

2021 National Senior, Youth, Junior and Para Championships

COVID-19 Management Plan and Rules

Version 6 – 25 June 2021
By Scott Houston, CEO

Table Tennis Australia (TTA) acknowledges and thanks the Queensland Government and the Sunshine Coast Council for enabling these Championships to be held with athletes from all over Australia in such challenging times. TTA, with the support of all the participants, commits to minimising the COVID-19 risk through our diligent adherence to this Plan and the rules contained therein.

TTA acknowledges and thanks our Championship sponsors, shown below, for their kind support.



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Introduction

The Table Tennis Australia (TTA) 2021 National Championships for Seniors, Youth, Juniors and Para (the “event”) will be held concurrently at the Caloundra Indoor Sports Stadium, Golden Beach, Queensland (the “venue”) on 2-11 July 2021 with an estimated 400 participants, while Australia emerges from the global COVID-19 pandemic. This Plan focuses on table tennis specific requirements as an adjunct to Commonwealth, Queensland and indoor sport industry policy for the management of risk in order to minimise and hopefully prevent the contraction or spread of COVID-19 by anybody associated with the event during its conduct.

The risk is that the event will be negatively impacted or individuals will become ill because somebody involved with the event either arrives with, or contracts during the event, COVID-19, resulting in the exclusion of individuals or teams or the cancellation of the entire Championships.

Contactless Event

The Championships are to be run in the most contactless and COVID safe environment as possible. TTA reserves the right to impose further requirements, in addition to those listed here-in, at the time of the Championship as it deems fit to minimise contact between attendees and ensure adherence to evolving Queensland government COVID health requirements.

Responsibilities

At the time of publishing this Plan every effort was made to align it with relevant national, state and local COVID laws/regulations. TTA recognises these will be subject to change, potentially at short notice. Everybody involved with the event must maintain a comprehensive and up-to-date awareness of this Plan and its Rules and monitor the [Event website](#) for updates.

The TTA CEO is to:

- Impose appropriate sanctions to teams and individuals for breaches of any COVID related laws or rules detailed or referenced here-in.
- Keep all contact details of attendees at the event and the COVID Log until 12th September 2021, ensuring adherence to the Privacy Act.

The Tournament Director is to:

- Monitor evolving relevant COVID laws/regulations and update this Plan in conjunction with the TTA CEO accordingly.
- Post new versions of the Plan on the event website and notify team managers, staff and volunteers in a timely manner.
- Brief relevant TTA staff and volunteers on how the Plan will be enacted and the rules monitored.
- Design and maintain the sports specific layout of the venue in accordance with this Plan.
- Recommend to TTA CEO the imposition of sanctions on individuals, observing minimal tolerance.
- Complete the Queensland COVID Safe Event Checklist (as published on 25 June 2021).

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- Maintain a WhatsApp (or similar platform) group for a maximum of two team managers per State/Territory for the distribution of urgent messages.
 - Ensure all staff, technical officials, volunteers and contractors are screened on their exposure to COVID (see Annexure 1) on arrival at the event.
 - Maintain a log of non-compliances, briefings and related actions taken to maintain a COVID Safe event.
 - Ensure staff and volunteers maintain vigilance with the implementation of the rules.
 - Brief all TTA contractors on relevant aspects of the rules.
 - Liaise with venue staff to ensure the effective implementation of these and higher order COVID related laws/regulations.

State/Territory Team Managers are to:

- Ensure all members of their team and their President's athletes and accompanying family members are comprehensively aware of the latest version of this Plan and constantly monitor their adherence to it and impose immediate corrective advice/action to remedy any shortcomings.
- As a contact tracing back-up for adults and to cover all juniors, State/Territories must provide the contact details for all their team and President's players, including athletes, coaches, managers and medical staff. TTA will provide a template, prefilled for athletes and team management from information on their entries and other forms. This prefilled information must be checked by States/Territories and confirmed as accurate by each State/Territory Team Manager and returned to TTA by 25 June 2021.
- Must review [Queensland travel restrictions](#) and travel restrictions of their home State/Territory immediately prior to departure from their State/Territory and ensure their entire party complies.
- Must determine the COVID-19 status of all members of their entire party in the last few days before departure from their home State/Territory and determine if anybody:
 - Has been infected with COVID-19 within the previous 14 days.
 - Has been in close contact with someone who has been infected with COVID-19 within the previous 14 days.
 - Is subject to any isolation order within their home State/Territory.
 - Feels unwell or is showing COVID-19 symptoms.
 - Has travelled to/from any hotspots (hotspots as designated by the Queensland Government at the time of entry to Queensland).

