

# Softball NSW COVID-19 Competition Management Recommendations

With the ever-increasing risk of athletes being unavailable to play due to positive results and being considered close contacts, Softball NSW would like to provide Associations with recommended strategies to help manage their competitions and ensure as much Softball as possible.

The below are recommendations to help Associations put in place procedures to deal with any localised COVID-19 affected games.

## COVID-19 positive case or close contact procedures (what to do)

### Pre-Game Actions – when case/s arise prior to gameday

- Support the affected club where possible.
- Decide on the impact for upcoming games based on Association rules and number of participants affected e.g.:
  - Impacted club to field as many teams as possible based on the number of eligible athletes.
  - Games that can't be played (due to an agreed minimum number of participants unavailable) are deemed a draw.
- Associations are encouraged to play games with less than 9 athletes to ensure as much Softball is played as possible.
- Associations are encouraged to be flexible with player movements across divisions to aid participation.

**NB:** The Association can investigate and request proof of positive result and timing to ensure cancellation is required.

### Competition Day Actions

- Positive participants and those classified as close contacts, must stay away from the diamond/venue, and isolate as per [NSW Health guidelines](#).
- If a participant receives a positive result during the game the participant is to immediately leave the ground/venue and isolate at home or similar as per [NSW Health guidelines](#).
- Positive participants are able to be replaced at any time during the game. Associations have the right to declare a draw if suitable replacement athletes can't be found. Associations are encouraged to allow play to continue regardless of the end result of the game.

## Example of Temporary Competition By-Laws

### COVID-19 Enforced Replacement Athlete

*Should any selected athlete be unable to play due to receiving a COVID-19 positive test result, or exposure notification from NSW Health or the athlete considers they may be a close contact, then that athlete may be replaced by an athlete from a lower grade.*



*The following will apply:*

- a) At any time until the start of the game, the athletes club can select a replacement athlete(s) to take the place of the isolating athlete(s) during the period of directed isolation. Any replacement athlete must be a member of the Club.*
- b) In the case where three (3) or more athletes are affected prior to the game and the affected team is unable to replace athletes and/or unwilling to play the game with athletes short, the Competition Convenor/Executive of the Association has the right declare the game a draw, where both sides will receive competition points for that round.*

## Safe Play Protocols

The following protocols are designed to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 within each Association and apply to all athletes, coaches, umpires, scorers, and spectators.

- If you feel unwell or display symptoms, please do not attend games, training sessions or other activity.
- When using the changeroom(s) on gameday or for training, the **1 person per 2 square metres of space rule applies**. It's recommended that masks be worn when in the changeroom, even when using this space rule.
- All team meetings, pre and post play, to be conducted outdoors.
- Athletes, coaches, game officials and team support staff to have their own individually marked drink bottles.
- Keep a safe distance during celebrations, with no hugging, handshaking, or high-fives etc.
- No shaking hands at the conclusion of a game.
- No singing is permitted undercover or indoors.
- All participants must sanitise their hands before entering the field of play, which could be multiple times during a single game.
- Associations/Clubs are asked to provide hand sanitiser and make readily available for athletes, coaches, game officials, team support staff and spectators.
- If you need to be inside, you must wear a mask.

For NSW Health guidelines, please refer to the following link - <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>

Associations are encouraged to consider the fluid nature of the situation and be prepared to act quickly. Softball NSW also recommends that Associations consider their fixture set up for the remainder of the season. Policies and procedures, game conditions and FAQ's can be found on the [Softball NSW Covid-19 Information and Resources page](#).

As always, please email Softball NSW via [development@softballnsw.org.au](mailto:development@softballnsw.org.au) if you have any queries.