**Return to Play Q&A**

Following up on our meeting this week, below are the list of Q&A’s that came up during the meeting and also some good ones that popped up on Facebook.

For those that were unable to attend, we walked through all the items in the email below this one and allowed clubs to ask questions on the topics as they came up.

**Registrations**

Q: Will things need to be entered into mynetball again?

A: Only for new players.  All the player registrations completed before the shutdown are still active and current.

Q: Will there be a new spreadsheet to fill in or edit our current one?

A: Edit and resubmit the current one

Q: Keen to know if Clubs have gone out to families to check if all are keen to play?

A: Most clubs are expecting minimal changes to their teams

Q: What happens if we have to drop a team ?

A: Make the changes on the registration spreadsheet and we’ll adjust the amount due after the registrations are in.  If required we’ll provide a refund to clubs.

**Start Date**

Q: Has there been any decision on Open game day? Or is that dependant on team submissions?

A: Current guideline say Open ages (18+) will be allowed to return to competitions from 20th July

Q: If the restrictions change and open teams can't play, will the juniors still go ahead?

A: That is definitely a possibility but we’ll cross that bridge if and when it happens.  We’re planning for all ages starting on the 25th July until told otherwise.

**Season Finish**

No questions

**Rules for Participants (Players, Umpires, Coaches, Scorers)**

Q: Can parents still be a scorer?

​Q: So the scorers are classified as an official not a players spectator

A: Yes, parents can still be a scorer and are not counted as a spectator

Q: Will Scoresheets only be available during changeover? At same location at window?

Q: Score Boards - Will the score boards be waiting at the crts before each game?

A: Scoreboards will be available to collect from behind the pavilion.

Q: Will the ball pump be relocated outside the club rooms or not available?

A: The ball pump will not be available to use.  All coaches must bring their own pump.

Q: Will we be avoiding the use of the flip scoreboards, for ease of cleaning?

A: Yes. Due to difficulty with cleaning and infection control, the flip scoreboards will not be used.

Q: Will we be having captains toss coins for center pass or will home team have center pass?

A: The risk of additional cross contamination from the coin is fairly low, considering the players are just about to start throwing a ball to each other, but we could use “rock paper scissors” as an alternative.

Q: Where will scorers need to sit? The score bench isn’t big enough for distancing?

A: The scorers will be required to sit on the scorers bench.  Scorers are considered a Participant so do not need to keep to the 1.5m social distancing rule.  The scorers bench is 1.5m long so the scorers can still keep some distance between them.

Q: U/9 coaches - are they allowed to walk up and down the side of the court to assist the young players on court?  If yes, can you advise the guidelines.

Q: As the coach is considered a participant, can the u9 & lowest u11 section coach still walk the side line & coach their team. How close can the coach be to the umpire?

A: Yes. They are allowed to walk along the sideline in the run-off (grey) zone. They will need to keep out of the umpire’s way and keep their distance from the spectators wherever possible.

There is no social distancing requirement for Participants.

Q: Two junior coaches - if a team has two junior coaches and an adult mentor / assistant, are all three able to enter the court area?

A: Technically yes but we are asking clubs to keep it to a maximum of 2 coaches per team.  The NV guidelines say Participants are anyone “essential” to the running of the games so the question would be is two coaches and a mentor “essential”? If your club feels they need to have this arrangement with their coaches, please let us know first.

Q: Fill ins - what are the rules for fill ins during the season if a team is short due to player(s) not playing the full season?

A: No changes from our current rules as per our by-laws.

Q: Quarter breaks - Will the players go straight to their coach on the side line or will the coach enter the court to speak to his/her players.

A: That’s up to the coach.  Anywhere on the court (playing area, runoff or team bench) is fine, just don’t enter the spectator areas and keep your distance from the spectators.

Q: Do players, coaches or umpires that are participating in back to back games need to leave the complex?

