

Geelong Hockey Association acknowledges the work of the Camberwell Hockey Club whose document has been used extensively, in conjunction with other sources, in the discussion of this subject and in the composition of this announcement by the Geelong Hockey Association Executive.

**Geelong Hockey Association Announcement : COVID – 19**  
**17<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

The developments of the COVID -19 Virus are not easy to keep track of. Watching governments across the globe respond in different ways and the subsequent actions of business, professional sports and communities gives no universal direction on how to approach this pandemic.

This announcement reflects the position discussed at the Executive Meeting of the GHA on the evening of 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020. The situation is fast evolving. The Association Executive will be actively reviewing the Association's position and providing further direction to members and visitors as appropriate.

The outcome we are seeking is to assist in minimising transmission of COVID-19. As advised by public announcements this not only protects you, but your immediate and extended families and those you come into contact with. As guidance to minimise transmission please refer to the full list as per HA's statement.

As such, until higher bodies set directions that we must follow, I am announcing the following response on behalf of the Geelong Hockey Association. These actions will remain in place until further notice. **Some may feel this too dramatic. Others will see the measures as not going far enough. Which ever camp you may be in please be assured we are doing these things in the best interest of you, our highest priority.**

As of Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> 2020:

- Training and practice games may continue – at this time.
- We ask that only those directly involved with the team and the game/practise session attend the facility (players, coaches, assistant coaches, managers and umpires)
- We respectfully ask that spectators do not attend the grounds other than to drop off or collect players. NOTE: an exception to this is Parents with younger children that they must keep with them. Do not leave children in cars, but observe social distancing when at the ground.
- Each player/family may make up their own mind as to their participation. These activities are not compulsory and there should be no consequences to missing either.
- Social distancing, personal hygiene and self-isolation are an essential contribution from all members and families.
- We will scale activities back to hockey and admin only.
- Social activities are not to be scheduled at Stead Park or King Lloyd Reserve.
- The canteen will not be opened.
- The BBQ will not be used.
- Gatherings in the social space are not to occur. The rooms will be closed and not accessible.
- Meetings in the Urquhart room at Stead Park must observe “social distancing” measures. Team meetings would generally not satisfy this requirement.
- Toilets will remain accessible. Please ensure that you briskly wash your hands after toileting (20 seconds minimum). The Association cannot provide sanitisation services. We will provide soap and hand towel.
- Change rooms should be considered “Not in Use” as sanitisation cannot be guaranteed. It is recommended that you arrive ready to participate and exit immediately after your participation.
- No shaking hands or other close personal contact. “Stick slaps” or similar could be an alternative form of respect pre and post games.

It is with deep regret that we have come to this conclusion. We, like so many, are acting in an environment where information is uncertain and is certainly continuously evolving, sadly often in a negative way.

We have taken these decisions in what we believe, as lay people, to be in the best interests of all our participants. We will keep you updated on any changes that may occur/be required.

In the meantime please do all those things that will keep you and your family as healthy as possible in these uncertain times.

Alan Climpson,  
President, Geelong Hockey Association.