

New Zealand Rugby Match Day Guide at COVID-19 All CPF Settings

This document should be read in conjunction with **New Zealand Rugby CPF Changing Room Guide** and **RTP Guidance** documents.

- This guidance remains subject to change based on the COVID-19 Protection Framework. NZR will update this advice regularly.

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 several measures to prevent transmission in a number of environments, including community sport.

As a result, community sport organisations need to pay particular attention to

- Defining spaces
- Controlling gathering numbers
- Managing the movement of people,
- Social distancing.
- Maximising ventilation of defined areas wherever possible
- Regular cleaning of sports equipment and surfaces,

Another key tool in the fight against COVID-19 is vaccination.

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.

CPF Settings post 4th April 2022

The Government recently updated it's position in a number of areas:

1. Note from 4 April My Vaccine Passes will no longer be required. Businesses and Gathering and Event's organisers can still require vaccination as a condition of entry but requiring vaccination will not allow for increased capacity limits or freedoms.

2. If venues continue to use My vaccine Passes after 4th April 2022, they need to note the requirements regarding the participation of school teams and athletes where the sporting activity takes place outside of school hours and or off the school premises. In this situation, the following Sport NZ guidance applies:

All primary and secondary students can participate in school sport and recreation regardless of their vaccination status. This includes intra and inter school sport and those representing their school in a club or community competition on and off the school site. Workers, including coaches, managers and parent volunteers will still need to show a valid My Vaccine Pass if your venue requires them. This includes student coaches and officials.

INDOOR RULES UNDER THE COVID-19 PROTECTION FRAMEWORK

Indoor settings	From 11.59pm 4 April	From 11.59pm 4 April	From 11.59pm 4 April
	RED	ORANGE	GREEN
<p>Indoor spaces are generally considered to be venues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that are enclosed by a ceiling and walls, or other similar structures, and • which do not have much, if any, flow of fresh air. <p>Examples include many gyms, hospitality providers and halls.</p>	<p>My Vaccine Passes will no longer be required.</p> <p>The maximum number of people allowed to meet is 200 people.</p> <p>Facemasks are mandatory indoors when not exercising except at swimming pools.</p> <p>Medical facemasks required for customer facing workers.</p> <p>Multiple groups (of up to the capacity limit) can participate in indoor sport and recreation if they can be separated by defined spaces.</p>	<p>My Vaccine Passes will no longer be required</p> <p>No capacity limits.</p> <p>Good health behaviour encourages.</p> <p>Facemasks encouraged when not exercising, except at swimming pools.</p>	<p>My Vaccine Passes will no longer be required.</p> <p>There will be no capacity restrictions.</p> <p>Good health behaviour encouraged.</p> <p>Facemasks not required.</p>

OUTDOOR RULES UNDER THE COVID-19 PROTECTION FRAMEWORK

Outdoor setting	From 11.59pm 4 April	From 11.59pm 4 April	From 11.59pm 4 April
	RED	ORANGE	GREEN
<p>Outdoor spaces are generally considered to be places that have good ventilation, with a decent amount of free flowing, fresh air coming into the space.</p> <p>For example, this could be because the venue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does not have a roof • has fewer than 4 walls, or • because its walls do not go all the way up and still allow a significant amount of air flow 	<p>My Vaccine Passes will no longer be required.</p> <p>No capacity limits.</p> <p>Facemasks are not required in outdoor settings.</p> <p>Attendees do not have to physically distance from others in their group.</p> <p>Multiple groups can participate.</p>	<p>My Vaccine Passes will no longer be required.</p> <p>No capacity limits.</p> <p>Good health behaviour encouraged.</p> <p>Facemasks are not required.</p>	<p>My Vaccine Passes will no longer be required.</p> <p>There will be no capacity restrictions.</p> <p>Good health behaviour encouraged.</p> <p>Facemasks not required.</p>

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 hosting matches are accountable and responsible for developing Match Day plans for their activities and locations in accordance with this guidance and should be making immediate steps to implement this. If there is any doubt as to who is the hosting Club or School and is therefore responsible for executing Match Day plans, this should be confirmed with the PU or match organising body.

