



SNOW READY

COVID-19

SAFE COMMUNITY CLUB AND PROGRAM
GUIDELINES



INTRODUCTION

The following document has been developed to assist Snowsport Community Clubs and Programs to be Snow Ready. This information is designed to assist Clubs and Program leadership and coaches and seeks to provide further information for operating as safely as possible.

These guidelines are not for professional or elite level athletes and programs.

It is important to note that each club and program structure is unique and may have different requirements in terms of organisational and operational protocols, state regulations and resort requirements. This document must be viewed with the understanding that it covers a wide variety of club and program requirements. All clubs and programs should consider each of the actions set out in the accompanying checklists. Some may determine that the organisational capability or risk profile of their sporting activities does not justify undertaking particular actions. However, if any action in this checklist is not undertaken, the organisation should be able to justify that decision to relevant sport stakeholder groups, including government and public health authorities, on an “if not, why not?” basis. Any non-justified failure to undertake the recommended actions may result in return to play arrangements that jeopardise the health of your sport’s participants and the wider community.

INTERPRETATION OF STATE LEGISLATION IS KEY TO A SUCCESSFUL RETURN TO SPORT PLAN FOR YOUR CLUB OR PROGRAM

Snow Australia is the National Sport Organisation (NSO) for snowsports in Australia. As the Australian ski resorts are located in Victoria and New South Wales (NSW) each snowsports club and discipline program will have to ensure that, first and foremost, the club /program operations or training sessions meet the minimum guidelines of their applicable state legislation. The Australian Institute of Sport framework / guidelines that are outlined in this document may be different to the legislated limits that have been put into place by local state and territory governments.

Snow Australia advises that all clubs and programs that operate during 2020 must ensure that their programs meet the minimum state government legislation and regulations for the state in which they will be conducting their activity.

AIS FRAMEWORK FOR REBOOTING SPORT

This document should be read in conjunction with the **AIS Framework for Rebooting Sport** (link below) and has been developed to assist our Clubs and Programs to commence the 2020 snow season with cautious and methodical manner.

These return to sport guidelines should also be read with a view that the definitive guidelines/ information will be contained in applicable state or territory legislation and in conjunction with the approved operating restrictions that have been developed with the resort Covid-19 Safe operating protocols.

Snow Australia recommends each Club and Program nominates a Covid-19 liaison officer, which will work with us and your Resort to ensure appropriate guidelines are implemented.

The 15 national principles outlined in the AIS Framework overviews the resumption of sport and recreation activities and this document seeks to follow the principles, while providing more specific information pertinent to our clubs and programs.

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THE AIS FRAMEWORK FOR REBOOTING SPORT

15 Principles

- 1 Resumption of sport and recreation activities can contribute many health, economic, social and cultural benefits to Australian society emerging from the COVID-19 environment.
- 2 Resumption of sport and recreation activities should not compromise the health of individuals or the community.
- 3 Resumption of sport and recreation activities will be based on objective health information to ensure they are conducted safely and do not risk increased COVID-19 local transmission rates.
- 4 All decisions about resumption of sport and recreation activities must take place with careful reference to these National Principles following close consultation with Federal, State/Territory and/or Local Public Health Authorities, as relevant.
- 5 The AIS 'Framework for Rebooting Sport in a COVID-19 Environment' provides a guide for the reintroduction of sport and recreation in Australia, including high performance sport. The AIS Framework incorporates consideration of the differences between contact and non-contact sport and indoor and outdoor activity. Whilst the three phases A, B and C of the AIS Framework provide a general guide, individual jurisdictions may provide guidance on the timing of introduction of various levels of sport participation with regard to local epidemiology, risk mitigation strategies and public health capacity.
- 6 International evidence to date is suggestive that outdoor activities are a lower risk setting for COVID-19 transmission. There are no good data on risks of indoor sporting activity but, at this time, the risk is assumed to be greater than for outdoor sporting activity, even with similar mitigation steps taken.
- 7 All individuals who participate in, and contribute to, sport and recreation will be considered in resumption plans, including those at the high performance/professional level, those at the community competitive level, and those who wish to enjoy passive (non-contact) individual sports and recreation.
- 8 Resumption of community sport and recreation activity should take place in a staged fashion with an initial phase of small group (<10) activities in a non-contact fashion, prior to moving on to a subsequent phase of large group (>10) activities including full contact training/competition in sport. Individual jurisdictions will determine progression through these phases, taking account of local epidemiology, risk mitigation strategies and public health capability.
 - This includes the resumption of children's outdoor sport with strict physical distancing measures for non-sporting attendees such as parents.
 - This includes the resumption of outdoor recreational activities including (but not limited to) outdoor-based personal training and boot camps, golf, fishing, bush-walking, swimming, etc.

