

## MEMORANDUM

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| To   | All Association Presidents, Primary Contacts & Gold Industry Group<br>WANL Clubs Presidents & Coordinators, Goldfields Netball Club<br>Contacts |
| From | Liz Booth – NWA General Manager - Community Netball   |
| Re.  | COVID -19 Update on Netball Activities & Frequently Asked Questions   |
| Date | 29 April 2020   |

### UPDATE ON NETBALL ACTIVITIES

On Monday 27 April 2020, Western Australian Premier Mark McGowan lifted the restrictions on outdoor gatherings from 2 people to 10 people. Whilst this is an encouraging announcement for West Australians, government restrictions remain in place which includes the social distancing restriction of 1.5m, and the exclusion of using shared equipment in indoor and outdoor areas.

The main points from the easing of some restrictions in relation to sport are that from Monday 27 April;

- outdoor non-work gatherings of up to 10 people are allowed for outdoor personal training
- there must be no sharing of equipment
- the sporting activity must be **non-contact**
- 1.5m social distancing must remain in place

Therefore, if there was no more than 10 people in a group (including the coaches, assistant coaches and any other support staff), teams/groups could start to undertake fitness sessions in parks whilst abiding by the above. Responsibility lays with the teams to ensure there is enough equipment to avoid sharing (i.e. bibs, weights etc) and if carrying out individual ball skills as part of the fitness sessions each player would require their own ball. All equipment would require thorough cleansing with sanitiser/disinfectant at the end. Teams who have groups of more than 10 you would be required to split into 2 groups and space yourself on the oval or park demonstrating you are abiding by the 10 in a group number whilst still abiding by the social distancing within each of the groups.

However, other than fitness sessions as laid out above, Netball WA reiterate that all club trialling, training and grading competitions continue to be postponed, as per the memo from Simon Taylor, Netball WA CEO that was circulated on [Wednesday 18th March 2020](#). Netball WA continue to monitor the situation regarding COVID-19, taking into consideration government restrictions, advice from medical experts and Netball Australia before making



any changes to the decisions on the proposed competition start date of 30 May 2020.

A reminder that with the easing of some of the restrictions, the government can still apply fines. WA remains in a State of Emergency, and various restrictions are enforceable by fines of up to \$50,000 for individuals and \$250,000 for businesses. Police officers also have the power to issue \$1,000 on-the-spot fines.

We would like to remind Associations, clubs and their members that participating in training that does not meet the above would be against the current recommendation of Netball WA and therefore not a sanctioned event. Members would also be required to be affiliated to Netball WA for 2020 to be covered by insurance. The health and wellbeing of our netball community is paramount, and the potential impact on our people continues to be at the forefront of these decisions.

There are several online platforms that continue to be utilised for individual training ideas during this time and these can be found on the Netball WA website, [Netball At Home](#) portal. All coaching, umpiring and bench official's accreditation and education where possible can be maintained with virtual and e-learning options provided.

Netball WA has developed an extensive **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)** document which follows on from this memo. We would ask that you take the time to read this information and direct members to this document, if their query can be answered from the FAQs provided.

Netball WA will be sending this memo and FAQs to all NWA individual members today. Moving forward, we ask all Associations to continue to share with their clubs and members all information sent by Netball WA and remind them also that information is available on the Netball WA website [COVID-19 updates](#).

Please direct any queries to David Lindsay, Netball WA Community Operations and Competitions Manager – [david.lindsay@netballwa.com.au](mailto:david.lindsay@netballwa.com.au)



## Netball WA COVID-19 – Frequently Asked Questions

### Acronyms

- ❖ Netball WA – NWA
- ❖ Netball Australia – NA
- ❖ West Coast Fever - WCF
- ❖ Crisis Action Team – CAT
- ❖ Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries - DLGSC