- Clubs and Schools are to have developed their match day plans at least 10 days prior to their first games (including preseason) and to have them available for inspection by any entities, such as Provincial Unions, 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 Match Day health and safety plan to support players, coaches and managers and spectators. 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 activity is classified as a **Gathering** and includes players, coaches, management, support staff, spectators that comes into contact with each other in the course of that activity.
- After 4 April 2022 My Vaccine Passes are no longer mandated in certain settings or required and there are no restrictions for outdoor sport and recreation activities if My Vaccine Passes are not used.
- Indoor sport and recreation gatherings that do not require My Vaccine passes are however limited to 200 people per defined space. This would encompass changing facilities and Clubrooms.

Requirements for Community Rugby activities 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 fields of play, which could include warm up areas, technical 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 particularly related to any gathering limits.
- III. NZR recommends identifying designated fields of play 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 competition as the year progresses.
- IV. Planning for each rugby match needs to consider the gathering sizes required for specific defined spaces eg changing rooms or Clubrooms.
- V. Children aged 5-11 years are still counted toward the capacity limit of an event or gathering.
- VI. Should a venue or organiser require vaccination of attendees, the playing participants of Primary and Secondary School organised teams, whether in school or community run competitions, are to be treated as if they are vaccinated and cannot be required to show a My Vaccine Pass. 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.
- VII. People intending on attending a match venue should receive clear communication that vaccine passes are required in advance of their attendance and appropriate signage displayed at the venue.

2. Multiple gatherings are allowed indoors, but:

- I. There should be no intermingling between each group. 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.
- II. Each group needs to remain “as is” for the duration of the event/ gathering. This means there should 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.

III. Ultimately individuals must, at all times, take personal responsibility for minimizing their exposure to multiple gatherings.

3. Facemasks Recommended At Red Setting

- I. At Red setting Facemasks are recommended at all Rugby gatherings and should be worn at all times when not participating in community rugby. Facemasks are still a requirement in indoor environments e.g. Changerooms.
- II. It is recommended that coaches, managers, replacements and other support staff wear masks if possible. Refer to specific Facemask guidance for more detail.

4. 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 fields of play, or match venues. PCP supplies such as hand sanitiser /soap should be readily available to attendees. This is particularly at gathering points such as changing rooms, showers, toilets and clubrooms.

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/>

APPENDIX A**Match day health and safety plan checklist**

Health & Safety Considerations	Potential Health & Safety Actions	Person Responsible	PU Sign Off
<p>Who is Responsible?</p> <p>Each club and school will need to develop, implement and monitor the match day plan.</p> <p>Consider appointing one or more back-up people for each role allocated to ensure some resilience in the plan should one or more people be unavailable or unable to fulfil their role at any time</p>	<p>Note: For the purpose of implementation of the Match Day Plan at neutral venues it may be necessary to identify the Venue "Host". The "Host" will be responsible for implementation of the plan and ensuring systems for Covid Tracing and Vaccine Pass Checking are in place.</p>		
<p>Does anyone outside your club need to be involved in your plan?</p> <p>Consider other authorities and agencies that might need to contribute to or be consulted as part of your plan.</p>			
<p>Fixture Management</p> <p>Gathering management will be required. Venue managers need to consider options available to manage fixtures and communicate any venue related draw considerations to their Competition Organiser (PU)</p> <p>It is important to assess what activity is actually planned at a venue on a given day so that the gathering/s are appropriately resourced and managed. There may only be 1 game planned – or many.</p>	<p>Possible measures that could be considered;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing the number of matches at your ground. • Allowing more time between matches to allow disbursements of all participants prior to next round of matches commencing. • Varying the length of matches played. 		