A: No.  They can stay inside the fenced area. They will still be required to keep to social distancing rules between the games and move directly to their next court.  Let the court supervisors know you are participating in the next game and also try to stay out of the way of the cleaners.

Q: Is a team manager a participant or spectator?

A: The rules from Netball Victoria are "essential" support people for the games are considered a participant. If the TM is a parent who only looks after the drink holder, I would say no, if the TM acts more as your assistant, then I would say yes. As to which is which, that's up to you but please remember we are required to keep the numbers at the courts to a bare minimum. We don’t want to see teams arrive with, two coaches, an assistant coach, an apprentice coach, a mentor coach and a TM.

**Rules for Spectators**

Q: Only one spectator per player- How will this work for single parent families? We have a number of single parent, shift working families, babies. It is not as simple as telling families that they ‘Just need to find carers’ every week. Some families have one parent and multiple children that play. Are these kids expected to stay outside the gate unsupervised, sit in the car? Our committee members do not feel comfortable with their own children waiting outside the fence line. Many support multiple timeslots (eg: umpiring, sometimes more than one child playing, coaching), as this is how most clubs would run, and they have indicated that the current proposal of people waiting outside the fence line would not work for them.

A: **We do not recommend children be left unsupervised outside the courts or in the car park!  It would be highly irresponsible to even consider that as an option.**

The rules as defined by Netball Vic and the State government are one spectator per player and siblings are counted as spectators.

In this situation the options for parents are;

1. Stand outside the fenced area and watch with your second child
2. Ask a friend, relative or someone from your club to mind them outside the fence during the game.

The status quo of “ this is how most clubs run” cannot continue under the current conditions.  All clubs and spectators will need to make alternative arrangements to the way they participate and watch games on Saturday.

We understand it’s difficult but we are only allowed to start back playing if we follow these rules.

Please remember that returning to netball is Optional.  If any parent, player, coach, committee person or even a whole club does not feel comfortable returning to netball under these conditions, they can choose not to play this this season and return when restrictions ease even further.

Q: So does that mean all coaches can have a spectator as well?

A: Only junior coaches (under 18) are allowed to have a spectator.

Q: So a single mum can bring their other child if they score?

A: The guidelines from NV state “Only people required to support the participants are permitted (maximum one parent/guardian per child)”.  We have expanded that to say “parent/guardian/supporter” so if the other child is acting as guardian or supporting the playing child, then that would permitted. If the other child is an infant, toddler or someone too young to be considered “supporting” then that would not be permitted.

Please remember all supporters will be required to stand in a different location to the teams so any child supporter will need to be able to be left by the side of the court unsupervised.  The Parent scorer will not be permitted to enter the spectator zone or any spectators to enter the participants zone during the game, so the Parent scorer will not be able to attend to spectating child during the game.

Q: Will spectator sections be marked out for example the 1.5 at the shop registers etc

A: Yes.  We will have defined spectator zones marked out around the complex with signs indicating the maximum number of spectator in each zone.  The zones will allow a minimum of 2m distance between spectators.

Q: If it’s raining, do the spectators need to have an umbrella as they cannot stand in the cover area near the courts

A: It is not compulsory to bring an umbrella on wet days (although this would help to keep social distancing). Spectators may bring a umbrella, poncho, Akubra hat, whatever they wish.

Q: Are we suggesting the spectators have/get the COVID App?

A: Yes.  That is still the advice from the government but we won’t be policing it.

Q: Eating in the court area - could you please advise if people inside the Pinks court area are allowed to eat food?  (eg. half time fruit, spectators)

A: Anyone can bring their own food to the courts but we recommend against any communal food, eg no oranges or lollies provided to the whole team

Q: Am I allowed to watch one child for 2 quarters then go and watch the other for the last 2 quarters?

A: No. The current advice is participants and spectators should not move from one court to another.  You may do so from outside the fenced area.

Q: Do Spectators that are watching back to back games need to leave the complex?

