**SECONDARY CATHOLIC SPORTS ASSOCIATION**

 ***RISK MITIGATION PROCEDURES FOR SCSA EVENTS: COVID-19 (last updated 1 Feb, 2022).***

The Secondary Catholic Sports Association (SCSA) is responsible for the management and administration of all inter-school sports events for its affiliated schools. This document has been created to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 and ensure the safety and well-being of all students, teachers, officials and parents that attend all SCSA events which are held in different venues across Victoria.

To comply with the best practice Risk Assessment, SCSA will identify hazards at the venues used and the associated risks and do what is reasonably practicable to eliminate those risks.

***Depending on the venue, an appropriate range of actions by SCSA may include:***

* Monitoring official Government sources for current information and advice for outbreaks in the area of the event.
* Providing clear advice to staff, students and officials about actions they should take if they become unwell or think they have symptoms of coronavirus, in accordance with advice from the Australian Government Department of Health and State or Territory Health Department.
* Confirming with coaches and staff that no one from their team has been in contact with another person who has been infected.

***This document is broken up into 5 participating groups that are involved in all SCSA events:***

* Group A – Students
* Group B – Teachers/Coaches
* Group C – Venue Provider
* Group D – Sporting Officials/Service Providers
* Group E – Parents/Spectators

 ***Each group has a major responsibility in playing their part to minimise all risks to control the infection of COVID-19.***

As a general rule by the State Health Authorities:

Each school will manage its own health screening procedures in place including rapid antigen testing. ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF WHO RETURN A POSITIVE RESULT FROM A RAPID ANTIGEN TEST SHOULD FOLLOW THE LATEST ADVICE AT:

[***https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/rapid-antigen-tests***](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/rapid-antigen-tests)

**Conditions for Exclusion**

***Students, visitors and staff are not permitted to enter a SCSA event if they are or has been:***

* + 1. Experiencing any symptoms of fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, difficulty breathing, loss of taste and smell, diarrhoea, conjunctivitis, headache, myalgia/arthralgia (muscle/joint pain), rash on skin or discolouration of fingers & toes.
		2. In close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 (during the period in which the virus is contagious).
		3. Awaiting the results of a test for COVID-19
		4. Self-isolating
		5. Have visited any locations and local government areas (LGA’s) that has been classified for action (hotspot) in the last 14 days.

***Group A – Students***

***Risk Mitigation Strategies:***

* Hand hygiene – alcohol based hand sanitisers to be used on arrival at the venue and/or before the start of play, during the main break and after the game.
	+ - Practise cough etiquette. . No spitting or clearing nasal/respiratory secretions on ovals or other sport settings.
* Where possible, maintain separation of 1.5m at all times between people.
* Ensure any sport specific COVID19 restrictions are enforced i.e. no body contact
* There is to be no hand shaking, hugging or high fives between players, coaches and opposing teams.
* No physical contact between officials, staff or students is permitted at any time, except in cases of emergency and medical/injury management.
* Students should not need to touch any external equipment other than the match ball or game implements i.e. bat.
* Stay in the allocated game area. Do not go to other areas or public change rooms, with the exception of the toilet.

Bring your own water bottle and drinks. Do not share water bottles and drinking containers. Do not use public water fountains.

 ***Group B - Teachers/Coaches***

 ***Risk Mitigation Strategies:***

* + - Hand hygiene – alcohol based hand sanitisers to be used on arrival at the venue and/or before the start of play, during the main break and after the game.
		- Personal protective equipment – When dealing with first aid situations, gloves and surgical masks are to be worn.
		- Practise cough etiquette. No spitting or clearing nasal/respiratory secretions on ovals or other sport settings.
		- Check that equipment cleaning routines are in place for match balls and other game equipment that may be touched; before, during main breaks and after games.
		- Where possible, maintain separation of 1.5m at all times between people. During breaks in play, do not have the participants grouped closely together in the traditional team huddle.
		- Do not allow hand shaking, hugging and high fives between players, coaches and opposing teams.
		- Ensure any sport specific COVID19 restrictions are enforced i.e. no body contact
		- No physical contact between officials, staff or students is permitted at any time, except in cases of emergency and medical/injury management.
		- Students should not need to touch any external equipment other than the match ball or game implements i.e. bat.
		- Stay in the allocated game area. Do not go to other areas or public change rooms, with the exception of the toilet.

Bring your own water bottle and drinks. Do not allow sharing of water bottles and drinking containers. Do not use public water fountains.

