

Hello members,

It's been over two months now since we played a competition game and you're probably all starting to wonder when we might get back to playing.

Both the VBSA and the ABSC have been active in pursuing advice for our sport in Australia. The VBSA has primarily been in discussion with [Sports & Recreation Victoria](#) and [Health & Human Services](#) for advice regarding cue sports.

There have been several recent announcements by both Federal and State governments about resumption of sport and recreation activities:

- **The most important advice is that NO INDOOR RECREATIONAL activity [including all cue sports] can be commenced until at least 22nd June 2020.**
- It's important also to note that the changes proposed from 22nd June state clearly **that "sport and exercise activities are only allowed if you can keep your distance (at least 1.5 metres apart) and they are not competitive"**.
- From 22nd June, some venues **MAY** be able to commence operation on a limited basis (**PRACTICE ONLY**) and with strict sanitisation practices set in place – for example:
 - hard surfaces, ball sets, rests, etc need to be cleaned regularly;
 - only 2 players permitted on the table (no referee);
 - social distancing to be observed at all times;
 - room occupancy limits to be strictly observed.

More detailed conditions can be found on the respective departmental websites by clicking on above [links](#). Please understand that we remain in a very "fluid" environment and things can change quickly, either positively or negatively (if the virus breaks out again), so we need to be ready to react when new decisions are made.

The availability of snooker/billiards facilities will depend, to a great degree, on whether the club/venue is "stand-alone" [e.g. Cheltenham, North Brighton] or licensed premises such as an RSL club. Likely resumption of general operations is likely to be different, and apply from varying dates, at each venue.

Against this background, it is obviously difficult to predict at this time when competition play might recommence. Rest assured that your Executive is in regular talks about when we might be able to resume and what that may look like, whether that's a shortened snooker and billiards season or possibly just resuming straight into a billiards season, and also what restrictions must apply in the form of social distancing and hygiene.

As mentioned on 13 March 2020, your Executive will continue to be guided in due course by relevant advice from our affiliate body [VBSA] as well as our members. You are assured that it is our hope and intention that we resume our sport as soon as is practically possible whilst at all times respecting the advice received from authorities and being mindful of the health and welfare of our members.

Club delegates are asked to enquire regularly with their respective Club management team to try to determine a likely timeframe for your venue to become available for pennant play, irrespective of what may be the situation at other venues. Please notify relevant details, as necessary, to your Zone Delegate [Bill or Carl] as soon as possible.

Obviously, much more information will be disseminated to members during the coming weeks/months before any resumption of competition. We'll also seek opinion/feedback from our general members. In the meantime, if you have any relevant questions, please direct them to your Club Delegate and/or Zone Delegate in the first instance.

Finally, Club delegates should note that, if a decision is taken at a future date to abandon the 2020 Snooker Season, the entirety of registration fees paid by each Club for that purpose will be available as credit toward payment of any future season registration fees for that Club until that credited amount is exhausted.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Black

Honorary President