Rebooting Queensland School Sport 2020

Frequently Asked Questions

Planning for sport activities in all stages should include consideration of the Queensland Government Roadmap to easing Queensland’s restrictions – A step-down approach (the Roadmap), the AIS Framework for Rebooting Sport in a COVID-19 Environment (AIS Framework) and the Return to Play Guide for Queensland sport, recreation and fitness industries (Return to Play Guide).

The COVID-19 Return to school sport planning considerations document is provided to support planning for return to intra and inter-school sport.

Intra-school sport

When are schools permitted to conduct intra-school sport activities?

In line with the Queensland Government’s Stage 2 easing of restrictions, schools are now able to conduct modified intra-school sport activities.

Gatherings for sport activities conducted during this stage should be restricted to a maximum of 20 people and only include non-contact activities such as skills training and conditioning.

The number of spectators and non-essential people is to be minimised. If spectators plan to attend training or intra-school activities, they will need to seek prior approval from the school.

Can I deliver sports in my school that are not delivered by the Representative School Sport Program (for example, rowing)?

Yes, provided the sport can be delivered in accordance with the Roadmap, AIS Framework and Return to Play Guide.

Inter-school sport

For inter-school sport, each school participating must complete Sections 2 to 8 of the Queensland Government Return to Play Readiness Checklist for each sporting event that is planned.

When will schools be able to conduct inter-school sport competitions?

From 10 July 2020, in line with the Queensland Government’s Stage 3 easing of restrictions, schools will be able to conduct inter-school sport competitions for both indoor and outdoor sports, including contact sports.

Planning for these activities should include consideration of the Roadmap, AIS Framework and Return to Play Guide.

Gatherings for sport activities and competitions conducted during this stage should be restricted to a maximum of 100 people and may include modifications based on the sport-specific guidelines from AIS.

The number of spectators and non-essential people is to be minimised. If spectators plan to attend inter-school activities, they will need to seek prior approval from the host school.

Representative School Sport

For representative school sport the event organiser or Regional School Sport Officer must complete Sections 1 to 8 of the Queensland Government Return to Play Readiness Checklist for each sporting event that is planned. For state championship events this will be completed by the Queensland School Sport Unit.

Will representative school sport resume in Queensland in 2020?

Yes, there will be a graduated return of representative school sport from 10 July 2020, in line with the Queensland Government’s Stage 3 easing of restrictions.
Some district and regional school sport events will commence in Term 3 2020, with consideration of the Roadmap, AIS Framework and Return to Play Guide.

Selected Queensland School Sport (QSS) state championships will take place in Term 3 and Term 4 2020, with consideration of the current COVID-19 restrictions.

What sport events will be offered at a district and regional level of competition?

Each representative school sport region will determine the sports and competitions to be offered for the remainder of 2020 in alignment with the needs of the local context. All sport events must be conducted with consideration of the Roadmap, AIS Framework, and Return to Play Guide.

Can schools conduct district school sport events (on behalf of their district) after school hours on school premises?

Yes, from 10 July 2020, in line with the Queensland Government’s Stage 3 easing of restrictions, schools will be able to conduct school sport competitions in consultation with host schools.

Gathering restrictions continue to apply and sites will need to be managed in accordance with these requirements.

Will Queensland School Sport state championships be rescheduled in 2020?

A selection of Queensland School Sport state championships will be conducted in Term 3 and Term 4 2020. A list of these events will be available on the QSS website.

Why have some representative school sport events been rescheduled and others have been cancelled?

In determining the viability of QSS state championships in Term 3 and Term 4 2020, the following criteria have been considered:

- Event logistics (state championships already conducted, size of event)
- Sport-specific requirements (seasonality, clashes with community sport).

The revised schedule of events will be published on the QSS website.

The Queensland School Sport Unit is available to assist with any queries regarding Queensland state championship events in 2020.

Please contact (07) 3634 1305 or email queenslandschoolsport@qed.qld.gov.au.

What school sport events for Queensland School Sport teams have been cancelled in 2020?

All national championships conducted by School Sport Australia were officially cancelled in a media statement posted on 23 March 2020.

What protocols are being implemented to ensure the safety of participants/attendees at representative school sport events?

Planning for all representative school sport events will include consideration of the Roadmap, the AIS Framework and the Return to Play Guide.

Gathering restrictions also apply.

Miscellaneous Questions

Who do I contact if I need help with the Return to Play Readiness Checklist?

The Queensland School Sport Unit is available to assist you with any queries you may have regarding the Return to Play Readiness Checklist.

