



## COMMUNITY RETURN TO PLAY GUIDELINES

Netball Australia has developed the following guidelines to provide minimum standards for how netball activity should resume in a cautious and methodical manner.

These guidelines are based on the best available evidence and advice to optimise participant and community safety and should be used in conjunction with the directives and guidelines of the federal government and those of the relevant state or territory.

The priority must always be preservation of public health and minimisation of the risk of community transmission. All community netball participants (this includes players, parents/guardians, coaches, officials, volunteers, administrators, spectators, and netball organisations) must play a role in helping to slow the spread of COVID-19.

## KEY PRINCIPLES:

### 1. EDUCATION OF ALL PARTICIPANTS ON COVID-19 RISK MITIGATION STRATEGIES

this is essential and will help to promote and set expectations for the required behaviours before netball resumes. Participant education includes;

- Supply of all materials found in appendix 2 of this document.
- Prominent display of these materials in all relevant sporting environments and facilities.

### 2. ASSESSMENT AND PREPARATION OF THE NETBALL ENVIRONMENT

It is important for Member Organisations, associations, clubs and venues to safely prepare the netball environment for all participants. Netball activity should not occur until appropriate measures are in place to ensure safety of all community members. This includes;

- A thorough risk assessment of each specific netball environment and appropriate preparation (see appendix 3).
- Assessment of the likely number of participants, the number of courts per venue/stadium and the level of restrictions currently imposed by the state and federal governments. The guidelines are minimum requirements and Netball Australia encourages all members to minimise attendance of non-participants (appendix 4).
- Ensuring that all balls, shared equipment, benches/surfaces and court surfaces are sanitised and cleaned regularly with disinfectant. All venues must provide sanitising hand-rub dispensers in prominent places around the facility (appendix 5).

### 3. ASSESSMENT OF PARTICIPANTS PRIOR TO RESUMING TRAINING AND COMPETITION

In order to minimise the possible transmission of COVID-19, participants must adhere to the following:

- Do not attend netball training or competition if you are feeling unwell and experiencing symptoms such as a cough, sore throat, fever, fatigue or shortness of breath.
- Do not attend netball training or competition if in the last 14 days you have been unwell or had close contact with a known or suspected case of COVID-19.
- Any participant that is unwell should be referred to a doctor in accordance with local Public Health Authority guidelines.
- Participants should apply a graded return to training and competition to mitigate the risk of injury.
- Extra consideration of vulnerable participants who may be at increased risk.

## 4. EDUCATION OF ALL PARTICIPANTS ON COVID-19 RISK MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Apply a 'Get in, train/play and get out' philosophy.

Participants are:

- Encouraged to shower at home with soap before and immediately after all netball activity.
- Encouraged to arrive at the venue ready to train/play.
- To bring all relevant personal items with them. For example, players must bring their own towel and drink bottle; umpires bring their own whistle. Do not share with others.
- To avoid unnecessary body contact, for example no hand shaking or high fives.

Member Organisations, Associations, Clubs and Venues are to:

- Ensure all staff, court supervisors and umpires who interact with participants have access to alcohol-based sanitisers and instructions on how to keep safe.
- Develop plans for the arrival and departure of all participants (entry/exit patterns) and provide alcohol-based hand sanitiser for all upon entry.
- Develop a plan to enact hand hygiene protocols during training and competition.
- Ensure all netballs are sanitised before use each day and in between each game.
- Schedule training and match timing to ensure a minimum of a 20-minute break between one training/game and the next training/game. This is designed to allow one group to leave the venue before the next group arrives, and for staff to complete sanitisation requirements.
- Have a plan for capacity control and maintenance of social distancing rules.
- Have a plan for cash handling with aim to develop cash-free procedures.
- Have a plan for communal spaces; it is recommended that changerooms, umpire rooms, canteens, public water fountains and general seating areas are closed or roped off to the general public in accordance with the relevant restriction.
- Regularly clean all bathrooms and communal areas and maintain a cleaning log.

Management of a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case:

- Participants must follow Public Health Authority/State Government processes upon confirmation of a positive COVID-19 case.
- Member Organisations, associations, clubs and venue managers to assist the Department of Health in contact-tracing and potentially shutting/reducing access to training and competition if there has been a positive case in the area.

Managing a return to training or competition of a confirmed COVID-19 case:

- Ensure the participant no longer poses any infection risk to the community.
- Ensure the participant has sufficiently recovered to safely participate in netball.
- In both instances, obtain clearance from their Doctor/Local Public Health Authority.

## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1

*'NATIONAL SPORT PRINCIPLES AND FRAMEWORK FOR RESUMPTION OF SPORT'  
'AIS FRAMEWORK FOR REBOOTING SPORT IN A COVID-19 ENVIRONMENT'*

[CLICK HERE](#)

### APPENDIX 2

*HAND WASHING GUIDANCE*

[CLICK HERE](#)

*GOOD HYGIENE FOR CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)*

[CLICK HERE](#)

### APPENDIX 3

*RESUMPTION OF COMMUNITY NETBALL  
RISK ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE TEMPLATE*

[CLICK HERE](#)

### APPENDIX 4

*TRAINING, COMPETITION & VENUE RETURN TO PLAY SUMMARY*

[CLICK HERE](#)

### APPENDIX 5

*NETBALL SPECIFIC HYGIENE GUIDELINES*

[CLICK HERE](#)