9 Significantly enhanced risk mitigation (including avoidance and physical distancing) must be applied to all indoor activities associated with outdoor sporting codes (e.g. club rooms, training facilities, gymnasium and the like).

10 For high performance and professional sporting organisations, the regime underpinned in the AIS Framework is considered a minimum baseline standard required to be met before the resumption of training and match play, noting most sports and participants are currently operating at level A of the AIS Framework.

11 If sporting organisations are seeking specific exemptions in order to recommence activity, particularly with regard to competitions, they are required to engage with, and where necessary seek approvals from, the respective State/Territory and/or Local Public Health Authorities regarding additional measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread.

12 At all times sport and recreation organisations must respond to the directives of Public Health Authorities. Localised outbreaks may require sporting organisations to again restrict activity and those organisations must be ready to respond accordingly. The detection of a positive COVID-19 case in a sporting or recreation club or organisation will result in a standard public health response, which could include quarantine of a whole team or large group, and close contacts, for the required period.

13 The risks associated with large gatherings are such that, for the foreseeable future, elite sports, if recommenced, should do so in a spectator-free environment with the minimum support staff available to support the competition. Community sport and recreation activities should limit those present to the minimum required to support the participants (e.g. one parent or carer per child if necessary)

14 The sporting environment (training and competition venues) should be assessed to ensure precautions are taken to minimise risk to those participating in sport and those attending sporting events as spectators (where and when permissible).

15 The safety and well-being of the Australian community will be the priority in any further and specific decisions about the resumption of sport, which will be considered by the COVID-19 Sports and Health Committee.

5 STEPS TO BE SNOW READY

STEP 1

APPOINT A COVID-19 LIAISON OFFICER

Each club and program will appoint a Covid-19 liaison officer and/or team.

It is recommended that the Covid-19 liaison/ team to work closely with the club leadership and staff and understand how the club/program operated per-Covid-19.

The Covid-19 liaison officer would be responsible for:

-
- Overseeing the development and implementation of the organisation's return to sport arrangements by documenting those arrangements in a COVID-19 Plan.
-
- Liaison between the Resorts, club and program leadership and Snow Australia
-
- Understanding the organisational and operational requirements as guided by the government, public health authorities, Resorts and Snow Australia
-
- Staying up-to-date with Covid-19 changes and recommendations
-
- Be responsible for keeping leadership, coaches, staff and club members up-to-date.
-
- Be the covid-19 contact person within the club
-
- Ensure the recommendations have been implemented correctly
-
- Act as the contact point for your organisation's members and participants – particularly around questions relating to return to sport and the actions your organisation has taken to be COVID Safe – and other relevant stakeholders (including government, public health and other authorities, Resorts, other clubs, associations, State and National Sporting Organisations)
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STEP 2

COVID-19 INFECTION CONTROL TRAINING

The Covid-19 infection control training is a 30-minute online training module, which cover the fundamentals of infection prevention and control for Covid-19, including:

- Covid-19 – what is it?
- Signs and symptoms
- Keeping safe – protecting yourself and others
- Myth busting

It is recommended the following persons undertake the Covid-19 infection control training provided by the Government.

- Covid-19 liaison officer
- Club and Program leadership
- Club and Program Staff including coaches
- Other Club and Program volunteers deemed by the Covid-19 liaison officer

The Covid-19 Liaison Officer should collect and keep completion certificates on file.

LINK

Covid-19 Infection Control Training

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

STEP 3

UNDERSTANDING THE ORGANISATIONAL AND OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

The Covid-19 liaison officer/team must:

- 1 Understand the pre-Covid-19 club and program structure including how the club/program operated on a daily basis. This information is important to understand how to implement changes and new protocols
- 2 Review the current state level as outlined below in the AIS Framework for rebooting sport (**Resource 1: Recommended Levels to Return to Sport**)
- 3 Review the new organisational and operational requirements as guided by the government and public health authorities (**Resource 2: Important Covid-19 Information and Resource Links**)
- 4 Review Resort Covid-19 protocols and their club/program requirements
- 5 Review the Snow Australia – Snow Ready COVID-19 Safe Club and Program Checklist to understand areas of focus and recommendations (**Resource 3: Recommendations for Clubs And Programs To Minimise Risk To Club And Program Environments**)
- 6 Review and understand Government resources including the COVIDSafe app (**Resource 2: Important Covid-19 Information and Resource Links**)

STEP 4

DEVELOP A COVID SAFE PLAN TO BE SNOW READY

The COVID-19 Snow Ready Safety Plan should address:

- Points of COVID-19 transmission risk;
- Transmission controls;
- Hygiene and behaviour requirements;
- Physical and fitness preparations before a restart; and
- Education and communication to relevant personnel.
- Recommendation that all club members, program staff, volunteers, athletes are encouraged to download and use the COVIDSafe App.