Please contact (07) 3634 1305 or email queenslandschoolsport@qed.qld.gov.au.
Who is coordinating the localised school sport events?

Regional School Sport Officers are available to assist with any queries regarding organisation of localised representative school sport events. This includes district and regional representative school sport events.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Sport Officer</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
<th>Postal Address</th>
<th>Internet Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capricornia</td>
<td>Anthony Spyve</td>
<td>4932 4045</td>
<td>PO Box 138 Rockhampton 4700</td>
<td><a href="mailto:capsport@qed.qld.gov.au">capsport@qed.qld.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:anthony.spyve@qed.qld.gov.au">anthony.spyve@qed.qld.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darling Downs</td>
<td>Wayne Beeston</td>
<td>4617 8392</td>
<td>10 Taylor St Toowoomba 4350</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wayne.beeston@qed.qld.gov.au">wayne.beeston@qed.qld.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metropolitan East</td>
<td>John Masters</td>
<td>3259 7701</td>
<td>School Road, Capalaba 4157</td>
<td><a href="mailto:john.masters@qed.qld.gov.au">john.masters@qed.qld.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metropolitan North</td>
<td>Kristen Jansen</td>
<td>3634 1301</td>
<td>PO Box 1396 Stafford City 4053</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kristen.jansen@qed.qld.gov.au">kristen.jansen@qed.qld.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metropolitan West</td>
<td>Chris Bransdon</td>
<td>3436 0301</td>
<td>PO Box 4673 Springfield Q 4300</td>
<td><a href="mailto:christopher.bransdon@qed.qld.gov.au">christopher.bransdon@qed.qld.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Western</td>
<td>Linda Ashburn</td>
<td>4652 6607</td>
<td>PO Box 343 Longreach 4730</td>
<td><a href="mailto:linda.ashburn@qed.qld.gov.au">linda.ashburn@qed.qld.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>Brook Wilson</td>
<td>4758 3343</td>
<td>PO Box 5179 Townsville 4810</td>
<td><a href="mailto:brook.wilson@qed.qld.gov.au">brook.wilson@qed.qld.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peninsula</td>
<td>Clint Mogg</td>
<td>4036 5006</td>
<td>PO Box 1022 North Cairns 4870</td>
<td><a href="mailto:clint.mogg@qed.qld.gov.au">clint.mogg@qed.qld.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Coast</td>
<td>Julie Henderson</td>
<td>5656 6760</td>
<td>PO Box 2818 Southport 4215</td>
<td><a href="mailto:julie.henderson@qed.qld.gov.au">julie.henderson@qed.qld.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Western</td>
<td>Tim Leadbetter</td>
<td>4572 6513</td>
<td>PO Box 456 Roma 4455</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tim.leadbetter@qed.qld.gov.au">tim.leadbetter@qed.qld.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunshine Coast</td>
<td>Dick Aspinall</td>
<td>5475 1570</td>
<td>PO Box 182 Maroochydore</td>
<td><a href="mailto:richard.aspinall@qed.qld.gov.au">richard.aspinall@qed.qld.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wide Bay</td>
<td>Justin Lane</td>
<td>4122 0875</td>
<td>PO Box 142 Maryborough</td>
<td><a href="mailto:justin.lane@qed.qld.gov.au">justin.lane@qed.qld.gov.au</a></td>
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What additional requirements are there for the use communal jerseys/bibs at sport events?

Where possible, each student should bring their own jersey for use at events.

Where communal jerseys/bibs are used, they must be stored in a labelled “Clean” bag prior to use and returned to a “Used” bag after use. All used jerseys/bibs must be laundered before they can be used by another student.

Are canteens permitted to operate at school sport events?

If a school wishes to operate a canteen at a school sport event they must adhere to the Checklist requirements outlined in the Queensland Government Return to Play Readiness Checklist.

When can contact training and sports recommence?

From 10 July 2020, in line with the Queensland Government’s Stage 3 easing of restrictions, contact sports and training can recommence.

All sport events must be conducted in accordance with the Roadmap, AIS Framework and Return to Play Guide.
Additional volunteers may be required in order to conduct inter-school and representative sport events. Will the number of volunteers decrease the number of spectators allowed?

The number of people at a venue is determined by the Roadmap. All essential staff required to attend the event, including volunteers, need to be included in the overall gathering number.

**What contact and non-contact activities are permitted for each sport?**

All sport events must be conducted in accordance with the Roadmap.

The AIS Framework provides activity details specific to each sport.

