

COVID-19 Update - 3 September 2020

To all our Heart Family

Thank you for your patience and commitment as we progress through what has been an unprecedented netball season.

Last week Netball NSW provided updated advice (from the Office of Sport) on the conduct of pre-elite (non-professional) sports competitions, in particular Premier League and Metro League.

In line with this advice, the Premier League and Metro League competitions are able to continue under the strict COVID-19 Safety Plans and protocols which have been implemented to ensure Netball Central is a safe venue

Some elements of these protocols are:

- Netball Central is a designated COVIDSafe venue, staffed with multiple COVID Safety Officers on each competition night;
- All players, umpires and team officials are required to complete a Wellness Survey on every competition night and sign a declaration;
- Spectators are limited to one person per player and are temperature tested upon entry to the venue;
- Detailed cleaning regimes are in place both prior to matches commencing and between matches;
- and
- All players are encouraged to avoid car-pooling or shared transport arrangements wherever possible.

Netball NSW has reiterated that it takes the advice of NSW Health and the Office of Sport very seriously and will continue to enforce all COVID-19 protocols to keep everyone safe and ensure the continuation of these high level competitions.

Thank you for your continued compliance with the (evolving) COVID-19 protocols and for your commitment to our sport.

For further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact Secretary, Di Selby or High Performance & Pathways Manager, Di Brown.

COVID-19 Update - 25 August 2020

To all our Heart Family

Thank you for your commitment to netball and to keeping each other and the wider community safe during these challenging times.

We are continuing to closely monitor (and adapt to) the changing health situation.

Following the announcement regarding sport by NSW Health last week, Netball NSW has been closely liaising with NSW Health and the NSW Office of Sport to clarify what this means for the Premier League and Metro League competitions (and has been providing regular updates on the status of these discussions to its stakeholders).

Netball NSW (along with representatives of five other state sporting organisations - rugby league, rugby union, football, AFL and hockey) met with the Chief Health Officer last week and were given assurances that NSW Health will work towards a tailored implementation of the recommendations to ensure the aims of the Department of Health are met while at the same time allowing sport to continue to operate.

The most recent advice from Netball NSW (on Friday 21 August) was that the Office of Sport (working in conjunction with NSW Health) will shortly provide further clarity around Premier League, Metro League and Academies, which are classified as “pre-elite” sport rather than community-level sport.

NSW Health is aware that the Premier League and Metro League competitions involve athletes from across the metropolitan area, the regions and the ACT and, as noted above, is working collaboratively with Netball NSW to ensure that these competitions can continue in line with the current health recommendations.

As part of Netball NSW’s COVID-19 safety plan, anyone who has been at a current Hot Spot (or other High Alert) location (from the lists updated daily by NSW Health) is excluded from attending the Premier League or Metro League competitions at Netball Central.

Thank you for your continued commitment to following NSW Health advice to ensure that the health of our families and communities is protected.

While not mandated, the NSW Government currently recommends wearing a mask if it is hard to maintain 1.5 metres of physical distance from others (such as when queuing to enter Netball Central). NSW Health also recommends that community sport participants avoid carpooling with people from different household groups if possible (as noted above we are awaiting confirmation whether this recommendation applies to pre-elite competitions).

We know from our experience so far with this pandemic that we must be flexible and ready to change and adapt as required. Our highest priority is the health and safety of all those involved with Central Coast Heart and we will continue to be guided by the directives issued by Netball NSW in conjunction with NSW Health.

We will continue to provide further updates as information is received from Netball NSW.

If you require further clarification or wish to discuss please do not hesitate to contact Secretary, Di Selby or High Performance & Pathways Manager, Di Brown.

COVID-19 Update - 21 April 2020

To all our Heart Family

We hope you are keeping well during these unprecedented times.

As you are probably aware, last week Netball NSW advised that due to the physical distancing requirements associated with COVID-19 all netball activity (including training and competitions) remains suspended until 29 June in line with the NSW Public Health Order.

At this stage the Premier League competition is tentatively scheduled to commence on Wednesday 29 July with a pre-season warm-up round to be held the week prior. Netball NSW is working towards completing a full season of Premier League in 2020, with details of the fixture to be worked through in the coming months.

While the Metro League competition is tentatively scheduled to commence on Tuesday 28 and Thursday 30 July for a shortened season over nine rounds plus a grand final.

Netball NSW also advised that local associations can plan to tentatively commence their competitions from Saturday 18 July for a shortened season.

In order to be responsive to changes in the government advice regarding risks to public health, Netball NSW has undertaken to provide a further update in June (and we will keep you informed of when group training can potentially re-commence).

We are pleased that our players are continuing their individual home training programs to stay fit (and keeping our local netball community updated via Facebook and Instagram).

We appreciate and thank you for your ongoing commitment to Heart and our wider netball community.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Di Selby, Secretary or Di Brown, High Performance Pathways & Programs Manager.

COVID-19 Update - 23 March 2020

To all our Heart Family

We hope you are keeping well.

Given the rapidly changing environment and in order to protect our health and safety and that of the wider community we have now decided to cease all group training for our Premier League teams. (Our Premier League coaches will be in touch with players with details of their individual home fitness programs).

Since our e-mail of last week, we have made further representations to Netball NSW regarding our concerns with its advice regarding Premier League and the need for consistency with its directions regarding other forms of netball.

While we anticipate that Netball NSW will shortly be providing further guidance regarding Premier League, we have taken this proactive step as your safety is our priority.

Please note at this stage both the Premier League and Metro League competitions have been postponed (not cancelled), so we encourage all players to stay fit and healthy.

We appreciate and thank you for your commitment to Heart during these uncertain times.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Di Selby, Secretary or Di Brown, High Performance Pathways & Programs Manager..

Take care.

COVID-19 Update - 18 March 2020

To all our Heart Family

We hope you are taking care of yourself and each other during these challenging times.

On Monday 16 March Netball NSW issued guidance regarding COVID-19 in order to protect the health and safety of us and the wider community.

As you are probably aware, the Government has advised that a key way to slow the spread of any virus is social distancing. For example, staying at home when you're unwell, avoiding large public gatherings, and keeping a distance of 1.5 metres between you and other people.

Consistent with this, Netball NSW has made recommendations regarding playing and training that impacts our Central Coast Heart family.

For our Metro League teams, Netball NSW has advised that the competition will not commence in April (as originally scheduled) and all training is to cease immediately (and we have complied with this directive). Whilst it is disappointing not to be able to play; in these unprecedented times the health (and the health of our families and community) must come first.

While for our Premier League teams, Netball NSW has advised that training can continue with the competition commencement being pushed back to the first week of May. We appreciate that our players, coaches, officials and support staff may want to proactively protect vulnerable family members through self-isolation/social distancing and in the current environment we will endeavour to accommodate these requests as your (and your families') health are our number one priority.

As a consequence of this advice, our proposed Premier League exhibition match has been cancelled (though a closed practice match may still go ahead - your coaches will keep you informed) and our proposed playing skills clinics are on hold (until possibly later in the season).

We have provided feedback to Netball NSW requesting consistency between the Premier League and Metro League advice - and will keep you informed of any response. The next update from Netball NSW is due after Easter on 15 April - though if the situation changes significantly an update will be provided earlier and we will keep you informed.

As always, if you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact Di Selby, Secretary or Di Brown, High Performance Pathways & Programs Manager.

Finally, thank you for your commitment to Heart - we appreciate the hard work that has gone into preparing for the 2020 season - and take care.