To assist with developing this plan, please refer to the AIS COVID-19 Safety Plan template.

LINK

AIS Covid-19 Safety Plan Template

https://www.sportaus.gov.au/return-to-sport#covid-19_safety_plan

COVIDSafe App

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covidsafe-app>

To develop this plan, the Covid-19 liaison officer/team must:

- 1 Review and identify the areas of consideration (**Resource 3**) within the club/programs organisational and operational structures.
- 2 Taking into consideration Level B and Level C as outlined in the AIS Framework for rebooting sport (**Resource 2**), ensure the Covid-19 plan overviews both of these levels.

- 3 Using the information and recommendations above, develop a plan outlining the protocols and changes for each of the areas of consideration.

- 4 Identify and develop resources to support club and programs in maintaining records to support any contact tracing, Covid safe education and information sharing which may include:
 - Club recording procedures – what needs to be recorded, who is responsible, how it is stored.
 - Athlete wellbeing waivers/records – how it is collected, what needs to be recorded, who is responsible, how it is stored.
 - Communication plans for Resorts, leadership, coaches, staff, parents, athletes.
 - Additional resources to reinforce and remind club/programs communities about protocols.

- 5 Document a plan of your club/program's responsibilities and procedures if there is any exposure to Covid-19.

Templates for some of these items are available in the **[Snow Australia Snow Ready Toolkit](#)**

LINK

Snow Australia Snow Ready Toolkit

<https://www.snow.org.au/info-hub/snowready/>



STEP 5

COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

- 1** It is recommended that the Covid Safe Plan is communicated and adopted by the Resort and Club leadership. Any further recommendations or changes should be applied.

- 2** The updated Covid Safe Plan should be communicated directly to all staff including coaches and administration staff.

- 3** The Covid Safe Plan should be communicated to the club/program community.

- 4** Get your Club Ready! – implement any signage, floor coverings and other protocols

RESOURCES

RESOURCE 1:

RECOMMENDED LEVELS TO RETURN TO SPORT

All decision making in relation to your club's plan for being Snow Ready should be based on the most current information available to you from official, reputable sources including national and state-level governmental and public health authorities, the AIS, Sport Australia and your Resort leadership.

The AIS Framework for rebooting sport outlines the proposed criteria and stages of sporting activity. Be aware that, although we expect restrictions will be eased over time, safety precautions must remain in place in accordance with state requirements relative to availability of vaccinations or effective treatment of coronavirus.

An initial resumption of sporting activity is dependent on several factors:

- A sustained decrease in COVID-19 transmission
- Healthcare system capacity
- Individual circumstances of sports organisation and risk assessment.

Three levels (Levels A, B, C) of community and individual sporting activities are recommended in the context of a COVID-19 environment (Table 1). For each level, permitted activities, general hygiene measures, and medical servicing considerations are provided as minimum baseline of standards required to be met before the resumption of training and competition.

A more detailed description of the sport-specific activities has been developed in conjunction with medical staff working within sport (Please

refer to the AIS Framework for Rebooting Sport). The timing of progression between levels will be influenced by any evidence of transmission issues within the local community or sporting cohort.

As part of the AIS Framework for rebooting sport, the AIS have developed a Return to Sport toolkit. This toolkit includes a number of resources and templates for the following items. It is suggested to review these resources and templates, to assist with developing your COVID-19 Snow Ready Safety Plan.

The toolkit includes:

- Detailed and Simple Checklists
- Recommendations for Clubs and Programs to Minimise Risk To Club And Program Environments (Resource 3).
- Covid-19 Safety Plan template
- Attendance Register template
- Covid-19 Hygiene Guidance – communication material

