

COVIDSafe Resource



(COVID-19) EQUESTRIAN VICTORIA
Version FINAL1.2_Dressage 4/11/2020

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ABOUT THIS COVIDSAFE RESOURCE

The safety and wellbeing of the Victorian equestrian community remains our priority. Accordingly, clubs, competitions and individuals remain subject to the directions issued by the Chief Health Officer.

As restrictions continue to change, based on government and health directions, protocols regarding COVIDSafe events and competitions will continue to adapt too.

It is important to note that all parties including public and private facilities and clubs and coaches are required to comply with all the current public health advice from the Victorian Government, available here¹.

This is a working document and is correct at date of printing (4/11/20). Prior to your competition or event, please consult with Equestrian Victoria to ensure you are referencing current guidelines and advice.

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

This resource has been designed as a reference tool to assist, inform and prepare you for running your events and competitions in a COVIDSafe world.

We recommend that everyone on your Organising Committee become familiar with it and reference it throughout the planning, implementation and post event debrief stages of your event.

Providing a COVIDSafe environment is everyone's responsibility.



¹ <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-10/Industry-Restart-Guidelines-Community-Sport-and-Recreation.pdf>

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ABOUT EQUESTRIAN VICTORIA

On 16 March 2020 the Victorian State Government declared a State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, Equestrian Victoria (EV) immediately suspended all equestrian activity.

Since that time EV's priority has been the health and safety of our community to ensure that our membership does not expose itself to undue or unnecessary risk and that we play our part in slowing the spread of the virus.²

EV continues to collaborate with our colleagues at Pony Club Victoria (PCV) and the Horse Riding Clubs Association of Victoria (HRCV), the RSPCA and Australian Horse Industry Council (AHIC) in order to keep the broader industry informed all the while cognisant that a return to equestrian activity will be subject to the provisions of the Victorian State Government. We have also unlocked a previously untapped market in representing the needs of Agistment Centres.

Characteristics of Equestrian Victoria Activity

- It is a non-contact sport
- It is predominantly conducted outdoors
- The majority of competitions and training do not involve large numbers of spectators
- Does require travel given the geographically diverse location of competitors across the state but does not require interstate travel to reintroduce the sport back into Victoria
- Does not involve the sharing of equipment.
- Equestrian events are held at specific equestrian venues. These tend to be outside and spacious, making it relatively straightforward to comply with health regulations.
- Identification of individuals can be undertaken before, during and after an activity, making contact tracing prompt
- Social distancing, to a certain extent, is natural. Horses need space and riders are naturally distanced via their horse. Further measures, as outlined in this document will be implemented.

The reintroduction of equestrian sport is important for the welfare of both horse and rider in terms of their physical and mental wellbeing³.

² EV Return to Play Plan UPDATED 1 JULY 2020

³ EV Return to Play Plan UPDATED 1 JULY 2020

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COVIDSAFE PRINCIPLES

The Victorian government has identified six COVIDSafe principles that must be applied throughout your COVIDSafe Checklist and Plan, help prevent the introduction of coronavirus (COVID-19).⁴



1. Ensure physical distancing

All people in the workplace must be at least 1.5 metres apart and there should be no overcrowded areas. This means:

- Staff should work from home if possible
- Ensure staff and customers are at least 1.5 metres apart at all times. Where this is not possible, the duration of the close contact should be minimised
- Ensure the workplace abides by the four square metre rule density quotient
- Limit the total number of staff and customers in an enclosed area
- No carpooling between staff unless there is no alternative mode of transport to work



2. Wear a face mask

Staff and customers must wear a face mask in the workplace, except when in a pool, exercising or where health or other exemptions apply. This means:

- Provide face masks to staff throughout the shift
- Ensure all staff wear face masks while working, in accordance with defined exemptions
- Do not take face masks off when talking on the phone or with others
- Use full PPE for high-risk settings



3. Practise good hygiene

Operators must regularly clean high touch-surfaces and encourage good hygiene practices by staff and customers. This means:

- Schedule regular cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces (including all surfaces and equipment) and make gloves available for this purpose
- Encourage regular handwashing by staff and customers and make soap and hand sanitiser available for all staff and customers throughout the workplace



4. Keep records and act quickly if staff become unwell

Have a strict policy that any staff who feel unwell must stay at home. This means:

