

Risk Assessment

The rapid onset of the COVID-19 pandemic has caused an immediate and unprecedented impact on the mass participation sports events industry. This has resulted in a historic number of event cancellations and postponements, loss of jobs and subsequent economic impact on the secondary industries that service these events.

The industry comprises thousands of independent event operators and related suppliers, that rely on registrations and corporate sponsorships to facilitate operations, pay employees and produce events. The full effect of the COVID-19 impact has yet to be realised. However long the pandemic continues, bans on mass gatherings (including mass participation sporting events) are likely to stay in effect.

The Alliance has been formed with the purpose of presenting a collective voice to lobby Government to provide relief and support for our industry and to advocate for Alliance members.

This document forms the guidance, COVID-19 risk identification and mitigation and a road map for the way forward.

1 COVID-19 Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategies for Mass Participation Events

In line with COVID-19 restrictions and the staged lifting of the restrictions, businesses are seeking to return to business as usual (BAU) operations effectively and responsibly. Businesses understand there are complexities to consider and address in the return to BAU which is likely to be under a strict staged process particularly in relation to crowded places and events.

Mass Participation event operators are seeking direction on best practice and viable strategies to proceed forward in a responsible way safeguarding all people in the process and ensuring all Government and Health Authority directions and guidelines are met.

The lifting of lockdown restrictions and the commencement of mass participation events will address the health and safety requirements of all persons attending a mass gathering event being spectators, staff and participants and what this will 'look' moving forward.

Key actions observed worldwide in response to COVID-19 have been to prevent spread and eliminate COVID-19 through the introduction of Government restrictions observing strict lockdowns of all citizens and a total ban on travel and mass gatherings. Governments have managed their response through the introduction of COVID-19 systems which specify different levels of measures and restrictions based on the current health threat environment.

Future events are likely to be introduced under a staged approach aligning to the host Government's response/ alert level to COVID-19.

2 World Health Organisation

The World Health Organisation (WHO) website offers technical guidance on key planning recommendations for Mass gathering in the context of COVID-19 outbreak. This guidance document should be read in conjunction with WHO's Public Health for Mass Gatherings: Key Consideration which provides general advice on the public health aspects of mass gathering events.

WHO's advice is that all countries with community transmission should seriously consider postponing or reducing mass gatherings and support the recommended best practice of physical distancing. Based on a countries alert level and reduction in restrictions will event organisers and facilities be in a position to start reintroducing events.

The WHO risk assessment assists organisations in the process of reopening/ conducting mass gathering only once movement restrictions and any other specific national measures have been decreased or removed. WHO recommends organisers to consider the following three phases in planning appropriate preparedness measures;

- 1) Planning phase – the period (weeks or months) before the event begins, when operational plans for health and security services during the event are developed, tested, and revised;
- 2) Operational phase – the period after plans are finalized and the delivery of the event services begins; this may be several weeks before the event commences if teams arrive in advance to complete their training or preparations;
- 3) Post-event phase – the period after the event finishes when participants are returning to their home countries and organizers are reviewing the event delivery and any follow-up actions that are necessary, as well as reviewing any lessons learned and the event's legacy.

Public health needs will be determined on the basis of the results of the strategic risk assessment for the mass gathering. This is undertaken before the event and requires a thorough examination of potential threats: a threat assessment (including those that seem very unlikely) and a set of standardized questions which help identify the risks to different groups.

3 Sport Australia

Sport Australia has developed practical resources to guide sporting organisations on the safest return to sport at all levels including a Return to Sport Toolkit to help sporting organisations to recommence training, competition and programs in a safe and responsible low risk manner. The toolkit builds on the AIS Framework for Rebooting Sport and the Australian Government's National Principles for the resumption of sport and recreation activities.

Sport Australia identifies four main elements for a safe return to sport.

- Plan Implementing plans, processes and systems to meet government and health requirements, and provide safe sport environments.
- Prepare Ensuring safe facility and participant practices, like hygiene practices, attendance registers at training and limiting shared equipment as much as possible.
- Respond Being prepared for management of a COVID-19 outbreak, noting things can change quickly in your local area.
- Recover Consideration of protocols to optimise good public and participant health into the future.