LINK

AIS Return to Sport Toolkit

<https://www.sportaus.gov.au/return-to-sport>

TABLE 1. AIS FRAMEWORK FOR REBOOTING SPORT - RECOMMENDED LEVEL A, B, C ACTIVITIES FOR COMMUNITY AND INDIVIDUAL SPORT

	Level A	Level B	Level C
General description	Activity that can be conducted by a solo athlete or by pairs where at least 1.5m can always be maintained between participants. No contact between athletes and/or other personnel. Examples for all sports — general fitness aerobic and anaerobic (e.g. running, cycling sprints, hills). Strength and sport-specific training permitted if no equipment required, or have access to own equipment (e.g. ergometer, weights). Online coaching and resources (e.g. videos, play books).	As per Level A plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Indoor/outdoor activity that can be conducted in small groups (not more than 10 athletes and/or other personnel in total) and with adequate spacing (not more than 1 person per 4m²). – Some sharing of sporting equipment permitted such as kicking a football, hitting a tennis ball, use of a skipping rope, weights, mats. – Non-contact skills training. Accidental contact may occur but no deliberate body contact drills. No wrestling, holding, tackling or binding. – Commercial gyms, bootcamps, yoga, Pilates, dance classes (e.g. barre, ballet, hip hop, not partnered), cycling 'spin' classes permitted if other measures (above) are met. 	As per Level B plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Full sporting activity that can be conducted in groups of any size including full contact (competition, tournaments, matches). Wrestling, holding, tackling and/or binding (e.g. rugby scrums) permitted. – For larger team sports, consider maintaining some small group separation at training. – For some athletes full training will be restricted by commercial operation of facilities.
General hygiene measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – No sharing of exercise equipment or communal facilities. – Apply personal hygiene measures even when training away from group facilities — hand hygiene regularly during training (hand sanitisers) plus strictly pre and post training. – Do not share drink bottles or towels. Do not attend training if unwell (contact doctor). – Spitting and clearing of nasal/respiratory secretions on ovals or other sport settings must be strongly discouraged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Communal facilities can be used after a sport-specific structured risk assessment and mitigation process is undertaken. – 'Get in, train and get out' — be prepared for training prior to arrival at venue (minimise need to use/gather in change rooms, bathrooms). Minimise use of communal facilities (e.g. gym, court) with limited numbers (not more than 10 athletes/staff in total). Have cleaning protocols in place for equipment and facilities. – Hand hygiene (hand sanitisers) on entry and exit to venues, as well as pre, post and during training. Thorough full body shower with soap before and after training (preferably at home). Where possible maintain distance of at least 1.5m while training. – No socialising or group meals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Return to full use of sporting facilities. Continue hygiene and cleaning measures as per Level B. – If any massage beds being used, hygiene practices to include no bed linen except single use towels, cleaning treatment beds and key surfaces after each athlete and hand hygiene. – Limit unnecessary social gatherings.
Spectator, additional personnel	No spectators unless required (e.g. parent or carer).	Use of institute gym facilities and indoor ice surfaces in small groups (<10 total athletes/support staff). Use of acrobatic facilities such as trampoline, bungee and water ramp in small groups with 1 athlete at a time and at least 1.5m distancing to support staff. Limited on snow training dependent on travel restrictions. Small groups widely spaced, no communal living.	Full training and competition dependent on commercial operation of mountain facilities.
Winter sports	Running/aerobic/agility training (solo), resistance training (solo), balance training (solo).	– Use of institute gym facilities and indoor ice surfaces in small groups (<10 total athletes/support staff). Use of acrobatic facilities such as trampoline, bungee and water ramp in small groups with 1 athlete at a time and at least 1.5m distancing to support staff. Limited on snow training dependent on travel restrictions. Small groups widely spaced, no communal living.	Full training and competition dependent on commercial operation of mountain facilities.

RESOURCE 2:

IMPORTANT COVID-19 INFORMATION AND RESOURCE LINKS

With ever-changing restrictions, it is important to understand how to keep up-to-date with the latest Covid-19 information.

Regularly check official Covid-19 information sources by clicking on the following links.

It is important to ensure your Club or Program remains in constant communication with your Resort and implements their guidelines.

TABLE 2. IMPORTANT COVID-19 INFORMATION WEBSITE LINKS	
GOVERNMENT ORGANISATION / DOCUMENTS	LINKS
Australia Government Department of Health	https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert
World Health Organisation	https://www.who.int/
Australia Institute of Sport – AIS framework for rebooting sport	https://ais.gov.au/health-wellbeing/covid-19
Sport Australia	https://www.sportaus.gov.au/
Sport Australia Covid-19 Return To Sport Toolkit	https://www.sportaus.gov.au/return-to-sport
Sport and Recreation Victoria	https://sport.vic.gov.au/news/articles/sport-and-recreation-gets-ready-to-return-to-play
Sport NSW	https://www.sportnsw.com.au
Department of Education	NSW: https://education.nsw.gov.au/early-childhood-education/coronavirus VIC: https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/Pages/coronavirus.aspx
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	LINKS
COVIDSafe App	https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covidsafe-app
Covid-19 Infection Control Training	https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-infection-control-training
Covid-19 exposure procedure	https://www.australia.gov.au/
Australia Institute of Sport - Return to Sport Toolkit	https://www.sportaus.gov.au/return-to-sport
Identify and adopt for use and prominent display in facilities and entry points, Australian Government COVID-19 “campaign resources”, including posters outlining hygiene practices	https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-campaign-resources
Safework Australia	https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces

RESOURCE 3:

SNOW AUSTRALIA RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CLUBS AND PROGRAMS TO MINIMISE RISK TO CLUB AND PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTS

These guidelines consist of two checklists outlining actions an organisation should consider taking as part of its “Snow Ready” plan.

These checklists cover:

- a. Organisational considerations; and
- b. Operational considerations

PART A. ORGANISATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. COVID-19 CLUB LIAISON OFFICER

- ☐ Covid-19 Club Liaison Officer has been appointed
- ☐ Club leadership, Staff, Club Community, Resorts, Snow Australia has been provided with the Covid-19 Club Liaison Officer details
- ☐ Consider the use of an intra-Resort and Club working group to plan and manage your sport’s return to sport

2. GOVERNANCE & STRATEGY

- ☐ Ensure that all levels of leadership understand their role within the Snow Ready planning process and document those roles.
- ☐ Confirm reporting requirements to keep your organisation’s directors/management committee members informed of your organisational activities, plans and any issues your sport encounters as it resumes (including material departures from this protocol and confirmed cases of COVID-19)
- ☐ Confirm your Board/Management Committee has identified an appropriate governance structure to oversee your organisation’s Snow Ready
- ☐ Undertake a risk review process to identify, assess and mitigate risks connected to return to sport, including the risk of a localised outbreak in your area or within your sport. Review the adequacy of your existing risk controls.
- ☐ Review your organisation’s critical incident management arrangements and test your organisational readiness to respond to a localised outbreak of COVID-19.
- ☐ Conduct a general review of your organisation’s strategy and adjust based on changes in your financial and operational circumstances, including by resetting key measures of success
- ☐ Determine, in consultation with your Resort and Snow Australia, any changes required to:
 - a. Season dates;
 - b. Venue and facility access;
 - c. Coaching availability;
 - d. Event rules; or
 - e. Participations formats.
- ☐ Undertake scenario planning to ensure preparedness for further disruptions to your sport and its return to sport plan. Consider scenarios including:
 - a. a temporary seasonal disruption;
 - b. a prolonged disruption; and
 - c. an interrupted return to sport.
- ☐ Review your organisation’s budget, revise forecasts based on likely changes in revenue and expenditure and communicate to relevant stakeholders.
- ☐ Develop, in collaboration with representatives from all levels of your sport, a member/participant retention and attraction strategy to mitigate the impact of potential refunds/fee reductions, including a consideration of flexible refund policies.

3. EMPLOYEES & VOLUNTEERS

- ☐ Consider a resourcing plan if you now have a smaller workforce or your staff are working fewer hours, if you need additional coaching staff and where to source them from.
- ☐ Support the transition of your workforce returning to work and/or returning to original roles, including staff returning to work who have recovered from COVID-19 or who have been in self-isolation.
- ☐ Ensure you operate COVID-19 safe workplaces and educate staff on safe work practices. Facilitate COVID-19 education for volunteers and administrators in community sport.
- ☐ Facilitate mental health support services for employees, volunteers and participants.
- ☐ Update performance management agreements including professional development plans for your workforce to reflect the new operating environments.

PART B. OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS, PROTOCOLS AND IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLISTS

Snow Australia advises that references to use of training facilities, the size of training groups and any other operating guidelines may be subject to different state government legislation and therefore NSW and VIC clubs may have to develop different operating protocols.

1. HYGIENE

Athletes cannot attend who are unwell and present with either:

- A sore throat, cough, cold or flu like symptoms, with fever or respiratory symptoms,
- Who have returned to Australia within the last 14 days from international travel,
- Who have been exposed to anyone that has COVID-19 or
- Has fever or respiratory symptoms, within the last 14 days must not enter the facility.

Participants should be checked for:

- Any mild symptoms such as fever, sore throat, cough, shortness of breath before all sessions

Anyone with even mild symptoms must not attend or exercise, but get a Polymerase Chain Reaction PCR test ASAP & isolate until results are available

Athletes or parents with pre-existing medical conditions such as lung disease, diabetes, immune compromise, and smokers should not enter the club facilities until further notice.

