



EQUESTRIAN
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

COVID-19 Equestrian Protocols

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Overview

On Saturday, 27 June 2020 Phase 4 of the Western Australian Government's roadmap to ease COVID-19 restrictions will be put into place. This easing of restrictions will see the removal of the 100/300 Rule with the same hygiene, record keeping and social distancing measures in place. Venues and event organisers are still required to complete the COVID Safety Plans.

A further lifting of restrictions by the State Government is expected on 18 July 2020. This will be dependent on a continuing decrease in infection rates.

While there is a significant relaxation in restrictions, Equestrian Western Australia advocates the continuation of the established hygiene, social distancing and attendance registration processes that have been put in place during this time.

Equestrian WA are committed to the health and safety of all our members and are encouraging the safe return to all equestrian activities. This document outlines the guidelines in resuming 'normal activity' (including training and competition) within a cautious environment. These should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- EWA Protocol Roadmap (assuming AIS Level C)
- EWA COVID-19 Activity Checklist

Government Advice, Restrictions & Exemptions

Approved Exemptions

Affected place and/or prohibited activity

Exception

Concert venues, theatre, arenas, auditoriums, stadiums



For WA's major sporting and entertainment venues, a 50% capacity rule will apply.

Sport and recreation



An organisation that controls or operates a sporting premises will need to complete or update their COVID Safety Plan prior to re-opening. They must also comply with the following guidelines:

- Equipment can be shared but must be cleaned regularly;
- Change rooms and shower facilities can now open, following strict hygiene measures;
- Playgrounds, parks and outdoor gym equipment can now reopen but must follow a regular and complete hygiene plan.

Cafés and canteens



- Cafes and canteens can operate with takeaway, home delivery and seating available. The following guidelines will apply:
- Provide at least 2m² of floor space per person;
- Patrons are no longer required to be seated
- Completing or updating a COVID Safety Plan and having it available for inspection upon request by an authorised officer and displaying a COVID Safety Plan Certificate in a prominent location.

- Volunteer canteen operators are NOT required to undertake COVID hygiene training however training is free and is highly recommended.

Food vans



Food vans can resume normal operation with physical distancing and hygiene measures applied.

REFERENCE

<https://www.wa.gov.au/government/covid-19-coronavirus>

Online hospitality training course: <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/document-collections/covid-19-coronavirus-food-businesses-and-licensed-premises#hospitality-hygiene-training>

Covid Safety Plan: <https://www.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-05/COVID-19-Safety-Plan-Other-Business-Pack.pdf>

Enforcement of Restrictions

The WA Government has implemented a Covid-19 Police Taskforce. Fines may be issued to any person(s) not complying with Government restrictions.

Authorised officers under the Emergency Management Act have the power to close premises and businesses that put the community at risk.



<https://www.wa.gov.au/government/document-collections/covid-19-coronavirus-state-of-emergency-declarations>

COVID-19 Safety Guidelines

The purpose of this document is to outline the safety requirements for the reopening of Sport and Recreation venues, and/or the recommencement of normal sporting activities.

An organisation that controls or operates a venue that was required to be closed by the directions under the Emergency Management Act 2005 must complete a COVID Safety Plan prior to reopening and display a COVID Safety Plan Certificate in a visible location on the premises.



If you completed a COVID Safety Plan in Phase 3, you should review the new guidelines and update your plan accordingly. You may be able to increase your premises' capacity which can be reflected on your COVID Safety Plan Certificate. This document provides guidance on how to complete your COVID Safety Plan and implement necessary safety requirements. These guidelines come into effect from 11.59pm, 26 June 2020.

https://www.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-06/COVID-Safety-Guidelines-Phase-4-Sport-and-Recreation_0.pdf

Framework for Rebooting Sport in a COVID-19 Environment



Level of risk (A, B, C)

The National Cabinet suggests that the level of risk sits at Level B. Aligned to WA Government restriction advice, Level C advice should be implemented which is “Full training and competition”.

Equestrian activities

Under a Level C risk, equestrian activities are permitted as ‘full training and competition’ with State Government guidelines observed.

Para-Athletes sporting activities

Para-athletes require individualised consideration and assessment through all Levels (A, B, C) of a return to sport. Some para-athletes will have medical conditions that will require detailed planning and consultation with their regular treating medical team prior to a return to formal training/competition, or progression through Levels A, B, C. Specific para-athlete equipment (e.g. wheelchairs, prostheses) will require regular cleaning (for all levels).

High-Performance Athletes

Under a Level B risk, equestrian activities are permitted as ‘full training’.

1. Attachment A - National Principles for the resumption of Sport and Recreation activities

<https://www.pm.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/attacha-national-principles-resumption-sport-recreation-activities.pdf>

2. AIS Framework for Rebooting Sport in a COVID-19 Environment

https://ais.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/730376/35845_AIS-Framework-for-rebooting-sport_FA.pdf

Intrastate Travel

From Friday, 5 June 2020, most regional travel restrictions have been removed.

Travel is now permitted throughout all regions within WA, except for entry into remote Aboriginal communities.

<https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-the-premier-and-cabinet/covid-19-coronavirus-regional-travel-restrictions>

Suggested Protocols

These protocols are recommend to be used by committees, clubs and individuals as a guideline only. Individual circumstances (eg. Premises/venue, facilities and resourcing) should be considered when resuming equestrian activities.

Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of all participants and organisers to be aware and responsible for complying with current COVID-19 requirements approved by the WA Government. **It is highly recommended that all activity organisers read and understand the Western Australian Government's, "COVID-19 Safety Guidelines - Sport and Recreation" and complete or update their COVID-19 Safety Plan where required.** All participants and organisers are required to self-adhere to these requirements.

Do not participate in or attend any activity if you are unwell or have been in contact with an unwell person in the past 14 days. If you become unwell following an activity contact the organiser immediately. If organisers believe contamination has occurred at their activity, the organiser MUST contact the 24/7 COVID-19 Hotline on 1800 020 080 IMMEDIATELY.

Please download the COVID Safe app

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covidsafe-app>



Activity Planning

Affected place/activity	Suggested Protocol
Venue	<p>Outdoor and indoor venues can be utilised. It is compulsory for all venue owners/operators to complete or update their COVID-19 Safety Plan (available from www.wa.gov.au) and prominently display the Safety Plan Certificate.</p> <p>A venue patron limit is no longer in place but at least 2m² of floor space per person must be provided.</p> <p>Spectators at indoor venues should observe the 2m² rule.</p>
Approvals/permissions	<p>Documented approval be sought from the facility owner/operator prior to any activity taking place.</p>
Type of activities	<p>Normal equestrian activity including training, clinics and competitions can resume with hygiene, social distancing and record keeping protocols in place.</p>
Number of attendees	<p>No limit.</p>
Training zones	<p>No longer required.</p>
Attendance recording	<p>Attendance records should continue to be kept for every person attending an activity (including spectators). This is to assist in the tracking/tracing of any COVID-19 or other infection outbreak.</p>
Documentation and payments	<p>All documentation (entries, insurance waivers, payments, etc.) should continue to be completed digitally and emailed to prior to the event. EWA recommends the use of Nominate for the entry function.</p> <p>Where cash handling is unavoidable, hands must be washed with soap and water or hand sanitiser used.</p>
Unmounted activities	<p>Where activities are being conducted in a classroom environment, the Government prescribed hygiene and social distancing protocols must be implemented.</p>
Health advice	<p>State and Federal health advice should be followed AT ALL TIMES. This includes the necessary social distancing and hygiene protocols plus remaining at home if any COVID-19 symptoms are present. For the most current health advice please visit - https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert</p>

Access/egress

Affected place/activity	Suggested Protocol
Unlocking / locking of facility/venue	It is good practice for the unlocking and relocking of a facility to be undertaken by one person, or a small roster of people. This same person/people should undertake the opening and closing of any internal gates or fences.
Entry to facility/venue	<p>It is good practice for disinfectant to be placed at all entry and exit points. Participants must be informed (either directly or through signage) to thoroughly clean these areas before and after entry/exit.</p> <p>Hand sanitising stations should be placed at all entry/exit points and throughout the venue.</p>
Internal facilities access	<p>Consideration should be given to a one-way traffic system for internal facility (arenas, etc.) entry and exit.</p> <p>Disinfectant should be placed at all entry and exit points. Participants must be informed (either directly or through signage) to thoroughly clean these areas before and after entry/exit.</p> <p>Hand sanitising stations should be placed at all entry/exit points and throughout the venue.</p>

Social Distancing

Affected place/activity	Suggested Protocol
Social distancing	A distance of 2m ² between people should be maintained at all times.
Spectators	<p>Spectators are now permitted at equestrian events. However, social distancing, hygiene and spectator registration protocols should be in place.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to spectator areas to minimise contact. This should include reduced seating areas, rearrangement of furniture and alternative layout of spectator areas.</p>
Float parking	To maintain the State Government's social distancing measure of 2m ² , a suggested minimum distance of 3m between floats should be maintained.

Stables/yards (where applicable)	<p>Being 'shared equipment' communal stabling and yards can be used with social distancing and hygiene measures in place.</p> <p>To maintain the Federal Government's social distancing measure of 2m², there should be a minimum of one stable/yard widths between each participant (ie – every second stable/yard to be used). Where a rider has more than one horse, these can be stabled next to one another with the one stable/yard width observed beyond this.</p> <p>In line with 'shared equipment' protocols, areas should be thoroughly cleaned with disinfectant after use and a hand sanitising station should be placed in all communal stable/yard areas.</p>
Watering facilities	<p>Watering facilities (such as taps, wash bays) can be used with social distancing and hygiene measures in place.</p> <p>A distance of 2m² should be maintained at all watering areas with frequent cleaning practices implemented.</p> <p>To reduce contamination/spread, disinfectant should be placed at all watering facilities and signage in place to encourage patrons to thoroughly clean the area after use.</p>
Venue facilities (canteen, club rooms, caravans, etc.)	<p>Being 'shared equipment' communal stabling and yards can be used with social distancing and hygiene measures in place.</p> <p>To maintain the State Government's social distancing measure of 2m², there should be a minimum of one stable/yard widths between each participant (ie – every second stable/yard to be used). Where a rider has more than one horse, these can be stabled next to one another with the one stable/yard width observed beyond this.</p> <p>In line with 'shared equipment' protocols, areas should be thoroughly cleaned with disinfectant after use and a hand sanitising station should be placed in all communal stable/yard areas.</p>
Play areas	<p>Watering facilities (such as taps, wash bays) can be used with social distancing and hygiene measures in place.</p> <p>A distance of 2m² should be maintained at all watering areas with frequent cleaning practices implemented.</p> <p>To reduce contamination/spread, disinfectant should be placed at all watering facilities and signage in place to encourage patrons to thoroughly clean the area after use.</p>

Hygiene

Affected place/activity	Suggested Protocol
Toilets, showers and change rooms	<p>Toilet facilities can be accessed with hygiene measures and a regular cleaning regime in place.</p> <p>A hand washing station (with anti-bacterial liquid soap) must be installed. It is recommended that one person monitor this area and undertake regular and thorough cleaning with disinfectant.</p>
Hand sanitising stations	<p>Hand sanitising or hand washing stations should be implemented in any areas where human contact or the communal handling of equipment is expected (ie – club rooms, verandahs).</p>
Equipment set-up/pack-down	<p>Equipment falls under the Government advice of “shared equipment”. People required for equipment set-up and pack-down should be kept to a minimum. Shared equipment must be thoroughly cleaned with disinfectant following use.</p>

Communication & Advice

Affected place/activity	Suggested Protocol
Signage	<p>Prominent signage must be displayed which communicates social distancing requirements, hygiene and any venue specific rules.</p> <p>The "COVID-19 Safety Guidelines – Sport & Recreation" document contains links to appropriate signage.</p>
Coaches / instructors	<p>Coaches/instructors should continue to reiterate social distancing, hygiene and registration protocols prior to the commencement of training.</p>

Food

Affected place/activity	Suggested Protocol
Canteens	<p>Canteen facilities may be offered and must adhere to all WA Government hygiene and social distancing measures. Canteens can operate under the following guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dine in and takeaway options can be offered;• Provide at least 2m² of floor space per person;• Complete a COVID Safety Plan and having it available for inspection upon request by an authorised officer and displaying a COVID Safety Plan Certificate in a prominent location.• Although not compulsory, it is recommended that anyone operating a canteen complete the online hospitality hygiene training course.• A thorough and regular cleaning regime using disinfectant must be implemented• A hand sanitising station must be placed at all contact areas and where cash handling is occurring.• Consideration should be given to providing hot or pre-packaged foods only.
Food vans	<p>Food vans will be required to obtain a permit from the relevant local government to operate a take-away service only. Food vans must implement their own social distancing protocols.</p>