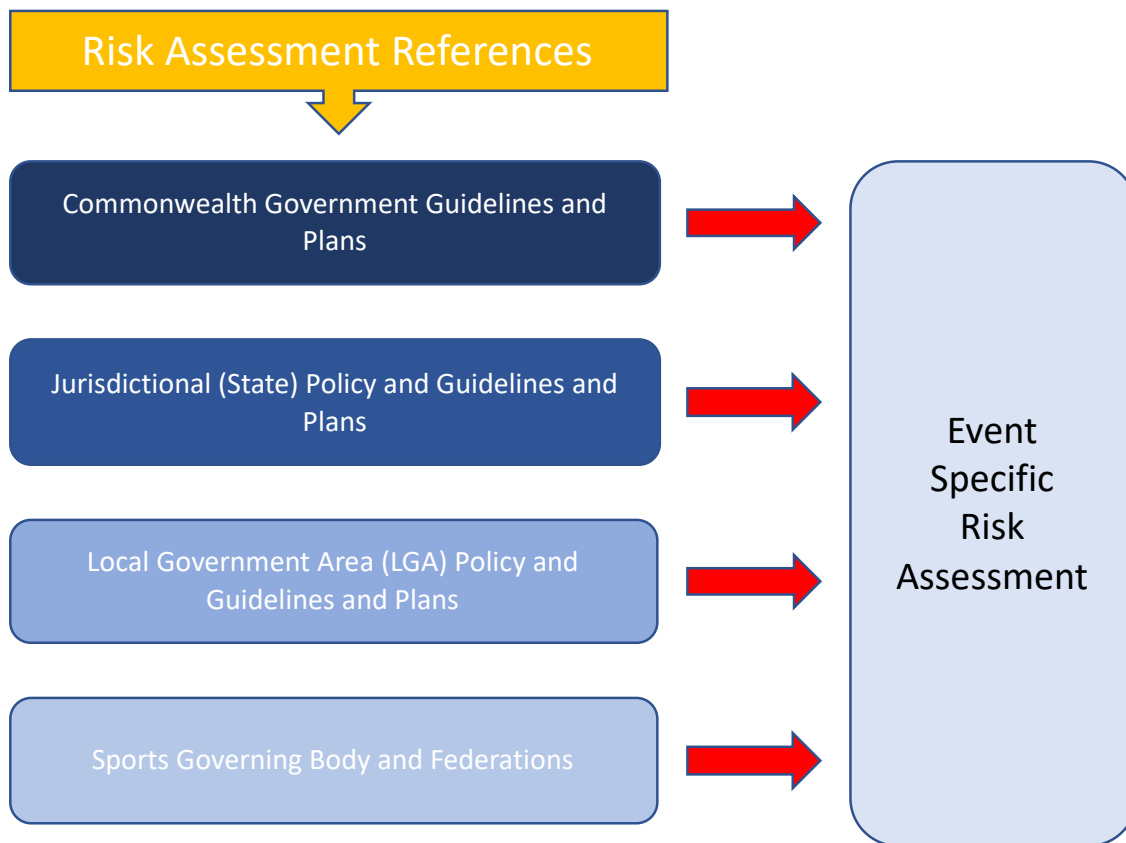
COVID-19 Safety Coordinator

Appointment of a COVID-19 Safety Coordinator provides a key role in planning and organising the event's response to COVID-19. They will be responsible for liaising with other clubs, associations, state and national sporting associations and other relevant stakeholders in relation to COVID-19.

The Sport Australia website provides details on the role and responsibility of the COVID-19 Safety Coordinator and the use of resources such as the Return to Sport Checklist(s), Covid-19 Safety Plan and Attendance Register. Refer Section 7 appendices A, B and C.

4 Risk Assessment Process

It is critical that each sporting organisation develops an event specific risk assessment, applying appropriate and proportionate mitigation strategies specific to their event and/or activity including COVID-19 management. The event specific risk assessment should reference Commonwealth and Jurisdictional State Government National principles, standards and guidelines to ensure consistency and validity of the level of assessment undertaken across mass participation events. The assessment should include the COVID safety guidelines and plans developed by the Mass Participation Sports Governing Bodies and their State Federations for eg. Mountain Bike Australia, ITU, Triathlon Australia etc in a bid to eliminate or minimise COVID-19 transmission amongst event participants, spectators, staff or volunteers at any given event.



