



“Gliding VicTas”

VSA COVID-19 EDITION

The VSA is following Government guidance and advice throughout the COVID19 pandemic. You can find guidance from the Department of Health and Human Services [here](#). This link provides information on a daily basis about the Virus. Please note, we are in Stage 3 restrictions. Q&As relating to coronavirus are linked [here](#).

Not “Business as Usual”

Our government bodies have advised in their communications and online webinars that we will be “Doing Sport Differently”. So, what does that mean? Not “business as usual” or as we know it post COVID19. The guidelines are still being formulated as the pandemic is continued to be assessed.

All sport and other activities will be required to follow health guidelines for the foreseeable future.

Relaxing of restrictions will be a slow process and will be evaluated on an ongoing basis as a “second wave” or clusters are evidenced.

Clubs need to consider a risk strategy plan and what may be required in relation to how they operate and interact with the public along with their facilities and infrastructure.

[For further information, see the COVID19 section on the VSA website](#) with documents in there from the Australian Institute of Sport – Framework for Rebooting in a COVID19 Environment, Returning from COVID19 Health and Hygiene, ASC Solo Pilot Currency May 2020 and this newsletter. Further updates will be made available as we progress through the Stages of lifting restrictions based on government advice.

So, some questions to get you thinking.....

1. 1.5 metre rule – Will this still remain? If so, how will this impact your club operations?
Training and Pax?
2. How will you manage the density rule of 10 people only at a gathering?
3. What demographic is your instructor base in relation to age?
4. Will you only be solo flying?

5. Will your instructors want to be in close proximity in a 2 seat aircraft with an unknown passenger or unknown trainee?
6. Will you need to wear PPE masks and disposable gloves?
7. Will all instructors be required to download the government [COVID Safe App](#)?
8. Are you ready with the containers of hand sanitiser and a quantity of hand wipes?
9. Have you got a cleaning regime in place in between training and pax flights?
10. What will your cleaning regime for gliders and hangars be at the end of the day, including parachutes?
11. What will be your cleaning regime in relation to toilets, both off field and on field and club rooms? Once a day, twice a day? More?

The VSA Committee urge you to consider the above questions as a start and then look further as to how you will manage as restrictions are slowly lifted and look at having a Risk Management Strategy. Human beings adapt very quickly to situations, so the public and your community will be looking for safe hygiene and that you are considering their welfare. Continuing engagement and new members may depend upon it.

Vicsport webinar - Working Together to Support Clubs

[Working Together to Support Clubs Webinar](#) (1.28 hours)

Vicsport have been undertaking a number of webinars and the Working Together to Support Clubs is a strategic Q&A session with industry leaders to unpack what clubs are government and industry leaders, how they can help clubs to rebuild stronger and more inclusive and the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on community sport.

The webinars are interesting and informative on how government bodies are working with each other and sport to develop solutions to get us all back doing what we enjoy. For more information on Vicsport and the webinar, please visit the [VSA Website/Publications/Vicsport](#).

Other webinars - [COVID-19 Update-The State of the Sports Industry](#)

Engaging in whatever sport you undertake is also about a mental state of mind. It is engaging with friends, having a coffee, sharing tall stories of gliding flights and outlandings, it is sharing briefings and working with mentors. It is about social engagement. It is also “time-out” to relax; to challenge yourself; to do something amazing and feel great about it.

So, reach out to your fellow glider pilots via Zoom or House Party or Facetime or other social media platforms. Committee members, consider arranging a social media “Fireside Chat” with members with byo wine, cheese and bikies! Have an agenda so that you can have a meaningful discussion along with some laughs.

Alternatively, pick up the phone and just have a chat. Some of our senior members are not familiar with all the IT stuff, so make verbal contact to ask “[R U OK?](#)” Consider hosting some webinars presented by the “gliding gurus” in your club. Geelong Gliding Club have been doing a great job, so contact them if you would like some further information.

The state of the Corona Virus is fluid and we don't have a textbook for it. So, remain up-to-date, agile and flexible in your approach and consider all angles that may affect your ability to open the airfield gates again, not just for yourself but for the public and community.

Be proactive, not reactive so that you have the ability to open the airfield gates when you want to and it won't be difficult and possibly expensive, to catch up. We are no longer on the “Inside” or the “Offside” but the “New Side”.

Ultimately, in this world we live in at the moment or for some time to come no doubt, doing things the same way or the “cookie cutter syndrome” will not be an option.

So, this is a great time to take the opportunity to “Do Gliding Differently”.
What will your club do?
And most of all, how will you make “Coming Back from COVID – Fun!”

UPDATE as of 12th May, 2020

[AOPA and Premier's Office](#) advice on - COVID-19: RECREATIONAL AND PRIVATE FLYING OK IN VICTORIA



AOPA.COM.AU

COVID-19: Recreational and Private Flying OK in Victoria

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association of Australia has today confirme...

Coronavirus COVID-19

COMMUNITY UPDATE

SUMMARY OF STEP 1 EASING

GATHERINGS Up to 5 people allowed in the home. 10 people outside.	WORKPLACES Work from home unless not possible. Stay home if unwell.	FUNERALS 20 mourners indoors. 30 mourners outdoors. Conductors additional.	WEDDINGS 10 guests in addition to the couple and celebrant.
RETAIL Stay home except for essential reasons. Stores to maintain physical distancing and person density rules.	SPORT & EXERCISE Up to 10 people allowed (instructor additional), outdoors, and if done with 1.5m physical distancing.	FISHING, HUNTING, BOATING AND GOLF are back! with rules under sport & exercise.	RELIGIOUS GATHERINGS Up to 10 people allowed plus additional people to run ceremony.
HAIRDRESSERS Closed only if person density rule not possible.	BOOT CAMPS & PT Up to 10 people with rules under sport & exercise.	CARAVAN PARKS & CAMPING GROUNDS Closed to tourists, open for residents and essential workers.	COMMUNITY FACILITIES Facilities like community centres & halls, youth centres, RSL clubs can host essential public support services or groups i.e. parent's group, AA meeting, Foodbank with up to 10 people and person density rule.
AUCTION HOUSES 10 people allowed plus facilitators and person density rule.	REAL ESTATE AUCTIONS & OPEN HOUSES 10 people allowed plus facilitators.	NATIONAL/STATE PARKS Hiking, fishing, hunting, prospecting, diving, boating and recreation allowed with up to 10 people during the day only. No camping.	
HOSTELS Open for accommodation restaurants/cafes closed.	RESTAURANTS & CAFES Open for takeaway only.		

Regards,

Viv Drew
 VSA Prez