- Support staff to stay home and get tested even if they only have mild symptoms.
- Have a plan to immediately close down for cleaning and contact tracing if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Keep records of staff and customer details for contact tracing



5. Avoid interactions in enclosed spaces

All activities must be in outside areas, which don't have a roof or ceiling. This includes:

- Staff meetings
- Lunchbreaks
- Customer registration



6. Create workforce bubbles

Limit the number of people staff have prolonged close contact with. This means:

- Keep pools of staff rostered on the same shifts
- Avoid overlap in shift changes
- Reduce staff working across multiple sites

⁴ <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-10/Industry-Restart-Guidelines-Community-Sport-and-Recreation.pdf>

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EV COVIDSAFE PROTOCOLS

The approach to equestrian competition is *'get in, compete, get out'*, minimising unnecessary contact at the event.

Holding equestrian competition under Regional Victoria Third Step restrictions, subject to DHHS announcements, may resume under the following conditions⁵:

All competition must be held outdoors. Indoor arenas are to remain closed.

COVIDSafe Checklist & Plan

- The COVIDSafe app should be downloaded and actively used by all attending.
- Organising Committees must have a COVIDSafe Checklist & Plan in place and incorporated into their event management.
- A COVIDSafe Officer must be appointed to monitor compliance with this COVIDSafe Resource and COVIDSafe Checklist & Plan.

Physical distancing

- Physical distancing (1.5m) must be maintained in all areas

Capacity on site

- Where it is NOT necessary to form groups i.e. individual competitions such as Dressage, Jumping, Eventing, participation is limited to the minimum number of people required for the activity.
- Where it is necessary during the conduct of an event to form groups (e.g. show classes, mounted games, marshalling areas) each group must not exceed 10 persons. Judges, event officials or essential support personnel are not counted in the group of 10.
- There is no overall participant 'cap' on the number of people in total at a venue as long as they meet the requirements of the directions. For mass participation events in this category (community sports activities), this will be achieved by implementing COVID safe risk management protocols such as:
 - register-compete-return home
 - rolling start times for groups to ensure the mixing of groups of 10 does not occur
 - limit overall number of events running at one time
 - avoid gatherings at registration/checkpoints/no presentations
 - ensure masks are worn at all times when not competing in high exertion events
 - appoint a COVID safe marshal to educate and inform participants at event about protocols to follow
 - clear COVID safe signage displayed around facility
- Organising Committees must timetable events to expedite participation and avoid excessive participant numbers on site. This may result in a reduction to entry numbers, compared to previous years, to allow for COVIDSafe arrangements.

⁵ Return to competition Stage 3 Regional Victoria FINAL 240920 v4.1.docx

PPE

- All workers, volunteers and participants must wear a face mask at all times. A face mask is not required while undertaking strenuous exercise or playing community sport (eg if the activity results in being out of breath or puffing), however it must be worn immediately before and after the activity ceases. You do have to carry a face mask with you so you can wear it before or after exercising, unless you have a lawful exception. If you are doing exercise or a physical activity where you are not out of breath or puffing, then you must wear a face covering unless you have a lawful reason not to do so.
- Masks are to be worn by competitors up until the time they mount their horse. At the point of dismount, the mask must immediately be worn again.
- Responsibility for wearing a face mask rests with the individual. Organising Committees must take reasonable steps to ensure officials, volunteers and competitors wear a face mask at all times when onsite, unless a lawful exception applies.
- It is the responsibility of the Organising Committee to provide PPE for workforce, where required, including surgical masks and surgical gloves.
- It is the responsibility of the Organising Committee to provide appropriate waste disposal points for the safe disposal of PPE.
- Also ensure you have spare masks on site for any personnel, including riders, who have forgotten masks.

Signage

- Display signage at each public entry to each indoor and outdoor space, indicating maximum capacity and COVIDSafe hygiene and physical distancing requirements.

Hygiene and sanitization

- **Why hygiene is important** > studies suggest that coronavirus (COVID-19) may persist on surfaces for a few hours or up to several days. This may vary under different conditions such as the type of surface, temperature or humidity of the environment.
Good hygiene practices is paramount in stopping the spread.
If you think a surface may be infected, immediately clean it with a common household disinfectant.
Clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water often. Avoid touching your eyes, mouth, or nose.⁶
- Shared spaces and spaces open to members of the public at facilities must be cleaned regularly, including at least twice a day for frequently touched surfaces (for example, gates).
- Toilets and common use surfaces must be disinfected regularly.