A: No.  They can stay inside the fenced area. They will still be required to keep to social distancing rules between the games and move directly to their next court.  Let the court supervisors know you are spectating the next game and also try to stay out of the way of the cleaners.

**Location and Game Times**

Q: Will we still be having games on every court at the same time?

Q: There were questions about Friday or Sunday games to fit everyone? Is that still likely

A: All games will at Pinks Reserve and will start and stop at the same time

Q: Have game durations been shortened to allow for the transition time between games?

A: Yes. 10 minutes quarters but less for the 9’s and bottom 11’s.

Q: Will the games be played on the middle courts? As you won’t be able to see from the fence line?

A: We will be trying not to roster games on those courts, especially at the younger time slots but we won’t know if that’s possible until the teams are in.

Q: For viewing of courts 10, 11, 12 and ensuring spectators have best chance of socially distancing could the bushes that have grown high in that garden be trimmed down?

A: Yes, this is will be done before the first game.

**Entry and Exit**

Q: How will it work if the driveway is used for both exit & warm up?

A: Exit is both via the driveway and the gravel path next to the public toilets.  If teams exiting notice the driveway is busy, they should move to the gravel path.  If it becomes a problem, we may change it to only exit via the gravel path.

Q: Would it be possible to swap the entry & exit to avoid the crossover?

A: Ether way teams will need to crossover depending on what court they are on.  We will be asking the entering teams to keep away from the gates and pathways when teams are exiting.

Q: Disability Parking - How easily will a nominated spectator be able to access the disabled parking if the drive is blocked, if a person is needing to use the disabled car spot it would probably be difficult for them to leave their car, remove a barricade, drive through and repeat the process to replace the barricade and them do it all again when leaving.

Q: Disabled car park access - can anyone requiring a disabled car spot access the ones behind the club room?

A: Disable Parking will be limited to the disable car park spaces in the main car park.  No access will be provided (except for emergencies) via the driveway.  If a disabled spectator requires an helper (eg to push a wheelchair), the helper is not included in the spectator numbers.

Q: Can we keep distinctive entry and exit points going forward to assist with entering and exiting the courts when Covid-19 is over?

A: We can consider it but improved circulation around court 3 is being investigated as part of the next stage of the court covers.

**Umpires**

Q: Umpires- our young umpires often umpire a game and have a game off before playing. Are they expected to sit outside the gate, possibly encouraging crowding? Do their parents sit in the carpark for a few hours waiting?

A: Umpires that have a gap between games will be required to be outside the fenced area between games.  The only change we’re asking is, instead of hanging around inside the fenced area, they hang around outside the fenced area.

There is a lot more area outside the fence at Pinks Reserve, than inside, so crowding will be improved by umpires leaving the courts between their games.

Parents can sit in their cars, walk the dog, go to the park, get a coffee, crochet, whatever they wish.

Q: If Umpires are only umpiring their own teams, does that mean if a club doesn't have a team in a certain age group i.e. Opens, they don't need umpires for Opens?

Q: Will there be any dispensation for the number of games an umpire can do in a day, I’ve already had three umpires who have said they won’t umpire this season.

A: Both these questions will be discussed at the umpires convenors meeting.

Q: Is there still going to be voting by umpires for b&f

A: No

Q: There are a huge amount of players/umpires who need to change between 2 back to back games. Most of the people would be mid age teenagers and up, asking them to change in their cars in full view of everybody is a big ask, I understand everybody has to leave the courts between games but is there any way a section of the tent/cover Carol will have for umpires to sign in could be tarped to allow for players/umpires to get changed discreetly.

A: The umpire sign in will be in a tent and within that tent we will have a private area for umpires to change.

**Warm up**

Q: Teams can warm up on the driveway?

A: Yes. The driveway will be closed to vehicles so will be available for teams to warm up.

Q: Does anyone know if footy is coming back to the oval? Maybe we could warm up there....?

