



Eightball Tasmania Guidelines for the Resumption of Eightball: Return to Sport During The Current COVID-19 Pandemic

1. Introduction:

Eightball Tasmania is the official Tasmanian Sporting Organisation responsible for the management and promotion of the game of Eightball in Tasmania.

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to Eightball Tasmania Affiliates, Venues Operators, Players and Officials on requirements for the resumption of Eightball in Tasmania, and to help them comply with public health guidelines for a COVID-19 safe environment.

In accordance with the gradual easing of restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic in Australia, governments have provided recommendations for a staged return to sport and leisure activities over the following months.

Resuming sports must occur in the context of Federal, State/Territory and Local Public Health Authority requirements including the maximum number of people allowed within an indoor venue, which may vary in different states and territories. These government requirements must take precedence over all other forms of advice, including these guidelines.

These guidelines align with public health and SafeWork Australia recommendations for workplaces and the "AIS Framework for Re-booting Sport in a COVID-19 Environment". They will be reviewed and updated regularly in accordance with changes to public health guidelines and government requirements. The level of restrictions in force in each place should be kept under constant review by everyone involved with Eightball, and the priority at all times must be to take the necessary steps to preserve public health by minimising the risk of community transmission of the virus. A checklist that organisations can use to assess their preparedness to return to sport is available at

- https://www.sportaus.gov.au/return-to-sport#simplified_checklist.

Communication via member newsletters, posters and signage within venues will reinforce COVID-19 related policies and procedures and will support effective action and enhance member confidence in their ability to safely resume their sport.

Key Public and Occupational Health Recommendations:

The key health recommendations to minimise transmission of coronavirus are:

- physical distancing between people (at least 1.5 metres between people and 4 square metres per person in an indoor environment);
- minimise the use of shared equipment, and disinfecting shared equipment;
- adequate cleaning and disinfecting of environments where people gather;
- people must stay at home if they are unwell with symptoms of COVID19;
- contact tracing; and
- consideration of vulnerable players.

Responsibility for Implementing Recommendations:

Responsibility for implementing the measures outlined below to prevent the spread of COVID-19 (measures) will vary depending on the nature of the play, the organising body and the type of venue. In all circumstances, venue management and sports organisations should ensure that they have a clear understanding of the role that they, and other parties, play to keep their environments safe.

Comment on these Guidelines and Further Information:

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2. Physical Distancing:

The maximum number of people within an indoor space for activities such as Eightball will be dependent on Tasmanian Public Health advice at any given time. You can check the advice on the following Tasmanian government websites:

- <https://www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/>
- <https://coronavirus.tas.gov.au/families-community/current-restrictions>

The current advice from the Dept of Health is it is the responsibility of the Venue/Affiliate to adhere to the 4 square metre rule: Maximum capacity of each undivided room/venue is not to exceed one person per 4 square metres.



To determine the number of players and officials allowed in a room at any one time, the width and length should be measured (in metres), multiplied together and divided by 4.

Of course, venues can elect to accommodate a lower number of people than the maximum allowable if they choose. All players and officials (when permitted) must remain a minimum of 1.5 metres from each other at all times. Activity should currently be limited to what is allowed under the requirements & from the venue operator taking into account other non-playing patrons. Players should leave immediately after the completion of games and not linger in venues.

Under Stage 2 (current) spectators are NOT permitted to attend venues. When restrictions change spectators must be kept in an area separate from players. Spectators should also maintain social distancing of at least 1.5m. No socialising once the event has concluded or any group or shared meals (i.e. Suppers or BBQ's).

It is recommended that signage and posters are in place within venues to remind players of the physical distancing and hygiene requirements. A selection of posters is available here:

- https://www.sportaus.gov.au/return-to-sport# covid-19_hygiene_guidance.
- www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/doc/signage-and-posters-covid-19

Consideration should be given to:

- Use of separate entry and exits where possible, to avoid close contact in shared spaces.
- Avoiding people gathering within small areas such as reception areas and lobbies.
- Taking adjacent tables out of play in order to facilitate physical distancing.
- Maintaining physical distancing from staff supervising venues.
- Use of barriers or markings on floors to indicate the minimum 1.5 metre distance from staff.

3. Sanitise and Minimise the Use of Shared Equipment:

Players should bring their own cues and chalk and avoid sharing other equipment where possible. They should be allocated one cross and spider rest each when playing. All shared equipment including table surrounds, cross rests, spider rests, triangles and rack cues should be cleaned and disinfected (see next section) by the players or venue operators at the beginning of play, and after use when playing in competitive matches.

