



RETURN TO COMPETITION

Victorian Officials COVID Guide (as at October 2020 V1)

Athletics Victoria Incorporated
ABN 47 382 664 821

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Opening Statement

A warm welcome to our Victorian Officials.

It has been a challenging period during this pandemic and especially through the periods of lockdown. I hope that you and your families are doing well and on behalf of the Team of Athletics Victoria - Thank you for what you do to help us deliver our sport.

Before we recommence competition, it is important that we share with you some important changes we have been working on to ensure that we comply with any restrictions that may be in place for community sport but more importantly, that we make sure there are procedures in place to create a safe working environment for you and everyone that is involved in our sport. Thank you for also taking the time to provide feedback in the survey around officiating post COVID. This feedback was useful and has been part of our plans to deliver a safe season.

Please make sure that you read this document and once complete, sign and return the compliance form to us.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask any of the AV Team. We are looking forward to working with everyone again and to make sure everyone feels safe.

So again, thank you and I look forward to seeing you 'on or off the track'.

Ross Cunningham

General Manager Sport Delivery and Government

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to promote and assist the health and wellbeing of our officials and volunteers by providing recommendations for a safe return to sport and physical activity after COVID-19.

This document is a general information resource and will sit alongside regular competition information that we provide for events as well as information from State governing bodies and the Victorian Department of Health.

We will also share with you some new principles to make sure the sport complies with government guidelines and regulations as we move towards COVID normal.

The first important part we need your help with, is to make sure you:

- Wear a mask or face covering
- Maintain your distance (1.5 metres)
- Cough and sneeze into a tissue or your elbow.
- Keep good hand hygiene; and
- Stay at home if you feel sick or unwell no matter how slight the symptoms

You will see these TOP FIVE (5) steps repeated throughout the document as a reminder.

Key Principles

1. Practice good hygiene

- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least twenty (20) seconds or apply hand sanitizer as frequently as possible.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve during coughing/sneezing.
- Bring your own equipment with you which will include an AV supplied reusable face mask (or bring your own if you prefer), your water bottles and water (do not share), folders, clipboards, and pens.

For events during October and November 2020, we will not be permitted to provide catering so remember to bring what you need with you. Note that venue canteens or kiosks may be re-opened during the COVID steps.

2. Maintain physical distancing and avoid contact

- Maintain at least 1.5m from others, however, use common sense and assess situations especially in the case of a medical emergency. If you are not sure or have any questions, please ask
- Avoid physical contact with others including no handshakes, hugs, kisses, or high fives.

If you find yourself in a situation where another person comes close to you, either ask them to move further away, or take some steps yourself to maintain physical distancing. Remember not to panic or yell if this occurs as it is extremely unlikely that your individual safety will be compromised.

If you continue to feel anxious or concerned, then advise the Competition Manager or Safety Officer about your concerns.

3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- It is a requirement, to wear your mask while you are in public. This will include the field of play, unless otherwise advised or if you have a medical exemption

Athletics Victoria will provide re-useable face masks and there will be a limited supply of single use disposal face masks at events. You can bring your own mask if you prefer.

Please note that with the re-useable masks we ask you to take care of them as there may not be replacements available once issued.

There are other types of PPE including, face shields and protective gloves. The current restrictions do not make it compulsory for gloves to be worn however we have made some recommendations depending upon the specific contact Officials and/or volunteers may have with equipment.

Where necessary, AV will provide disinfectant and/or wipes depending upon the activity and the requirement for cleaning.

Event Specific Information

- Athletics Victoria will provide information and directions on event operations prior to each event.
- This will include directives on each of the key functional areas including”-
 - Officials Registration,
 - Athlete Warm-up,
 - Athlete Check-In/Administration,
 - Athlete Call Room,
 - Athlete Presentations, and
 - Jury of Appeal etc.

This is not the complete lists as each event will be different and may require specific operational plans to make sure we comply with government restrictions.
- To minimise unnecessary contact and exposure, Officials’ briefings may be conducted prior to competition via a Zoom meeting or conference call. Officials will be notified of these arrangements along with details on how to connect to a zoom call.
- Any updates or amendments to specific roles and/or protocols will be provided prior to each event, as necessary.

Additional Officials Positions

As part of the COVID Plan for Return to competition, we have identified four new (4) roles that may be included for any of the upcoming events to assist in the safe and effective management. Where a Local Organising Committee or a third party is running an event, we will actively encourage inclusion of these roles to support the conduct of the event.

1. Check- In Leader

The Check-In Leader (and team) will manage the collection all contact information from participants, officials, coaches and (where permitted) spectators to ensure compliance with contact tracing. The additional level of data collection will support information we have collected through our pre-entry process.

2. Administration Leader

The Administration Leader will manage sign in for all volunteers and to provide instructions, assistance, and support including all relevant equipment required to participate in the event.

3. Safety Officer

The Safety Officer will oversee and monitor all event sites, athletes, officials, spectators, equipment, and behaviours to make sure the correct protocols/procedures are followed during the event. Where appropriate, the Safety Officer will remind, advise, educate, and assist all participants to comply with the protocols for the event.

Protocols will include:

- Maintaining physical distancing of a minimum of 1.5m at all times.
- Correct use of all PPE including wearing masks were required.
- Correct sanitization practices and
- Individual and group movements throughout the venue including entry and exit.

4. Equipment Manager

The Equipment Manager and their team will be responsible for the distribution and use of all equipment required for the event.

To minimise contact, the Equipment Manager and their team will distribute all equipment from storage to the event sites for the duration of the competition.

The Equipment Manager and team are responsible for notifying the venue and/or Athletics Victoria of any damaged or broken equipment that requires repair.

Equipment – General Protocols

With the extensive amount of equipment required to conduct an event, specific protocols and procedures will be provided to align with the current cleaning and sanitising restrictions. Equipment may therefore include:

- Track equipment including hurdles, steeples, starting blocks, starting stands, e-guns, and witches' hats.
- Jumps equipment includes measuring tapes, measuring spikes, rakes, brooms, run up markers and pins, landing mats, uprights, mats, bars, and pole vault poles etc.
- Throws equipment includes javelins, shots, discuses, hammers, measuring tapes, measuring spikes, field markers etc
- General equipment including radios, wind gauge and EDM equipment.
- Infrastructure equipment includes Marquees, Chairs, Tables, signage

For Officials that have a handgun licence and are in possession of their own, or an Athletics Victoria provided handgun for the purposes of starting, please ensure that you follow all cleaning and sanitising protocols prior to transferring or loaning a handgun to another licenced Official.

Track Events – General Protocols

Event Chiefs will be required to support the appointed Safety Officer to ensure that all athletes and officials follow the safety protocols in place for every event. We ask that any instructions, whether about safety protocols or World Athletics Rules and regulations are given in a calm, polite and helpful manner.

Within the Athletics Victoria COVID Safety plans, there is provision for all equipment used for an event to be cleaned during an event.

Athletics Victoria will provide appropriate cleaning and sanitising products for either personal or equipment cleaning use by Officials.

A standard kit will include:

- Hand sanitiser,
- Spray disinfectant
- Hand wipes and
- the location of a rubbish bin for disposal items.

Spray disinfectant can be used on equipment and large surface areas prior to the start of competition; after each race, at the conclusion of the competition, or at any time as determined by an official.

Example 1 : starting blocks will be presented already disinfected prior to the start of competition. Once a race has commenced, each starting block can be sprayed with disinfectant in its location without contact.

Where contact is required:-

- Use hand sanitiser to handle the blocks and place them on the starting line.
- Spray the blocks with spray disinfectant and
- Re-sanitise your hands.

Example 2 – if a manual wind gauge is being used, first sanitise your hands and then remove the equipment from its bag or container and wipe down. Set up the wind gauge as prescribed. If there is only one person allocated to this role for the event period, then no further ‘between race’ cleaning is required.

If another Official is to take over this role then prior to changing, wipe down the wind gauge, and chair and leave the field of play. The incoming official can conduct a further wipe down if they feel appropriate.

At the end of competition where the wind gauge is no longer required, complete a full wipe down including the stand and pack away into bag or cylinder. Wipe down the chair prior to leaving the field of play.

Field Events – General protocols

It is advised by DHHS that vertical and horizontal jumps are not staged until further advice is provided on the levels of cleaning and sanitation required.

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Example 1 – Shot put event site. Several same size shots or a range of different sized shots will be provided at the event site. Athletes will be required to use hand sanitiser prior to each throw. Once the attempt is complete, the shot is retrieved, and a hand wipe used to clean it before returning it ready for the next competitor. This process is followed until the conclusion of the competition.

Chalk will not be provided to athletes. Athletes will need to supply their own chalk. Chalk is not to be shared.

Athletics Victoria COVID Compliance Statement

Individual compliance and adherence to COVIDSafe practices and behaviours is necessary of all people involved in Athletics Victoria’s activities, including officials, volunteers, club helpers, coaches, and staff.

All Athletics Victoria staff and volunteers must promote the safety and well-being of all participants at events by ensuring that the below COVIDSafe practices are adhered to:

- Maintain physical distancing of 1.5m from others at all times.
- Ensure good hygiene including frequent handwashing and use of hand sanitizer.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve during coughing/sneezing.
- Adhere to cleaning and sanitizing instructions laid out herein.
- Promote and advocate appropriate behaviours as outlined herein towards others.
- Adhere to any and all instructions or requests provided by Safety Officers, Chiefs and Technical team.

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Role: _____ Date _____