Using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with over 60% alcohol is recommended when soap and water is impractical.

Those coughing and sneezing should do so away from other people and into a tissue, or their elbow. Tissues should be disposed of immediately and hands washed thoroughly.

Avoid touching your face and hair unless you have just washed/sanitized your hands

Avoid close contact with others including personal greetings, such as touching, handshakes, kisses and hugs.

Drink bottles and food should not be shared. Individuals should label their drink bottle and clean it in soap and water after each session.

No spitting or clearing nasal / respiratory secretions during training sessions or in sport settings or using ski gloves to wipe nose / face.

If allowed for use under government legislation all communal or shared sporting equipment should be thoroughly cleaned with disinfectant after each use. This includes helmets, goggles, jackets, pants, gloves, skis and boots if shared. The cleaning agent should be bleach or a 60%+ alcohol solution.

Member's / athlete's clothing, helmets and goggles, gloves, jackets and any other equipment should not be left in club facilities or placed on tables in communal areas. Special consideration should be given to closure of any communal drying room and restricting access to place equipment or clothing on top of heaters in club facilities.

1B. GENERAL HYGIENE PRACTICES

CONSIDERATIONS TO INCLUDE IN COVID-19 PLANS

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser with at least 60% alcohol concentration.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Stay home and seek medical treatment when you are sick.

Cover your mouth with your elbow to cough or sneeze

Any club member that has underlying health conditions or is considered a vulnerable person should consult with a healthcare professional prior to returning to small outdoor group training.

IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST

- ☐ Have you provided education or information on COVID-19 hygiene protocols and practices to staff, volunteers, members, and participants?
- ☐ Have you provided clear guidance on COVID-19 hygiene protocols and practices to club members?
- ☐ Do you have adequate supplies of cleaning and sanitiser products? (Club rooms and equipment)?
- ☐ Can your staff, volunteers, members, participants, visitors and parents/guardians wash or sanitise their hands regularly?
- ☐ Have you identified high touch surfaces (for example door handles, key locks on doors, tables / chairs) and increased your regular cleaning schedule?
- ☐ Do you have adequate waste management facilities including rubbish bins?
- ☐ Can you list the measures you will use to manage hygiene and how will you promote these?
- ☐ How will people within the club environment be consistently reminded about the protocols in place? Is there suitable signage?

2. TRAINING ACTIVITIES

CONSIDERATIONS TO INCLUDE IN COVID-19 PLANS

Ensure training activity aligns with the minimum standards set out in the AIS Framework for the rebooting of sport.

The club / coaches / officials should all promote the approach of “get in, train, get out” to minimise unnecessary contact with training facilities, change rooms, bathrooms and communal areas. This approach involves participants getting dressed to train at home including arriving with ski / board boots on and ready to go on-snow. Ensure access to facilities meets current state government legislation.

All training program activities should be developed in consultation with the Lift Company to align with the resort’s Covid safe operating protocols.

Staggered training schedules, start times, use of different locations and different days should all be considered in planning for the season.

IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST

- ☐ All clubs will need to consult with their home resort lift company to determine if Covid safe operating restrictions will impact:
 - A) Access to closed (to public) training courses.
 - B) How lift company social distancing requirements may impact lift access and numbers on chairlifts.
 - C) The number of program participants that can train on any given day – if the total resort skier / boarder numbers are capped daily.

- ☐ Ensure training activity aligns with the minimum standards set out in the AIS Framework for the rebooting of sport and any current state government legislation for indoor and outdoor activities.
- ☐ All training programs and activities should be modified to accommodate social distancing regulations.
- ☐ Confirm with state government legislation the maximum group size that can train. For example, in some states this maximum number may include the athletes and officials, and in another state the maximum number may just be athletes with an extra 2 officials. It is up to each club or program to ensure they meet the requirements of state legislation.
- ☐ All athletes / coaches and support staff must maintain social distancing requirements of a minimum of 1.5 metres at all times.
- ☐ All athletes to be advised at each training session that there are to be no high fives, handshakes, hugs, or physical contact between athletes or club members.

3. ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF PARTICIPANTS, OFFICIALS, PARENTS OR CARERS

CONSIDERATIONS TO INCLUDE IN COVID-19 PLANS

All arrival and departure of training groups should be staggered and distanced to ensure that there is no crossover between training groups. Use of numbered identification flags / or markers will help athletes and parents on arrival and departure.

Ensure that parents do not stay at the club drop off / pick up zone following athlete arrival and the end of training.

Consider limiting the number of parents / guardians that can attend drop off and pick up at sessions times. (i.e. 1 per athlete to minimise any breach of social distancing regulations).

