

POST COVID-19 TRANSITION #4 – BOATSHED OPERATIONS & COMPETITION

The following information applies to all rowing clubs and school rowing programs.

1. COVID-19 WA ROADMAP

The WA Government has updated its [4-phase roadmap](#) following the Premier's announcement last Friday 29 May confirming that 'Phase 3 easing of restrictions' will come into effect at 11:59pm Friday 5 June 2020. This latest release reflects the updated restrictions for Phase 3 however provides no more clarity around what Phase 4 will look like or when it may come into effect.

All WA Government information related to COVID-19 and associated restrictions is available [here](#).

2. RETURN TO ROWING IN WA ROADMAP

Rowing WA has updated Phase 3 activities in the [Return to Rowing in WA Roadmap](#) based on all the information provided and discussions held with WA Government.

This will be updated further as more information comes to light. The Phase 3 updated WA Government Directions are due for release later tonight/early tomorrow which will provide further clarity on remaining 'grey areas'.

All COVID-19 updates relevant to rowing in Western Australia are available [here](#).

3. DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SPORT AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES (DLGSC)

Additional information has continued to be released since last Sunday. Of note is a number of documents released by DLGSC regarding the application of Phase 3 restrictions as they relate to Sport and Recreation. This includes:

COVID Safety Guidelines – Sport and Recreation

The [COVID Safety Guidelines – Sport and Recreation](#) specifically address the conditions for the Phase 3 easing of restrictions for sport and recreation venues. DLGSC officials today highlighted that these guidelines are targeted at facility and venue managers and are not guidelines for the resumption of training and competition (even though the introduction suggests that it does). This document will likely be updated to provide greater clarity regarding this in the next few days.

Important points from this guideline include (but are not limited to):

- COVID Safety Plan requirements
- Physical Distancing and maximum occupancy (incorporating the 100/300 rule)
- Clarification that instructors, trainers, coaches and general venue staff are not included in the gathering limit(s)
- Gyms can open with supervision. However, this specifically identifies commercial gyms and I am awaiting clarification on whether club-based gyms can be exempt from requiring supervision.
- Multi-functional venue zoning
- Managing shared spaces such as bathrooms
- Managing interactions between different users
- Updated hygiene guidelines (including [general cleaning principles](#))
- Response Planning and responding to a COVID-19 Incident

Please make sure your committee, Boards and/or management team take the time to read this document in detail to ensure that your current COVID policies and procedures are in line with these guidelines.

Community Sport and Active Recreation COVID-19 Phase 3 Factsheet

DLGSC is in the process of producing a Phase 3 Factsheet that may have additional clarification for rowing and other sports. If this information differs from that provided within this update it will be communicated accordingly. From discussions with senior DLGSC officials today however, it is expected that this Factsheet will re-confirm the information provided within.

Phase 3 - Easing of restrictions - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

These FAQs specifically address items such as: returning to full contact sport, use of club rooms (including for functions), zoning of venues and who is and isn't included in the gathering count.

View the FAQs [here](#).

COVID Safety Plans

As highlighted in the DLGSC [COVID Safety Guidelines – Sport and Recreation](#), COVID Safety Plans **must** be updated to incorporate Phase 3 restrictions and the updated COVID Safety Plan Certificate prominently displayed at each boatshed prior to operations increasing in line with Phase 3 restrictions.

The COVID Safety Plan template including the COVID Safety Plan Certificate is available [here](#).

One very important aspect of COVID Safety Plans is the **requirement to maintain an attendance register** of all visitors to the facility (excluding people visiting for less than a few minutes e.g. couriers). Sport Australia has developed an attendance register template and other club planning resources as part of their 'Return to Sport Toolkit' available [here](#).

General WA Government advice around COVID Safety Plans for WA businesses is available [here](#).

Rowing WA is updating its COVID Safety Plans in line with Phase 3 restrictions for its Canning Bridge, Bayswater and Champion Lakes facilities at present. Tenant clubs and schools within Rowing WA facilities **must** comply with these safety plans to be able to access and use these facilities.

Clubs required to develop COVID Safety Plans need to have a thorough understanding of the [COVID Safety Guidelines – Sport and Recreation](#) before they revise their COVID Safety Plan, as well as general

advice related to COVID-19 restrictions in WA. Rowing WA is happy for clubs to send us their draft plans for review before implementation. Clubs that have tenants also need to provide guidance to these tenants within their COVID Safety Plans. Once complete, Rowing WA will share its own COVID Safety Plan to provide guidance to other clubs.

From the State Government Website: *Failure to complete a COVID Safety Plan (if operating a venue) may mean your business is putting the community at risk. Authorised officers under the Emergency Management Act have the power to close premises, and businesses that put the community at risk in this way. Fines for breaching the Government regulations are up to \$50,000 per individual and \$250,000 per organisation.*

4. ROWING IN CREW BOATS

The COVID-19 WA Roadmap highlights that 'contact sport' will resume in Phase 3 which has in turn provided the green light for the resumption of rowing in all boat classes, coxless and coxed. There is no Government requirement for coxswains to wear face shields/masks but this should be considered by each club/school in line with their own risk assessment. Coxswains may themselves wish to wear face protection. It may also be considered good practice for crew composition to remain the same/similar where possible in order to minimise close contact between members.

5. RESUMPTION OF REGATTAS

The Rowing WA Competitions Committee met on Wednesday 3 June to consider the more than 200 survey responses received from rowers related to the key elements of defining a revised 2020 regatta calendar. The Committee are working toward a calendar of regattas that commences in early July 2020 and concludes in mid to late September. Initial regattas would be river-based regattas with a less competitive focus before the resumption of racing at Champion Lakes. Further details will be confirmed in the next week or so following further consultation related to COVID-19 risk management at regattas, event programming, rowing scores and pennant points. However the revised season will cater for school, club and masters rowers.

6. BOAT SHED SIGNAGE

Appropriate signage in line with COVID Safety Plans is still necessary around boatsheds. Below are links to signage from the Federal Health Department and the World Health Organisation (as previously circulated):

- https://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/How_To_HandWash_Poster.pdf?ua=1
- <https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/03/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-your-distance.pdf>
- <https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/03/coronavirus-covid-19-print-ads-simple-steps-to-stop-the-spread-coronavirus-covid-19-print-ads-simple-steps-to-stop-the-spread.pdf>

7. THE NEW ROWING LANDSCAPE

It is becoming evident to all of us that the operation of boat sheds may never return to exactly what it was before the COVID-19 pandemic. Boat shed operators are encouraged to start considering the long-term changes to boat shed operations that will have a financial and operational impact on your organisations. These may include the purchase of additional equipment such as hand sanitation stations as well as increased cleaning regimes.

8. COVIDSAFE APP

It is still recommended to encourage your members to download the COVIDsafe app. However, please remember that it cannot be a mandatory requirement as this is in breach of federal laws.

9. ROWING AUSTRALIA (RA)

There has been no further updates from Rowing Australia related to COVID-19 since 15 May 2020. You can view RA's COVID-19 Risk Minimisation: Guidance to Rowing Clubs update [here](#) and their COVID-19 Fact Sheet [here](#).

10. FURTHER ADVICE

If clubs or schools have any questions related to the implementation of the Government restrictions in your specific rowing training or competition environment please give me a call on 0404 059 491 or email me at ceo@rowingwa.asn.au. If I am not able to answer your question, I will seek a response from DLGSC or other State Government department.

Stay safe.

Kind Regards,



Daniel Tackenberg
Chief Executive Officer
Rowing WA