

15th July 2020

COVID-19 Update - City vs Country

Dear SQEBF Members,

We hope everyone is keeping safe and well, and that many of you are enjoying getting back into playing Eight Ball as the COVID-19 restrictions are being relaxed.

SQEBF have reviewed the current restrictions in place in order to assess whether the City vs Country event can be run in a COVID safe manner in September.

Previously we had communicated that the following easing of restrictions need to be in place, in order for the City vs Country to proceed:

- Stage 3 of QLD easing of restrictions in place
- Lifting of limit of 100 people for an inside venue
- Removal of 1.5 metre physical distancing restriction

All of the restrictions above have occurred, with the exception of the removal of the 1.5 metre distancing.

Upon further analysis, the **Industry COVID Safe Plan** for Indoor Sports Group states the following regarding the 1.5 metre physical distancing:

- Physical distancing applies “off the field of play”
- Physical distancing does not apply “on the field of play”

Defining “On the field of play”

For the purposes of compliance, SQEBF deem the “field of play” to be defined as follows:

- The enclosed area in which a team match is played
- Dimensions are ideally a minimum of 7 metres by 5 metres.
- This area includes the two match tables and the clearance area.
- Side tables and benches and other perimeter fixtures are outside the “field of play”.

The following persons are accommodated “on the field of play”:

- Two players on each table
- Umpire on each table
- Timekeeper on each table
- Tournament official as and when required

“Off the field of play”

The areas to accommodate teams around the “field of play” are generally provided with trestle tables or dry bar areas, ranging in dimensions from 2m to 4m per team in a match. Given these dimensions and the need to comply with 1.5 metre physical distancing, this means that only 2 to 3 players can be accommodated at such a structure (or possibly less in the case where the two teams are situated on the same side of the “field of play”).

Managing the area “off the field of play” is considered by SQEBF to be the area of highest risk, given the need to comply with 1.5 metre physical distancing. As such, all steps would need to be taken to reduce the number of players congregating in areas surrounding the “field of play”.

SQEBF measures for COVID compliance at City vs Country

SQEBF are satisfied that the City vs Country can be run to comply with COVID safety requirements, if the following measures are implemented:

- Minimising the number of people involved in a team:
 - A & B Grade teams to have 6 players + maximum of 1 reserve
 - C Grade and Ladies teams to have 5 players + maximum of 1 reserve
 - Captain must be one of the players above
 - Manager (if any) must be one of the players above
 - No spectators, children, or team/association officials allowed
- Minimising the number of people “off the field of play”, to enable 1.5 metre distancing.
 - All frames must have an umpire and timekeeper
 - Umpire on each table must be one of the players on the team
 - Timekeeper on each table must be one of the players on the team
 - Ensure that two tables are in use for the entirety of the match
 - No breaks between match blocks
 - Players promptly enter “field of play” to begin their frames
 - When a match is down to the last frame, the people involved on the last frame on the unused table are to remain around that table, and not re-join their teams.
- Maintaining distancing
 - Players “off field of play” must sit in designated seating spaced 1.5 metres apart.
 - Check team scores on your own device instead of congregating around the person recording the live scores.
 - No team huddles
 - No physical contact, such as handshakes or Hi-5s.
 - No congregating before or after match
 - Wait outside the venue until called in to begin your team match session
 - Team selections to be filled in prior to entering the venue
 - Absolutely no practice on tables. (See Block Warning)
 - Upon entry, the people involved in the first frames to proceed straight to “field of play” and begin frames, without congregating on sidelines.
 - Leave immediately as soon as the match is over
 - Do not proceed to the next tables
 - Go outside and wait to be called in for the next session
 - Use this time to fill team selections for next match.

All the above measures are in addition to:

- All measures imposed by the venue
- All measures in the **AEBF COVID-19 Guidelines** document.
- All measures outlined in the **Industry COVID Safe Plan** as adopted by QEBF.
- Any new measures that may be introduced as a result of Government recommendations.

All players should familiarise themselves with all COVID-19 measures. By entering the venue, each player is unconditionally agreeing to comply with all measures. For contact tracing, the venue may require you to sign in at the door, in accordance with their own COVID Safe Plan. Players not complying with COVID Safety measures may be refused entry to the venue, or may be asked to leave.

Whilst the measures above are put in place to reduce the risks associated with COVID-19, it is not possible for SQEBF to take steps to guarantee the safety of all members. By entering a venue where there is a gathering of people, there is always risk involved.

Some people are at greater risk of getting very sick if they contract COVID-19, in particular members who are older, or those with underlying medical conditions. If you have any concerns about your own health and wellbeing, it is important to seek the advice of your medical practitioner before attending an event.

Based on the current relaxation of restrictions, and the implementation of the measures above, the SQEBF are committed to running the City vs Country event as scheduled, provided it continues to be safe to do so.

It should be noted that this is always subject to review, should there be any change of restrictions. Further relaxation of restrictions may allow us to relax some of our measures, while a tightening of restrictions may cause the need to impose more measures up to and including the cancellation of the event.

Associations requiring accommodation are advised to book accommodation that allows a full refund, should the worst happen.

We thank everyone for their patience while we work towards getting our events back on track.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark McAleer".

Mark McAleer

President

On behalf of Southern Queensland Eight Ball Federation (SQEBF) Committee