



**Little
Athletics**
Victoria

TO: Centre & Region Secretaries
FROM: Anthony McIntosh – Chief Executive Officer
DATE: Thursday 22nd October 2020
SUBJECT: Update: Metro Centres 22.10.20

- **Current status of Little Athletics**
- **Coaches in metropolitan Melbourne**
- **Mass participation provisions**
- **Membership update**

Current status of Little Athletics

- Little Athletics activities are permitted in regional Victoria and NSW.
- Little Athletics activities are not permitted in metropolitan Melbourne, inclusive of sanctioned training or competition. Further, Centre equipment may not be used or hired.
- The State Government has foreshadowed that community sport – inclusive of Little Athletics - may commence from 11.59pm on 1st November for metropolitan Melbourne.

Coaches in metropolitan Melbourne

The Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) has updated its advice and is now permitting sports coaching to be undertaken in metropolitan Melbourne, with restrictions.

Note:

- Coaching may only occur for exercise purposes (see full conditions below), similar to personal training; coaching for sport purposes (conducting training, competition) is not permitted.
- There are currently no registered Little Athletes in metropolitan Melbourne Centres for season 20/21. LAVic can not approve insurance claims resulting from the coaching of unregistered Little Athletes.
- Coaching may occur by private arrangement between coach and athlete/family separate to Little Athletics. For clarity, this should be read in conjunction with the information below.

The DHHS website states:

Coaching or training people is permitted in limited circumstances. Coaching and training must:

- *be for exercise purposes*
- *be undertaken outdoors. The use of outdoor facilities, such as tennis courts, golf courses and driving ranges, is not permitted.*
- *adhere to class size caps relevant to personal trainers (maximum of two people, in addition to the personal trainer or coach)*

Little Athletics Victoria

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- *adhere to face mask and physical distancing restrictions*
- *not allow for equipment to be shared during the class or coaching session*
- *be undertaken within 5km of the participant's home or workplace (if they are a permitted worker and carrying a [Permitted Worker Permit](#)). Coaches and trainers may travel more than 5km to work but must have a [Permitted Worker Permit](#) with them while travelling.*

(Note, the website is yet to have updated the last dot point to read '25km of the participant's home or workplace').

Mass participation provisions

Centres are strongly encouraged to notify LAVic for assistance if their Councils are not permitting Little Athletics to proceed under the terms set out in the LAVic protocols.

It is understood that some regional/rural and metropolitan Councils may be:

- setting arbitrarily low maximum attendance numbers, and/or;
- requiring Little Athletics Centres to ensure groups of 10 are separated by 100 metres.

In LAVic's view, this is unnecessarily restrictive, and not in alignment with either the LAVic protocols or the DHHS / Sport & Recreation Victoria settings in place for individual mass participation sports, such as athletics, triathlon, cycling and lifesaving.

In some cases, Council imposed restrictions are severely disrupting Centre operations, restricting Centre membership capacity, and preventing children from participating in our sport.

Membership update

LAVic currently has 27 regional Victorian and NSW-based Centres taking registrations. To date, just over 1650 athletes have been registered. A terrific start!

Congratulations to Yarrowonga-Mulwala LAC (56 members) which has already exceeded its 19/20 membership (52).

The LAVic team

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