



Dear Association & Club Executives,

As you are aware, the World Health Organisation has declared COVID-19 a pandemic (a disease that is spreading in multiple countries around the world at the same time). The situation regarding COVID-19 continues to evolve and change rapidly.

Hockey NSW is working closely with Hockey Australia, the NSW Office of Sport, other government agencies as well as comparable State Sporting Organisations to ensure an appropriate response by the sport and recreation sector.

The advice from Federal and State Governments are now focused on actions to slow the spread of COVID-19 in the community and protect those who are likely to experience more severe disease such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions. These steps are also essential to reduce the demands on the health system so that it can function effectively.

In response, **Hockey NSW strongly recommends delaying the start of all hockey competitions and all related hockey activities (including training) in NSW until Saturday 2nd May 2020.**

This recommendation is made with the health and wellbeing of our players, coaches, officials and volunteers and the broader community as the priority. The decision also acknowledges that several member associations and competitions traditionally break for the Easter/Anzac period.

The six-week delay will provide Hockey NSW and hockey communities across the state with time to plan for what will be a challenging and disruptive period.

At this stage, any events after this date (including State Championships) are still scheduled to proceed. However, the situation will be constantly reviewed, and any updates will be communicated as soon as possible.

As previously mentioned, things are moving quickly. Hockey NSW will continue to work closely with relevant agencies and organisations to ensure we have access to the latest advice on how to keep our staff, the hockey community and the public safe.

It is important to note that the season is not being cancelled. We will continue to review the situation and provide our community with regular updates.

If you would like clarification around this guidance or become aware of any confirmed COVID-19 cases at your Club or Association, please use the appropriate links below.

Confirmed Cases: <https://www.hockeynsw.com.au/surveys/1388/>

Enquiries: <https://www.hockeynsw.com.au/surveys/1387/>

David Thompson
Chief Executive Officer

Craig Colvin
President



Please find links to the relevant authorities' websites if you need more information:

National Coronavirus Health Information Hotline: 1800 020 080

NSW Department of Health Website: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/>

Australian Government Department of Health: <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novelcoronavirus2019-ncov-health-alert>

Australian Institute of Sport: <https://ais.gov.au/health-wellbeing/covid-19>

Some athletes may also feel anxious about the impact of the virus and Dr Michael Carr-Gregg has prepared advice to guide parents in talking about this issue: https://schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-coronavirus
