

COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions Season Update

Why have the State Track & Field Championships and State Cross-Country Championships been cancelled?

The cancellations of our marquee State events were made because of the escalating COVID-19 infection rates in the Victorian community, the State Government responses, and the associated risks and difficulties in conducting these large events in highly volatile and unpredictable environment.

The recent announcement by the Victorian State Government of Stage 3 stay-at-home restrictions for selected postcodes precludes many Little Athletes residing in affected postcodes the opportunity to participate in Little Athletics activities – sanctioned training and competition - at least until 29th July, and possibly longer. Further, several of our Centres in affected postcodes are not allowed to conduct sanctioned activities for their members during this time. With ongoing infection rates, the possibility of further lockdowns of additional postcodes can't be discounted in coming weeks.

To conduct a State event with these restrictions in place unfairly disadvantages, or will completely preclude, many otherwise eligible athletes, casting the legitimacy of these events as true 'State Championship' into question. This is not a good outcome for our sport.

To be able to confidently plan, fund, administer and conduct 100% safe and compliant event of the scale required and quality expected, is extremely difficult.

LAVic's intent has been to salvage what it possibly could from what has been a frustrating and desperately disappointing 19/20 season for our members and the sport. Hence the timing of these announcements deep into the season.

It is now clear that the risks involved in hosting State Championship events between now and season's end – particularly for the health of those in attendance – is unacceptably high. These are risks that LAVic is not willing to take.

Which Centres are “sanctioned” for training and or competition?

Centres sanctioned for modified training appear on our website – [click here](#).

LAVic determines the protocols – a set of conditions – by which Centres are required to abide by, in order to conduct training and competition. These protocols are aligned with restrictions set by Sport and Recreational Victoria under the Return to Play guidelines, and are designed to ensure that our athletes, parents, coaches, volunteers, committee members and others can engage in our sport safely and legally.

LAVic authorises Centres to conduct sanctioned and insured activities. This process involves Centres agreeing to implement and comply with the protocols.

I'm in a suburb hotspot, can I participate in Little Athletics activities (Competition, Training etc)?

No. You must abide by the Government restrictions that have been put in place for your postcode location. If your postcode location is under stay-at-home restrictions those restrictions preclude you from participating in Community Sport.

My Centre is located in a suburb hotspot, but I am not. Can I train or compete with another Centre that is not located in a suburb hotspot?

Your Centre is currently suspended from conducting sanctioned activities. However, you are able to train at an alternative Centre that has approval to conduct training, by agreement with the host Centre and Little Athletics Victoria.

This is to ensure the athlete is registered and confirms their details if contact tracing is required.

Can I participate in my Centre's Cross-Country competitions?

If the Centre that you are registered with is sanctioned to operate or participate in Cross-Country competition AND you reside in a postcode location that is not subject to the State Government stay-at-home restrictions, then you will be eligible to participate at Cross-Country competition that your Centre hosts.

Can I participate in Cross-Country competitions held by Centres or Organising Bodies (example Bayside Cross-Country, Division One, Eastern 7's or Groups of Centres such as Knox/Waverley/Sherbrooke) other than my own Centre?

Yes, provided that you do not reside in a hot spot suburb. If your postcode location is under stay-at-home restrictions those restrictions preclude you from participating in Community Sport.

Can I register as a new member to participate in Cross-Country competitions / trainings?

Yes. The membership registration portal will be re-opened in coming days.

Members that have paid a registration since August 2019 are not required to re-register. Their memberships expire on 31 August 2020.

My athlete has shared care between parent/guardians so resides in two postcodes - on alternate weekends normally I could compete / train at either Centre can I still do this?

Yes, if neither residence is subject to the stay-at-home restrictions and both Centres are sanctioned under the Return to Competition / Training guidelines.

Will the State Track and Field t-shirts be available at a reduced rate?

Remaining stocks of the 2020 State Track & Field Tee Shirts are available for purchase at the regular price of \$37 including GST via our online shop and will be despatched via Australia Post free of charge. They may be available at a reduced price at future State Events, but as stocks of various sizes are exhausted there will be no re-ordering.

To purchase a 2020 State Track & Field Tee Shirt, or other LAVic merchandise at our online shop, click [HERE](#).

Why can't the 19/20 State Track and Field Championships be held during next season?

Firstly, State Track & Field Championships are large and complex events requiring an enormous planning and administrative effort, in addition to a huge volunteer contribution spread over several days before, during and after the event. LAVic is not resourced to conduct an additional event the size and scale of the State Track & Field Championships in a competition season. The calendar for Season 2020/2021 has been finalised, taking into account all of the other athletic competitions scheduled so far, we are unable to include an additional weekend of competition in an already full calendar.

Secondly, this issue raises queries about the integrity of the event as a true State Championship, were it to be staged in the 20/21 season. Given no athletes would be competing in their proper/legal age group, the legitimacy of the results, including records set, would justifiably be called into question.

I generally only register in the winter season. Will I be notified if, and when my Centre is approved to conduct competition and or training?

Past members who have traditionally registered in the winter season will be sent an email inviting them to register when their aligned Centre has been approved as a sanctioned Centre to conduct competition and or training.

Suburbs under stay-at-home orders from 11:59pm, 1st July to 29th July 2020:

- 3012: Brooklyn, Kingsville, Maidstone, Tottenham, West Footscray
- 3021: Albanvale, Kealba, Kings Park, St Albans
- 3032: Ascot Vale, Highpoint City, Maribyrnong, Travancore
- 3038: Keilor Downs, Keilor Lodge, Taylors Lakes, Watergardens
- 3042: Airport West, Keilor Park, Niddrie
- 3046: Glenroy, Hadfield, Oak Park
- 3047: Broadmeadows, Dallas, Jacana
- 3055: Brunswick South, Brunswick West, Moonee Vale, Moreland West
- 3060: Fawkner
- 3064: Craigieburn, Donnybrook, Mickleham, Roxburgh Park and Kalkallo

Little Athletics Centres located within 'hotspot' suburbs that are currently suspended until 29th July:

- Craigieburn Little Athletics Centre
- Keilor Little Athletics Centre

What is Athletics Victoria doing?

[Click here](#) to read the latest announcement from Athletics Victoria.

For more information on what Little Athletics Victoria is doing in relation to COVID-19, and to stay up-to-date, please visit our website page by [clicking here](#).