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Newsletter … August 2021

**Welcome** to the first Newsletter after the AGM on 3 August and the delegates’ meeting preceding it and includes some of the key issues discussed.

**Annual General Meeting:** The following positions were filled at the AGM 3 August: Peter Wildblood was elected president; Lyndsay Neilson, captain; and Geoff Vial Secretary-Treasurer. No nominations were received for the positions of Vice President, Vice-Captain, Junior Coordinator and Publicity Officer; Ivan Bradshaw was appointed by the executive committee to the position of Vice President.

**District Tournaments:** Allinter district matches and the regional championships have been cancelled due to COVID travel restrictions; the inter-district Junior Four Ways event at Waratah GC has been cancelled. The district men’s foursomes event at Wauchope was won by Alex Clark and Steffan Walker**.**

**COVID-19 Rules Adjustment:** Almost all district clubs have returned to the Golf NSW recommended Temporary Local Rules as the NSW government battles with the current outbreak in the Greater Sydney Area and the sporadic extension to rural NSW.

**Pennants 2021:** The2021 Masters Pennant has concluded with a win to Club Taree. Earlier in the year Wauchope had a close win in the Division 1 Pennant and Port Macquarie cleaned up in Division 2, 3 and 4 Pennants in what was a disjointed weather interrupted season.

**LNC Program 2022:** In the next few months, member clubs will be asked to begin thinking about 2022 program and events they would like to include in the LNC Calendar of Event for 2022.

**LNC Junior Opens:** Most of the Junior Opens for 2021 were cancelled or postponed with the notable exception of the Seaside Junior at Port Macquarie held in July. All of which due to the current COVID restrictions and the necessary caution parents and clubs are displaying in response. All Jack Newton Junior Golf tournaments has been cancelled although the North Coast Junior Masters at Kew was held in May just before the current lockdown intervened.

The LNC-DGA $300 support for each club staging an open junior event will continue into 2022.

**Club Event Sponsorship:** The LNC-DGA will continue sponsorship of one club event in 2021; this will continue in 2022 with the value of each sponsorship remaining at $250.

**Some Junior Results … in events that survived:**

* JNJG Junior Master played at Kew in May: Ella Scaysbrook (Port Macquarie and now Newcastle) won the girls championship with a gross score of 150, and Ethan Harvey (The Lakes) won the boys championship with a four under 136.
* Port Macquarie Seaside Junior Open was played 11 July: In a small field, the overall scratch champion was Quedesha Golledge. The boys’ winner was Harrison Le Rougetel and the girls’ winner was Bryella Golledge.

**Lockdown:** As this copy is being finalised for distribution news comes of the one-week (?) lockdown of regional New South Wales; see the attached summary and FAQs from Golf NSW

**Help!** ... if you would liketo assist in the work of your DGA as vice-captain, junior development officer or publicity officer please give Peter Wildblood a call on 6553 6446.

**Golf New South Wales**

14 August 2021

**STAY AT HOME RULES**

The COVID-19 situation continues to evolve and due to the risks associated with an increasing number of venues and transmissions which have occurred, the strict stay-at-home rules that were applicable to ALL of Greater Sydney, the Blue Mountains, the Central Coast, Wollongong and Shellharbour have now been extended to all of regional NSW, from 5pm Saturday 14 August.

Other than in the areas of concern, people will only be able to leave home for one of the following four reasons:

* Shopping for food or other essential goods and services
* Medical care or compassionate needs
* Exercise outdoors in groups of a maximum of two (unless players are from the same household) within your own Local Government Area (LGA) OR if outside your LGA it must be within 10 km of where you live (5 kms from Monday 16 August))
* Essential work, or education, where you cannot work or study from home

**ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS:**

Apply to residents of Cumberland, Blacktown, Campbelltown, Canterbury Bankstown, Liverpool, Parramatta, Georges River, Fairfield, Bayside, Burwood, Strathfield,  LGA’s and some suburbs of Penrith (the suburbs of Caddens, Claremont Meadows, Colyton, Erskine Park, Kemps Creek, Kingswood, Mount Vernon, North St Marys, Orchard Hills, Oxley Park, St Clair, and St Mary’s) will now be part of [areas of concern and have additional restrictions](https://comms.sport.nsw.gov.au/link/id/zzzz6110bb89d7f0e116Pzzzz5b73b55ef157e164/page.html).

Of note for the sport and active recreation sector, residents of the above suburbs are subject to the following requirements for exercise and outdoor recreation:

* Stay within 5 km of your home.
* You cannot exercise more than 5 km from your home. You cannot leave home to undertake outdoor recreation.
* If travelling by a private vehicle (car), do not share a car with people you do not live with, except for your nominated visitor (“singles bubble”).
* You can exercise with 1 other person that you do not live with or your [nominated visitor](https://comms.sport.nsw.gov.au/link/id/zzzz6110bb89da3b6691Pzzzz5b73b55ef157e164/page.html) (“singles bubble”).   If you live with more than 2 other people, you can all go out together for exercise.

**CLUB OPERATIONS:**

Whilst clubhouse operations in all the aforementioned areas must be closed for normal business (except takeaway, home delivery or ‘click and collect’), Golf NSW has been advised that golf is considered exercise and can continue if your Club has and complies with its COVID-19 Safety Plan.

Golf Shops may provide services to enable the play of golf for exercise but must cease other retail functions (unless click and collect, take away or home delivery).

