

On 8 November, almost 90 per cent of NSW’s population aged 16 years and over had received two doses of vaccination to counter COVID-19.

As a result, the NSW Government further eased restrictions and published an amended [Public Health \(COVID-19 General\) Order 2021](#) which affected how community sport activities are conducted.

Below are guidelines and FAQs to assist community football clubs in managing a return to pre-season and play under the latest Public Health Orders.

Please note all participants in community sport aged 16 years and over must be fully vaccinated.

Health advice and government regulations are regularly updated on www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/ and www.sport.nsw.gov.au/covid-19-information.

OVERVIEW OF RETURN TO OUTDOOR COMMUNITY SPORT ACTIVITIES

The following are key Public Health Order requirements for clubs to implement / adhere to for any outdoor community sport activities.

<p>Vaccination Requirement</p>	<p>The Public Health Order (PHO) allows for a fully vaccinated adult (a person 16 years and over) to attend and participate in outdoor community sport.</p> <p>A fully vaccinated person is defined by the PHO as a person who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has had 2 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, or • has a medical contraindication certificate issued to the person, or • has a medical contraindication recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register that prevents the person from receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. <p>Unvaccinated children 15 and under may also attend and participate in an outdoor community sport activity. They count towards the total number of people. Any adult accompanying a child must be fully vaccinated.</p> <p>If a community sport event includes more than 1,000 people (including spectators), that event needs a COVID-19 Safety Plan and requires a club to demonstrate it has taken reasonable steps to ensure that all people aged 16 years and over at the venue meet the above ‘fully vaccinated person’ requirement. See FAQs for examples of how to do this.</p>
<p>Maximum Capacity</p>	<p>The PHO establishes the maximum number of people permitted at an outdoor public gathering is 1,000 persons. This includes participants and spectators.</p> <p>Any event with more than 1,000 people attending is considered a COVID-19 safe outdoor public gathering. A COVID-19 Safety Plan is required for this type of gathering.</p>
<p>COVID-19 Safety Plan</p>	<p>The PHO requires that the ‘activity organiser’ of a community sport activity (i.e. training and matches with more than 1,000 people attending) must have an Outdoor events COVID-19 Safety Plan in place, which can be found here.</p> <p>A copy of the COVID-19 Safety Plan must be readily available at the venue for inspection by an authorised public health officer or a police officer.</p> <p>After completing the COVID-19 Safety Plan, clubs must register as COVID Safe Business to receive a Service NSW QR code.</p>
<p>Contact Tracing</p>	<p>If there are more than 1,000 people attending an event, the PHO requires all attendees to check-in using the Service NSW QR code system, or to provide their details to the activity organiser where they are unable to use a phone to comply with this.</p> <p>A club must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have a Service NSW QR code readily available at the venue for check-in by all attendees • have an alternative mechanism available for check-in by any person unable to do this via the Service NSW app, e.g. a paper register • take reasonable steps to ensure those attendees comply with check-in requirements. <p>A QR code will be generated after the club has completed its COVID-19 Safety Plan.</p>

INDOOR ACTIVITIES OVERVIEW

A club's key requirements for 'indoor activities' may vary depending on the nature of the activity being undertaken. In a community football setting, indoor activities may include: committee meetings, presentation events, social gatherings, canteen service, use of change rooms, use of a gym, registration days etc. Please review the Public Health Order or NSW Government sources for advice unclear in this document.

Vaccination Requirement	Same as requirements under 'outdoor activities'.
Maximum Capacity	The maximum number of people for an indoor activity is, in most circumstances, based on 1 person per 2 square metres . There is no upper limit on indoor capacity except for group gym and dance classes which are limited to 20 persons.
COVID-19 Safety Plan	If the indoor activity is directly related to an outdoor community sport activity (e.g. use of change rooms, canteen service for attendees), those activities would be treated as part of the outdoor event.
Contact Tracing	Same as requirements as detailed in 'outdoor activities'
Masks	Masks must still be worn when not participating in exercise (unless the person has an exemption).

