

15 February 2022

NZR Guidelines for Community Rugby Training Activities under the COVID-19 Protection Framework

- **Training is allowed at all traffic light settings subject to certain requirements/restrictions.**
- **This guidance remains subject to change based on the COVID-19 Protection Framework. NZR will update this advice as soon as practicable.**

New Zealand Rugby has updated its guidance on Rugby requirements to align with the new Traffic Light System under the Government's COVID-19 Protection Framework (CPF). This guidance prioritises the safety of participants and supporters whilst involved in community rugby and provides rugby clubs and schools with rugby specific advice on what they need to do to deliver safe and inclusive community rugby.

The greatest risk of transmission of the current variants of COVID-19 is via aerosol transmission amongst those in close proximity to each other. The CPF provides for a number of measures to prevent transmission in a number of environments, including community sport. A number of these measures for environments such as workplaces, schools, public transport are not viable for participation in community sport, such as physical distancing and use of masks, so there are further restrictions in place such as restricted gathering sizes and greater use of My Vaccine Passes (MVPs). As a result, community sport organisations need to pay particular attention to defining spaces, controlling gathering numbers and movement of people, and regular cleaning of sports equipment and surfaces and maximising ventilation of defined areas wherever possible – in addition to personal hygiene measures, social distancing, and use of facemasks. Other key tools in the fight against COVID-19 are, contact tracing and vaccination which are mandatory. These elements are factored into these guidelines and should be considered in light of your particular community rugby environments and situations when developing plans.

As part of updating Rugby requirements to meet the Government's CPF guidelines, all rugby clubs and schools (where appropriate) will need to update their health and safety plan which addresses the four key priority areas: trainings, changing rooms, club rooms and match days.

For the purposes of rugby in school environments, the following SportNZ guidance applies:

School sport and recreation is subject to the same criteria as for community rugby clubs as outlined in these guidelines, with the exception of curriculum-based rugby activities held on school grounds, during school time, with no external personnel (for example other students, coaches/officials, or event deliverers). As schools are not subject to Gatherings rules, these rugby activities can proceed with requirements set by schools.

Accountabilities

The CPF provides the framework for keeping New Zealanders safe. It is the responsibility of those organising activities to ensure that the appropriate public health measures are in place to keep people safe. The following applies in respect of accountabilities and responsibilities for community rugby.

- Clubs and Schools are accountable and responsible for developing the training plans for their activities and locations in accordance with this guidance and should be making immediate steps to implement this.
- Clubs and Schools are to have developed their training plans by **25 February 2022** and to have them available for inspection by any entities, such as Worksafe or Ministry of Health, should these be required.
- NZR and Provincial Unions can provide additional support to Clubs and Schools in the development of their plans and may require verification of plans in some instances. If Rugby Clubs or Schools need assistance or guidance in developing plans, please reach out to your PU in the first instance.

This guide provides support to Rugby Clubs and Schools (where relevant) to develop a Return to Training health and safety plan to support players, coaches and managers. Checklists to support Clubs and Schools develop their plans is at Appendix A.

Helpful information and resources on health and safety plans can be found on the [Novel coronavirus \(COVID-19\) | WorkSafe](#).

Community Rugby

Generally, community sports and recreational activities under the CPF will be considered *Gatherings* rather than *Events*. It is important to note that 'events' is an umbrella term including professional and semi-professional sporting events, community events, auctions, and private events. *Gatherings* are a sub-type and refer to groups where attendees are generally known to each other.

- All Community Rugby Training activity is classified as a **Gathering** and includes players, coaches, management, and support staff that comes into contact with each other in the course of that activity. It does not include spectators unless they form part of the training Gathering.

