



EQUESTRIAN
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

COVID-19 Equestrian Protocols

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Title:		
COVID-19 Equestrian Event Protocols		
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Overview

On Monday, 18 May 2020 the Western Australian Government will introduce a further relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions (Phase 2 of the Western Australian Recovery Roadmap). This has resulted in several equestrian sporting committees and clubs querying their ability to resume small activities (rallies, clinics, training, etc.). As the State's peak body EWA needs to provide a set of guidelines, based on State Government advice, that committees and clubs can refer to when making the decision to resume equestrian activity.

On Friday, 1 May 2020 at a meeting of the National Cabinet, a series of guidelines were introduced for the "Rebooting of Sport in a Covid-19 environment". A comprehensive set of guidelines were issued by the Australian Institute of Sport for the reintroduction of sporting activity in a cautious and methodical manner. For this purpose, Level B of the AIS guidelines has been assumed.

Further to this, on Friday, 15 May 2020 the Western Australian Government released "COVID-19 Safety Guidelines - Sport and Recreation". This document contains very strict guidelines in regards to the resumption of sporting activities, including the need for all sporting venue owners/operators to complete a COVID-19 Safety Plan and display a Safety Plan Certificate. Equestrian WA highly recommends that all equestrian activity organisers read this document and complete a COVID-19 Safety Plan.

Equestrian WA are committed to the health and safety of all our members and are encouraging the safe return to equestrian sports. This document outlines some guidelines in resuming training within a cautious environment.

Government Advice, Restrictions & Exemptions

Approved Exemptions

Affected place and/or prohibited activity

Concert venues, theatre, arenas, auditoriums, stadiums



Exception

Live streaming of a performance by a small group could be permissible with social distancing observed.

Social sporting-based activities



If the sporting activity is **non-contact**, and **involves 20 people or less**, then you **can participate in that sporting activity**. This includes non-contact training for sports that would ordinarily involve contact, such as basketball, football, soccer and netball. Importantly, playing the contact sport itself remains a prohibited sporting activity.

Non-contact recreational activities (private picnics in the park, fishing, boating, hiking and camping



Compliance with the 20-person limit and social distancing rules observed.

Affected place and/or prohibited activity**Exception**

Education, classes and clinics (including TAFE)



Will include learning via online and interactive technologies. Face-to-face delivery can be available where necessary with adequate social distancing measures and the 20-person limit enforced.

Cafés and canteens



Takeaway service and home delivery will remain. Dine-in options will now be available but the 20-person limit must be observed at all times.

Food vans



Food vans can provide takeaway food options if they have approval to operate from specific locations from the relevant local government.

<https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-the-premier-and-cabinet/covid-19-coronavirus-community-advice#prohibited>

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.



<https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-the-premier-and-cabinet/covid-19-coronavirus-western-australian-government-response#wa-police>

COVID-19 Safety Guidelines

The WA Government has issued a strict set of guidelines for the rebooting of sporting and recreational activities. This includes the requirement for all venue managers/operators to complete a COVID-19 Safety Plan and display a Safety Plan Certificate.



Although not a requirement for committees and clubs, it is highly recommended that any organisation undertaking equestrian activities complete a COVID-19 Safety Plan and display a Safety Plan Certificate

<https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-the-premier-and-cabinet/covid-19-coronavirus-business-and-industry-advice#covid-safety-plans>

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 B advice should be implemented which is “Full training” only.

Equestrian activities

Under a Level B risk, equestrian activities are permitted as ‘full training’ so long as the 20 person limit is observed with minimal shared equipment.

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

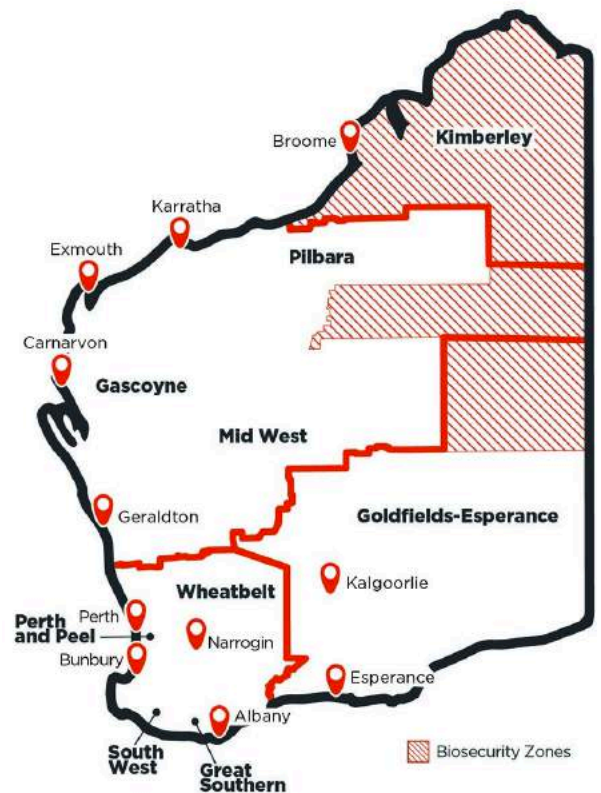
Intrastate Travel

Intrastate travel and travel across local government borders has been eased with the following restrictions in place:

1. Between Perth, Peel, Wheatbelt, South West & Great Southern
2. Between Mid-West, Gascoyne & Pilbara
3. Within Goldfields - Esperance region
4. Between Local Government areas in the Kimberley
5. Restrictions on travel to remote communities remains in place.

Exemptions may be possible if:

- Travel is required for work or generating an income
- Specialist skills are not available in the local area
- Attending an educational institution where necessary



If you exemption, fall under an exemption category AND are required to travel between these regions you will need to apply for a G2G PASS



<https://www.g2gpass.com.au/>

<https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-the-premier-and-cabinet/covid-19-coronavirus-advice-travelling-and-around-western-australia>

Suggested Protocols

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



Where the limit of 20 people is mentioned this includes riders/ participants, committee members, volunteers, officials, medical staff, spectators and parents/supporters. Coaches are NOT included.

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 a COVID-19 Safety Plan and prominently display the Safety Plan Certificate – https://www.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-05/COVID-19-Safety-Plan-Other-Business-Pack.pdf</p> <p>Any seating areas within indoor areas may not be used.</p>
Number of attendees	<p>No more than 20 people can congregate at a training zone at any one time. This relates to riders, spectators/parents/carers and officials. Instructors are not included in the 20-person limit.</p>
Training zones (outdoor venues only)	<p>Outdoor venues may have up to 20 people per training zone at any one time. Each training zone should allow for 4sqm per person and maintain social distancing during the training session.</p> <p>The spaces between gatherings and groups should ensure that there is suitable distancing to prevent any form of contact between training groups.</p>
Attendance recording	<p>Attendance records MUST be kept for every person attending an activity (including spectators). This is to assist in the tracking/tracing of any COVID-19 outbreak.</p>
Type of activities	<p>Activities can include clinics, rallies, training or recreational activities where no more than 20 people attend at any one time.</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>
Approvals/permissions	<p>Documented approval be sought from the facility owner/operator prior to any activity taking place.</p>
Scheduling	<p>Activities can be scheduled to allow maximum participation. A 'Get in, Train, Get Out' philosophy should be adopted. Scheduling considerations should include arrival, preparation, warm-up, participation, cool-down, pack-up and departure to ensure that no more than 20 people attend at any one time.</p>
Documentation and payments	<p>All documentation (entries, insurance waivers, payments, etc.) should be completed digitally and emailed to prior to the event –no on-the-day entries will be permitted. EWA recommends the use of Nominate for the entry function.</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	The unlocking and relocking of a facility should 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>Consideration should be given to a one-way traffic system for venue entry and exit.</p> <p>Disinfectant must 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 facility entry and exit.</p> <p>Disinfectant must 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 1.5m (or one person for every 4m ²) between people should be maintained at all times.
Spectators	Spectators are not permitted unless required (ie – a parent or a carer).
Float parking	To maintain the Federal Government's social distancing measure of 4m ² , a suggested minimum distance of 5m between floats should be maintained.
Stables/yards (where applicable)	<p>Communal stabling and yards should be avoided where possible with participants encouraged to tie up to floats or use their own float yards, if approved by the facility owner/operator.</p> <p>However, to maintain the Federal Government's social distancing measure of 4m², there should be a minimum of two stable/yard widths between each participant. Where a rider has more than one horse, these can be stabled next to one another with the two stable/yard width observed beyond this.</p> <p>As stables and yards are considered "shared equipment" under Government regulations, measures should be taken to reduce contact/contamination (ie – wearing gloves, thoroughly cleaning areas).</p> <p>A hand sanitising station should be placed in all communal stable/yard areas.</p>
Watering facilities	<p>Where possible, attendees should be encouraged to bring their own drinking water (for both horse and person). Where water is required for a wash bay, a distance of 4m² should be maintained and hand washing materials (ie – anti-bacterial liquid soap) provided to be used before and after the handling of equipment.</p> <p>Measures should be taken to reduce contact/contamination (ie – wearing gloves, thoroughly cleaning areas).</p>
Venue facilities (canteen, club rooms, caravans, etc.)	Access to and internal venue facilities should be restricted to the organising person/people only.
Play areas	Play areas are restricted to ALL participants.

Hygiene

Affected place/activity	Suggested Protocol
Toilets	Depending on the size of the toilet facilities, access should be limited to 1 or 2 people only. 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.
Showers/Change Rooms	Shower and change room facilities are not permitted.
Hand sanitising stations	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).
Equipment set-up/pack-down	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.

Communication & Advice

Affected place/activity	Suggested Protocol
Signage	<p>Prominent signage must be displayed which communicates social distancing requirements, hygiene and venue specific rules.</p> <p>The "COVID-19 Safety Guidelines – Sport & Recreation" document contains links to appropriate signage.</p>
Participant briefings	<p>Participant briefings should be undertaken prior to all activities. This can be done via writing, email or on-site.</p>
Coaches / instructors	<p>Coaches/instructors must reiterate social distancing and hygiene protocols prior to the commencement of training.</p>

Food

Affected place/activity	Suggested Protocol
Canteens	<p>Canteen facilities are not recommended.</p> <p>Where it is identified that a canteen facility needs to be offered the following protocols should be implemented:</p> <p>No more than two people inside the canteen premises. These should be the same two people for the duration of the activity and the social distancing rule of 4m² apply. No other people should be permitted inside the canteen.</p> <p>Social distancing measures must be implemented for food service (ie – tape on the ground to indicate 1.5m distancing).</p> <p>Canteen should implement above average hygiene measures including the regular use of hand sanitiser.</p> <p>Consideration given to provide pre-packaged or hot foods/beverages only.</p> <p>Canteen can offer both take-away and dine-in options as long as the 20-person limit is observed and social distancing measures put in place.</p> <p>Canteen facilities must be thoroughly cleaned with disinfectant following use.</p>
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>

Travel

Affected place/activity	Suggested Protocol
Intrastate travel for participants	<p>It is unlikely that participants will be approved to attend activities outside aforementioned. For more information visit:</p> <p>https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/departments-of-the-premier-and-cabinet/covid-19-coronavirus-advice-travelling-and-around-western-australia</p>
Travelling coaches	<p>Some coaches may be able to apply for a travel permit under the provision of 'travelling for work or generating an income'. Committees, clubs and individuals should consult with their preferred coach regarding the possibility of travel. Information on how to apply for travel permits can be found here:</p> <p>https://www.g2gpass.com.au/</p>