A: If the oval is free, teams can use it to warmup (suggest not on wet days).  There may be Auskick using the oval on Saturday morning.

Q: What time can players / spectators arrive before the game time. ie 10min before the game start time?

A: Participants and Spectators can arrive whenever they wish, but we recommend no more than 15 minutes before the game and that they only move to the entrance gates 10 minutes before.

Q: Car park will be a nightmare, especially if teams have to enter together

A: We don’t see any change to the car parking.  The numbers of teams at the courts at any one time will be no different to a normal Saturday. If anything the number of spectators will be less so car parking will likely improve plus with no football, the parking around the oval may be available.

**Clubrooms and Toilets**

No questions

**First Aid**

No questions

**Canteen**

Q: Will having the canteen in that spot cause a big congregation as people will go to the canteen on the way out and possibly still there when the next time slot starts to arrive

Q: Maybe could set up a drinks stand away from that area a bit? Similar to bbq days (could even have extra items then)

A: We will monitor it to see if it causes a problem.  Starting with only cold drinks will limit the congregation in this area.  We will only expand the selection if we are confident we can control the crowds

Q: Does canteen have to be open?

A: No but we feel providing cold drinks to start with is manageable.

Q: Canteen still be cash only

A: It will likely be “tap” only

Q: Will clubs still need to provide people for canteen duty?

A: No. We will use our staff, especially for the early rounds while we work out what works best

Q: Is the canteen and the umpires sign in in the same location?

A: No, they will be in the same vicinity (behind the pavilion) but separated.  The canteen will be directly outside the canteen door, the umpires sign in will be in a tent in the car spaces.

**Cleaning and Sanitizing**

Q: Who is supplying match balls

Q: Match ball - is the home team still providing the match ball or is LYVNA supplying? Do clubs need to provide the ball cleaning equipment?

Q: Match Ball - Will Valley or the home team be providing the ball?

A: Home team is to supply the match ball and ensure it is cleaned with anti-bacterial wipes/spray.  The away team must have a ball cleaned and ready if needed.

Q: What happens if it leaves the court and enters another court or goes over the fence, who can leave their designated spot & retrieve the ball & who then is responsible to clean it again.

A: This is still to be finalised but below is how it may work.

If it goes onto another court, both games must stop. The ball is to be collected by one person on the other court and rolled back.  The ball then is to be collected and returned to the home team and replaced by the away team’s ball.  The home team must sanitised their ball.  Anyone from either court that touched the ball after it left the court must sanitise their hands.

If the ball goes over the fence, a participant can collect it and assuming no-one else touched it, the game can continue.  If it is touched by a spectator or anyone else, the ball must be re-sanitised and the away ball used.

Only after the umpires are satisfied all Participants and balls have been adequately sanitised, will they allow the game to continue.

Q: What happens if the ball gets blood on it, who provides the replacement ball or a replacement ball for any number of reasons?

A: The ball is returned to the home team for cleaning and the away team’s ball used.

Q: Are the anti-bacterial wipes ok they actually don’t kill the virus

A: The current advice from Netball Australia is to use ant-bacterial wipes. <https://netball.com.au/sites/default/files/2020-05/NA-CommunityGuidelines-Covid-19-Netball-Sanitising.pdf>

Q: So clubs are to supply each team with own sanitiser for hands and ball cleaning?

Q: Netball Vic guidelines mention teams to sanitise players hands before and after games. Is this required by clubs to have sanitiser available for each of their teams?

A: Yes. All coaches are required to carry hand sanitiser and wipes/spray.

Q: We have a great spray for the balls that works really well.  They use it at the schools as well. Ill find the name if you’re interested?

A: Ball Spray: Stelco Ethanlol KH-20 Spray. $7 per bottle. [www.stelcochem.com](https://www.stelcochem.com)

Q: Will goal protectors be cleaned between each game - and by who?

A: Yes, by our cleaners.