A sample questionnaire is provided at Annexure 2. Anybody that has any of these five characteristics must not travel to Caloundra and cannot participate in the event in any form. Copies of these forms must be kept by Team Managers until 12th September 21.

Team and individual Coaches are to:

- Ensure they are comprehensively aware of the latest version of this Plan and its Rules and constantly monitor their athletes adherence to it and impose immediate corrective advice/action to remedy any shortfalls.

Athletes are to:

- Read this Plan and follow all the Rules detailed here-in.
- Ensure private coaches brought in during individual events read this Plan and its Rules.
- Obey all venue COVID related signage and instructions from venue and event staff and volunteers with respect to cleaning, social distancing, flow around the venue etc.

All volunteers, technical officials and team members and any accompanying parents/partners/etc are personally responsible for paying all costs associated with meeting the rules and any isolation either before leaving or on return to their home State, region, or zone or on arrival in or departing from Caloundra, even if such requirement is introduced immediately prior to or during the event or as a result of their attendance at the event.

Waiver

As stated on entry forms for the Championships, TTA is not and will not be liable for any additional expenditure incurred by participants due to COVID-19. Any additional expenditure incurred as a result of COVID-19, e.g. quarantine requirements, flight changes, flight cancellation fees, accommodation cancellation fees etc., is the sole responsibility of the participant.

Related Laws/Regulations

The hierarchy of COVID related laws/regulations governing the event are:

1. a) Queensland's Roadmap to easing restrictions, which can be found at: <https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au/government-actions/roadmap-to-easing-queenslands-restrictions>.
- b) Your home State's travel restrictions related to travel to Caloundra.
2. Requirements as specified by the Caloundra Indoor Stadium, which will be posted at the venue.
3. This Plan and its Rules.

In the event of a conflict between or an omission in these laws/regulations the higher order law/regulation, as depicted in the hierarchy, takes precedence.

Rules

The "New Normal" in Queensland

1. **Please Get Vaccinated.** While this is not mandatory it is strongly recommended that all people attending the event should be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to arriving at the venue.
2. **Maintain physical distancing (1.5m).** Do not shake hands or hug other people.
3. **Wear a face mask.** You must bring your own supply of face masks and wear one when at an airport or on a domestic or international flight departing or arriving in Queensland. While not mandatory in Queensland, you are encouraged to:
 - 3.1. Carry a mask with you at all times when you leave your home/accommodation.
 - 3.2. Wear a mask when travelling on a team bus/car, on public transport, in a taxi or ride share or in shopping centres.
 - 3.3. Wear a mask in any indoor or outdoor space when physical distancing is not possible.

4. **Maintain good hand hygiene.** You should:

- 4.1. Wash hands regularly, including before and after play, before and after eating, and after going to the toilet.
- 4.2. Cover all coughs and sneezes with your elbow or a tissue, and immediately dispose of tissues into a bin. The use of handkerchiefs is not permitted at the event.
- 4.3. Avoid touching common surfaces such as handrails and door knobs.
- 4.4. Use hand sanitizer on arrival at the venue and after unavoidably touching common surfaces.

5. **Symptoms.** Common COVID-19 symptoms include:

Fever Dry or repeated cough Sore throat Shortness of breath Diarrhoea
Fatigue Loss of smell and/or taste Runny nose Vomiting or nausea

Other symptoms people may experience include muscle or joint pain, and loss of appetite.

Everyone who gets COVID-19 will experience it a little differently.

Stay away from the stadium. Do not come to the venue if you have any COVID symptoms, but instead you must immediately self-isolate and get tested at the earliest opportunity, after which you must follow the Queensland testing requirements.

At the stadium. Advise a tournament official. You will be isolated outside the stadium, your team manager advised and you are to be transported by team transport to either your accommodation or a testing facility.