Government resources to review in the development of an event risk assessment may include;

Commonwealth Level:

- Australian Government Department of Health - National Principles for the Resumption of Sport
- AIS Framework for Rebooting Sport in a COVID-19 Environment
- Australian Government Department of Health – COVID-19 Sports and Health Advisory Committee (C19SHAC)

State Level:

- NSW Government Office of Sport – Government Gazette of the State of NSW:
 - Public Health COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement Order providing an up to date position on Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and movement) and the ease if certain restrictions.
- QLD Government Unite and Recover – Industry COVID Safety Plans for sport, recreation and fitness.
- Sport and Recreation Victoria – Resumption of Sport and Recreation Activities.
- Government of South Australia, Office of Recreation, Sport and Racing
- Tasmanian Government, Department of Communities Tasmania:

- Sport, exercise and recreation,
- Communities, Sport and Recreation Tasmania refer to AIS Sport Framework for Rebooting Sport.
- WA Government COVID-19 coronavirus: Sport and Recreation, Department of the Premier and Cabinet – COVID Safety Plan and Guidelines for sport and recreation venues – Phase 2 and Phase 3.
- NT Government COVID-19 Sport and Recreation – Guidelines for sport and active recreation businesses, Chief Health Officer Directions.

5 Mass Gathering Risk Assessment

The mass gatherings risk assessment is undertaken to determine the overall risk of disease spread specific to the risk of COVID-19 and to encourage event organisers to more broadly consider health impacts of their event.

To complete the risk assessment accurately mass participation operators must be knowledgeable on the current COVID-19 outbreak and the most current situation in relation to the event location and likely event participants. Mass Participation organisers should continue to reference daily global COVID-19 situation reports and engage with local medical experts / advisors to ensure the health situation / environment is properly addressed.

The COVID-19 risk assessment and mitigation checklist should be completed with local public health authorities and ensure the necessary personnel with expertise in mass gatherings, risk assessment and infectious disease control measures is included from the planning stage.

Key factors that must be considered in the overall determination include:

- The current situation on the COVID-19 outbreak.
- The geographical distribution and number of participant and each participants risk profile.
- The mitigation measures currently in place or the measures proposed.

The risk assessment is only applicable if Government restrictions are such that a mass gathering is allowed.

1. General Considerations at the planning phase:

- Risk assessment must be coordinated and integrated with the host country's national risk assessment.
- Comprehensive risk assessment (with input from public health authorities) reviewed and updated regularly.

2. COVID-19 specific considerations:

- Consult WHO's updated technical guidance on COVID-19.¹
- Specific features of the event that should be considered include;
 - Crowd density – high risk equals more than 1 person per 4 square metres of space
 - The nature of contact between participants – the higher the likelihood of contact the higher the risk of transmission.
 - The profession of the participants and their possible previous exposure – Essential workers eg. health workers, fast food workers, taxi/uber/ public transport workers, supermarket employees, teachers, checkout operators, hospitality workers, welfare support workers, Police, Bankers.
 - The number of participants coming from countries or areas affected by COVID-19. Overseas travelers pose a higher risk.
 - The age of participants.
 - The type or purpose of event.
 - The duration of the event.
 - The mode of travel of participants – public transport versus private transport.

3. Specific action plan for COVID-19:

- Integration with national emergency planning and response plans for infectious diseases.
- Command and control arrangements.
- Any appropriate screening requirements for event participants such as registration questionnaire, temperature screening, behavioural observation
- Contact tracing and management of participant groups eg. staggered start times, restricted areas, crowd control and regular sanitization of areas in between group start times.
- Disease surveillance and detection. Medical areas and set up requirements will be more complex with effective isolation / quarantine areas and protocols.
- Treatment.
- Decision trigger points. Strong engagement with local public health as they will possess the most up to date information regarding health risk in the local area.