- All Community Rugby Training will need to respect the Gathering limits when MVPs are used or not used under the Traffic Light System. For clarity, this is:

RED: With MVPs being checked – 100
Without MVPs being checked – 25

ORANGE:
With MVPs being checked – No Limit
Without MVPs being checked - 50

Community Rugby training may proceed with multiple gatherings and with varying limits sizes depending on whether MVPs are checked or not on any given day. This may involve, under TLS RED, having a number of training gatherings at 100 each as MVPs were checked and a number at 25 because MVPs were not checked. The maximum exposure for any participant in a community rugby training event should not, however, exceed their respective gathering limit for the day. For example, a rugby participant who is part of a 100-person gathering should not be exposed to any more than 100 people for the purposes of rugby training on that particular day. Forming and reforming gatherings within the training session circumvents the public health measures designed to keep people safe in community sport.

Mandatory Requirements for Training at All Venues – All CPF Settings

1. Defined spaces must be identified at all venues.

- I. Defined spaces may be, for the purposes of community rugby, be designated as:
 - a. Controlled Area – designated areas, such as designated training areas, grandstands, commonly accepted viewing spaces etc, where the community club or school has put measures in place to control the gatherings.
 - b. Uncontrolled Area – designated areas, which are beyond a club or school to be able to reasonably control gatherings, which require members of the public to maintain personal responsibility to keep them and their whanau safe. Such areas should be clearly defined as Uncontrolled.
- II. Defined areas are required in order to apply the required measures for the current settings (Red, Orange or Green) and with or without Vaccine Passes (MVPs) being required/checked.

- III. NZR recommends identifying designated training areas at venues from the outset e.g., each individual field or part-field. The identification of spaces should also allow for maintaining space between gatherings (2 metres or more) and the safe movement of people into and out of the designated areas. This will enable a more seamless transition in adapting to any setting changes or more teams commencing training as the year progresses.
- IV. Examples of defined spaces under different TLS settings for community rugby are provided at Appendix B.

2. Each defined space must display a NZ COVID Tracer QR code and have an alternative way people can record their visit.

- I. **All participants must record their visit at the training gathering.** The Club or School must have systems in place to ensure that people do check in at the training. This can preferably be done by using the NZ COVID Tracer App or alternatively, Team Managers can keep an attendance register which could be made available for contact tracing purposes on request. This is an attendance register physically held by the Manager – not a sign in sheet on a table as these are often left in a public-facing position where personal information is visible to others and a common cause of privacy breaches.
- II. Note: Requiring MVPs does **not** remove the need for contact tracing.

3. The need for MVPs is determined by the required Gathering size for Rugby Training.

- i. Planning for each rugby training session needs to consider the gathering sizes required and if MVPs will be required. MVPs only need to be checked if the training session plan involves numbers (or anticipated numbers attending) require the higher gathering limits at RED and ORANGE. For example, if training gatherings are not going to exceed 25 at TLS RED for that particular day, then MVPs are not required to be checked.
- ii. Plans for Training should include providing for those with or without MVPs. This might involve having multiple gatherings for rugby training.
- iii. Where required for gathering limits, organisers must have in place systems to check MVPs, where required, for all participants entering the defined training space.
- iv. If for any reason MVPs are not checked or people without a MVP join a gathering, the gathering becomes a non-MVP activity and the non-MVP gathering limits apply. Note: Negative COVID-19 test is not a substitute for vaccinations gatherings under the CPF. If

there are unvaccinated people at your event or gathering, then you must follow the rules and limits for where vaccine passes are not used.

- v. Children aged 5-11 years can now be vaccinated against COVID-19. While vaccination among this age group is encouraged, **children under 12yrs 3mths are not required to show My Vaccine Passes.**
- vi. They are still counted toward the capacity limit of an event or gathering, but do not contribute to the vaccination status of an event or gathering. This means unvaccinated children under 12yrs 3mths at a My Vaccine Pass event or gathering do not make that event or gathering non-My Vaccine Pass.
- vii. MVPs do not need to be checked at each training once there it has been clearly established the participant is in possession of a MVP – but any person who has not previously provided one through the rugby training attendance system or via the NZR registration process will need to have their MVP checked at training by a person authorised by the Club. This is done using the MVP Checking App.
- viii. Advice on how to plan for the checking of MVPs of participants (players, coaches, managers, support staff or volunteers) is at Appendix C.
- ix. People intending on attending a training gathering a should receive clear communication that vaccine passes are required in advance of their attendance and appropriate signage displayed at the venue.

