



## Golf Australia communication regarding COVID-19 for Castlemaine Golf Club



**Dear Victorian Golf Clubs and Facilities,**

As you are aware, COVID-19 or the Coronavirus as it is more commonly known has created global health concerns regarding the disease and its infection rates.

Golf Australia is writing to provide further assistance and guidance to our clubs and facilities on this important topic.

### **Victorian Government Announcement – August 2, 2020 – Return to Stage 3 Restrictions for Regional Victoria & Mitchell Shire and introduction of Stage 4 restrictions for Metropolitan Melbourne**

On Sunday, August 2, the Victorian Government announced that from 6:00 pm on Sunday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August, Victoria will enter a State of Disaster. It was also announced that Regional Victoria (including Mitchell Shire) will return to stage 3 restrictions from 11:59pm Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> August, and Metropolitan Melbourne will enter Stage 4 restrictions

**Click quick links below or scroll down to view stage restrictions**

[Regional Victoria \(Stage 3 restrictions\)](#)

[Metropolitan Melbourne \(Stage 4 restrictions\)](#)

## Golf Australia contact

If you require additional information or have questions please do not hesitate to contact John Stamp, Club & Facility Support Manager – Victoria, on 0418 395 140 or [johnst@golf.org.au](mailto:johnst@golf.org.au)

## PGA of Australia contact

If PGA members require additional information or have questions please do not hesitate to contact David Barker, Senior State Manager on (03) 8320 1911 or [dbarker@pga.org.au](mailto:dbarker@pga.org.au)

**Kind regards,**



Robert Armour  
Interim CEO - Golf Australia

## Regional Victoria (Stage 3 restrictions):

### Golf Operations

Based on advice published on the DHHS website and verbal advice received from the Victorian Government, Golf Australia advises the following:

- Groups will be limited to two people unless they all reside in the same household. For the avoidance of doubt, groups of three or four will only be allowed if all members of the group reside in the same household.
- Club competitions must not be conducted, but handicapping of scores through non-contact means is allowed.
  - GA has engaged in depth on this topic with the Victorian Government as competition golf is a key aspect of club/facility life across the state. It was confirmed to GA that competition golf is unable to be conducted under Stage 3 restriction.
- Club/facility driving ranges, putting greens and chipping areas cannot operate unless a distance of at least 100 metres between groups of 2 can be maintained.
- No hire equipment, including golf clubs, pull buggies, golf carts or range balls may be made available for hire under any circumstances
  - *Exception:* Golf carts may be hired to a person who has a disability, or who is over the age of 65, or who can demonstrate that they require one due to having special needs. (Note: players are permitted to bring and use their own cart, however the one person per cart limit applies.)
- A one person per cart limit, unless both riders live in the same household and both meet the criteria as listed above.
- Clubs/facilities are required to thoroughly clean the carts before and after each use.
- 1 to 1 coaching can continue in a non-contact, socially distanced setting

- Indoor coaching is not permitted
- If you are not doing exercise or a physical activity where you are out of breath or puffing then you must wear a face covering. You must carry a face covering with you and wear it before and after you exercise.

## **Clubhouse Operations**

Clubhouses must close for food and beverage service. Clubs & facilities may trade for takeaway service provided they can meet all physical distancing conditions in doing so.

Golf Service Centres/Pro Shops must limit the number of people within the facility to comply with the requirement for patrons to keep a minimum of 1.5 metres apart.

For further information, please see the DHHS website link below

[DHHS Website](#)

## **Metropolitan Melbourne (Stage 4 restrictions)**

### **Golf Operations**

#### ***COVID Safe Plan:***

Golf Australia has been engaged with the Victorian Government on the topic of access to facilities for course maintenance staff in the event of harsher restrictions since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are pleased that the Victorian Government has confirmed that access to facilities for essential maintenance staff can continue during the Stage 4 lockdown period. This information is confirmed on the DHHS website

[DHHS Website](#)

All clubs/facilities who will have staff working on site will be required to fill out a COVID Safe Plan, full details of which are available from the Business Victoria website.

[Business Victoria Website](#)

Key documents listed on the Business Victoria site include:

[↓  
A COVID Safe Plan template](#)

[↓  
Guidance for completing your COVID Safe Plan](#)

[↓  
Workplace Attendance Register](#)

#### ***Permitted worker scheme:***

It is very important to note that as allowances for on-site work have been given to golf courses, all staff involved in this work will need to be issued with a worker permit, details of which can be found on the Justice Victoria website

[Justice Victoria](#)

Clubs/facilities in the Melbourne Metropolitan area will need to issue permits to course maintenance staff by for use beginning **Thursday, August 6.**

The permitted worker scheme template document can be accessed here. It is the responsibility of clubs/facilities to ensure that each staff member who will be attending your club/facility is issued a permit. It is the responsibility of each staff member to carry this permit – along with photo identification – at all times when travelling to and from your club/facility. Failure to do so may result in fines being

[Permitted worker scheme template](#)

levied against the employee and club/facility.

An employee may travel to and from work without a worker permit **once only** to get their first permit.

### **Further Advice**

More info

Click "More info" for the DHHS advice on coronavirus restrictions

### **Business Support Package**

The Victorian Government's Business Support Fund will provide support to businesses and workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Grants of \$10,000 are available for eligible businesses in Metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire.

Grant of \$5,000 are available for eligible businesses in regional areas (excluding Mitchell Shire). Updated guidelines for businesses outside of Metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire will be made available in coming days through the Business Victoria website.

Please click "More info" for further information and eligibility criteria. Please note that clubs/facilities who do not employ staff are not eligible for funding through this program.

More info

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