Health & Safety Considerations	Potential Health & Safety Actions	Person Responsible	PU Sign Off
Consider a match day checklist for the person responsible for the venue or gathering on match day. See Appendix E.			
<p>Co-ordination with other Sports Have you considered other sports that use your facilities/grounds?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make contact early with other users to share Health and Safety plans and co-ordinate activities where possible. • Be flexible around timings and agreed usage to ensure crowd controls can be exercised. 		
<p>Managing Gatherings Outdoor Gatherings are unlimited. But Indoor gatherings are limited to 200.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designate indoor areas as controlled and uncontrolled (e.g. foyer or transit areas) to clarify the implementation of gathering measures. • Consider the use of one-way foot traffic flows. • Appoint club volunteers to manage gathering restrictions. • Develop a plan to ensure that multiple indoor gatherings do not intersect with each other during the course of match days. • Create suitable signage for crowds so they understand their requirements. Be clear about controlled and uncontrolled spaces and foot traffic flows with signage including maps of your grounds and the respective areas. 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up each defined space as a separate Gathering site as required. • Create signage so people know that they need to maintain personal responsibility about maintaining 2 metres distance from other defined spaces. These spaces may include but is not limited to stands and embankments. <p>Resources: View the Contact Tracing resource at https://qrform.tracing.covid19.govt.nz/</p>		

Health & Safety Considerations	Potential Health & Safety Actions	Person Responsible	PU Sign Off
<p>Equipment Cleaning All rugby equipment must be cleaned regularly, and it is recommended it also be done before and after matches.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes but is not limited to balls, hit shields, weights, RipRugby belts, tackle bags, cones, and flags. • Equipment is not to be shared between matches without first being cleaned. • Disinfecting equipment can be achieved with a solution of 1:10 bleach to water solution in a spray bottle. Ensure that your bleach has not expired. Reminder: Your 1:10 bleach solution is only effective for 24 hours. 		
<p>Hand Hygiene There must be hand hygiene measures in place for all participants part of a gathering.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient supplies of hand sanitiser available for all participants prior to entering any gathering. • Access to soap and water to enable good hand washing measures. 		
<p>Changing Room Use Is there a plan in place to ensure players can utilise changing rooms safely and not exceed internal gathering limits (200). Refer to the NZR CPF Training Room Guide for detailed planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only use changing rooms where there is a formal management plan for their use. • Discuss with local authorities their requirements if a council facility is to be used. <p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimising time spent in change rooms. • No Socialising in change rooms pre or post-match • Recommendation; Post-match celebrations/hakas/singing of Club songs conducted on playing fields – not in change rooms (or car parks). • Traffic flows and access to participant toilets/showers 		
<p>After Match Socialising Is there a plan in place to ensure players can socialise safely, meeting the relevant requirements under the setting. This includes gathering limits and service requirements. If clubrooms are used, then the relevant hospitality setting requirements must be observed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only use clubrooms in accordance with CPF settings. • Ensure COVID requirements on gatherings in Clubrooms such as tracing, facemask wearing, and resulting gathering limits are met. • Team or match socialising should not occur in changing rooms or carparks. 		

Health & Safety Considerations	Potential Health & Safety Actions	Person Responsible	PU Sign Off
<p>Monitoring the Plan</p> <p>It is important that all health and safety plans are monitored and adjusted to keep participants safe and as Government guidelines change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monitor your plan in its early stages to ensure that is effective and understood.• Stay updated with New Zealand Rugby and Provincial Union COVID-19 advisories.• Set regular updates to ensure that it remains sustainable and relevant.		

APPENDIX B.

NZR Guidance on the Wearing of Facemasks

You are not required to wear a face mask when you are playing sport or engaging in recreational activities, or when eating or drinking. The requirements for face coverings depend on the traffic light setting:

- At **Green**, face masks are encouraged whenever you are indoors.
- At **Orange**, you need to wear a face mask when indoors, including in retail settings and public facilities, but not swimming pools. You do not need to wear face masks outdoors, however they are still encouraged whenever you leave the house.
- At **Red**, you need to wear a face mask when indoors, including at food and drink businesses, close-proximity businesses, , at public facilities (but not at swimming pools) and at indoors Events and Gatherings (but not when you have exclusive use of an indoor Gathering venue or defined space).
- You do not need to wear a face mask at outdoor Gatherings and Events, non-public facing workplaces and Gyms. Face masks are encouraged whenever you leave the house, even where they are not mandatory. This includes before and after playing sport or engaging in a recreational activity.

At **Red**, a face mask needs to be a proper mask that attaches around the head or ears-scarves, bandanas and t-shirts should not be used. Workers who are covered by the Vaccination Order, including Gym, events and hospitality staff need to wear a medical grade mask when in public facing roles. A medical grade mask is a Type IIR/Level 2 mask or above.

