

## CRICKET VICTORIA WEEKLY COVID-19 UPDATE (Nov 4)

Latest update from CV for the attention of Regional & Metropolitan clubs is as follows:

### Number of 'groups' training simultaneously can now increase

Based on the new definition from DHHS that indicates groups need to separate by a 'reasonable distance', it has been clarified by DHHS via SRV that 10m is the new 'reasonable distance' gap between groups (down from the previous guidance of 100m). As such, effective immediately, the new maximum number of groups on an oval at the one time has been increased from 2 to 6.

Clubs should have groups based on teams that do not mix before, during or after training, ensure that groups are always fully separated from other groups by at least 10m and remain 1.5m from others within the group.

For nets use, the new distance between groups is also 10m. Clubs who can ensure a 10m gap between groups at all times, can train multiple teams in the nets at the same time (plus have up to 6 groups/teams on the oval).

### Other recent COVID-19 related news...

- **COVID-19 plan**  
SRV have noted that the CV editable COVID-19 plan and additional resources on the CV website is the example for all State Sporting bodies to use. The aspects included across the resources and further clarified in the FAQs comply with the latest template guidance from SRV. They will however continue to be reviewed as necessary. CV is pleased that this has made the job of clubs developing their own a bit easier.
- **Bunnings BBQ Sausage Sizzles**  
The ever-popular Bunnings BBQ sausage sizzle is almost back (Nov 14 in regional Vic & early December for Metro). No doubt many sporting clubs will be looking to book in a Bunnings BBQ sausage sizzle to both promote their sporting club and also raise some all-important funds. CV would encourage clubs to reach out to the Activities Coordinator at their local Bunnings to discuss further.
- **NSW / SA borders**  
The NSW Premier has announced that the NSW border will re-open for Victorian residents from November 23<sup>rd</sup> - meaning a 14 day quarantine is no longer required. It is reported that the SA border will re-open in around two weeks. The recent border town changes however has allowed Cricket Associations who cross the respective borders to proceed but this will further help.

### Stay tuned on...

- **Gap between groups for nets**  
CV are also seeking to have this reduced (from the new 10m gap) to allow more flexibility for multiple teams to use the nets at the same time – whilst still being 'separated'.
- **25km travel restriction & Ring of Steel removed from 11.59pm on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November**  
As flagged previously, the State Government had indicated that the 25km restrictions on travel within Metro Melbourne and the Metropolitan / Regional "Ring of Steel" will be removed from 11.59pm on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November. The recent positive numbers give optimism to this occurring.

- **Indoor facility access for Under-age competitions / training**

CV is working with Indoor Sports Victoria and SRV to obtain clarity on the maximum number of under-age players who could train together at an indoor centre - with indoor centres now able to re-open for Under-age participation.

- **Group sizes**

Clarity is being sought on the number of participants per group for the Woolworths Cricket Blast ("WWCB") – Junior Blasters program. In line with groups sizes for the community, this is currently 10 as there is no 'normal' team size to guide the group size.

As flagged previously, when we reach the "Final Step" in the State Government roadmap, groups sizes (for juniors, seniors and the WWCB Program) can be increased to 50 – allowing almost unlimited structures to the training sessions.

- **Masks required for umpires & players watching who waiting to bat, field?**

This remains the DHHS required position however remains as an ongoing discussion point. The Chief Health Officer has flagged that masks in an outdoor setting may be eased soon. As widely reported, the Chief Health Officer stated the following on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November,

*"We will be transitioning from universal mask-wearing to maybe indoors only to maybe just high-risk settings at the appropriate time," he said.*

*"But masks are a small impost for the individual, for us collectively, to get us to the freedoms that we're all looking for and beginning to enjoy."*

*"With less transmission, they're stopping fewer cases," he said.*

*"But for any infected individual, if both individuals are wearing a mask, the person who's infected and the person who's close to them, that reduces the transmission by 50 per cent or more.*

Being an outdoor sport on a large open field, there is the potential for the DHHS to approve cricket umpires wearing masks to be optional v mandatory soon. Associations and their umpires should stay tuned on any developments on this over the coming weeks.

- **Other restrictions**

As we continue to progress through the various stages under the State Government roadmap, from Step 1 and 2 to now Step 3 (and hopefully soon the "Final Step" and COVID-19 normal"), it is likely that other restrictions on things like the frequency of sanitiser breaks, the encouragement of spectators, training in groups, organising club functions etc. will be eased from current arrangements. CV will continue to work with all relevant authorities to address these matters and provide the latest advice as it comes to hand, however clubs are encouraged to work closely with their local council, Association and regional CV representative for guidance where required and not clear through the CV resources on the CV website.

***Prepared by Paul Milo (CV Head of Member Services) – 04/11/2020***