

COMMUNITY BASKETBALL

COVID-19 UPDATE – 1.4.22



BASKETBALL
New Zealand

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1.1 INTRODUCTION

Thank you to all our community basketball leaders who are continuing to manage your organisations and providing safe participation opportunities as we continue to navigate the challenges presented by COVID-19.

From 11.59pm, Friday 25 March, New Zealand moved to new and simplified RED settings on the updated COVID Protection Framework.

To summarise the key changes are:

- We remain at Red
- The new Red settings are in effect - outdoor capacity limits are removed and indoor limits increased to 200 (for people who have a My Vaccine Pass)
- Record keeping has finished

On Monday 4 April:

- My Vaccine Pass will no longer be a government requirement (11:59pm)
- Workforce vaccination mandate for the teaching workforce will end, as will mandates for those at My Vaccine Pass venues (11:59pm)
- Cabinet will decide whether all or parts of the country can move to Orange

- If you have questions relating to COVID-19 your best resource remains the excellent resources and guidance available on the website [Sport New Zealand](#)
- General guidance for businesses: business.govt.nz
- Guidance for workplaces that have a case of COVID-19: health.govt.nz
- Guidance for all of New Zealand: covid19.govt.nz

In today's update you will find details on:

- **Responses to Questions submitted**
- **A summary of recent changes and current settings**

Sport New Zealand also have an extensive Q & A section that you can check [here](#). If you cannot find the information or answers you are looking for you can email:

- Sport New Zealand - covid19response@sportnz.org.nz
- Basketball New Zealand general support – community@nz.basketball
- Basketball New Zealand delivery support – tournaments@nz.basketball

We will endeavour to source answers to all questions submitted by **5pm each Wednesday** in this weekly update that will be circulated on Friday afternoons.

Nga mihi,

Brad Edwards
GM Community Basketball

1.2 WEEKLY Q & A'S

In addition to this Q & A section Sport New Zealand are continuing to update an extensive Q & A section that you can check [here](#). This is the quickest way to find answers to your questions.

There were a range of questions submitted this week, please see questions and responses below:

What is the difference between a student enrolled at school playing for a school team and a student enrolled at school playing for an adult team? When the later is expected to have to leave a venue because it is not a "school team"? e.g. we have school students who play in a school team in our schools league, so they can come into the venue, BUT then a little later when our Adults league starts (on the same day at the same venue) he must leave the venue as it is not a school team, nor a schools competition, or with the recent changes can they now stay? – Mike, Manawatu

From Monday 4 April My Vaccine Pass will no longer be a government requirement. Venues can still choose to continue to require them (except for school students in school competitions). BBNZ are in the process of checking with all venues we use and will release a list of venue MVP positions once these are available. We anticipate most venues will remove MVP requirements; however we encourage all associations to check with all venues you use to see what they are intending to do.

At present there is no further guidance from Sport NZ, from their FAQs:

Can we ask or require people entering gatherings, events or facilities to tell us if they are vaccinated and/or refuse entry if they are not?

We would recommend that businesses/organisations still consider whether they need to implement MVP requirements given the latest public health advice.

Is BBNZ intending to go out to venue owners to find out what each of the venue's stand is on it? Mike, Manawatu

Yes we are currently contacting venues the BBNZ is intending to use in 2022. Once we have confirmed these we will share this information. For example, Porirua, Upper Hutt and Hutt City Councils announced this week that they are removing MVP requirements for their venues from 5 April, including Te Rauparaha Arena. Please note we will only do this for venues we use so Associations will need to check for other venues.

We adopted a policy requiring employees to be vaccinated - not a "mandate" but from an employment H&S perspective, on the basis that our people were being asked to work in an indoor environment, for extended periods of time, interacting with people from a wide catchment. Should or shouldn't we maintain this policy? Wouldn't seem the risk factor for employees has changed a lot, though this advice suggests a high threshold. – Rob, ABS

The advice we have from Sport New Zealand is that the threshold for workplaces to continue to require employees to be vaccinated will be very high and in general sport and recreation organisations are unlikely to be able to continue to require this, here is the relevant FAQ from the Sport NZ website:

Can I require my staff to be vaccinated?

The threshold for whether an employer can require a staff member to be vaccinated for a particular role is a high one. Employers may make vaccination a requirement for new employees (and existing employees if negotiated as a variation to the conditions of employment) only if, following a health and safety risk assessment, there is considered to be a high risk of contracting and transmitting COVID-19 to others (such as border workers, for example).