4. If the decision is made to proceed with a MG, the planning should consider measures to:

- Detect and monitor event-related COVID-19.
- Reduce the spread of the virus.
- Manage and treat all ill persons.
- Disseminate public health messages specific to COVID-19.

5. Risk communication and community engagement:

¹ WHO Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019> Date: 2020
WHO Key planning recommendations for mass gatherings in the context of the current COVID-19 outbreak. Interim guidance.

Event organisers should agree with the public health authority on how participants and the local population will be kept informed about the health situation, key developments, and any relevant advice and recommended actions.

Pre-event Messaging

At-risk participants:

Messaging that will advise potential participants of changes to the event operations including;

- how the events will be run,
- what's different,
- what they have to do,
- recommendations for at risk participants.

Example: At risk participants are encouraged to not participate in events at this time – This includes participants over 65 years old with medical conditions.

All participants, staff and any other patron

Consistent and regular messaging in the lead up to the event and any advertising of the event to include an educational piece on individual responsibility – when at the event;

- maintaining physical distancing,
- use hand sanitizer,
- minimise your number of supporters to attend the event and
- if feeling unwell, the expectation that they will not attend the event.
- If you become unwell at the event seek medical care immediately
- if you become ill after the event to contact the event organiser.

6. Risk mitigation strategies:

Venue/ Participants:

- Reducing the number of participants or changing the venue to prevent crowding, or having a participant-only event without spectators.
- Participants are encouraged to wear PPE within the festival area but not on course. Staff and volunteers will wear masks and gloves within the festival and high contact areas. Where possible no touch techniques will be adopted to minimize direct contact with volunteers, staff and other participants.
- Staggered arrival and departures times will be given to participants to allow for only calculated number of participants onsite at one time, this will be monitored by security/ team member at the festival area entrance/exit.
- Venue and festival area spaces will be evaluated to ensure the space will be adequate for the number of participants at any time using social distancing of 1.5m.
- Visual aids to assist with social distancing compliance

- Overflow areas at start and finish should timings of arrivals / departures overlap
- Head count system at finish village (and / or other venues)

Sanitisation:

- Sanitization stations will be put into placed in key areas around the festival area and after each obstacle on course.
- Providing packaged refreshments instead of a buffet.
- Increasing the number of, and access to, handwashing stations.
- Promoting personal protective practices (hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, staying home if ill).
- Key areas and high touch area will take periodical breaks throughout the event in order to clean and disinfect areas.
- Sanitization station will be added to the end of the finish line.

Event Management:

- Offering virtual or live-streamed activities.
- Changing the event programme to reduce high-risk activities such as those that require physical contact between participants.
- Screenings include a contactless thermometer to measure everyone before entering the festival area. With those over 37.5 degrees Celsius will result in being directed to an additional screening area with medical staff. All medical staff will be wearing the appropriate PPE and adhere to the approved procedure.
- An additional survey will be put into place to gain information about participants with their travel history and if they have had any contact or symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 14 days. This survey will be reviewed by screening staff.
- There will be an additional waiver for participants that is specific to COVID-19 outlining specifically that their information will be held and provided to Health Authorities as required for investigation. If any participant becomes unwell within 14 days of the event they are to contact the event organizer.
- Each area will be run slightly different to protect everyone. From additional signage, markings for lines, plastic shields, gloves, and/or extra cleaning and sanitization.
- Bag check will reconfigure the volunteers collecting and returning process to allow for social distancing within the tent area. As well as additional signage, markings for lines and prepaid only.
- Merchandise will have a maximum number displayed at entrance of tent as well as implementing plastic shields and one-way traffic markers for queue.
- Finish line will need additional volunteers to ensure racers are handed all products to minimize multiple touches by racers.
- Place medals will be handed to participants and not put around neck or racers.
- Timing chip area will need to be expanded to allow for distancing.

Registration – no on-site registration:

- The registration check-in process and design will be reconfigured to allow for social distancing and less touch points. These can be put into place with staggered arrival and departure times given to racers, additional fencing and in line markers, plastic shields and no registrations on the day only pre-registered.

Communication pre-event – Volunteers:

- Maximise information to volunteers prior to event day meaning less contact and quicker turnaround on the event mornings.
- Briefings can be a digital version sent to volunteers prior to event
- Lunches must be prepackaged
- PPE to be provided and staff appropriately trained on how to use PPE to avoid the risk of contamination.

Structures – regulatory – social distancing:

- Within the festival area tents will be rated for number of people allowed in according to size and display signage on entrance.
- Security, volunteers and staff will be monitoring these areas and will help encourage social distancing and restrictions that have been put into place.

Facilities:

- Toilets - Enlarge distance between toilets to allow for distancing restrictions. Use markings to indicate spaces while waiting in line. Toilets will be sanitised periodically during event.
- Showers – Will not be available.
- Changing rooms – Will not be available.

Hydration:

- Hydration during an event will be via individualized closed bottles handed to participants by volunteer.
- Participants will be encouraged to be self-sufficient on-course.

Event Equipment – sanitization:

- Event will be adjusted to exclude any part of the event that is at high risk of contamination or is a high touch area. This will include the removal of certain obstacles, water crossings and swims.
- Each obstacle will be assessed and given new regulations to allow for social distancing, waiting in line, more space and helping others.

Food/Beverage:

- Food and beverage vendors will be required to have all food and drinks prepackaged.
- No bar will be available.
- Seating areas will be eliminated or minimal to allow for distancing.

Event Services:

- Waste management will need to allow for additional bins and staff to help reduce chances of contamination by touch.
- Parking will be prepaid, no cash.
- Bag check will be prepaid, no cash.

Gatherings:

- Gatherings will be removed from the events including award ceremonies.

Spectators:

- Spectators will not be allowed unless accompanying a participating minor.

Race structure:

- The race structure of events will need to be amended based on the number calculated to allow on course, in festival area, etc. There will also be additional factors such as race distances, days or events and kids races.
- Start line will see an increase in the number of waves and decrease in the capacity of racers per wave to allow for social distancing restrictions. The start line chute and course will also be widened to allow for safe distancing.
- Racers, volunteers and staff will need to encourage racers on course to keep distance while running.

Financial Feasibility – review all costs and implications:

- Impact on racer numbers
- Supplier costs
- Staffing costs

Contact Tracing / patron screening

Facility/ Venue/ Sporting Management should familiarize themselves with contact tracing requirements for events. Contact tracing is about maintaining a register that records each individual's details that participates in an event on any level to assist the Department of Health's efforts at contact tracing. Contact Tracing is the identification of individuals that have come into contact with people who have been diagnosed with COVID-19.

The Australian Government Department of Health has introduced the COVIDSafe app to speed up contacting people exposed to coronavirus. To be effective, the COVIDSafe app should be running as people enter the event and come into contact with people.

When someone is diagnosed with COVID-19, state and territory health officials will ask them or their parent/guardian who they have been in contact with. If they have the COVIDSafe app and provide their permission, the encrypted contact information from the app will be uploaded to a highly secure information storage system. State and territory health officials will then:

- use the contacts captured by the app to support their usual contact tracing
- call people to let them or their parent/guardian know they may have been exposed
- offer advice on next steps, including:
 - what to look out for
 - when, how and where to get tested
 - what to do to protect friends and family from exposure

Health officials will not name the person who was infected.

Contact tracing is yet to be confirmed as an ongoing requirement as restrictions reduce, with communications expected to be circulated by government as requirements change. Contact tracing will reduce the impact on the event community and community at large with information readily available for Health Authorities to act.

All participants will be encouraged to sign up to the COVIDSafe app as a condition of event entry. This condition of entry will assist the event operator/s and Australian Government in contact tracing and support a stable future for mass participation events. It is accepted that the carrying of phones in some mass participation events is not practicable but where possible participants should be encouraged by event organisers

The following is a summarised assessment template which can be used as a guide to the types of risks that need to be considered under the COVID-19 recovery phase and “new normal” environment for mass gatherings.

