

ASSOCIATED INDEPENDENT COLLEGES



STATEMENT

At the conclusion of the first term, the AIC Management Committee stated that there would be no sporting competition or training during the second term. Last Friday, 15 May, the Queensland Government advised that, in line with the easing of COVID-19 restrictions in accordance with health advice, community sport would phase back into competition over three stages.

This advice has given scope to the Management Committee to revise its original position. The Committee reaffirms its commitment to the safety and welfare of our staff, volunteers, students and families and to the common good of all people not just our own communities. The three stages proposed by the State authorities set out clear guidelines for indoor and outdoor activities and sports.

What does this mean for the AIC schools?

Whilst team trainings will not commence until the later stages, as of this week coaches and players can start fitness and conditioning activities in an outdoor setting in groups of a maximum of ten people. There can be **no indoor training in the first stage**.

What are the stages?

The Queensland Government has announced the commencement of three stages for the easing of restrictions on gatherings and non-essential activities. Stage 1 commenced 15 May 2020. Stage 2 and Stage 3 are currently planned to commence on 12 June 2020 and 10 July 2020, respectively. Progression to Stages 2 and 3 remains subject to confirmation by authorities based on health advice after a review of the impact of Stage 1. Authorities will confirm the position for Stages 2 and 3 ahead of their planned commencement.

Currently, the easing of restrictions will proceed as follows:

Stage 1: From 15 May (4 weeks)

- No indoor activity permitted (except for pools which can operate for up to 10 people).
- 1.5 metres between people.
- Non-contact informal activity permitted for up to 10 people (including coaches).
- Communal swimming pools are open for recreation, training and rehabilitation purposes, with strict guidelines including the closure of change rooms.

Stage 2: From 12 June (4 weeks)

- 1.5 metres between people.
- Non-contact activity permitted for up to 20 people (indoor and outdoor)
- Pools can operate for up to 20 people.

Stage 3: From 10 July

- 1.5 metres between people.
- Sport permitted to occur for up to 100 people (indoor and outdoor).

How do we know what is considered a contact sport or contact activities?

These guidelines have been set out by the various community sports administrators and AIS documents. The AIC Directors of Sport will use these guidelines to **phase in the various modes of activity** as allowed by the government stages.

Will every school be doing the same thing?

Each AIC school is required to follow the Queensland government guidelines and ensure safe and inclusive environments for sporting activities. Whilst the activities performed by each school might be different in nature, they will be **aligned to the three stages outlined above and the directives provided by authorities about what is and is not permitted.**

Why can students be allowed to play sports and use indoor venues in their physical education classes during school but not after school with co-curricular sport?

Physical education classes are considered an essential part of the school curriculum. The teachers are still mindful of the social distancing rules and regulations. Any co-curricular sports and activities are considered **non-essential parts of school** as they are not tied to the curriculum and therefore are subject to the requirements and regulations of community sports and gatherings.

The NRL is classified as a workplace and the players, coaches and management of each team have put a plan in place that will mean NRL will be as safe as possible for players and the community. Community sporting clubs, including school competitions, are required to gradually return to sport in accordance with the directives of authorities to assist in keeping the **risk of community transmission low.**

What about parents and spectators?

If parents or spectators do attend training or competitions, they will be considered within the specified limit of people for that stage. Consequently, until otherwise advised, **parents and spectators are requested not to attend school sport training.** Students participating in sport can be collected by parents at school or a drop off point at a training location which each school will be responsible for managing.

When will the AIC competition start next term?

The position for AIC sport in Term 3 will remain subject to progression to Stage 2 and Stage 3 as currently planned and that will be guided by the advice of the Chief Health Officer and state authorities. The Directors of Sport have been working tirelessly to consider the various scenarios that may develop during the third term and develop competition draws that considered each of these situations. A draw will be published to all school communities when we have confidence in what will be possible given the range of sports and variety of contexts for each sport. We are hopeful that we can start as soon as possible into the third term.

The AIC Management Committee would like to thank the staff, students and families for their support and patience during this challenging time. The member schools are committed to working in fellowship with each other to ensure that we are all aligned to the government guidelines and the expectations of the AIC Charter and guiding principles.

The AIC Management Committee will continue to inform school communities of any updates as they are received by the relevant authorities.

Yours in fellowship

AIC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE