

TO: **Centre & Region Secretaries**
FROM: **Anthony McIntosh – Chief Executive Officer**
DATE: **Friday, 11th September 2020**
SUBJECT: **COVID-19 update**

Overview:

- Victorian Government 'road map to re-opening' statement
- Training and coaching
- NSW Centres
- Maximum crowd gathering sizes
- State and Region Relays
- Venues
- Affiliation reminder

Victorian Government 'road map to re-opening' statement

On Sunday 6th September, the Victorian Premier, Daniel Andrews, announced the 'road map to re-opening'. The few details pertaining to the resumption of community sport were high level at best, and it is clear that the commencement of the 20/21 summer track & field season will be delayed for Centres located in metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria.

In metropolitan Melbourne, the earliest community sport – and Little Athletics – can be expected to resume is 26th October, and this will be determined by community COVID-19 infection levels. For regional Victorian Centres, ongoing low infection rates give some cause for greater optimism for an earlier season commencement than that of metropolitan Melbourne, and again will be determined by COVID-19 infection levels. LAVic will be ultimately guided by advice from the State Government as to when specifically Centres can commence.

Click [HERE](#) for a summary of the stages of the 'steps to re-opening'.

NSW Centres

Effective from 1st September, community sport can be conducted in NSW. LAVic has six Centres located on the NSW side of the Murray River and these Centres are currently considering their options for commencing season 20/21. All have athletes, committee members, volunteers and other critical contributors resident in Victoria, that are currently unable to participate physically at the Centre due to Victorian and NSW restrictions.

Training and coaching

Many sports are asking the following questions of the State Government:

1. Are coaches considered in the same light as personal trainers, and hence can commence sanctioned coaching activities at Step 2 (28th September for metro Melbourne)?
2. Can sanctioned training activities start sooner than 26th October?

The position of Sport & Recreation Victoria (SRV) on these questions is unequivocal:

- Coaches are not considered personal trainers and can not undertake coaching activities prior to 26th October. The earliest sports coaching can occur is 26th October.
- There is to be no community sport activity – inclusive of sanctioned training or competition - prior to 26th October.

These settings apply to Little Athletics.

Maximum crowd gathering sizes

Many Centres have expressed concerns, facing into the new season, about the impact of anticipated low maximum crowd gathering restrictions in place when the season commences. Low maximum crowd gathering restrictions will severely inhibit the operations of many Centres. LAVic shares these concerns, and has expressed these to Vicsport and SRV.

There have been no specific announcements by the State Government on maximum crowd gathering sizes to date. SRV have given an undertaking to provide some clarity on this issue and other matters pertaining to community sport next week.

Region Relay Carnivals and State Relay Championships

Given the delayed commencement of the season (for almost all Centres), and likelihood that modest maximum gathering restrictions will prohibit the running of Region and State events for the remainder of 2020, LAVic has taken the decision to move the Region Relay Carnivals and State Relay Championship to be held in the New Year (subject to restrictions), with dates to be confirmed shortly.

These changes will assist all Centres and athletes prepare with sufficient time, and not be disadvantaged due to restrictions still likely to be in place in place for the remainder of 2020. Additionally, it is hoped that this will give Centres the opportunity to focus on successfully commencing their seasons, and related core activities, up until at least the Christmas break.

Further advice will be provided to Regions and Centres planning on conducting Open Days and Region events prior to Christmas.

Little Athletics Victoria

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Venues

Centres are advised to keep their venue/facility managers appraised of their season commencement plans. Doing so should minimise any unnecessary delays to the commencement of training and competition activities related to facility permissions and access.

Affiliation reminder

To date, 42 Centres have affiliated with the Association and are insured for the new season. 59 Centres have part completed, or not yet commenced their affiliations.

Centres are encouraged to commence their affiliations as soon as possible, regardless of when the season might proceed.

While the COVID-19 pandemic presents a very real threat to the fabric of our sport at all levels, the strength of our Association lies with its member Centres, and their ability to meet the current challenges.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with the LAVic office if your Centre needs support in its preparations for the new season.

The LAVic Team.