**How do I stay up to date with the changes?**

The latest information will be published on the [QSS website](https://www.qss.qld.gov.au).

**Non-state schooling sector sport**

Will the Return to Play Readiness Checklist apply to state schools only or include other school jurisdictions?

The [Return to Play Readiness Checklist](https://www.qss.qld.gov.au) will apply to all events managed by Department of Education representatives including state school sporting competitions. Competitions overseen by an independent body or school jurisdiction other than state schools should refer to the Return to Play Readiness Checklist as a guide and also observe additional directives that may be in place from their governing body, including gathering restrictions.

**Are state schools able to participate in GPS sport competitions?**

State schools are able to participate in GPS sport competitions from 10 July 2020 as long as Roadmap requirements are adhered to.

**Will the Return to Play Readiness checklist be publicly available?**

The [Return to Play Readiness Checklist](https://www.qss.qld.gov.au) is publically available.

The [COVID-19 Return to school sport planning considerations](https://www.qss.qld.gov.au) document forms part of the planning and risk assessment for state school sport. It will be made available to all DoE staff and to the non-state schooling sector.

**Parents**

Will I be able to attend my child’s school sport event as a spectator?

From 10 July 2020, the number of spectators and non-essential people is to be minimised. If parents plan to attend inter-school activities, they will need to seek prior approval from their child’s school.

For representative school sport, convenors/event managers will have a plan in place to determine the number of spectators that will be able to attend, in line with the Roadmap restrictions.

*** Please note for some events it will not be possible to have any spectators (non-essential students or adults) due the size of the event taking place.

**Why is my child’s school only participating in a limited number of sports or representative competitions?**

Decisions regarding participation in school sports are made in consultation between the school principal and the school community taking into consideration the local context.

**Gathering restrictions**

If a team of students stays to watch the next game at a competition, are they considered spectators?
It is recommended that students and their supervising adults/coaches leave the premises once they have finished their event/s. This is to assist all venues in adhering to Roadmap restrictions regarding the number of people who are permitted to gather in one place at a time.

Small groups of student spectators may be permitted in some cases provided the overall number of people fits within the gathering restrictions.

**What gathering limits apply at outdoor multi-sport facilities?**

It is acknowledged that some sport events take place at outdoor multi-sport facilities that may be divided (for example, multiple ovals which are physically divided or sites where there is a combination of courts and playing fields, physically divided).

From 10 July 2020, gatherings in public spaces, arenas, auditoriums and stadiums are permitted for up to a maximum of 100 people. School sport event convenors will need to discuss options with these facilities in relation to the number of essential participants (students, coaches, officials etc.) to ensure this restriction occurs. Consultation will also be required to determine the number of spectators (non-essential students or adults) that are able to attend.

*** Please note for some events it will not be possible to have any spectators due the size of the event taking place.

For further guidance, in a case where a school is hosting sport at a large outdoor facility with a combination of ovals and other facilities or with a large number of ovals, the school should ensure that each divided space does not exceed the gathering limit. Each divided space needs to have its own exit and entry point, staggered start/finish times and designated drop-off time for each activity.

For example:

- A school with grounds incorporating 10 ovals may decide to physically divide that space into two or three ovals for use at any one time to enable sufficient physical distancing, incorporating staggered start/finish times. Each space would need to be physically divided from the other space and participants would only be permitted to use the area designated for their use. Each divided space would require its own toilet (no shared use) and participants would be required to leave the facility at the conclusion of their sporting event utilising a designated drop off/pick up zone.

- A school with a set of 10 courts (indoor or outdoor) may decide to physically divide that space into two or three courts for use at any one time to enable sufficient physical distancing, incorporating staggered start/finish times. Each space would need to be physically divided from the other space and participants would only be permitted to use the area designated for their use. Each divided space would require its own toilet (no shared use) and participants would be required to leave the facility at the conclusion of their sporting event utilising a designated drop off/pick up zone.

Use of private buses should be limited to the cohort of students participating in each designated activity.

**What gathering limits will apply for sport events that take place on school grounds e.g. when multiple schools attend one school to participate in basketball (in the gym) and cricket (on the oval)?**

Prior to any sporting event, communication will need to occur between the host school and visiting schools to ensure that the gathering will not exceed the 100 person limit at each divided outdoor and indoor space and that physical distancing will be able to occur in the environments where the sport is taking place.

For inter-school sport, the number of spectators and non-essential people is to be minimised. If spectators plan to attend inter-school activities, they will need to seek prior approval from the host school.