6. **Contact tracing** - Provide contact details to allow for effective contact tracing. Everybody involved with the event should download the [Check In Qld app](#) for use throughout their stay on the Sunshine Coast. Hospitality venues in Queensland must use an electronic Contact Tracing system for patrons. As the stadium has a café the entire venue is considered a hospitality venue. Consequently, on entering the venue for the first time each day all adults, including team members, spectators, TTA staff, technical officials, contractors and volunteers, must scan in using the [Check In Qld app](#) on their personal mobile phone and submit their contact details before entry. Adults without this mobile phone functionality must use an iPad based alternative in the foyer. There will be no manual sign in option. Children (those below the age of 18) may sign in using the [Check In Qld app](#) but this is not necessary as they are children and their contact details will be provided by team managers. Participants are advised to allow additional time for their first visit to the venue to complete this process.

Travel to/from Queensland

- 7. Up to date travel restrictions for Queensland can be accessed [here](#). You must wear a face mask when at an airport or on a domestic or international flight departing or arriving in Queensland.
- 8. All participants in the event should review travel restrictions for your home State/Territory which will be available from your State government's COVID website.

Team Accommodation and Transport

9. States/Territories should accommodate and transport their party while in Caloundra in team sub-groups where possible and minimise interactions between teams. Large team meetings should be avoided.

Movement in the Caloundra Stadium

10. All team members must use the 'get in, get out' principle, i.e., come to the stadium ready to play, complete matches/training, then leave the stadium. Athletes that have finished all their events for the Championships must not continue to practice at the stadium, but may assist as warm-up partners for athletes still competing where there is no other reasonable option. Athletes must not stay at the stadium during long breaks or for long periods before or after play.
11. Athletes must restrict their movement within the stadium to their scheduled tables and common areas away from the playing area, always maintaining social distancing, or wear a mask where social distancing is not possible. This may be necessary during Teams matches when there are large numbers of Team members on the field of play.

Match Protocols

12. Technical/tournament officials that manage match boards (scoresheet backings) are to wear gloves while handling the boards and sanitize them between uses.
13. On arrival at each match athletes/coaches should wipe down all frequently touched court surfaces with sanitizing spray and paper towel provided.
14. Each player must use only one towel box for the duration of the match instead of swapping after each game.
15. Athletes must not wipe their hands on the table or the court surrounds.
16. Athletes must not exhale on the ball or their bats in order to create moisture before wiping.
17. Athletes must not spit on the court floor, their hands or anywhere else to clean or create friction.
18. Athletes must hold onto their bats during time outs or between games, not put them on the table as is normal practice.
19. Umpires must use private pens to complete score sheets. Pens must not be shared.
20. Athlete and umpire acknowledgement at the end of each match should be via a nod of the head with a slight bow from a distance of more than 1.5m. At the end of an entire Teams match teams are encouraged to acknowledge their opposing team from a distance of 1.5m.
21. At the end of each match athletes/coaches empty their courtside rubbish bin into the large wheelie bin at the end of their row of courts.

Sanctions

Non-compliances with the rules shown above will be recorded in a log. Initial minor breaches will result in a verbal warning. Repeat offenders or significant first breaches will incur a more significant sanction issued by the TTA CEO under authority of the TTA Conduct Regulation, and may include exclusion from the venue and the forfeiting of all their scheduled matches for the remainder of that day, or complete exclusion from the Championships and the venue for the rest of the event.

Official Meetings

A meeting for managers will be held at the beginning of the event where a maximum of two representatives from each State/Territory may attend.

Social distancing must be observed for the managers meeting and all other official meetings.

Opening Ceremony

An Opening Ceremony will not be held. However, an Acknowledgement of Country will be conducted at the managers meeting. Welcomes by VIPs will be pre-recorded and published on the [event website](#).

Team Photos

Team photos will not be facilitated by TTA but may be done by team management for individual teams (e.g. NSW U14 Girls) at the venue. Photos of large groups are not permitted at the venue.

Team Events Pre-Match Protocols

There will not be any toss for AB/C XY/Z for Teams matches at the Championships. Before the Championships teams will be randomly assigned to AB/C or XY/Z for all Teams matches, including crossover finals for events with pools, electronically in conjunction with the Referee. The result of this process will be published with the teams draws. Teams may elect to play in a set order for all matches but may not change that order after electing to do so, except in exceptional circumstances as approved by the Referee and the Tournament Controllers. This option will be a one-time offer for each team at the start of the Teams events. (Note: Unfortunately, this excludes the previous pre-toss option of teams agreeing on who will be AB/C and who will be XY/Z and proceeding in agreement.) This does not exclude the use of substitute players for dead rubbers after a match has been decided.