⁶ <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorian-public-coronavirus-disease-covid-19#does-coronavirus-covid-19-survive-on-surfaces>

Registrations, Entries & Data capturing

- Pre-entries only will be permitted, in accordance with competition requirements.
- Keep records of worker, volunteer and participant details for contact tracing, where person attends the venue for longer than 15 minutes.
- An attendee's register including name, mobile phone number and time arrived at the venue must be recorded for every person in attendance (recommended to be captured electronically, eg QR codes). See *Health Questionnaire* as a guide for required questions.

Staff, Athletes, Personnel & Spectators

- All personnel should not attend if in the past 14 days they have:
 - Been unwell or had any flu-like symptoms.
 - Been in contact with anyone with flu-like symptoms.
 - Been in contact with a known or suspected case of COVID-19.
 - Been overseas in the past 14 days, or been in contact with a person that has travelled overseas in the past 14 days.
 - Had any respiratory symptoms (even if mild)
- Staff, volunteers and officials should not work across multiple work workplaces/facilities. A system to manage this must be implemented (for example, a roster).
- Staff, volunteers and officials need to declare to their employers if they are working across multiple worksites.
- Personnel, officials and volunteers are to be limited to those essential for the running of the event.
- 1 parent/helper per junior participant is permitted to attend.
- No spectators are permitted to attend. Essential support personnel only.
- Persons from restricted areas may not attend or participate.
- In the event of an injury to a rider, limit contact by others/helpers/family.
- In the event of an injury to a rider, ensure you remove any worn or existing gloves, dispose of safely and appropriately and apply fresh surgical gloves, before checking the patient. Also ensure face masks are on before DRABC. Always call the medical team. Do not double glove.
- Medical teams must ensure strict hygiene, sanitising equipment and surfaces following each attendance. Medical teams must remain at their post and not mingle unless called to a response. At a response only the personal necessary are to be present.
- In the event of an injury to a horse, limit contact by others/helpers/family/groom.
- In the event of an injury to a horse, ensure you remove any worn or existing gloves, dispose of safely and appropriately and apply fresh surgical gloves and call for veterinary assistance. Do not double glove.
- Temperature checks must be undertaken at point of site entry.
- Attendees can request an immediate re-test of their temperature. See the *EV QRG IR Thermometer Testing guidelines* for more information.
- Persons who are sick or unwell or displaying any sign of sickness must not attend.
- Persons who start displaying symptoms while on site, must evacuate the site immediately and the necessary procedure followed.

Personal behaviours

- No spitting or clearing nasal passages on site.
- Avoid physical contact such as handshakes.
- Riders are to bring their own drink bottles and they are to be clearly labelled. No sharing of drink bottles is to be permitted.

Equipment, Facilities & Hospitality

- Facilities, with the exception of toilets, must remain closed. Density quotient of one person per four square metres applies to toilet facilities.
- Yard/Stables provided by the venue/OC: Alternate yards/stables to be used. EXCEPT in the instance where horses AND Riders come from the same bubble. This information needs to be captured in the online entry form and it is the responsibility of the Organising Committee to manage.
- Yard/Stables provided by the rider: If providing their own yards, they do not need to alternate yards within their own area. However, the OC does need to ensure that private yards are appropriately distanced from neighbouring private yards.
- There is a required (minimum) distance of 4m between trucks/cars/floats, including portable yards or other equipment associated with the float/vehicle.
- If you are going to tie up horses on corresponding sides of a float then the appropriate distancing needs to be in place.
- Community sport venues serving food and drink may operate for seated service if the operator permits service of food or drinks only to members of the public who are seated, and:
 - For outdoor spaces at the facility, limits the number of members of the public permitted in outdoor spaces to the lesser of the density quotient and 50 persons
 - For indoor spaces at the facility, limits the number of members of the public permitted in each indoor space at the facility to the lesser of the density quotient and 10 persons providing the total number of persons in all indoor spaces does not exceed 20 persons
 - Maintains a distance between tables at all times so that members of the public are at least 1.5 metres from other groups and members of the public when seated. Where density quotients apply, the area available for participants must be used when calculating the capacity limit for each separate area. You must not include any space that is not accessible to participants, such as kitchens, behind bars, or storage areas. Staff do not need to be included in the capacity limit. It is a limit on number of participants only. Refer to [industry restart guidelines for hospitality](#) for more information
- Equipment must be thoroughly cleaned after use. No sharing of equipment.
- There is strictly to be no sharing of water bottles or food or other personal equipment.
- Riders (or their support person) must prepare their own horse and bring their own tack.
- No sharing of tack or touching another rider's tack.
- Gear check to be visual inspection (due to distancing), paying careful attention to every small detail to ensure a level playing field.