Golfers should exhibit a heightened awareness of personal hygiene and adhere to [social distancing guidelines](https://golfnsw.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f0553abd675e81f091ebac724&id=599363e516&e=8d04de22ec) at all times

**Golf New South Wales ... COVID-19 FAQs for Clubs**

**Can regular competition be held?**

In areas with stay-at-home rules in place, Golf NSW advises clubs to ensure competitions are conducted in groups of no more than TWO players per group (unless they are from the same household) and only under the club’s  COVID-safe plan. You must remain within your own Local Government Area (LGA) OR if you are travelling outside your LGA it must be within 10 km of where you live (5 kms from Monday 16 August).  (Those in the identified LGA’s of concern may only travel up to 5 kms from their home and must wear a mask at all times when outside the home)

Under the Public Health order (PHO), undertaking exercise, including golf, is considered a reasonable excuse to leave your home.

On July 1st, the NSW Health Minister Mr Brad Hazzard MP signed an exemption to the PHO allowing clubs to run their regular competitions *under strictly controlled guidelines*.

**Can I get a less from a golf Pro?**

Within the current Public Health Order (and considering that golfing is considered exercise) there is no further information specifying PGA Professionals cannot coach, however individuals need to make their own determination as to the appropriateness of offering these services.

Any PGA members offering these services must adhere to the Public Health Order in relation to gathering and geographic limits for exercise and have a COVID-safe plan in place.

**May Visitors play in club competitions?**

A Club may invoke its own visitor restrictions in line with its bylaws and the Registered Clubs Act, however, Clubs are permitted to allow visitors in line with the Club’s COVID Safe Plan.

In Greater Sydney and regional NSW, persons may only exercise within the boundaries of their LGA or within 1 0km of their place of residence (5 kms from Monday 16 August).  Those in the identified LGA’s of concern may only travel up to 5 kms from their home and must wear a mask at all times when outside the home). Persons may not exercise within Greater Sydney if they reside or work outside Greater Sydney.

Clubs should not hold Vardon, Jean Derrin or similar events which encourage travel from outside their local area.

**May presentations be held?**

Clubs in areas where stay-at-home orders apply must not hold presentations.

[**Should Clubs keep a record of those attending their course as well as their clubhouse as a part of their COVID Safe Plan?**](https://www.golfnsw.org.au/news/2021/08/05/25099/covid-19-update-latest/)

Yes.  As of January 1, the NSW Government requires that all hospitality venues use the NSW Government QR Code system: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/covid-safe/customer-record-keeping/qr-codes#covid-safe-check-in-with-the-service-nsw-app>.

It is recommended that registration be required on entry to the clubhouse, and other areas such as the Pro Shop.

**May Golf Carts be used?**

Within Greater Sydney and Regional NSW, Golf NSW advises that clubs should adopt a one player per cart rule until further notice.

Clubs may also consider recommending that one player be responsible for the driving duties for the entire round and that the passenger remains on the passenger’s side of the cart.

**Modified Playing Rules**

Golf NSW recommends the re-introduction of modified local rules in NSW. This applies across Greater Sydney and regional NSW until further notice.

The use of the modified playing conditions should be included as a part of a Club’s COVID-19 Safety Plan, e.g., flags left in, no rakes in bunkers, no swapping of scorecards etc.

**Can Shot Gun Starts be held?**

No! Golf NSW recommends not allowing gatherings of any kind until the current COVID crisis eases is all areas under stay-at-home restrictions.

**Is practice allowed?**

Yes. Provided gathering and social distancing measures are in line with regulations, and the NSW Public Health Order is implemented and enforced. Players must avoid gathering in any area and must leave the premises immediately after playing.

**May Food & Beverages be sold?**

In areas where stay-at-home orders apply clubs may only offer take away food and beverage.

**Must Face Masks be worn?**

In NSW, masks are compulsory in all indoor non-residential settings, including workplaces, and at organised outdoor events. This includes Pro Shops and Take Away food areas at Clubs.

Persons must carry a face mask with them at all times, in Greater Sydney as per  <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/greater-sydneyor> the listed regional areas as per <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/affected-regions>.  Persons must wear a mask when outside in a public area in the LGA’s of concern as per <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/affected-area>.

According to nsw.gov.au/covid-19, removing a face mask while a person is engaging in strenuous physical exercise except in an indoor gym class or dance class is still an allowable reason to remove a face mask across NSW, including the affected Local Government Areas in Greater Sydney. For more information, please visit [https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/face-mask-rules](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nsw.gov.au%2Fcovid-19%2Frules%2Fface-mask-rules&data=04%7C01%7C%7C3e14e0214e1b40a5a5cd08d95c5a29d3%7C8c96bd242c864345b5ac5dadb5b6b9ed%7C0%7C0%7C637642364578530529%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=no6ihJaKu0ZHwqUou5fU7VBbSVnNhmGtXaboz6b%2BybM%3D&reserved=0)

Some general guidelines for mask wearing for exercise and outdoor recreation include:

* Participant is required to wear a mask upon arrival to the facility/activity
* Participant is able to remove their masks when engaging in strenuous exercise
* Following the completion of the activity, participant needs to put their mask back on as soon as possible prior to leaving the venue.

While there are no definitions in the Public Health Orders as to what constitutes “strenuous exercise”, everyone’s circumstances are different and people will need to make their own decisions to determine if the activity is considered strenuous exercise. People should take a common-sense approach when considering whether their reason is reasonable and be prepared to explain their reason to NSW Police if asked.