

## **POST COVID-19 TRANSITION – BOATSHED OPERATIONS #3**

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The following information applies to all Rowing Clubs and School Rowing programs,

There have been several updates over the past few days that will impact the decision made by clubs and schools as to when and how they re-commence rowing operations:

### **1. COVID-19 WA ROADMAP**

The WA Government released [WA's 4-phase roadmap](#) on Sunday 10 May that shows the distinct phases of how WA will ease restrictions put in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Phase 2 restrictions will come in to play from Monday 18 May 2020 and based on current projections, Phase 3 will be approximately one month later.

The major change in Phase 2 for sport is that non-contact community sport and training is allowed with a 20-person limit.

General WA Government information related to COVID-19 is available [here](#).

### **2. DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SPORT AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES (DLGSC)**

Yesterday and today additional information was released by State Government and DLGSC on the application of Phase 2 restrictions related to Sport and Recreation. This includes:

#### COVID Safety Guidelines – Sport and Recreation

These government guidelines specifically address the conditions on the re-opening of sport and recreation venues, and/or the recommencement of sporting activities.

View the guidelines [here](#).

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

- Hygiene and Safety Requirements
- Requirement for venue managers/landlords to develop a COVID Safety Plan (see below for further information)
- Social distancing calculations for maximum occupancy
- Application of guidelines for multi-function venues. Managed properly this could see more than 20 people allowed per venue if zones are created within the facility (e.g. clubrooms, function rooms, gyms, etc).
- Managing person to person interactions
- Increased cleaning and sanitation
- Communication, training and education related to restrictions, policies and procedures
- Response Planning when someone presents with COVID-like symptoms

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 2 Factsheet

This factsheet provides an overview of the 'COVID Safety Guidelines – Sport and Recreation' and has some very practical and definitive information relating to what sport and active recreation organisations should do before commencing any activities.

View the factsheet [here](#)

Please note, this factsheet and the FAQs below state that there is “No sharing of gym equipment like mats, benches, weight machines, exercise bikes, rowing machines or Pilates reformers.”

The above statement does not provide guidance around how frequently an ergo can be used.

Rowing WA is seeking clarification from Government as to whether an ergo is deemed no longer 'shared' once it is sanitised adequately with alcohol-based wipes and sprays. The response to this question will be circulated once received.

### Phase 2 - Easing of restrictions - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

These FAQs specifically address items such as: returning to full contact, what is 'minimal shared equipment' and spacing requirements for outdoor and multi-functional venues.

View the FAQs [here](#).

### COVID Safety Plans

Sport and Recreation Minister Mick Murray subsequently confirmed earlier today that while clubs and sporting organisations may elect to complete a COVID Safety Plan, the completion of these plans is only compulsory for an organisation or business that controls or operates a venue that was required to close under earlier directives (e.g. a private operator of an indoor sporting facility, a local government that hires an indoor court to a club).

This would mean any rowing club that is not a tenant will be required to implement their own COVID Safety Plan but it is optional for clubs that are a tenant within a facility.

DLGSC have released a template COVID Safety Plan and all boat sheds need to complete the template before operations commence under Phase 2 restrictions.

The template is available [here](#).

Rowing WA is developing COVID Safety Plans 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 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 develop this 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.*

### **3. ROWING AUSTRALIA (RA)**

RA have today updated their COVID-19 Fact Sheet page on their website with guidance related to the practical implementation of the AIS Re-booting Sport guidelines.

You can view RA's COVID-19 Risk Minimisation: Guidance to Rowing Clubs update [here](#)

This document highlights the most critical part of harm minimisation in club environments is that **“anyone who is even mildly unwell should stay at home and arrange a medical review. Do not attend a training venue even if you are only mildly unwell or think your symptoms are due to something else. This illness is most contagious early on, and we must all be vigilant with this rule.”**

It is important to note that the RA guidelines are a guide only and that WA Government advice supersedes any RA guideline where they are in conflict. However, the RA guidance may assist clubs in the practical implementation of Government restrictions.

### **4. ROWING IN CREW BOATS**

The COVID-19 WA roadmap highlights that 'contact sport' can resume in Phase 3 which would include the ability to row in crew boats. However, with limited detail available on Phase 3 and concerns currently being raised about contact sport vs 1.5m social distancing requirements, the added concern with crew boats is the time spent in close proximity and the droplet movement through linear airflow. More information will become available closer to the change to Phase 3 restrictions but we will endeavour to provide as much forewarning as possible.

### **5. BOAT SHED SIGNAGE**

Below are links to signage from Federal Health and the World Health Organisation that should be posted around your boat sheds to constantly remind people of their role in keeping all rowing members safe:

- [https://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/How\\_To\\_HandWash\\_Poster.pdf?ua=1](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>

In addition to these signs [Employsure](#) have developed a set of editable signs that provide some additional information about varied hours of operations, maximum capacity of rooms, etc.

## **6. 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.

## **7. COVIDSAFE APP**

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

## **8. FURTHER ADVICE**

If you have any questions related to the implementation of the Government restrictions in your specific rowing environment please give me a call on 0404 059 491 or email me at [ceo@rowingwa.asn.au](mailto:ceo@rowingwa.asn.au). If I am not able to answer your question I will seek a response from DLGSC or State Government.

Stay safe.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Tackenberg', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel Tackenberg  
Chief Executive Officer  
Rowing WA