All team nomination (previously toss) sheets for the entire event, except crossover finals matches between pools, will be issued to team managers at the managers meeting. Team nomination sheets for crossover finals between pools will be issued to relevant team captains as results processing permits, but always at least 40 minutes before the scheduled match.

Team nomination sheets must be completed and placed in the appropriate box provided by the Tournament Controllers at the venue no more than 30 minutes before the respective match is played.

Medal/Award Ceremonies

Medal ceremonies will be held as is normal practice, but medals/trophies/plaques will be handed to athletes, not hung around their necks, with the presenter wearing gloves. Podiums, if used, should be spaced to enable social distancing. All medal ceremonies are to be contact free.

Awards for Outstanding Achievement, Best Performance, Aggregate Champion and Average Champion, where relevant, will be held in conjunction with the individual event medal ceremonies.

Orders of Merit will be posted on the [event website](#) no more than two days after the completion of the event.

Closing Functions

No closing functions will be held due to the difficulty in planning around variable COVID restrictions.

Spectators

Spectators are welcome and have free entry, but will be confined to the public areas at the front of the stadium, the mezzanine viewing area and seat banks adjacent to some match tables. Spectators must observe social distancing or wear their own self-provided mask if social distancing is not possible. Spectators will be allowed into the expandable grandstand on the last two days of the event.

It is strongly recommended that a maximum of one family member per athlete is allowed inside the venue during Team events. This includes family members that are coaches of teams or athletes during individual events. TTA reserves the right to request additional family members vacate the stadium if spectator numbers become too high and/or social distancing is not possible or not being adhered to.

Contingency Plan

If COVID-19 case/s or suspected case/s, either in participants or the local Caloundra community, cause play during the event to be suspended or delayed TTA will make every attempt to complete as many events as possible in the remaining time. The Championships cannot be extended beyond Sunday 11th July. Depending on at what point and for how long the event is suspended/delayed the following options, in no specific order, may be implemented:

- Changing Round-Robin phases of Singles events to Knock Out.
- Prioritising events for cancellation (e.g. Mixed Doubles, Doubles, then Teams).
- Reducing cross-over finals in Teams events to the top team in each pool only.
- Changing some event's best of 7 matches to best of 5 and best of 5 matches to best of 3.

Any such changes would probably result in considerable rescheduling of matches with very short notice. Such changes would be published on the [event website](#) at the earliest possible time.

Annexure 1: COVID Screening Questionnaire for TTA Staff, Technical Officials, Volunteers and Contractors

(This form is for use by TTA for people on arrival at Caloundra.)

Name:

Contact Phone:

In the last 14 days:

Have you travelled from overseas or a COVID-19 hotspot (as declared by the Queensland government on the day of your arrival at the venue)? Yes No

Have you been in close contact with a person who is positive for COVID-19? Yes No

Are you an active COVID-19 case? Yes No

Are you currently, or have you recently experienced a cough, fever, sore throat, fatigue, loss of smell or taste, vomiting, diarrhoea or shortness of breath? Yes No

Signed: Date:

Annexure 2 - COVID Screening Questionnaire for State/Territory Athletes, Coaches, Team Officials and accompanying family members and friends

(This form is for use by State/Territory Team Managers for people prior to their departure for Caloundra. Team Managers are to keep these forms until 12th September 2021.)

Name:

Contact Phone:

Have you been infected with COVID-19 within the previous 14 days? Yes No

Have you been in close contact with someone who has been infected with COVID-19 within the previous 14 days? Yes No

Do you feel unwell or are you showing COVID-19 symptoms (e.g. cough, fever, sore throat, fatigue, loss of smell or taste, vomiting, diarrhoea or shortness of breath)? Yes No

Are you subject to any isolation order within your home State/Territory? Yes No

Have you travelled to/from any hotspots (hotspots as designated by the Queensland Government)? Yes No

Have you travelled from overseas or a COVID-19 hotspot (as declared by the Queensland government on the day of your arrival at the venue)? Yes No

Signed: Date:

If this form is completed for a child (under the age of 18) it must be signed by their parent/guardian.

Name of child's parent/guardian: