

The purpose of this document is to provide the basketball community with health and safety guidelines and recommendations to help ensure a safe return to basketball related activities.

We all want to see a return to play but Associations and other providers must ensure they have systems in place to ensure the health and safety of their participants.

The COVID-19 situation and advice continues to change quickly, we aim to keep Associations up to date on any key changes. Government advice is also listed on the [COVID-19](#) and [MOH](#) webpages.

This Health and Safety Guidelines document covers the following areas and should be read in conjunction with [Basketball at Alert Level 2 guidelines](#):

1. **Government and Ministry of Health Advice**
2. **Health and Safety Plans**
  - a. **Equipment**
  - b. **Basketballs**
3. **Contact Tracing**
4. **Venue Management**
  - a. **Entry and Exit**
  - b. **Signage**
  - c. **Spectators**
5. **Participants - Teams/Players/Coaches/Referees**
  - a. **Mouthguards**

1. **Government and Ministry of Health Advise**

Below are some of their key messages to New Zealanders under [Alert Level 2 Play it Safe](#):

- COVID-19 is still out there. Play it safe.
- Keep your distance from other people in public.
- If you're sick, stay home. Don't go to work or school. Don't socialise.
- If you have symptoms of cold or flu call your doctor or Healthline and get tested.
- Wash your hands. Wash your hands. Wash your hands.
- Sneeze and cough into your elbow, regularly disinfect surfaces.
- If you have been told to self-isolate you must do so immediately.
- Keep a track of where you've been and who you've seen.

All involved must play a role to help reduce the transmission of COVID 19, including those organising basketball activities. Please do not participate if you are feeling sick!

If you are continuing with basketball related activities, please consider the following recommendations.

2. **Health and Safety Plans**

- All Associations are required to have a documented COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan.
- A COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan template will be available soon.
- Communicate your health and safety plan to all staff, volunteers and participants. Have your plan displayed at the venue.
- All participants and spectators must follow public health hygiene measures, including washing and drying hands before and after any activity.
- Exercise caution with common touch points (e.g. gates or doors) and wash or sanitise your hands after touching these surfaces.



- Provide cleaning kits at each scorebench or at a centralised area for ease of access. The kit should include, disposable gloves, sanitiser, cleaning wipes, disinfectant solution, paper towels, rubbish bags.
- Provide basic first aid including kits and ice.
- Provide blood kits at each scorebench or at a centralised area for ease of access. For more information, please refer to the BBNZ Blood Policy and Kit.

a) **Equipment**

- Measures should be taken to minimise the sharing of equipment, in particular balls. Equipment including balls must be cleaned, disinfected and dried after each training or game.
- Provide gloves for scorebench personnel if possible.
- Use the Glory League scoring on an ipad to record game results instead of using paper and a pen. If the Glory League scoring app is not available, ensure that gloves are used when using pen and paper.
- Wipe down all equipment on the scorebench including the table after each game or if there is a change in personnel during a game.
- Extra equipment should be on standby should you need to replace; basketballs, scorebench equipment, ipads etc.
- Wipe down team benches at the end of each game.

b) **Basketballs**

- Basketballs should be cleaned/sanitised prior to use and also at the completion of each game.
- If cleaning of a basketball is not possible, spare basketballs that have been sanitised and remained unused should be available for use.
- A clean game ball should be provided for each game.
- Any basketballs brought into the venue i.e. for training prior to a game, should be sanitised. It is recommended that a limit is placed on the number of balls per team that can be brought into the venue.
- The Association could provide training balls to teams if possible, however the above sanitation criteria must apply.
- Please check with your venue if there are restrictions regarding teams providing their own basketballs.
- To clean a basketball, use disposable gloves and a disposable anti-bacterial wipe, or by spraying with a disinfectant spray/solution and wipe with paper towels.

c) **Uniforms/Bibs/Wristbands**

For the safety of staff and volunteers, it is recommended that Associations refrain from providing uniforms/bibs/wristbands to teams.

### 3. **Contact Tracing**

Before resuming basketball activities, Associations need to have developed and tested their own Contact Tracing system. The responsibility for contact tracing belongs to Associations as users (hiring a venue).

Contact tracing will apply to every individual that is in a venue at any one time (indoor and outdoor) – players, officials, coaches, managers, spectators, association/competition staff and venue staff. We are recommending all Associations use The Huddle. This will ensure all your data is located in a secure and central location online and enhances your ability to maintain an accurate database of your members.

For more information please refer to the [Basketball at Alert Level 2 guidelines](#) and the [BBNZ Contract Tracing Guidelines](#).