6 Event Risk Assessment:

Characteristic	Risk Consideration	Public Health Rationale	Weight	Risk Mitigation Strategies
Situational Awareness	Does the MPE organiser have an understanding of the COVID-19 situation	Understanding the latest information on COVID-19 outbreak and transmission patterns will assist in determining the way forward and the level of mitigation and measures required to stop/ control the spread.	Medium	<p>Relevant organisers and responsible staff keep informed of COVID-19 outbreak through global and local daily situation reports provided by authorities.</p> <p>Organisers and responsible staff understand COVID-19 risks and transmission and understand the measures to take to limit spread through best practices.(including respiratory etiquette, hand hygiene, physical distancing etc.)</p>
Event Emergency preparedness and response plans	Does the MPE organiser have in place the required response plans to manage and respond to COVID-19	Specific planning in relation to COVID-19 management and response will reduce/ remove the type of activities that could contribute to spread of the disease. In the event that a high risk activity is observed or conducted it is important that the MPE has a decisive and rapid response plan that can be enacted.	High	A Medical Response plan in place for the MPE and clear directions/ communications for all participants to follow including interaction with host country healthcare system.

				<p>PPE – masks, gloves, gowns, hand sanitiser, isolation room, medical facilities and other medical equipment and supplies onsite and available.</p> <p>Transportation process and procedure in place to transport ill participants.</p> <p>Reporting/ Trace contact process in place.</p> <p>Cleaning process in place.</p>
Host Country	Host country capacity to meet COVID-19 management and response	Host country capability to manage and respond to COVID-19 outbreak at the MPE is critical in containing the transmission, treating patients and quarantining participants.	High	<p>The host country have in place screening processes, temperature checks and COVID-19 Diagnostic tests.</p> <p>The host country organiser has support from local public health authorities.</p> <p>The host country has the facilities in place and are they equipped to support patients with respiratory symptoms.</p> <p>The host country has the capability to evacuate critically ill patients to hospital and evacuate from the host country if necessary.</p> <p>A preliminary agreement with the host</p>

				country is in place to provide care for any COVID-19 cases connected with the MPE. Eg. quarantine isolation locations and support for the required quarantine period.
Working with partners and stakeholders	Does the MPE have established relationships with key stakeholders	Sharing of critical information in relation to COVID-19 risk incidents to government and surveillance authorities.	Medium	Clear and concise process in place on types of incidents to be reported and to whom and within a certain timeframe. Clear process in place for communications strategy in relation to COVID-19 related messages.
Command, Control, Coordination and communications arrangements	Does the MPE have an established authority to make key decisions on the MPE	Decision making authority in place with clear procedure on event status in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak .	High	Decision making authority to have direct contact with Government and other surveillance authorities. MPE staff undergone training and exercising on procedures and emergency mitigation measures.
Event Activities	Will patrons be participating in activities that promote transmission	Activities that could contribute to spread: greetings (handshakes, hugs, kisses), singing, cheering, close physical contact (contact sports), sharing food and eating utensils, cups etc.	High	Offer virtual or live-streamed activities; Provide packaged refreshments instead of open refreshments or buffets. Reduce touch points: like event registration online, identification bibs or ticketing mailed out.

Crowding	Will patrons be consistently within 2 metres of each other?	Respiratory droplets tend to fall within 2 metres of their source, so maintaining a 2 metre distance from others is a precaution to prevent spread.	High	Change the venue to prevent crowding.
	Is the event indoors, outdoors or both?	Events held outdoors may be lower risk for transmission of respiratory illness than those held indoors due to higher ventilation.	Medium	Consider holding events outdoors or increasing ventilation by opening windows and doors (weather permitting). Stagger arrivals and departures.
	Will there be restricted points of entrance and exit that force people to be in close proximity and/or pass through high-touch areas (eg.doors and elevators)?	Crowding and lines at bottlenecks can put participants at increased risk of exposure to respiratory droplets. High-touch surfaces can be contaminated and increase the risk of transmission.	Medium	Enhanced environmental cleaning and pay special attention to high touch surfaces. Overflow areas around main venues to cater for any congestion through arrival cross-over.
	Transport options to and from event may not be adequate and cause issues with maintaining social distancing	Train, bus or ferry timetables / volumes may not be adequate and risk people being overcrowded and increase the risk of transmission.	High	Spread out arrival / start times and negotiate for more capacity on public transport networks. Consider adding drop off zones around the start / venues so people can travel in private vehicles.