### • Who makes the decisions around the COVID-19 impact on Netball in WA?

NWA have created the NWA Crisis Action Team (CAT). The CAT members are made up of NWA and WCF Board Members and members of the NWA Executive Management Team. The CAT meets regularly and as required to review the ever changing COVID-19 landscape and its effects on NWA's operations and the delivery of the sport of Netball. Documents are reviewed across many areas of the business including internal and external operations. The CAT takes into consideration various information when making decisions on the documents presented to them, including but not limited to, NA guidelines along with State and Federal Government guidelines and restrictions. The health and wellbeing of our netball community – our athletes, coaches, umpires, officials, volunteers, fans, and staff - is paramount, and the potential impact on our people is at the forefront of any decision made or advice provided.

### • Where do we go for the most “UpToDate” information on the impact of COVID-19 on Netball?

NWA has developed a COVID-19 portal on its website [Netball WA COVID-19 Portal](#) where all communications have been placed. The portal has 3 information components to it: NWA, NA, and Suncorp Super Netball. This portal is updated regularly with information. This portal may be accessed by Associations, Clubs, and Individual Members to ensure that they remain up to date with the latest information regarding the COVID-19 impact on our sport. NA also have a FAQ sheet on COVID-19 which may provide you with further information [NA FAQ Sheet](#)

### • Are there timelines in place for when decisions are made on Competitions and Programs?

Yes, for all NWA Competitions and Programs there are review timelines in place. We are regularly monitoring the situation and if a postponement, delay, or cancellation is required the recommendation is forwarded to the CAT for review and the outcome then disseminated to the community.



- **Why is it important that we still play netball in 2020?**

We appreciate that sport and particularly Netball is highly valued by our community as it develops friendships, social skills, teamwork, and togetherness. Sport provides significant physical and mental health benefits and most importantly it builds strong communities. During this tough time, all netball Associations and Clubs are working hard to continue our purpose of “advancing netball, advancing communities” with the aim of remaining sustainable. NWA staff are working closely with Associations to provide guidance where required on various formats of competition for 2020 so once restrictions are lifted, we can all get back on the court!

- **Can I now play sport at my club as the WA Government eased some restrictions that took effect on 27 April?**

The Government’s answer is yes, if the sporting activity is **non-contact**, and involves **10 people or less**, then you can participate. This includes **non-contact training** for sports that would ordinarily involve contact, such as basketball, football, soccer and netball. Importantly, **playing the contact sport itself remains a prohibited sporting activity**.

**The main points from the easing of some restrictions on Monday 27 April is;**

- **outdoor non-work gatherings of up to 10 people are allowed for outdoor personal training**
- **there must be no sharing of equipment**
- **the sporting activity must be *non-contact***
- **1.5m social distancing must remain in place**

Therefore, if there is no more than 10 people in a group (including the coaches, assistant coaches, support staff), clubs/teams could start to carry out fitness sessions in parks whilst abiding by the above. Responsibility lays with the clubs/teams to ensure there is enough equipment to avoid sharing (i.e. bibs, weights, balls) and if carrying out individual ball skills as part of the fitness sessions each player would require their own ball. All equipment would require thorough cleansing with sanitiser/disinfectant. Teams of more than 10 would be required to split into 2 groups and space themselves on the oval demonstrating they are abiding by the no more than 10 in a group along with the social distancing within each of the groups.

Further information on the easing of WA Government restrictions can be found on their website here [WA Gov - cautious easing of restrictions-FAQ](#)



- **What types of formats could be run for Association Competitions and Suncorp NetSetGO in 2020?**

- **Competition**

Be prepared to be adaptable. Currently, Netball WA has advised that all community netball inclusive of all trials, grading, training, and matches, has been postponed until 30 May 2020. For example, competition formats are currently being developed by all Associations that may include a delayed start to the season with a regular or extended finish date or a shortened season that may see a reduction in the number of rounds etc. Either way, Associations are working to ensure that competition formats are developed for any situation that may eventuate.

