

COVID-19 Update – March 29, 2021

To Our Members,

As of Monday 29 March 2021, several COVID-19 restrictions across NSW have been eased as the state continues to move forward in a COVID-Safe way.

Following this announcement, several changes have seen restrictions ease in the sport and active recreation sector and a change to some COVID Safety Plan requirements.

The most significant change is the removal of the reference to 'community sporting activities' within the PHO. Community sport and recreation activities will now fall under one of the below categories.

Indoor Sport and Recreation Activities

All community sport and recreation activities that take place indoors now fall under the category of 'recreation facility (indoor)'. This includes but is not limited to all community sport and recreation activities taking place indoors (e.g., basketball, netball, ice hockey, ten pin bowling etc); gyms; indoor pools, spas and saunas; dance; and health and wellness studios (e.g., yoga, Pilates, boxing etc).

Under Clause 11 in the [Public Health Order](#), these facilities will be permitted a maximum of 1 person per 2 square metres, or a maximum of 25 persons if the space is less than 50 square metres. Gyms no longer require a COVID Safe Marshal.

Under the PHO, as occupiers of an indoor recreation facility, your organisation will be required to have a 'Gyms and indoor recreation facility' COVID-19 Safety Plan. If you are hiring a facility, we encourage you to liaise with the venue owner/operator with regards to the development of the COVID-19 Safety Plan.

Outdoor Sport and Recreation Activities

All sport and recreation activities that take place outdoors now fall under one of the four categories below.

For all community sporting activities registered as COVID safe outdoor events (see detail below), there is a new requirement for all record-keeping to be managed electronically. Community sport organisations can support this by [registering as a COVID Safe business or organisation](#).

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1. A non-controlled outdoor gathering (up to 200 people) (Clause 19)

These activities are restricted to 200 people (unless the gathering is a COVID-safe outdoor gathering with a COVID-19 Safety Plan.

2. A non-controlled outdoor gathering (up to 5,000 people) (Clause 19)

The organiser must have and comply with the relevant COVID-19 Safety Plan.

The organiser of a COVID-19 safe outdoor gathering is directed to ensure that the number of participants in the gathering is the lesser of:

- a) the number of persons equivalent to 1 person per 2 square metres of space of the premises in which the activity is conducted, or
- b) 5,000 persons.

3. A controlled outdoor gathering (up to 10,000 people) (Clause 20)

A controlled outdoor public gathering means an outdoor public gathering lasting no longer than 5 hours in an area with the following criteria:

- is enclosed or bounded by fencing or another form of barrier, and
- access to which is controlled by way of a ticket, and
- in relation to which all persons, other than persons engaged in work, are assigned to specific seats or to a seating area

The organiser of a controlled outdoor public gathering is directed to ensure the maximum number of persons participating in the gathering is the lesser of:

- a) the number of persons equivalent to 1 person per 2 square metres of space of the premises in which the activity is conducted, or
- b) 10,000 persons.

The Organiser must have and comply with the relevant COVID-19 Safety Plan.

4. A recreation facility (major) (Clause 12)

A recreation facility (major) means a building or place used for large-scale sporting or recreation activities that are attended by large numbers of people whether regularly or periodically, and includes theme parks, sports stadiums, showgrounds, racecourses and motor racing tracks. The occupier of an entertainment facility or indoor recreation facility (major) is directed to ensure the maximum number of persons on the premises does not exceed the greater of:

- (a) the number of persons equal to 100% of the fixed seating capacity of the facility, or
- (b) the number of persons equivalent to 1 person per 2 square metres of space in the facility.

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The occupier of an outdoor recreation facility (major) is directed to ensure the maximum number of persons on the premises does not exceed the greater of:

- (a) the total of:
 - (i) 100% of the fixed seating capacity of the facility, and
 - (ii) the number of persons equal to 1 person per 2 square metres of space of any unfixed seating areas of the facility,
- (b) the number of persons equivalent to 1 person per 2 square metres of space in the facility.

If the occupier of an entertainment facility or recreation facility (major) calculates the maximum number of persons allowed to be on the premises based on the percentage of the fixed seating capacity of the facility, the occupier is directed to ensure:

- (a) admission to the premises is by way of a ticket, and
- (b) all persons, other than persons engaged in work, are assigned to specific seats.