Players should also sanitise their hands frequently when playing and at the conclusion of their match prior to leaving the playing area. Players should bring water in their own bottles and there should be no use of communal crockery, cutlery or glasses unless they can be cleaned adequately in a commercial kitchen environment.

4. Hand Hygiene, Cleaning and Disinfecting

Hand Hygiene:

All people entering a venue should sanitise their hands upon arrival and upon re-entry if they leave the room. It is also recommended that players sanitise hands regularly during the course of play. Hand sanitiser must have a minimum of 60% alcohol to be effective.

Hand sanitiser should be readily available within the facility.

People should avoid using their hands to cover their mouth and nose in the event of sneezing and/or coughing. A disposable tissue should be used to cover the mouth and nose and immediately deposited in a bin lined with a plastic bin liner. If a tissue is not available people should sneeze or cough into their upper arm or elbow region. People should use hand sanitiser after they touch their face, sneeze or cough.

Cleaning of Venues:

It is the responsibility of Eightball Tasmania or Affiliate to confirm that the cleaning of the venue in line with COVID-19 requirements is the responsibility of the venue owner, this includes toilets, change rooms, and all other areas accessible to Eightball Tasmania members and the public.

5. Stay Home If Unwell

Public health authorities advise all people to stay at home if they are unwell or display any symptoms of COVID19 infection. People are advised to seek medical advice and testing for COVID19 if they suspect they have the infection. Players should not attend venues if they suspect they may have been infected with COVID19 (including close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID19) or have been advised by health authorities to self-isolate.

It is recommended that the 'Stay at home if unwell' message is communicated in signage in venues and via club member newsletters and/or player information sheets.



6. Contact Tracing

A key component of managing the COVID-19 pandemic and reducing transmission of infection in the community is rapid and effective contact tracing. Contact tracing is undertaken by public health authorities.

To support public health authorities with contact tracing all venues must maintain a Register of Attendance (sign-in and sign out) either digitally or manually of all persons attending the venue which should include full name, time of attendance (arrival and leaving) and a contact phone number.

A template attendance register produced by SportAus is available here:

- https://www.sportaus.gov.au/return-to-sport#attendance_register.

Attendance details must be provided to relevant health authorities upon request.

Eightball Tasmania supports the Australian government COVIDsafe App and recommends that all players download the app and have it turned on whilst playing.

7. Vulnerable Players

Vulnerable players, are people who are at increased risk of infection and /or severe illness if they contract COVID19. This includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 50 years and older with one or more chronic medical conditions; people 65 years and older with one or more chronic medical conditions; people 70 years and older; and people with compromised immune systems. All players who may be vulnerable or are concerned about their own personal health risk should check with their own doctor regarding the resumption of leisure activities such as Eightball,

8. Dates & Stages of Tasmania's Easing of Restrictions:

- STAGE ONE: From 18 May – Outdoor sport for up to 10 people (excluding coach/support staff).
- STAGE TWO: From 3pm 5 June – Outdoor and Indoor sport for up to 20 people (excluding coach/support staff) **NB this date was revised forward from 15 June**
- STAGE THREE: From 13 July **Subject to Public Health Advice** – full training and competition with groups of up to 50-100.

9. Return to Sport Plan Review:

Eightball Tasmania will monitor the situation and this will be reviewed prior to the implementation of Stage Three which is flagged to commence on July 13th, 2020. Affiliates will be notified of any changes to this "Return to Sport Plan" once a decision has been made.

Where Eightball Tasmania or an Affiliated Association is holding an event other than a roster match i.e. Championships or Inter Association games all entry forms will be required to have a signed notice acknowledging that participants "Know, Understand & Accept" the terms on which the event is being played these will include:

- *Cleaning*
- *Hygiene*
- *Restrictions for people who are unwell or required to isolate or quarantine*
- *Physical Distancing*

These conditions will either be displayed on the website along with the entry form or physical supplied by Eightball Tasmania or the Affiliated Association to the players. If these forms are not signed, they will not be allowed to enter.

10. Resources and References:

Worksafe Tasmania:

- [COVID-19 Safe Workplaces Framework](#)

Safework Australia's COVID19 information:

- <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces>

Australian Government Coronavirus Advice:

- <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>
- <https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/coronavirus>

Australian Institute of Sport:

- https://ais.gov.au/health-wellbeing/covid-19#ais_framework_for_rebooting_sport