- **Suncorp NetSetGO**

Do not stress! The Suncorp NetSetGO Program has flexible delivery methods including skills programs that can be delivered over 6 - 10 weeks and a skills/competition program that can be run over a 6-10-week period, so shorter timeframes can easily be catered for. Remember, Suncorp NetSetGO is all about participation, making the delivery of skills and match based NetSetGO programs flexible.

- **What happens if we cannot run a Winter Season?**

If a traditional Winter Season cannot run, the Associations along with NWA are working on alternative competition delivery models. This may mean a shorter winter season, or various other formats to the traditional Winter Season. Spring/Summer is another option for competition to be held.

- **What happens if my Club or Association choose not to play this season?**

NWA are working closely with all Associations to ensure when restrictions are lifted that some format of competition can be run. Associations are working with Clubs to keep them updated on the situation in each of the Associations. If for some reason your Club or Association cannot take part in a 2020 Season, there are other Clubs and Associations that you could approach. If you require assistance in finding another Club or Association to play in for the 2020 Season then please contact NWA at [info@netballwa.com.au](mailto:info@netballwa.com.au) and we can assist you in this area.

- **How will the player, umpire and coach pathways be impacted this year?**

NWA are working through various scenarios to ensure that although the traditional pathways may be impacted by COVID-19, every opportunity will be utilised to ensure that the Identification of Players, Umpires and Coaches can still occur at



various points once restrictions are lifted. NWA will provide further updates on pathway programs as timelines for competitions and programs are updated.

- **Are there opportunities for our players, umpires, and coaches to remain engaged over this time?**

Yes, there are many free online courses and online accreditation courses that players, umpires, coaches, and administrators can do. This is also an ideal time for coaches and umpires to complete any online Accreditation components for their next accreditation level. Once restrictions are lifted you are then ready to register for the practical components of the accreditation. Log into MyNetball and then into the MyLearning area of your profile. MyLearning also has free education workshops for players, coaches, umpires and the Play by the Rules workshops that can be accessed through MyLearning are also great to undertake.

The NWA Facebook page also has some great individual skills that players can do at home over this period. Please refer to the Suncorp NetSetGO section below to find out more about the forthcoming Suncorp NetSetGO virtual program.

- **How will programs such as Marie Little OAM Shield and NWA Aboriginal Allstars programs be impacted?**

The Marie Little OAM Shield is a national tournament conducted by NA. NWA will work closely with NA to provide information to the community as the tournament date draws closer.

The Aboriginal All Stars program will be guided by the NWA CAT, and further information will be provided to the community as the program commencement date draws closer.

- **Will key NWA Competitions run in 2020?**

- **Gold Industry Group WANL**

Yes, NWA is monitoring the situation relating to COVID-19. Several fixture models have been developed to cater for a range of possible start dates. NWA will explore all options to try and ensure a full season is played once the Federal and State Governments give clearance to commence state league competitions.

- **NAIDOC Carnival - Perth**

Currently this important annual carnival is scheduled for Wednesday 8 July 2020. NWA is monitoring the situation relating to COVID-19 and will explore possible dates should there be a need to postpone this competition.



The 2020 October school holidays may be an appropriate time to re-schedule if required.

- **North West NAIDOC**

Currently scheduled for 12-13 September 2020 in Broome. There has been no change to these dates or venue, however NWA is monitoring the situation relating to COVID-19 and will make changes if required.

- **Midwest NAIDOC**

Currently scheduled for 21-22 August 2020 in Geraldton. There has been no change to these dates or venue, however NWA is monitoring the situation relating to COVID-19 and will make changes if required.

- **Multicultural Carnival**

Currently scheduled for Friday 28 August at the Gold Netball Centre in Jolimont. NWA is monitoring the situation relating to COVID-19 and will make changes if required.

- **Regional Championships**

Most Regional Championships have been postponed until later in the year. NWA will re-confirm all new Regional Championship dates as soon as possible. Please check the NWA Calendar on our website for further details.