4. Train Outdoors Wherever Possible

- I. The greatest risk of transmission of the current variants of COVID- 19 is via aerosol transmission Wherever practical, conduct training outdoors. This enables maximum number of people in a gathering at any given setting.
- II. If training indoors – maximise ventilation - ensure windows or doors are open to provide ventilation.

5. Regularly clean equipment and surfaces.

- I. A regular cleaning regime needs to be in place.
- II. Sports equipment (Including, but is not limited to, balls, hit shields, weights, Rip Rugby belts, tackle bags, cones, and flags) can now be shared, but if you allow equipment to be used by vaccinated and unvaccinated groups in separate gatherings, you will need to clean equipment and surfaces used when swapping between groups.

- III. Personal good hygiene practices should always be encouraged and supported - handwashing or sanitising particularly upon entering and leaving designated training areas with PCP supplies such as hand sanitiser /soap readily available to attendees. This is particularly at gathering points such as changing rooms, showers, toilets and clubrooms.

6. Facemasks Required At Red Setting

- a. At Red setting Facemasks are now mandatory at all Rugby gatherings and must be worn at all times when not participating in community rugby
- b. To be clear any person, other than those in the playing gathering must wear masks at all times. It is recommended that coaches, managers, replacements and other support staff wear masks if possible.

Some helpful information based on Frequently Asked Questions about conducting sports activities under CPF can be found here:
<https://sportnz.org.nz/resources/covid-19-protection-framework-faqs/>