Camping

- If camping is permitted you can camp with the people you live with, your intimate partner, or the household you have formed a bubble with (your household can book campsites with up to five members of your bubble household). Campsites must be separated by a minimum distance of 4m.

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Dressage specific

- Clubs/Events should ensure that judges and pencilers are not closer than 1.5m away from each other.
- Where possible, clubs should use digital scoring to avoid the use of paper tests.
- Prize givings to be conducted in accordance with social distancing guidelines, ie, no personal interaction. Judges are not to present ribbons or prize money in person - formal presentations should not be held.
- No more than 10 horses to be in any warm up arena at any one time.

Remember

BE SAFE, CAUTIOUS & APPROPRIATE.

Social distancing (1.5m) and good hygiene **MUST** be maintained

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INSURANCE

As always, you must ensure your event is planned and implemented in accordance with all State and Federal rules regarding COVID, as well as this COVIDSafe Resource.

COVIDSafe competitions are the responsibility of the Organising Committee as well as every personnel onsite.

BE SAFE, CAUTIOUS & APPROPRIATE

YOUR EVENT – BEFORE, DURING, AFTER

The following steps are to be followed by Organising Committees in the lead up to their event.

Before the Event	During the Event	After the Event
Familiarise with the COVIDSafe Resource & latest government restrictions and advice <input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure all COVIDSafe documentation onsite <input type="checkbox"/>	Store personnel details securely but with easy access <input type="checkbox"/>
Undertake COVIDSafe training <input type="checkbox"/>	Open COVID app <input type="checkbox"/>	Conduct event debrief <input type="checkbox"/>
Develop COVIDSafe Checklist <input type="checkbox"/>	Hold COVIDSafe briefings <input type="checkbox"/>	Complete post event report <input type="checkbox"/>
Develop Risk Assessment (including COVIDSafe elements) <input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure COVIDSafe checklist implemented <input type="checkbox"/>	Share learnings with all committee <input type="checkbox"/>
Appoint COVIDSafe Officer <input type="checkbox"/>	Holding daily briefs and debriefs <input type="checkbox"/>	Update COVIDSafe plan for future events, based on learnings <input type="checkbox"/>
Collect all entries <input type="checkbox"/>	Update COVIDSafe Checklist as required <input type="checkbox"/>	
Undertake scenario planning <input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure COVIDSafe protocols are adhered to <input type="checkbox"/>	
Download COVID app <input type="checkbox"/>	Store personnel details securely but with easy access <input type="checkbox"/>	
Submit to EV for approval <input type="checkbox"/>		
Communicate rules & regulations <input type="checkbox"/>		

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APPROVAL

Equestrian Victoria

In order for an event or competition to run, approval **must** be provided by EV. Approval will be confirmed on the following basis:

- COVIDSafe Checklist & Plan has been completed and submitted
- Risk Assessment has been completed and submitted
- COVIDSafe Officer has been appointed
- All organising committee members have undertaken the outlined training courses:
 - EV Virtual COVIDSafe Briefing
 - COVID Safe Sport Coach Certification

Submission details: The above documents need to be submitted to EV **at least 7 days** prior to your event via this online form ([click here to open](#)).

Contact:

Jacques Manuels

Governance Co-ordinator

reception@equestrianvictoria.com.au

(03) 9013 0707

Local authorities

As long as your event or competition complies with the current state government restrictions, you do not need to apply for approval from local authorities. However, it is recommended to contact your local police and/or local council as a courtesy.

TRAINING

Every person on the Organising Committee along with your COVIDSafe Officer is required to undertake the below training course and provide proof of completion to the COVIDSafe Officer:

COVID Safe Sport Coach Certification

<https://www.openlearning.com/courses/covid-safe-sport-coach-certification/>

Your COVIDSafe Officer is also required to undertake the below training course:

COVID19 Infection Control

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-infection-control-training>

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DEVELOPING YOUR COVIDSAFE CHECKLIST & PLAN

All events and competitions MUST develop a COVIDSafe Checklist & Plan and submit for approval by EV, before the event is permitted to commence.