- **Fuel to Go & Play Association Championships**

This competition has been postponed until later in the year. NWA is currently exploring the 26-28 September (TBC) 2020 as a possible date to conduct our largest representative carnival. These dates will be confirmed as soon as possible. Please check the NWA Calendar on our website for further details.

- **State Cup**

Currently scheduled for 9-11 October, this competition may be cancelled in 2020 due to the rescheduling of the Fuel to Go & Play Association Championships. Details to be confirmed as soon as possible.

- **Have Membership & Affiliation fee payment dates been altered to the proposed season commencement?**

The Association 50% invoice due date has been extended to 12 June 2020, aligning with the initial expected season commencement date of 30 May 2020. The date extension provides time for Associations to recommence registrations, collect the club fees and pay the 50% Affiliation invoice. The mid-year invoice due date has been extended to 11 September 2020, with the final years invoice still due mid to late December 2020.

- **Why is it preferred that the fees I have paid are held in credit?**

It is NWA's intention to conduct community netball competitions in 2020. Currently, most of the Membership fees are sitting with either Associations or Clubs. Therefore,



these funds will be held by these entities until an outcome regarding the commencement of the 2020 season is known.

- **What are my options if I find myself in financial hardship?**

Netball WA understands the current environment may have created extraordinary personal circumstances for some members, who may be experiencing genuine hardship. All NWA Associations and Clubs have been advised of the process to be undertaken if an individual member is in this situation. Therefore, they are required to contact either their Club or Association directly to undertake this process. Please note, any refund incurring a processing fee will be at the individual member's expense.

- **How is Suncorp NetSetGO impacted with refunds?**

Suncorp NetSetGO is a NA product and as such their advice is that all traditional Suncorp NetSetGO programs and competitions be postponed until a later date. Presently, in Netball WA's case this would be 30 May 2020. Netball WA encourages participants to maintain their registration as we continue to work with Clubs and Associations on delivery formats once restrictions are lifted. The NA withdrawal and refund criteria remains unchanged. For further information and Suncorp NetSetGO FAQ's, please visit this link [Suncorp NetSetGO COVID-19 FAQs](#)

NA is currently working on an exciting virtual delivery model which can potentially start as early as Term 2. The virtual program is not intended to replace the traditional format of the current program and competition but rather provide an alternative offering to ensure continued engagement across this period. NA and NWA will keep you informed over the coming weeks on the progress of this digital initiative.

- **I have a KidSport Voucher that is due to expire what do I do?**

Advice received from DLGSC indicates that KidSport will be extending all voucher expiry dates on previously approved vouchers through until the 30 June 2020. This allows Association and Clubs to hold off on claiming vouchers until such time as seasons programs are confirmed. The 90-day expiry will still be in place for any future voucher approvals. The KidSport Refund Guidelines were recently updated and are available on the DLGSC website [KidSport](#). Given the uncertainty surrounding seasons and programs for many Associations and Clubs, KidSport is placing a hold on any current refund requests to allow Associations the opportunity to confirm delivery of future seasons, competitions, and programs.





- **How can we maintain “Social Connection” with NWA and other Associations and Clubs during this period?**

This is an easy one! Head to NWA, WCF and Shooting Stars website and social media pages. Our vibrant and energetic marketing and communications teams are busily engaging our membership through some great digital content via our website and social media channels. Whether it is engaging in “Share the Netty Love”, having fun with an episode of “Netball at Home” or enjoying a “Fever Focus” moment, please share this information, engage where you can and encourage others to do likewise.

**Netball WA:** [Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

**West Coast Fever:** [Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Snapchat](#)

**Shooting Stars:** [Website](#) | [Facebook](#)

- **How do we continue to celebrate our Netball Volunteers?**

We always want to celebrate the hard work and commitment of our wonderful netball volunteers! If you know someone who stands out, why not nominate them for our monthly Coach, Umpire or Volunteer in the Spotlight award!

<https://wa.netball.com.au/coach-spotlight>