The Government has mandated vaccinations for some roles and settings, but organisations and individuals will need to determine whether they fall within these mandates or not.

For businesses where a Government vaccine mandate is not in place, the law includes a risk assessment process for employers to follow when deciding whether they can require vaccination for different types of work.

A risk assessment is available from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment [here](#). See this WorkSafe website on [How to decide what work requires a vaccinated employee](#) for more information about conducting a health and safety risk assessment. Both of the links above are currently being updated in light of the 22 March announcements. Please do check back closer to 4 April to understand the requirements.

Can you please clarify for me the position with respect the NBL teams and the venue capacity limits. It is our understanding that the players are classed as workers and therefore not included in the current 200 person limit. Our Venue has a different view on this. Obviously this makes a bit of a difference when it comes to spectators at a pre-season game. – Vicki, Marlborough

After discussions with Sport NZ, we can confirm that yes the players are classed as workers and therefore are not included in the current 200 person limit. This is because they are semi professional/ professional players.

Will unvaccinated players be allowed to now play in Association Rep teams at the upcoming regional qualifiers and then National BBNZ tournaments? And will unvaccinated coaches be allowed to now coach at these future tournaments? – Mike, Manawatu

BBNZ will be reviewing our current recommendations following the government announcement on 4 April. We anticipate following all government requirements and guidelines however as noted above it is possible some venues may opt to continue with use of MVP. We expect to provide a further update next week.

Is BBNZ producing anything similar to what Netball NZ has done like the Netball NZ Performance Athlete guidelines shared last week? – Josh, Northland

Yes the BBNZ HP Team is currently working on an updated Basketball Return To Play document and an infographic flow chart that will be based around an athlete COVID symptoms. This chart will assist in assessing the current stage of their return and when to progress to the next stage. The plan is to get these resources out to Associations next week.

1.3 WEEKLY UPDATES

From 11.59pm on Friday 25 March 2022 the traffic light system has changed. These changes reflect public health advice, and where New Zealand has moved to in our Omicron response. Sport NZ have updated their guidance to reflect the changes announced, and these are now live alongside our updated FAQs on the Sport NZ website [here](#).

A review of the settings by the Government will take place on 4 April. The removal of the My Vaccine Pass from the COVID-19 Protection Framework (CPF) will occur on the same date.

Please continue to check the [Sport New Zealand](#) website for updates and specific guidelines to reflect the changes announced.

To recap the key changes to the COVID-19 Protection Framework (CPF) and vaccine mandates

From 11.59pm Friday 25 March, a new and highly simplified traffic light setting was introduced. The key changes are as follows.

Red

- Indoor capacity limits for gatherings and events with My Vaccine Pass will increase to 200 – this includes gyms, food and drink businesses and other indoor settings where sport and recreation takes place.
- There will be no limits for outdoor activities with My Vaccine Pass – such as gatherings, events, and food/drink retailers.
- Face masks are no longer required at outdoor settings.
- There is no requirement to scan in or for a business to display a QR code poster or have mandatory record keeping.

Orange

- There will be no capacity limits for indoor and outdoor gatherings and events, but face masks are still required in many indoor settings.
- There is no requirement to scan in or for a business to display a QR code poster or have mandatory record keeping.

Green

- There are no requirements, but good health habits should still be maintained to help look after those who are more vulnerable to COVID-19.
- *Sport New Zealand advice is that it is unlikely we will see a move to Green until after winter.*

My Vaccine Pass

From 11.59pm Monday 4 April, My Vaccine Passes will no longer be required. This is due to the high vaccination rate and levels of acquired immunity.

- Until 4 April, where My Vaccine Passes are not used, the current restrictions remain — but after this time, the new capacity limits will apply to everyone.
- After 4 April, businesses will still be able to use the system if they would like to.

This change also applies to all student and adult workers and volunteers involved in school sport (volunteers, coaches, officials).

At all levels, the testing and isolation requirements remain as they are now. If you have symptoms or someone in your household tests positive, isolate and get tested.

1.4 USEFUL RESOURCES

Last week we provided a range of additional resources and websites for further information.

If you are looking for further information and/or resources we encourage you to review last weeks BBNZ COVID-19 Update available on our [COVID-19 website hub](#) and the [Sport New Zealand COVID-19 website hub](#).