At **Red**, a coach, official or trainer will need to wear a mask unless they are at an outdoors Gathering or when they have exclusive use of an indoors Gathering. At all other times masks need to be worn unless exercising while coaching or instructing others.

At **Orange** and **Green**, you may wish to wear a mask as a coach when training your athletes, particularly if you are indoors.






APPENDIX C.

HOST CLUB MATCH DAY CHECKLIST AT RED

Clubs should prepare in advance a match day plan including layout and scheduling. Try to format is so that the plan can be adapted based on the actual number of games to be played at the venue on a given match day

Not all elements in this checklist be necessary on any given match day – they are draw/venue/grade dependent

For additional guidance refer to NZ Rugby Match Day guidelines.









Before Match Day		CHECKLIST	✓ ✗
	Identify any controlled or uncontrolled areas at the venue – including change rooms and toilet facilities.	Areas defined by ropes/fences or signage	
		Traffic flow plan is in place if required	
		Controlled areas have appropriate MVP signage (if MVP event)	
	Confirm the plan around participant arrival -home & visitors, managing indoor number restrictions	Foot traffic management	
		Management of gathering numbers indoors	
		Change rooms arrangements (if used)	
		Warm up Areas	
		Sideline arrangements/Tech boxes/Masks etc	
	Ensure the required sanitation/cleaning supplies and required signage ^{is up} to date and prior to deployment on Match-day	Cleaning supplies on site	
		Facilities/equipment cleaned ready for use	
	Ensure referees are advised of arrival arrangements, changing facilities, designated areas, the movement of teams etc.	Referees advised of arrangements 24 hrs prior to match day	
	Communicate the venue arrangements to visiting teams and supporters prior to match day e.g., via social media.	Social media	
		Email	
		Website	
		Ground Signage	










✓ = Confirmed/Done




✗ = Not in place/ Not done

NA = Not Applicable

MATCH DAY MANAGEMENT CHECKLISTS

On Match Day	the Venue	CHECKLIST	x ✓
	Check any designated controlled areas are clearly defined. Match gathering areas, spectator gathering areas.		
	Check all signage related to controlled/uncontrolled areas is in place. Gathering limits, contact tracing, MVP checking, foot traffic movements		
	Identify the MVP/Tracing checking location for Match gathering (participants). Ensure the MVP checking app is loaded and operational on as many devices as required to operate the Matchday and designated MVP requires controlled areas.		
	Ensure MVP system checking is done prior to joining the match gathering area or entering the change rooms area. Or, in the case of spectators, before they enter any designated controlled spectator area.		
	It is recommended facemasks are worn whilst at the Match Venue when not actively participating		
	Changing rooms -if used- ensure signage related to traffic flows e.g., timings, direction of flow, facemasks, is in place		
	Check arrangements for referees and all necessary signage related to their facility use and movement is in place.		
	Confirm with the referee/teams, the location of the Pre-Match Briefing and coin toss which shall take place on the field of play and that social distancing measures will be adhered to.		

On Match Day	The Match	CHECKLIST	x ✓
	Advise teams pre-match kit check shall take place-on the field of play, whilst maintaining social distancing.		
	Advise teams the coin toss shall take place on the field of play and ensure social distancing measures are adhered to.		
	Advise teams the winner of the coin toss must inform the referee of their decision immediately.		
	Advise teams that Social Distancing guidelines should be maintained when players are: Speaking to referees during stoppages, dealing with misconduct (yellow/ red cards), assisting injured teammates.		
	Advise Players/Support Staff they should avoid spitting. And monitor during the match		
	Advise teams, Referees will re-start the game as quickly as possible, specifically at re-starts where a group of players can gather		
	Players should use their own individual water bottles and other receptacles during matches		
	Post-match handshakes or the tunnel should not take place		
	Advise managers, when completing the match card/paperwork social distancing guidelines should be adhered to		

On Match Day	After the MATCH	CHECKLIST	x ✓
	Post-match showering facilities should adhere to social distancing and gathering measures		
	Ensure Team or match socialising should not occur in changing rooms or carparks.		
	Post-match hospitality may be offered in accordance with the latest Guidelines		

✓ = Confirmed/Done

✗ = Not in place/ Not done

NA = Not Applicable