Summary of Rugby Training Guidelines Under CPF

Green	General Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MVPs must be checked Plus Contact Tracing required Children under 12yrs 3mths are <u>not</u> required to show My Vaccine Passes. They do not contribute to the vaccination status of an event or gathering. Unvaccinated children under 12yrs 3mths at a MVP gathering do not make that gathering non-MVP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They do not contribute to the vaccination status of an event or gathering. Unvaccinated children under 12yrs 3mths at a MVP gathering do not make that gathering non-MVP. If for any reason MVPs are not checked or people without a MVP join a gathering the gathering becomes and non-MVP activity and the non-MVP restrictions apply 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than one gathering is allowed with 2m minimum separation between gatherings and no crossover between groups If you allow equipment to be used by vaccinated and unvaccinated groups in separate gatherings, you will need to clean equipment when swapping between groups.
	My Vaccine Pass Used - Indoor or Outdoor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open, No limits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facemasks encouraged in Indoor settings when not training 	
	My Vaccine Pass Not Used - Indoor or Outdoor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Max 100 people per gathering (actual # based on allowing 1m² space person). Note If using change rooms, the indoor limit will apply to the gathering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple gatherings of 100 are allowed if each gathering can be separated by defined spaces Consider foot traffic flows – If more than one gathering is in proximity. Gatherings should not intermingle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facemasks encouraged in Indoor settings when not training
Orange	General Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MVPs must be checked Plus Contact tracing required Children under 12yrs 3mths are <u>not</u> required to show My Vaccine Passes. They are still counted toward the capacity limit of an event or gathering. They do not contribute to the vaccination status of an event or gathering. Unvaccinated children under 12yrs 3mths at a MVP gathering do not make that gathering non-MVP. People not part of a gathering (e.g., caregivers, spectators or public -or anyone without an MVP) must remain at least 2m away from any gathering and Orange setting public health guidelines apply to them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If for any reason MVPs are not checked or people without a MVP join a gathering the gathering becomes and non-MVP activity and the non-MVP restrictions apply. More than one gathering is allowed with 2m minimum separation between gatherings and no crossover between groups. Ensure everyone who attends is well. Take a zero-tolerance approach to people attending who are unwell. Try to conduct as much activity as possible in outdoor settings that allow for social distancing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you allow equipment to be used by vaccinated and unvaccinated groups in separate gatherings, you will need to clean equipment when swapping between groups. Ensure facilities and equipment are cleaned regularly Consider varying training times to minimise numbers present at any time Consider having windows or doors open where appropriate to provide ventilation. Weather permitting, try and host your activities outdoors wherever possible. Encourage good hygiene – especially on arrival and departure. Have hand washing or sanitising supplies available for use. Facemasks recommended when not training
	My Vaccine Pass Used - Indoor or Outdoor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open, no limits 	Indoor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider having windows or doors open where appropriate to provide ventilation. Weather permitting, try and host your activities outdoors wherever possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider foot traffic flows – If more than one gathering is in proximity. Gatherings should not intermingle
	My Vaccine Pass Not Used - Indoor or Outdoor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Max 50 people per gathering (actual # based on allowing 1m² space person). Note: If using change rooms, the indoor limit will apply to the gathering. Consider foot traffic flows – If more than one gathering is in proximity. Gatherings should not intermingle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit the size of your activity to the smallest group possible or hold several smaller activities. Consider varying training times to minimise numbers present at any time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple gatherings of 50 are allowed if each gathering can be separated by defined spaces Consider having windows or doors open where appropriate to provide ventilation. Weather permitting, try and host your activities outdoors wherever possible. Facemasks recommended when not training
Red	General Settings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MVPs must be checked Plus Contact tracing required Children under 12yrs 3mths are <u>not</u> required to show My Vaccine Passes. They are still counted toward the capacity limit of an event or gathering. They do not contribute to the vaccination status of an event or gathering. Unvaccinated children under 12yrs 3mths at a MVP gathering do not make that gathering non-MVP. People not part of a gathering (e.g., caregivers, spectators or public -or anyone without an MVP) must remain at least 2m away from any gathering and Red setting public health guidelines apply to them. If for any reason MVPs are not checked or people without a MVP join a gathering the gathering becomes and non-MVP activity and the non-MVP restrictions apply. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This means you need separate entries and exits (or phased entering and exiting and possibly one way foot traffic flows), first aid, food facilities and bathroom facilities for each group. Each group needs to remain “as is” for the duration of the event/ gathering. This means there can be no mixing or forming of new groups throughout the entire duration of the event such as participants moving to compete with people from different groups where 2-metre distancing cannot be maintained. Consider foot traffic flows – If more than one gathering is in proximity. Gatherings should not intermingle. One way traffic flows are encouraged. Consider varying match times to minimise numbers present at any time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage good hygiene – especially on arrival and departure. Have hand washing or sanitising supplies available for use. If you allow equipment to be used by vaccinated and unvaccinated groups in separate gatherings, you will need to clean equipment when swapping between groups. Consider having windows or doors open where appropriate to provide ventilation. Weather permitting, try and host your activities outdoors wherever possible. Facemasks are mandatory at all times when not actively participating. Ensure facilities and equipment are cleaned regularly Ensure everyone who attends is well. Take a zero-tolerance approach to people attending who are unwell.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than one gathering is allowed with 2m minimum separation between gatherings and no intermingling between each group. • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try to conduct as much activity as possible in outdoor settings that allow for social distancing. • 	
	<p>My Vaccine Pass Used - Indoor or Outdoor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max 100 people per gathering (actual # based on allowing 1m² space person). Capacity limits include children or workers. Note If using change rooms, the indoor limit will apply to the gathering. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider foot traffic flows – If more than one gathering is in proximity. Gatherings should not intermingle. One way traffic flows are encouraged. • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider having windows or doors open where appropriate to provide ventilation. Weather permitting, try and host your activities outdoors wherever possible. • Facemasks are mandatory at all times when not participating, except at pools
	<p>My Vaccine Pass Not Used - Indoor or Outdoor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max 25 people per gathering (actual # based on allowing 1m² space person). Capacity limits include children or workers. Note If using change rooms, the indoor limit will apply to the gathering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple gatherings of 25 are allowed if each gathering can be separated by defined spaces • Consider foot traffic flows – If more than one gathering is in proximity. Gatherings should not intermingle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider having windows or doors open where appropriate to provide ventilation. Weather permitting, try and host your activities outdoors wherever possible. • Facemasks are mandatory at all times when not participating, except at pools