Q: Is there an option to have someone from team and/or umpire to clean posts before leaving, a spray bottle under seats

A: It’s certainly an option but we feel we can control the cleaning by having our own trained staff undertake the cleaning throughout the day.

Q: Do players need to sanitise hands at breaks

A: There is no requirement but we would recommend sanitising at much as possible

Q: How many staff will be cleaning between games?

A: Not sure yet. As many as we need to clean the goal posts and seats between games.

**Fees**

Q: The money teams have already paid for canteen will obviously not be used as intended, due to changes with canteen. We understand the logical thing is for this money to go towards the cleaning costs instead. What about those clubs that haven’t paid canteen fees? Will they have an extra cost or be rostered onto cleaning? That is assuming the canteen money is being used for cleaning costs. If we paid canteen fee then will we get that back?

A:

We are expecting we will still need to provide some staff in the canteen. It may be less canteen staff in the beginning but it’s likely to be our canteen staff also doing the cleaning so the total numbers of paid staff will likely be more than our normal Saturdays.  That plus the weekly extra cost for the daily cleaning we need to undertake means our expenses to run the facility are much higher than normal, plus our canteen income will be much less than normal.

For the 16 clubs that have paid canteen fees, there will be no change and there will be no refund for the canteen fee.  If a club has a concern that the canteen levy is not being used as originally expected, please try to remember that the canteen fee works out to only $4-$5 per player per season, so it’s not a big expense for each player but will assist us with the additional cost of running this season.

For the 4 clubs that were due to provide volunteers, we may need to cancel on that arrangement for this season only and have you also pay the canteen fee. Having volunteers working in the canteen in this environment is not something we feel is wise.  We will be in touch regarding this.

**Clubs Responsibility**

Q: Are the court supervisor 1 person from each club?

Q: So is 1 committee member ok if there are two teams playing?

A: Yes, one per club whenever your club has a team playing

Q: Our Committee are the coaches, so do we need another member there?

Q: If we have a committee member at the courts umpiring or coaching, it reads that we need an additional committee member. Most of our committee coach or umpire. Is there any flexibility around this?

A: The club supervisor must not be involved in the games being played.  Their job will be to assist with crowd control and ensure their teams and spectators are doing the right thing.  This cannot be done if the person is also umpiring or coaching a game.

Q: Is one committee member needing to cover multiple courts? This happens with a few teams playing at one time slots in same age groups

Q: Club committee member - could you please clarify the role / expectation of the committee member on duty for their club and where they should stand if they are supervising a court?

A: The role of the club supervisor will be

* Before the game, assist with ensuring their teams move quickly to their courts and that Participants and Spectators are set up in the correct locations
* During the game, monitor the courts you teams are on. The supervisor does not need to be standing near the court for the entire game, just keep an eye on your teams and spectators
* Supervise their teams outside the venue to ensure their doing the right thing and not crowding
* At the end of the game, assist with ushering your teams and spectators to leave the courts quickly and exit via the correct gates and pathways

We will also have our court supervisors doing the same.

Q: How do we ensure the committee member is not counted as a spectator?

Q: Might be a good idea to have these Committee members having a different coloured bib so they are identifiable?

Q: What about using a lanyard for the committee like the photography obligations

Q: Or they could all have sticker name tags that go in the bin afterwards

A: All are great ideas.  We will consider the club supervisor as a Participant, similar to our court supervisors. We will confirm this details regarding identifying them in the coming weeks.

Q: How are details being tracked? Do clubs need to provide a preliminary list? Is the sign in area at the designated gates?

Q: Contact list - are people who are accessing the Pinks court areas required to provide there name and contact number for contact tracing?

Q: Coach assistants / mentors / team managers / club committee member on duty - are clubs to provide LYVNA with a list of these?

A: Clubs are to keep a contact list for their Participants.  It is not a requirement but is recommended that they also note the Spectators but it should be fairly easy for authorities to contact trace if needed by just the Participants details.