben Jessimer, General Manager – Venue Operations

**Date** Monday, 20 December 2021

**Re** **COVID-19 Update: Easing of restrictions and Netball NSW implements COVID-19 Vaccination Policy**

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## COVID-19 Update easing of restrictions for Community Netball

The NSW Government have announced a relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions relating to community sport. The relaxation of the current rules came into effect on **from Wednesday 15 December**.

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](#).

This advice is timely for those Associations planning for the 2022 winter season. Community sports, including matches, competition and training, can take place for all staff, spectators and participants regardless of vaccination status.

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

- People are no longer required to be fully vaccinated or carry vaccination evidence.
- COVID-19 Safe Check-in is only required at gyms.
- Face masks are not required.
- Density limits no longer apply.
- COVID Safety Plans are no longer required.

It is not the intent of Netball NSW to dictate what steps Associations or Clubs should take and these entities should determine what is most appropriate for their particular circumstances, taking into account the well-being of their participants, volunteers and staff.

Some Associations or Clubs may choose to apply stricter requirements on their participants than those required under the Public Health Order. For example, an Association may choose to require participants to be fully vaccinated and to provide vaccination evidence. The Association is entitled to implement this requirement and participants are free to choose not to show vaccination evidence – however, the Association is entitled to refuse their entry to participate.

Associations and/or Clubs must ensure compliance is maintained with prevailing Public Health Orders and with any directions issued by Local Council over the use of facilities (where relevant). Netball NSW recommends the implementation of similar risk management strategies to those employed during the 2020 and 2021 season including:

- asking participants to self-isolate if they feel unwell.

- not allowing a participant who tests positive for COVID-19 to return to netball until receiving permission to do so from the health authorities.
- non-sharing of drink bottles.
- encouraging the dispersal of spectators.
- staggering the arrival and departure times of teams at facilities.
- promoting and providing hand-washing guidance.
- encouraging the provision of regularly refilled sanitisers within venues.
- regular cleaning of change rooms.

## **Netball NSW implements a COVID-19 Vaccination Policy**

As New South Wales continues to navigate through the evolving nature of COVID-19, Netball NSW has endeavoured to take the necessary steps to stabilise the game and make the required adjustments to ensure netball remains in a strong position to recover.

With the continued easing of NSW Government restrictions, Netball NSW has approved a COVID-19 Vaccination Policy for Netball NSW Staff and the use of Netball Central in an effort to promote the resumption of netball and reconnection of our communities, complying with work health and safety obligations, and to ensure a safe environment for all involved in our sport and organisation.

To maintain the health and safety for all athletes including NSW Swifts and GIANTS who train at Netball Central, volunteers, members and staff the decision has been made to introduce a mandatory vaccination requirement for all persons entering Netball Central.

This means to enter Netball Central; it is required:

- All persons above the age of 16 are fully vaccinated.
- All persons not vaccinated must have a medical exemption.

Unless acceptable evidence of vaccination is shown to Netball NSW staff, admission to Netball Central will be refused.

This Policy applies to all Netball NSW activities that take place at Netball Central including, but not limited to, State Team Trials, Premier League and Metro League.

Given the ever-changing nature of COVID-19, Netball NSW will regularly review the Policy and reserves the rights to amend it as and when required.

## **Netball NSW Events and Competitions not held at Netball Central**

Netball NSW is currently working with venues where Netball NSW Events and Competitions will be held in the new year period, including HART Regional League to understand their facilities conditions of entry.

Netball NSW will endeavour to provide an update in the new year regarding impact on upcoming Netball NSW Events and Competitions.