The COVIDSafe Checklist must address a detailed list of requirements and detail how these will be implemented, when and by whom.

The COVIDSafe Checklist template has been designed to step you through the planning process and form your COVIDSafe Plan.

The COVIDSafe Checklist & Plan should be reviewed before, during and after each event and updated accordingly, to ensure learnings from each event are incorporated into future planning.

Coronavirus

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EVENT PROTOCOL CHECKLIST/COVIDSAFE PLAN



Event/Competition Name: _____

Event/Competition Date: _____

Submitted by: _____

Date submitted: _____

Activity – Event Access and Requirements	Y	N	Details (eg how, when, where etc)	Responsible	Additional notes
Eg Hand Sanitizer to be provided throughout venue	Y		2 per toilets 2 at each gate 2 at event office	Bob Smith	To be checked for refills, every 3 hours To be removed and stored in office overnight To be replaced before site opens each day

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RISK ASSESSMENT

A Risk Assessment is to be completed by the Organising Committee as part of the event planning process, ensuring it also includes COVIDSafe elements.

You can access the EV Risk Assessment template here: <https://www.vic.equestrian.org.au/event-risk-management>

To get you started, refer to the *COVIDSafe Risk Assessment* prompts.

COVIDSAFE OFFICER

EV requires the appointment of a COVIDSafe Officer at any affiliated EV event to provide a safe experience for participants and their families, volunteers, coaches, officials, spectators and to ensure the safety of the wider community.

While this role oversees the implementation of the COVIDSafe Checklist & Plan, they are not solely responsible for the COVIDSafe Checklist & Plan. All persons on site, particularly club and/or event officials, are required to comply with the COVIDSafe Checklist & Plan.

This role should be a dedicated role and not associated with any other roles on site.

The role should be filled by persons independent of the organising committee and or associated club (where possible), to allow for transparency and independence.

See [Position Description](#) for more information.

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EV SUPPORT & SUBSIDIES

Medical subsidy

Equestrian Victoria will subsidise **UP TO** \$10 plus GST (if applicable) per EV member participating in the event. This has been determined to ensure equity for all competitions.

In order for events to receive this subsidy, they must comply with the below:

1. That competitions confirm ahead of their intended event the dates and medical costs associated; and
2. That after the event a full, all participant listing, including what organisations those members are a participant of is provided to Equestrian Victoria
3. Provide a copy of the medical support invoice
4. That clubs and/or Organising Committees have attended the **COVIDSafe Briefing** (online)
5. COVIDSafe medical subsidy requests are accompanied by an invoice from the event

Submission details: See below

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) subsidy

EV will provide reimbursement for the following PPE items per event, up to the value of \$150 (total of items):

- COVIDSafe signage (social distancing, wash hands etc) – readily available from stores such as Officeworks
- Surgical gloves
- Surgical masks
- Hand sanitizer
- Electronic thermometer
- High vis vest or cap for COVIDSafe Officer

Reimbursement will be provided once all receipts are provided to EV

Submission details: Proof of the above requirements for both the **Medical Subsidy** and **PPE Subsidy**, can be submitted to EV, via an online form ([click here to open the form](#)).

Contact:

Jacques Manuels
Governance Co-ordinator
reception@equestrianvictoria.com.au
(03) 9013 0707

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Here are some handy resources to assist you.

QUESTIONS & COVID CONTACTS

If you have questions or to seek clarification on EV COVIDSafe protocols or procedures, please contact:

Jacques Manuels
Governance Co-ordinator
reception@equestrianvictoria.com.au or (03) 9013 0707

If you have any general COVIDSafe questions, you can refer to the latest updates:
<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>

or contact Business Victoria Ph 13 22 15

If you suspect you may have COVID-19, call the dedicated hotline 1800 675 398

POSTERS FOR PRINTING

(click on each button to access the government issued posters)

Simple Steps to Stop the Spread

Good Hygiene is in Your Hands

Keep That Cough Under Cover

Keeping Your Distance

Let's Be COVIDSafe Together

Keep Physical Distancing & Be COVIDSafe

VIDEOS

(to provide to your Organising Committee and/or competitors and volunteers (click to access))

Help Stop the Spread

Good Hygiene Starts Here

Keep That Cough Under Cover

Video interviews and studies from Australia Mass Participation Sporting Event Alliance (click to access)

AMPSEA
Sharing positive experiences of delivering successful events

AMPSEA
Practical and function advice on running COVIDSafe events

AMPSEA
Risk & compliance in a COVIDSafe World

Read sample Event Manuals

AMPSEA
Gold Coast Running Festival Event Manual

AMSPEA
Sample onsite event sign event 'You are entering a COVIDSafe Event'

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Which Facilities Can Operate?