***Group C – Venue Provider***

***Risk Mitigation Strategies:***

***To provide a COVID-19 Safety Plan to SCSA (and other stakeholders) which details:***

* A sport specific structured risk assessment of the sport’s activities including a facility risk assessment that considers associated mitigation measures including hygiene and cleaning measures to reduce transmission risk.
* Modifications to playing conditions to support physical distancing (if required).
* Management of change rooms, toilets, canteens, corridors, entry foyers and other indoor spaces. This should involve a process that emphasises physical distancing protocols to be used within the shared facility spaces mentioned, and clearly demonstrate these protocols through marking tape, barriers and/or signage and encourage individuals to be respectful of shared space, minimise time spent in these areas and observe physical distancing measures.
* Management and/or provision of equipment, especially considering shared equipment.
* The need to display government resources/posters in facilities and entry points, including handwashing and personal infection control advice.
* A possibility of a registration system to record, store and, if required, share data as it relates to personal infection control, subject to privacy laws. This registry would record the person’s venue entry/exit times and contact details.
* The need to permit canteen/kiosk operations.
* Determination if water fountains can be used, ensuring users are aware of appropriate usage protocols; and implementing appropriate cleaning and hygiene procedures. **Use of water fountains however, are strongly discouraged.**
* Consideration for staggered arrival and/or departure times for different groups/teams.
* Management of venue entries/exits to ensure a seamless flow of participants and attendees throughout the venue and limit the risk of overlapping and congestion, subject to maximum attendee number restrictions.
* Provision of bins and encouraging used tissues to be disposed in bin straightaway and regular waste disposal.
* Assurance that spaces at each facility are regularly cleaned with disinfectant including playing venue, surfaces, toilets and seats. This includes equipment used such as playing equipment, scoreboards, microphones, etc.
* Assurance that the venue provider has followed all protocols with their staff regarding complying with COVID-19 rules with attending work in a healthy condition and not sick/unwell.

***Group D – Sporting Officials/Service Providers***

***Risk Mitigation Strategies:***

* + - Personal protective equipment;
			* Officials: medical protective gloves to be worn if officials will be touching match balls and other game equipment.
			* First Aid: gloves and surgical masks to be worn.
		- Hand hygiene – alcohol based hand sanitisers to be used on arrival at the venue and/or before the start of play, during the main break and after the game.
		- Practise cough etiquette.
		- Check with the coaches that equipment cleaning routines are in place for match balls and other game equipment that may be touched; before, during main breaks and after games.
		- Where possible, maintain separation of 1.5m at all times between people.
		- Do not allow hand shaking, hugging and high fives between players and coaches.
		- Ensure COVID19 group sizes are implemented (i.e. 10 or 20 people only per activity) and that other groups and matches are adequately separated.
		- Ensure any sport specific COVID19 restrictions are enforced i.e. no body contact
		- No physical contact between officials, staff or students is permitted at any time, except in cases of emergency and medical/injury management.
		- Students should not need to touch any external equipment other than the match ball or game implements i.e. bat.
		- Work autonomously as much as possible without the need to have close contact with staff or students.
		- Stay in the allocated game area. Do not go to other areas or public change rooms, with the exception of the toilet.
		- First Aid Officers to work in a designated and marked off work space; vehicle (van or ambulance), marquee and roped off treatment area.
		- Bring your own water bottle and drinks. Do not share water bottles and drinking containers. Do not use public water fountains.
		- SCSA’s current provider, Sport Staff One (SSO) conducts a COVID free screening questionnaire to their staff before their allocation of umpires/first aid officers to SCSA events.
		- SSO keeps a record of their umpires/first aid officers onsite with contact details for contact tracing if required.
		- SSO provides training and consistent directives for their staff regarding safe and hygienic practices at SCSA events including reporting procedures.

***Group E – Parents/Spectators***

***Risk Mitigation Strategies:***

As per restrictions in place for all schools under Department of Education regulations (Reference: <https://education.vic.gov.au/school/Pages/coronavirus-advice-schools.aspx>), parents are only permitted to enter school grounds when essential, minimising their time onsite and practicing social distancing.

***COVID MARSHALS – SCSA TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS A DESIGNATED COVID MARSHAL/S IN EVERY EVENT TO MONITOR ALL PARTICIPANTS INCLUDING STAFF, STUDENTS, OFFICIALS AND SPECTATORS ENSURING THAT THEY COMPLY WITH THE LATEST STATE GOVERNMENT HEALTH REGULATIONS. THIS INCLUDES THE LATEST VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS THAT ARE REQUIRED FOR ENTRY INTO VENUES, AND OR PUBLIC AREAS.FOR VENUES SUCH AS MSAC, THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT FOR ANYONE UNDER 18 TO BE VACCINATED FOR ENTRY PURPOSES AS UNVACCINATED PATRONS WILL NOT BE MIXING WITH VACCINATED PATRONS. HOWEVER, STAFF MUST ENSURE THAT THEIR OWN STUDENTS DO NOT ENTER OTHER PLAYING VENUES WITHIN MSAC AS THERE WILL BE VACCINATED PATRONS (GENERAL PUBLIC AND OTHER SCHOOLS) THAT WILL BE USING THEM.***

***ALL SCSA PARTICIPANTS INCLUDING STUDENTS, STAFF, OFFICIALS AND SPECTATORS MUST COMPLY WITH QR CODE PROCESSES IN PLACE IN ALL VENUES AND COMPLY WITH THE MANDATORY FACE MASK REQUIREMENTS.***

***ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF WHO RETURN A POSITIVE RESULT FROM A RAPID ANTIGEN TEST SHOULD FOLLOW THE LATEST ADVICE AT:***

[***https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/rapid-antigen-tests***](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/rapid-antigen-tests)

***PLEASE REFER TO THE LINK BELOW FOR THE LATEST GUIDELINES REGARDING INTERSCHOOL SPORT AND VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS:***

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/sport-exercise-and-physical-recreation-services-sector-guidance>