#### **4. Venue Management**

- Ensure that both the Association and the venue have an agreed health and safety plan(s) and that these do not contradict each other; a collaborative approach is vital.
- Discuss with the venue how they can support with proactive hygiene protocols - toilets, change rooms, seating, areas where people congregate, team benches, scoretables, regular touch points; doorknobs, rubbish bins and other surfaces using the [Covid-19 cleaning surfaces](#) advise.
- Provide hand sanitiser/wipes/disinfectant solution at entry and exit points, floor control and referee areas/rooms, scoretables and at each court for both teams.
- Adjust competition timing/allow for additional time for wipe downs and cleaning between games. Allocate additional time for teams entering the venue and completing contact tracing processes and evacuating the venue before the next round of games commence. Discuss with the venue an appropriate length of time for cleaning between games.
- Restrict areas of the venue to mitigate congregation and additional cleaning. This may include change rooms, water fountains, canteens, vending machines, rooms etc.
- Provide additional rubbish bins around the venue for the disposable of paper towels and wipes.
- Enable an entry and exit protocol with the venue. This should include how to contact trace people coming in and out of the venue.
- Use gloves when cleaning areas around the venue, picking up rubbish etc.
- Instead of using towels to mop up sweat and spills, use disposable paper towels.

##### **a) Entry and Exit**

- Entry - participants and officials cannot enter the venue earlier than the designated time prior to their game or before the participants and officials of the previous game have evacuated the venue. A process to advise teams when to enter the venue should be arranged prior to enable physical distancing between teams and mitigate any congestion. Waiting times may vary and could be staggered depending on the number of courts being used at any one time. Entry contract tracing must be completed through this process.
- Exit - participants and officials must exit the venue using the designated door and physical distancing between teams finishing must be adhered to. Exit contract tracing must be completed through this process.
- If a member of a team evacuates the building, they will be required to complete the entry process again as they have signed out of the venue. Please take note of any mass gathering threshold restrictions on their re-entry.

##### **b) Signage**

- Associations should display signage at the entry/exit points and within the venue.
- The signage should clearly display messages and recommendations outlined by the government, the venue and the Association; including reminding participants of the risks posed by COVID-19 and encouraging hygiene and physical distancing practises, venue restrictions and Association rules.
- The government website has [Covid-19 resources](#) available.

##### **c) Spectators**

- It is recommended not to have spectators attend to reduce risks around physical distancing rules, mass gathering restrictions and venue management.



- If there is no guidance regarding mass gathering restrictions, the Association must decide whether games go ahead with spectators. If they do, please follow the [MOH guidelines on hosting an event](#). A reminder that contact tracing is required for spectators as well. We recommend using venue contact tracing if possible for spectators.
- Spectator seating should be laid out as per government requirements with physical distancing of two metres.

### 5. **Participants - Teams/Players/Coaches/Referees**

- Communication of your health and safety plan(s) to all participants and staff and those involved is vital.
- Communicate all processes regularly regarding contact tracing, self-registration pre-game day and game day registration of players, team management, spectators, scorebench, referees, entry and exit protocols of the venue.
- All should follow the health guidelines before turning up to the venue - If you're sick, stay home.
- Do not share equipment; drink bottles, towels, uniforms, mouthguards, whistles etc. Naming of equipment is essential.
- No hand contact between any participants including players and officials.
- Person to person touching should be kept to a minimum, there should be no high-fives, hugs, hongi, handshaking etc.
- Each team should be responsible for cleaning their team bench area and the removal of rubbish and personal equipment after their game. Please ensure all personal equipment is removed as the venue may not store lost property items.
- Change rooms may be restricted or not in use, in which case teams are then required to turn up ready to play and will be required to change away from the venue.
- Teams may be required to provide their own trainings balls. If there are ball restrictions in place, teams may not be required to provide balls.
- If there are mass gathering restrictions in place, teams may be restricted to a maximum number of personnel allocated to the team. This number may vary depending on the imposed restriction.

#### a) **Mouthguards**

- Mouthguards are to be put in correctly before entering the game and must not be taken out for the entirety of the game.
- If a player adjusts, removes or touches their mouthguard, they must be removed (subbed out) from the game and will need to self-sanitise before re-entering the game.
- Discourage the removal of a mouthguard.
- For non-contact period i.e. individual workouts, mouthguards are not mandatory.
- Continue to use the BBNZ mouthguard policy unless directed by the MOH and BBNZ. For more information, please refer to the [BBNZ Mouthguard Policy](#).