FAQs

Can we play and train outside?	Yes. Provided that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> all attendees 16 years and over meet the definition of a 'fully vaccinated person'.
What is the definition of a 'fully vaccinated person'?	A fully vaccinated person is defined by the PHO as a person who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> has had two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, or has a medical contraindication certificate issued to the person, or has a medical contraindication recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register that prevents the person from receiving a COVID-19 vaccine.
Does everyone involved in training and matches need to be double vaccinated?	Yes. Unless the person is under the age of 16 or has a 'medical contraindication certificate'. Currently, if there are fewer than 1,000 people involved in the outdoor public gathering (including training and matches) a COVID-19 Safety Plan is not required. Please note it is a requirement of the PHO for a person to carry vaccination evidence and to produce this if required to a police officer or an authorised health officer. An effective option for carrying this is by downloading the certificate into the Service NSW app. If there are more than 1,000 people involved in the event, under the terms of an Outdoor events COVID-19 Safety Plan, a club must take reasonable steps to ensure all people aged 16 and over on the premises are fully vaccinated or have a medical exemption (including staff, volunteers, attendees and contractors). Examples of "reasonable steps" could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Display posters outlining vaccination requirements around the club or venue. Remind players, officials, volunteers and spectators of vaccination requirements in marketing and communications materials. Check vaccination status upon arrival. Train staff and volunteers on ways to check proof of COVID-19 vaccination status. Further guidance is available here.
What is a 'medical contraindication certificate'?	This is a certificate issued by a medical practitioner that indicates a person 'cannot have a COVID-19 vaccine'. The certificate must be on a <u>prescribed form</u> that has been put in place by the NSW Government (i.e. it cannot be a standard GP certificate or note from a doctor).

What is COVID-19 Safety Plan?	<p>This is Plan that businesses and organisations must, in certain circumstances, have in place to address a checklist of matters prescribed by the NSW Government. The ‘activity organiser’ of any COVID-19 safe outdoor public gatherings must ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place • A copy of the Plan is readily available at the venue for inspection by any authorised health officer or police officer. <p>The COVID-19 Safety Plan template for COVID-19 safe outdoor public gatherings can be completed by Clubs online here.</p>
Do those involved in training or matches have to check-in?	<p>It is only a requirement of the PHO for attendees to check-in using the Service NSW app if the event is a COVID-19 safe outdoor public gathering (i.e. there are more than 1,000 people attending). A Service NSW QR Code will be provided by the NSW Government to the club once it has completed a COVID-19 Safety Plan and registered as a COVID Safe business. This is to be displayed prominently around the venue to ensure everyone is able to comply with check-in requirements.</p>
My club only needs a COVID-19 Safety Plan if more than 1,000 people gather, making it a COVID-19 safe outdoor gathering, what is that?	<p>A COVID-19 safe outdoor public gathering means more than 1,000 people are attending an outdoor event.</p> <p>The PHO requires these events to have an Outdoor Events COVID-19 Safety Plan, meaning everyone who attends must check in using the Service NSW app.</p> <p>There is no upper limit of attendees to these events beyond 1 person per 2 square metres.</p>
What is an outdoor gathering?	<p>An outdoor gathering is an outdoor event with 1,000 people or fewer attending. A COVID-19 Safety Plan is not required for this type of gathering.</p> <p>Unvaccinated children 15 years and younger may attend. They count towards the 1000-person limit.</p>
Can the club still create a COVID-19 Safety Plan and ask people to check-in, even if fewer than 1,000 people are attending events?	<p>Yes. The Public Health Order states that a person or organisation may elect to develop a COVID-19 Safety Plan to ensure the safety of their participants.</p> <p>If there is a Plan in place then the activity organiser must adhere to the requirements in that Plan, including asking attendees to check-in using the Service NSW app and take reasonable steps to ensure everyone attending is fully vaccinated.</p>
Are the rules different for different regions in NSW?	<p>COVID safe settings are the same throughout the state.</p>
Can the club open for social gatherings (such as presentation or registration days)?	<p>Hospitality venues (including clubs with indoor function areas) can open with a maximum 1 person per 2 square metres of space.</p> <p>Please ensure there is the appropriate COVID-19 Safety Plan in place for the nature of the gathering.</p>
Can we access change rooms?	<p>Yes. Provided no more than one person per two square metres are using them at any time and everyone wears a face mask when not exercising.</p>