4. SPECTATORS / GATHERINGS

CONSIDERATIONS TO INCLUDE IN COVID-19 PLANS

All club social functions, season launches, fundraising functions must be postponed until they can be accommodated under government Covid-19 restrictions.

Until full sporting activity resumes (Level C) spectators are not permitted to attend club training sessions.

Spectators / parents / guardians and non-essential officials should be restricted from start and finish areas of all club training sites /courses until the resumption of full sporting activity.

5. SHARING EQUIPMENT

CONSIDERATIONS TO INCLUDE IN COVID-19 PLAN

Club training activities should be restricted to avoid sharing of any training equipment until the resumption of full sporting activity.

Where there is requirement for sharing of training equipment this must be cleaned / disinfected after use. The cleaning agent should be bleach or a 60%+ alcohol solution. The use of shared equipment must also be approved under state government legislation.

6. GROUP / TEAM ACTIVITY

CONSIDERATIONS TO INCLUDE IN COVID-19 PLANS

All group activity must be limited to group sizes that align with the applicable state legislation. Special attention must be taken to investigate if the number of coaches / officials is to be included in the maximum group size.

Where multiple groups are training at the same time, athletes are not permitted to swap groups during training activities.

7. INDOOR FACILITIES

CONSIDERATIONS TO INCLUDE IN COVID-19 PLANS – no checklist provided due to different state legislation requirements

Each club / program is responsible for adhering to the applicable state government legislation that determines whether indoor facilities can or cannot be used, and the usage restrictions that may be in place.

IF under state government legislation limits access to club rooms / facilities IS permitted then consider the following points in conjunction with the AIS Framework guidelines. HOWEVER note that at all times state government legislation will apply.

Considerations based on limited access being allowed:

Each club has access to different types of club facilities, some may include on-site accommodation for employees and coaches. As there is such a diverse range of considerations for clubs:

No personal clothing or equipment to be left in the changerooms or at the facility in general.

Athletes and coaches not permitted to use showers at the facility. (This may need to be revised if on-site accommodation requirements at the facility).

Indoor gymnasium equipment not to be used and area to be closed under current level of restrictions

Recommended that communal kitchen facilities are closed to all members.

Unless otherwise required only Club / Program staff to use club facilities. Where possible all meetings and athlete feedback sessions to be conducted online.

Clubs must make sure they adhere to the government legislation requirements for social spacing inside club facilities if use of facilities is allowed.

Implement hygiene measures including hand sanitiser at entry point to club and / or training facilities.

All communal areas to be cleaned / sanitised after use – and at regular intervals during the day. Use a disinfectant in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines for cleaning. For further information consult: <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces/cleaning-prevent-spread-covid-19>

Surfaces should be frequently wiped down with appropriate disinfectant wipes or soap, particularly those frequently touched. This includes door handles, light switches, kitchen surfaces, phones, remote controls, and any other high touch areas such as door combination locks.

8. TRAVEL

Until further guidelines about the 2020 Ski season by the respective State Governments are outlined Snow Australia can only recommend the following guidelines for clubs to consider:

Clubs should consider suspending all inter-resort travel for program athletes and coaches for training until Level C of the AIS framework is reached.

Inter-resort travel for coaches and athletes for competitions / events will not be possible until Level C is enacted, and all travel restrictions are lifted.

Observe relevant government restrictions on cross border movements where interstate travel can be required and reconsider non-essential travel.

Restrict travel on buses and carpools to activities where possible.

9. HIGH INJURY RISK ACTIVITY

All Clubs should pre-determine training activities in consultation with local medical services (e.g. Ski Patrol / Medical Centre) to ensure there is capacity for quick response and treatment for all level of injuries.

10. PROTOCOLS

CONSIDERATIONS TO INCLUDE IN COVID-19 PLANS

Clubs must develop a plan to enact whereby program staff understand that participants who become unwell should be immediately isolated and given a clean disposable facemask to wear. Procedures should also be established to help unwell staff leave a program and isolate as soon as possible whilst ensuring the safety of athletes under care.

In event of a confirmed case, be prepared to immediately shut down facilities & contact the health department for further guidance.

Clubs must develop a clear plan with identified trigger points for cancelling, postponing or modifying an activity and identify who has responsibility for making that decision

Clubs need to be prepared to liaise with public health authorities and facilitate the sharing of information about all symptomatic participants at an activity run by the club or program.

Clubs should develop an emergency operation plan for each of the sport activities they operate and ensure that they are suitable for managing during a Covid-19 outbreak / cluster.

