



ISA PROTOCOLS FOR INTER-SCHOOL SPORT

WINTER SEASON 2021

COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to give guidance and suggested protocols to member schools in the preparation, operations and management of the ISA Winter Season's inter-school sport in 2021 in the COVID-19 environment.

The prime aim is the physical, emotional and mental wellbeing of students, increasing their social involvement, their feeling of connectedness as part of their team, school community and the ISA.

ISA sport and the operations of competitions will be governed by the safety to all involved - players, coaches, officials, parents and spectators.

As we are in a very fluid environment, member schools are to keep up to date with and adhere to the most recent NSW Health Regulations regarding maximum capacity rulings:

- outdoors: adhere to current NSW Health Regulations
- indoors: adhere to current NSW Health Regulations

Individuals should not attend sport if unwell. If individuals have flu like symptoms, they should be tested for COVID-19 and should not return to sport until a negative result is confirmed and they are symptom free. If a positive result is received or they have had contact with a known case of COVID-19 they should follow all protocols and isolation advice as provided by NSW Health.

Winter Season 2021 - ISA Inter-School Sport Protocols

In order to ensure a safe transition to the school winter sport season, school sport and the ongoing safe management of ISA inter-school sport, the Association asks that all schools prepare or update Risk Minimisation Protocols specific to their school venues and community. In consultation with participating member schools, the ISA has prepared the following recommended checklist to include in their school's Sport COVID-19 Safe Plan.

In particular, host schools are asked to liaise closely with their opposing visiting school(s) in the leadup to game day, outlining their school's specific protocols and risk minimisation strategies to foster a clear understanding of expectations on game day.

Players, parents, coaches, officials, staff, and the broader school community need to be engaged and briefed on their school's protocols as well as those schools they may visit. It is acknowledged that each school may have varying protocols appropriate for their specific venues and community and that these protocols may change throughout the season.

ISA encourages schools to appoint a Sport COVID-19 Safety Coordinator (role description attached)

or

an appropriate number of Safety Coordinators for the number of fields/venues in use. It is recommended that this is the focus of duty for the appointed person or persons and that they do not have other duties on game day.

According to Government regulations, schools will be required to keep an electronic register of those in attendance at Saturday sport. Each school will have their own recording process for their players, coaches, sport administrators, officials and school staff.

For Spectators, staff and officials to register, schools are asked to offer the Service NSW COVID Safe Check-In for each venue.

Checklist:

- COVID-19 Safety Coordinator(s) - per venue
- Communication Plan - to their school community, players and staff and to opposing schools
- COVID-19 Safety Plan

Recommended Strategies & Protocols for Consideration
in Schools' COVID-19 Safety Plan

In the leadup to Game Day:

Preparation of all involved in school sport prior to game day is necessary. The information listed below is a guide. Schools may need to add information relevant to their school and venues.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Additional Action – How will this be implemented</u>	<u>By Whom</u>
<u>Government App:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage all people who attend ISA sport to download COVID SAFE APP 		
<u>Attendance:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If unwell or flu-like symptoms - do not attend • If been in contact with a known or suspected case of COVID-19 - do not attend • If at a high risk from a health perspective, including elderly and those with pre-existing conditions - do not attend • Attendees who are deemed to be living with clinically vulnerable individuals should be advised against attending sport - do not attend 		
School Community to be informed of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Game Day protocols • Including if and when spectator(s) are allowed to attend • Drop off and pick up arrangements • Transport arrangements • Reminder of hand washing and hygiene practices • Social distancing • Spectators registry on entry 		