	Reduce the number of times a person needs to be in crowded location.	Areas of normal low flow, high wait times and high density can increase the risk of transmission.	High	<p>Have plans for additional transport hubs to be utilised to spread out arrivals geographically. EG: two different drop off points for public transport coming from different directions.</p> <p>Reduce, alter or eliminate things like pre-event expos, recovery or celebration zones after event. Mail out things like race kits and finishers medals.</p>
Event Duration	How long will patrons be gathered at the event?	Longer events present more opportunities for transmission. Consider how overnight accommodations may affect crowding, proximity, and nature and duration of contact.	Medium	Shorten events or stagger attendance
Event Resources	Will hand hygiene stations be available throughout the venue?	<p>Hand hygiene will be performed more frequently if alcohol-based hand sanitizer or hand washing sinks with soap and disposable towels are readily available.</p> <p>Drink stations / hydration for participants in endurance events could cross-contaminate and spread infection.</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>High</p>	<p>Increase access to hand hygiene stations. At start and finish venues / locations.</p> <p>Consider bottled hydration and / or have water cups spread much further apart on</p>

	<p>Can the event venue be configured to reduce proximity between participants?</p>	<p>Respiratory droplets tend to fall within 2 metres of their source, so maintaining a 2 metre distance from others is a precaution to prevent spread.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>tables. Volunteers to observe correct hygiene.</p> <p>Configure the venue to promote a 2 metre distance between participants</p> <p>Locate space that can be used to isolate ill participants or workers</p>
	<p>Will touch surfaces be cleaned and disinfected frequently during the event?</p>	<p>High-touch surfaces can be contaminated and increase the risk of transmission. SARS-CoV-2 may live on surfaces for a few hours or up to a few days. It can be killed with store-bought disinfectants.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Increase frequency of cleaning of the environment and pay special attention to high touch surfaces. Use a product that cleans and disinfects</p> <p>Ensure adequate staffing to maintain prevention strategies such as hand wash stations and regular cleaning and disinfection</p>
	<p>Will there be health professionals or first responders at the event to screen and or attend to someone who may be symptomatic?</p>	<p>Although screening may not identify all participants with COVID-19, health professionals may be able to quickly identify and isolate symptomatic individuals from other participants. Health care professionals should be familiar with appropriate PPE and IPC measures.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Consider having health care professionals onsite to screen for or attend to people with symptoms. Registered health professionals involved in or overseeing screening to minimise medicolegal risk and provide best decision making.</p> <p>Medical provider will need PPE, training</p>

				<p>and procedure to follow which the event organiser should sight.</p> <p>Ensure that prevention supplies and training for their use are available to staff/volunteers (e.g. personal protective equipment)</p> <p>If available, provide disposable medical masks for use if a worker or attendee becomes sick at the event</p>
Health System Capacity	Does the local health system have the capacity to assess, test and care for persons suspected of COVID-19 , potentially in large numbers?	Persons under investigation and cases of COVID-19 could present a substantial burden to the local health system if many require testing and care in a short period of time.	High	Communicate how to access local health care, including calling ahead to prevent exposure of others in the healthcare setting
Geographic Location	Is the location of the event geographically remote or in close proximity to a densely populated area?	<p>Geographic remoteness might limit access to tertiary care and may make it more difficult for a case to be repatriated.</p> <p>However, proximity to a densely populated area could result in more rapid dissemination of disease.</p>	Medium	Involve relevant partners including local public health authorities and emergency medical services.