Clubs must consider whether they will sanction individuals for non-compliance with any direction or protocol. If so, determine the basis on which your organisation may enforce the sanction and seek advice if required.

Consider use of waivers / declarations for participants and volunteers to sign acknowledging that participation is at their own risk.

Prepare for increased level of employee/volunteer absences. Employees and volunteers need to stay home when sick or when caring for a sick family member.

IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST



All Athletes / parents or guardians need to sign a declaration on each day of training advising that:

A) They currently have no cold or flu like symptoms

B) They have not come in to contact with a person/s that have tested positive to Covid-19 in the past 14 days

C) They have not traveled overseas in the past 14 days



Clubs must maintain an attendance register for all training sessions including training start and completion times to assist with any contact tracing if required.



Clubs must maintain an attendance register for all training sessions including training start and completion times.



Copies of all the training registers must be kept by a central person at the club following each session (e.g. Club Covid-19 liaison officer)



Clubs must ensure they can contact participants (referring to the attendance register) if an activity attendee subsequently becomes unwell and provide advice on what actions should be taken.



Have a process to Immediately address non-compliance / safety issues with athletes / parents / coaches / program staff / volunteers / board or committee members.

11. COMMUNICATION

CONSIDERATIONS TO INCLUDE IN COVID-19 PLANS

Clubs to develop organisational communications plans that ensure the club is regularly communicating with all stakeholders.

Ensure there are instant messaging protocols to share timely and accurate information to internal stakeholders (text / email / WhatsApp groups)

IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST



Advise participants not to attend if unwell or if they have traveled overseas or have been exposed to a person with Covid-19 in the preceding 14 days.



Your sport should encourage all participants (including athletes, coaches, officials, administrators, volunteers, parents and spectators) to subscribe to and appropriately use the government's Covid-19 Safe App.

- ☐ Provide briefings to outline protocols in advance of return to sport for participants
- ☐ Display posters and distribute information about Covid-19 at your activities and facilities.
- ☐ Regularly advise participants members on hygiene behaviours which will reduce the risk of transmission.

12. VIC-SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

UNDER CURRENT VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS

Ski resorts are closed until June 22.

Numbers of participants that can be involved in an outdoor activity (20 participants from June 1).

Sport and exercise activities are only allowed if you can keep your distance (at least 1.5 metres apart) and they are not competitive.

AS OF 11:59PM ON THE 21ST JUNE, 2020

Snow sports are permitted, and the ski season can open at 11:59pm on 21 June. We are working with the ski industry to develop plans so people can enjoy skiing facilities and resort venues safely.

Use of shared sporting equipment should be minimised and there should be no sharing of equipment that touches the face or head (e.g. helmets, goggles or masks).

Travel is allowed, including day trips and overnight stays in private residences, subject to private gathering restrictions.

Overnight stays are permitted in tourist accommodation if there is no use of communal facilities required.

13. GUIDELINES FOR MEDICAL SERVICES

As access to medical professional services such as Ski Patrol, In-Resort Medical Centres, and any other medical services employed or utilised by clubs is outside the scope of Snow Australia, the sport encourage all clubs to make themselves aware of, and comply with, the medical practices at their resorts.

14. COMMUNICATION PLAN FOR THE RETURN TO COMMUNITY SPORT GUIDELINES

SNOW AUSTRALIA WILL IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATION PLAN FOR THE RTP DOCUMENT

RTP document to be circulated to all member clubs and program providers via email, and version 1 to be posted on the Snow Australia Website

Any subsequent updates to the document (when govt restriction ease) will be updated and circulated in the same process with an amended date and version number.

Snow Australia will liaise directly via email / phone with member clubs to advise any updates as they are implemented.

In the event of a second wave – or a roll-back of government restrictions, Snow Australia will consult with both the government regulations and the Wintersports Chief Medical Officer to implement the government restrictions. Any subsequent advice that is required for clubs and any event organisers that is a roll-back of restrictions will be advised directly with community clubs and event organisers via email / phone.

If any further easing of restrictions is again appropriate during the 2020 ski season this will be communicated again as per first dot point.

Snow Australia is in regular communication and briefings with the Wintersports Chief Medical Officer via the sport's high-performance programs. Any immediate changes / warnings will be communicated to clubs via email.

It is important to note that in many cases the club's landlords are the state's ski resorts. The clubs cannot operate on-snow for training or any competition without the approval of the Ski Resorts. In many cases this will be exclusive to the relationship the sport has with the clubs. That is why the sport is providing guidelines for the clubs to utilise in their day to day operations and interaction with the resorts.