Players to be informed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Game Day protocols • Arrive in playing uniform • Bring personal hand sanitiser • Bring own drink bottle, clearly labelled and to be only used by that individual • Bring own food • Wash hands frequently • No spitting • Refrain from touching face 		
Scheduling of Games	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Games to be scheduled to allow time for players to vacate area and cleaning between games 		
Cleaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protocols for sanitising stations, sanitising shared equipment, uniforms • Cleaning standards - increase regular cleans and frequent wiping of high touch surfaces • Disinfectant solutions need to be maintained at an appropriate strength and used in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions • Displaying posters outlining relevant personal hygiene guidance • Avoiding shared use of equipment where possible - e.g. score sheets/folders • Provide suitable rubbish bins with regular waste disposal 		
Venues - hired	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adhere to Venue's COVID Safety Plan • State Government approval of the resumption of facility operations • Local government/venue owner approval to use of facility, if required • Insurance arrangements confirmed to cover facility usage 		
What to do if a school student or staff member is suspected of COVID-19 prior to Saturday fixtures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affected school to liaise with the NSW Health Department to determine if games are to go ahead • Notification to be as soon as possible in the week prior to game day and at the latest by Friday lunch 		

Game Day:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Additional Action – How will this be implemented</u>	<u>By Whom</u>
<u>Entry/Exit Procedures:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate entry and exit locations. Venue/school maps to be distributed by host school • Detailed electronic attendance registers to be kept (for 28 days) • Spectators, staff, first aid medics and officials to register on entry through the school's Service NSW COVID Safe Check-In procedures • Schools to keep a players' electronic register. This will be used only for the purposes of tracing COVID-19 infections & are stored confidentially & securely by school 		
<u>Attendees:</u> Spectators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spectator areas to be clearly defined • Seating capacity - adhere to current NSW Health Regulations for both indoor and outdoor activities. Further restrictions or lessening of restrictions may be dependent on host school venue regulations • Host school to inform visiting school as early as possible - at least 5 days prior to game day • Physical Distance Markers - to promote physical distancing with markers on the floor and/or on seating • Roping off playing area may be required depending on the venue 		
Bus Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus Transport - as a precaution, schools may wish staff and students to wear masks • Host school to provide a specified space per school for visiting players and coaches to remain while waiting for other bus travellers' fixtures to finish to allow for physical distancing 		

<u>Players:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrive in playing gear and school track suit • Limited post-match functions – suggest captain speeches and packed or individually wrapped afternoon/morning tea • No shaking hands with opposition • Own drink bottle, clearly marked • Bring own food • ‘Get in, play, get out’ • Use hand sanitisers regularly - before entering and when exiting the field of play • Players are to enter and leave the field/court and venue in a coordinated manner minimising contact with others and not gather in large groups 		
<u>Facilities:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Venue Risk Assessments to be completed 		
Change Rooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access minimised - recommend no access if toilets are available elsewhere • Limited use if required - restrict numbers & clean between use 		
Canteen or Barbeques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools may decide to offer these facilities within the restrictions of AHPPC and NSW Health guidelines 		
Toilets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate toilets for adults and players • Cleaning protocols in place for the regular cleaning of toilets throughout the day • Restriction on the number of people using the toilets at any one time to apply, dependent upon the size of the amenities • Soap and sanitiser to be available in the toilets at all times 		
First Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visible - check treatment procedures and hygiene measures (gloves, sanitiser etc) between treating players 		
Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminders to wash hands, maintain social distancing, no hand shaking etc 		
Entry & Exits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited access - separate entry and exit where possible • Limit numbers - this may depend on venue and activity 		

Players' Bench	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water bottles clearly marked and spread out • Separate bench areas and chairs to be wiped down between games • Hand sanitiser 		
Scorer's Bench	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning protocols in place between games • Distance of 1.5m between people doing bench duty • Scorers to bring their own pens • Hand sanitiser 		
Cleaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional cleaning protocols of areas of venue - railings, seating etc • Regular wiping down of balls and other equipment used during and between games • Regular cleaning of Goal Posts (particularly basketball) 		
School/Venue Specific Protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools may wish to insert venue specific protocols 		
<u>Modification of Game Rules:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity/Sport Risk Assessment & COVID-19 Risk Minimisation • Allow drink breaks - rather than bottles being run onto the field • Equipment - cleaning protocols 		
<u>Liaison between schools:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear understanding of requirements of host/visiting school • Method of transport of visiting players to be liaised to host school 		