Below is summary of which facilities are permitted to operate, as part of Step 3 of the roadmap to reopening Victoria⁷:

Indoor Facilities:

- **Indoor facilities:**
 - Indoor facilities remain closed, unless you are a professional, facility owner (where the facility is not open to the public) or are exempt under high performance guidelines (a permit is required).
 - Indoor premises are areas that are substantially enclosed by a roof and walls (for example, rooms, indoor courts, pavilions, warehouses and studios).⁸
- **Outdoor physical recreation:**
 - Classes and training (coaching) can resume for up to ten people or a household - plus the trainer.
 - You should keep 1.5 metres between yourself and others and make sure any equipment is cleaned between users.
 - You must clean and disinfect equipment between users. Where possible you should minimise the sharing of equipment.

Note: Any changes to professional sport are made within the context of changes to Chief Health Officer Directions.⁹

What Is A Community Sport Activity And/Or Event?

DHHS and Sport and Recreation Victoria have confirmed their position for the return of community sport activities and events which attract mass individual participation.¹⁰

These activities can be divided into two categories:

- **Community sport** which is defined as meaning competitions and training sanctioned by a state sporting association or equivalent governing body and includes activities such as athletics meets, running events, equestrian, pony club, sailing, nippers surf lifesaving etc.
- **Non-State Sporting Association community public** events such as cycling races, marathons races etc.

Under the current directions in the Reopening Roadmap in regional Victoria Third Step:

- Outdoor non-contact sport can resume for adults where you can maintain 1.5 metres between yourself and others while playing, with the number of people required to play plus necessary coaches and umpires.

⁷ Equestrian COVID UPDATE AS AT 29 SEPTEMBER 2020

⁸ <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-10/Industry-Restart-Guidelines-Community-Sport-and-Recreation.pdf>

⁹ High Performance and Professional Sport: Guidance Note – Return to Play, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Region

¹⁰ Sport and Recreation Victoria email 6/10/2020

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- Outdoor contact sport can resume for people who are 18 years of age and younger with the number of people required to play plus necessary coaches and umpires.
- Spectators are allowed if they are supervising children or supporting players with additional needs, while maintaining gathering limits of less than ten people.
- Individual events, such as running or track and field events, can resume with up to ten participants taking part in the event or race at a time. The ten-person cap does not include those necessary for the event eg coaches.

Which Protocols Apply To Community Sports Activities Such As Athletics Meets, Running Events, Equestrian, Pony Club, Sailing, Nippers Surf Lifesaving Etc?

Capacity: Based on these directions for adults and <18yo, individual event community sport activities can proceed at the Third Step provided participants do not gather in groups of more than 10 for each event at a venue.¹¹

However, there can be multiple groups of 10 (temporally as well as physically distanced) across a facility like an athletics track and field, park run or pony club.

There is no overall participant 'cap' on the number of people in total at a venue as long as they meet the requirements of the directions.

For mass participation events in this category, this will be achieved by implementing COVID safe risk management protocols such as:

- register-race-return home
- rolling start times for groups to ensure the mixing of groups of 10 does not occur
- limit overall number of events running at one time
- avoid gatherings at registration/checkpoints/no presentations
- ensure masks are worn at all times when not competing in high exertion events
- appoint a COVID safe marshal to educate and inform participants at event about protocols to follow
- clear COVID safe signage displayed around facility

¹¹ Sport and Recreation Victoria email 6/10/2020

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Who Classifies As Professional Or High Performance Athletes?

Athletes who meet one or more of the following conditions will be defined as professional or high-performance athletes¹²:

- perform their sporting activity in an open-aged national or international competition;
- contracted to an employer (e.g. a professional club) to perform that sporting activity as their primary source of income;
- a National Institute Network Scholarship holder; and
- derive regular and meaningful employment from competing in their sport.

