



COMMUNITY SPORT – LAWN BOWLS RESTRICTIONS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why are these additional recommendations being put in place for Community Sport?

Since the return of community sport on 1 July, NSW Health have seen an increased number of COVID19 cases in NSW.

NSW Health believe it is essential to implement a range of additional measures across industries and sectors where there is a high risk of community transmission, or where many people may come into social contact with others that they do not usually mix with.

Why are additional restrictions being placed on community sport?

Sport brings together a range of people from across different communities, increasing the risk of community transmission. The public health advice is that these additional recommendations are needed for a period of 6 weeks in the first instance, to reduce the risk of community transmission.

Why is there a concern about mixing participants from or within zones?

NSW Health have seen over the past few weeks how easy it is for the virus to be transmitted across local communities by people going about their regular activities prior to testing positive for COVID-19.

By bringing people together from different regions of Greater Sydney and more broadly across NSW, there is an increased risk of introduction of new infections into communities, as well as ongoing community transmission once established.

Community sport is one of several sectors and industries where there is increased interaction of people from outside their local communities, therefore these additional recommendations aim to limit this interaction to minimise the risk of community transmission.

Will this be updated in the COVID-19 Safety Plans as a requirement for clubs and sporting organisations?

At this time, the recommendations relating to limiting mixing across regions have not been included in the COVID-19 Safety Plan checklist for community sport.

The safety plan will be updated to include the advice in relation to limiting spectator numbers and to limit junior sport to a single parent where the child requires parental supervision during the sporting activity, and to avoid group singing or chanting (including cheering).

NSW Health is seeking the cooperation of community sport organisations in complying with these additional recommendations.

Should community transmission continue or increase, the Public Health Orders and COVID-19 Safety Plan requirements may be reviewed and amended accordingly.

Why has Womens Bowls NSW (WBNSW) & Bowls NSW (BNSW) suspended District/Regional/Zone Championships?

The advice from NSW Health & NSW Office of Sport to all NSW State Sporting Organisations is to suspend all Zone/State Championships that require participants to travel across communities and/or differing regions.

As both WBNSW & BNSW have extensive boundaries for all Districts/Regions/Zones that cross many differing regions both within Greater Sydney and rural areas, the decision to suspend these activities for the 6-week period was made, to comply with NSW Health advice.

My District/Zone is within one LGA, can we still play District/Zone events?

As per NSW Health advice both WBNSW & BNSW have suspended these events for 6 weeks

Can we still play social and Club Championships?

WBNSW & BNSW strongly encourage clubs to continue with their weekly social programs and to play Club Championships during this 6-week period, whilst members are not committed to play in any Association events at District/Region/Zone level.

What if our Club has members who do not reside within the local area?

Members are entitled to play events at their club, as per that club's regulations. NSW health advises if participants are members of a club not located within their local area, they should consider whether it is necessary to participate in club activities at this time.

What if a member of another club wishes to participate in a social bowls event?

Clubs are recommended to limit participation in social bowls events to club members only and/or affiliated members of another bowling club within their local area only. Individual clubs may have protocols within their COVID safe plan for this, especially those clubs situated in or near NSW hotspot areas.

What if we have a tournament scheduled within the next 6-week's?

Clubs who have tournaments scheduled during this period are recommended to postpone and re-schedule to a suitable time after this 6-week period.

In the least, they should try to ensure that entrants/participants are from their local area and/or direct neighboring area only.

NSW Health advises that tournaments may have participants from neighboring local government area (LGA), however, if there are enough teams or players within one LGA, a more local tournament should be considered.

All multi day tournaments should be postponed as NSW Health advise any competition that requires travel and overnight stays to not proceed.

What is the advice regarding travelling to and from a venue and other activities?

NSW Health advises that participants should drive directly to the venue, compete, and then return to their homes following the activity.

Avoid social gatherings before and after the activity, and car-pooling or other shared transport arrangements.

Participants should not be travelling into Greater Sydney from regional NSW to participate in activities nor travelling across regions within Greater Sydney or in regional NSW.