Post-Game Day:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Additional Action – How will this be implemented</u>	<u>By Whom</u>
What to do if someone is suspected of COVID-19 post Saturday fixtures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification by the Head of School to be given to opposing schools' Head of School if a member of their school community is suspected of having COVID-19. This to be as soon as possible in the week after game day 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing review of protocols to meet government and health authorities 		

Note: Sample templates for COVID-19 Safety Plans

1. The Australian Sports Commission - Sport Australia have released a Toolkit which includes a checklist for:
 - ❖ Organisational Considerations, and
 - ❖ Operational Considerations.

These checklists are more comprehensive than the above. Not all may be applicable to school sport, however the Operational Considerations are excellent. Much of this, however, will already be covered in your school's COVID-19 protocols.

[Sport Australia COVID-19 Safety Plan](#)

2. The NSW Health Department also has a template for COVID-Safe Plans

[NSW GOV COVID-19 Safety Plan](#)



COVID-19 Safety Coordinator - Position Description

Included in the “ISA Protocols for Winter Season Inter-School Sport - COVID-19 Safety Plan” is the recommendation that each school appoint a COVID-19 Safety Coordinator for the number of venues in use at home fixtures. This may require one person to oversee and more to be appointed at each venue.

It is strongly recommended that each COVID-19 Safety Coordinator complete the Australian Health Department’s “COVID-19 Infection Control Training” online course prior to undertaking the role. <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-infection-control-training>

A list of the suggested roles and responsibilities of a COVID-19 Safety Coordinator is listed below. Schools may wish to add to this to give a clear understanding of what is required for the adequate preparation and management of Saturday Inter-School fixtures for their school.

It is recommended that this role not be given to Heads of Sport as their focus on game day is not only the smooth running of the day, but more importantly duty of care of students. However, it is recognised that the COVID-19 Safety Coordinator will work closely with the Head of Sport.

The COVID-19 Safety Coordinator will oversee the implementation of the school’s COVID-19 Safety Plan. Suggested key action items can be identified in the “ISA Protocols for Winter Season Inter-School Sport COVID-19 Safety Plan” namely the ‘Lead up to Game Day’, ‘Game Day’ and ‘Post Game Day’ Risk Minimisation Protocols & Strategies including:

- Ensure individual school protocols are in place
- Liaise with the Head of Sport regarding the communications plan to educate their school community on the possible restrictions, protocols and strategies in the lead up to Saturday fixtures and attendance at fixtures
- Liaise with the Head of Sport regarding the above for visiting schools
- Plan entry and exit strategies if required. These to be clearly signposted at appropriate points at the venue(s)
- Manage spectator registry procedure and relevant signage
- Ensure the hygiene and physical distancing guidelines for all players, coaches, officials and spectators be clearly communicated and adhered to
- Liaise with medical staff with the assessment of any players displaying symptoms of COVID-19 and record accordingly any player that is deemed unfit to play
- Ensure the guidelines regarding the safe use and cleaning of all equipment be followed
- Remind visiting schools to keep a register of attendance for players, coaches, and officials
- Liaise with the appropriate venue management staff to ensure that COVID-19 risk assessments are completed prior to the resumption of sport
- Ensure that the appropriate measures are taken with regards to the use of change rooms, toilets, water bubblers and the cleaning recommendations of facilities are followed
- Ensure the location and distribution of hand sanitiser, gloves and rubbish bins
- Liaise with the Head of Sport on the management of the recommended arrival, departure and management of fixtures including the physical distancing of visiting school groups who travelled by bus and require a specified area to remain while waiting for their schools’ fixtures to finish
- Notify the Head of Sport if a player is deemed unfit to play due to COVID-19
- Notify the Head of Sport immediately if no medical staff is present at a venue and a player is showing any symptoms of COVID-19.