



<b>Special Briefing</b>	Information Paper
<b>Date</b>	11/01/2022
<b>Subject</b>	Effects of COVID on District Games
<b>Audience</b>	District Basketball Clubs

## **OVERVIEW**

There is growing concern from the community and Basketball SA members around the impacts of COVID-19 as we move into 2022. There is particular concern with regard to how COVID-19 isolation requirements might impact a clubs' ability to field teams each round and how these games will be managed in competitions.

When developing the new 2022 Rules of operation, consideration was given to the management and impact of increasing numbers of team forfeits due to government isolation requirements. It is the view of the Competitions Department that COVID-19 isolation requirements are the equivalent to players being ill or injured i.e. unexpected events.

Additional flexibility has been written into the 2022 Rules of Operation to provide teams and clubs with the ability for players to play multiple games in the same round to avoid a forfeit (where only some players are impacted by injury or covid-19), rule 6.6.e). The Fixturing Rule 5.2 provides clubs with the ability to request whole games be rescheduled.

Any changes to the current Activities Direction in relation to community sport, given the pending decisions around postponing the commencement of school may also need further consideration.

## **CONSIDERATIONS**

- Consideration of Clubs' ability to field teams when players are required to isolate due to COVID-19 requirements.
- Recent AIC and MSBL Competition has confirmed that individuals and/or full teams have been required to forfeit or withdraw, largely impacted by SA Health's current "15 minute – indoor without a mask - in close proximity" close contact guideline. Whilst this criterion remains in place, basketball activities are likely to continue to be impacted.
- Due to the condensed nature of the 2022 season, the ability to reschedule games is very limited, especially during the pre-season/grading phase.
- The integrity of the grading phases for Division 3 and below may be compromised if/when games are cancelled.
- Seeding for Division 1 and 2 State Championships may be compromised if/when games are cancelled.

## **APPROACH TO BE IMPLEMENTED**

- For all Competitions/Seasons
  - If teams have some players unable to play, they are encouraged to apply exception clause (rule 6.6.e), which allows players to play twice in the same round to avoid a forfeit.
- During Pre-Season and Grading Season
  - Pre-Season games (Div1&2)**
    - If more than 50% of players from a team are unable to play due to COVID-19 isolation requirements:



- a club can request a game be rescheduled as per rule 5.2 *Fixturing* of the Rules of Operation, SA District League 2022.

OR

- clubs can agree to not replay the game and it will be recorded as a washout with each team granted 2 points on the ladder.

**Grading pool games (Div3 & below)**

- If more than 50% of players from a team are unable to play due to COVID-19 isolation requirements during one of the pool games (Rounds 1-3 and 5-7), the game will not be replayed and will be recorded as a washout.
- Both teams will be granted 2 points on the ladder.

**Grading crossover games (Div3 & below)**

- If more than 50% of players from a team are unable to play due to COVID-19 isolation requirements during one of the crossover games (Rounds 4 & 8) the game will not be replayed and the higher seeded team will “move up” in the next phase.
- The lower seeded team will “move down”.

This may compromise the grading process designed for win/loss outcomes. To counter this impact, the Competition Manager commits to applying rule 6.1.a)ii) *Team Nominations*, which allows for teams to be regraded up until the completion of 25% of the Championship Season Minor Round (Round 5).

- During Championship Season

For all competitions, games can be rescheduled as per rule 5.2 *Fixturing* of the Rules of Operation, SA District League 2022.