7 Event Patron Risk Assessment:

Characteristic	Risk Consideration	Public Health Rationale	Weight	Risk Mitigation Strategies
Population attending the event	How many people are expected to attend the event?	The larger the number of patrons, the greater the likelihood of a patron being a case of COVID-19. Large numbers of people may also create greater likelihood of crowding and close contact.	High	Reduce the number of patrons at the event at any one time through less entries / ticket sales or longer timeframes to operate event and spread out numbers or change the venue layout to prevent crowding.
	Are patrons coming from affected areas where COVID-19 has been detected?	If patrons are expected from affected areas, the risk of importation is higher. These people may be self-monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19 or self-isolating for 14 days, based on public health advice provided upon entry to a country.	High	Plan for information sharing, risk communication, and emergency communications; Communicate personal preventive strategies: stay home if ill, practice hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands;
	Are patrons or event staff from demographic groups at greater risk of	Older adults, people with immune compromising conditions and chronic diseases appear to be at greater risk of severe disease, so consideration should be given to protecting them from possible exposure to COVID-19 cases. Communication about risk to these	High	Consider accessibility of communications

severe disease, such as older adults or people with underlying medical conditions?	patrons should be emphasised.		(e.g. multiple languages, plain language); Develop flexible refund policies for patrons to promote staying home when sick;
Are persons attending the event members of critical infrastructure roles, such as healthcare workers?	If transmission occurs at the mass gathering, patrons may be subject to self-isolation or may become cases themselves. This could lead to critical infrastructure disruptions/absenteeism if the patron at the event represent critical services and industries.	High	Consider risk factors of staff and reassignment to protect staff; Plan for staff absences.
Are patrons members of a professional group that might have increased risk of infection?	Healthcare workers may have greater risk of infection and therefore of infecting others due to the possibility of occupational exposure to COVID-19 cases. Patrons who work in close contact with international travellers may also have increased risk.	Medium	
Are patrons at greater risk of spreading the disease, such as young children?	Young children may be at greater risk of amplifying disease transmission because they are generally less compliant with effective hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette practices and tend to socialize with others in a way that is likely to increase transmission. Consideration should be given to preventing children from spreading the disease.	Medium	
Are patrons from areas where health system resources are limited (e.g. remote and isolated	Event patrons returning to communities with limited health system resources may introduce the virus to communities here there is less capacity to contain and mitigate spread.	High	Involve relevant partners including local public health authorities.

	communities)?			
	Are all patrons registered, with available contact information?	In the event of an outbreak associated with the event, contact information for the patrons may be requested by public health for follow up and contact tracing.	Medium	Maintain contact information for patrons. Process to track and document participant interactions, particularly for very large event sizes.
Local demographics and epidemiology	Is the local community experiencing ongoing transmission of COVID-19?	Local community transmission can put mass gathering participants at risk of infection. In an affected area, other services for participants may be operating at limited capacity (e.g. restaurants, hotels, etc.).	High	Involve relevant partners including local public health authorities.
	Is the local population at increased risk of severe disease if COVID-19 circulated?	Some communities may want to reduce their risk of importation of COVID-19 due to characteristics of the local community, such as a high number of elderly residents, or higher rates of chronic disease.	Medium	
Sport Participant Management	How many participants are expected to attend the event? Does the sporting activity involve close contact.	The larger the number of participants, the greater the likelihood of a participant being a case of COVID-19. Large numbers of participants and the type of activity may also create greater likelihood of close contact.	High	Daily health checks completed for sport participants along with temperature screening. Separation of athletes from other groups such as officials, support staff and spectators to limit transmission Processes in places to remove any sharing of personal equipment such as drink

				<p>bottles, towels</p> <p>Processes and equipment in place for the safe storage of personal equipment and food</p> <p>Participants to undergo pre-travel health checks.</p> <p>Questionnaire before event asking questions about potential exposure, travel or other risk considerations. Any participant who presents a risk is asked not to take part.</p> <p>Participants to obey physical distancing and practice good hygiene procedures.</p>
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Sources:

Public Health England. Impact of mass gatherings on an influenza pandemic: Scientific evidence base review. 2013.

World Health Organisation. Key Planning Recommendations for Mass Gatherings in the context of the current COVID-19 outbreak. Feb 14 2020.

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World Health Organisation WHO Novel Coronavirus-19 Mass Gatherings Expert Group.

United States Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. Get Your Mass Gatherings or Large Community Events Ready for Coronavirus Disease 2019. Mar 3, 2020.

8 Appendices

8.1 Appendix A – Detailed Checklist for large to medium sporting Organisations



8.2 Appendix B – COVID-19 Safety Plan



8.3 Appendix C – Attendance Register Template