Can Professional Or High-Performance Athletes Compete?

Professional or high-performance athletes are only permitted to compete in regional Victoria under Stage 3 restrictions. They are NOT permitted to compete in metropolitan Melbourne (including Mornington Peninsula).

Under the latest directions¹³, professional and high-performance athletes in metropolitan Melbourne are permitted to continue training, and professional and high-performance athletes in regional Victoria and Mitchell Shire are permitted to continue training and competing, provided that sporting organisation they belong to and/or venues that host training or competition have a Risk Management and Community Safety 'Return to Play' Plan in place.

Under Stage 4 restrictions, sporting organisations and venues located in metropolitan Melbourne are also required to have:

- a COVIDSafe Plan to ensure their workplace and facilities are safe (this can be the same document as the Return to Play plan as long as it meets all COVIDSafe Plan requirements); and
- Permitted Worker Permit in place for all athletes and essential staff attending training.

All professional and high-performance sporting organisations and venue operators should regularly review their plans and update as necessary in line with the latest public health directions.

Where they are allowed to open, venue managers that provide exclusive access to professional and high-performance sporting organisations and athletes will also be responsible for developing their own COVIDSafe Plan and Risk Management and Community Safety Plan to work with their tenant sporting codes/clubs.

If the metropolitan Melbourne professional and high performance organisation or the venue where training is conducted do not have a COVIDSafe Plan, a coronavirus (COVID-19) Risk Management and Community Safety Plan and Permitted Worker Permits for all athletes and essential staff in place that is consistent with the Chief Health Officer's Directions and this guidance note, sporting activity is not permitted under current restrictions. In regional Victoria, professional and high performance organisation or the venue where the training and competition is conducted, must have a Risk Management and Community Safety Plan.

¹² High Performance and Professional Sport: Guidance Note – Return to Play, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Region

¹³ High Performance and Professional Sport: Guidance Note – Return to Play, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Region

COVIDSafe Resource



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Can Professional Or High-Performance Athletes In Metropolitan Melbourne Complete In Regional Events?

No, professional or high-performance athletes can not currently travel to regional Victoria to compete.

Permitted Worker Permits For Professional Or High-Performance Athletes

Consistent with the Permitted Worker Scheme, from 11.59pm on Wednesday 5 August 2020, employers must issue a Permitted Worker Permit to all athletes and essential staff required to attend training in metropolitan Melbourne. If athletes are not formally employed by a sporting organisation, the relevant National or State sporting association should issue the permit.¹⁴

There will be significant on-the-spot fines (for individuals and businesses) for anyone who breaches the scheme requirements. This includes employers, and employees who do not carry their worker permit when travelling to and from work.

After 11.59pm on 5 August 2020, an athlete or essential staff member may travel to work without a worker permit once to collect their Permitted Worker Permit.

An athlete or essential staff member must not use a worker permit, even if they have been issued one, if:

- they test positive to coronavirus (COVID-19) and are required to self-isolate;
- they are a close contact of someone who has tested positive; and
- they are feeling unwell and have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Further guidance on the Permitted Worker Scheme is available at <https://www.justice.vic.gov.au/permitted-worker-scheme>.

Are Coaches Permitted To Attend?

Metropolitan Melbourne & Mornington Peninsula (Stage 4): No. Coaches are not allowed as community sport facilities remain closed.¹⁵

Regional Victoria (Stage 3): Yes, coaches are permitted.

¹⁴ High Performance and Professional Sport: Guidance Note – Return to Play, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Region

¹⁵ Advice from Sport and Recreation Victoria, 2/10/20

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What Are The Regulations Regarding Camping?

If the venue **is not** a registered campsite¹⁶:

Yes, you can go camping. You can camp with the people you live with, your intimate partner, or the household you have formed a bubble with (your household can book campsites with up to five members of your bubble household).

You can only camp on private property if you are part of the household bubble with the people who live on the property.

Always refer to the Department of Health and Human Services for up to date information:

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/travel-regional-victoria-third-step-covid-19#can-i-go-camping-what-about-unregistered-or-free-campsitesnbsp>

¹⁶ <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/travel-regional-victoria-third-step-covid-19#can-i-go-camping-what-about-unregistered-or-free-campsitesnbsp>