



Sport Climbing Australia
Climb Again Initiative
Facility Managers Call
May 8 2020

Before starting, A few updates

- National Events / State Events
- Oceania Championships to be held in December (19th/20th)
- International Events 2020
- Tokyo 2020 - Paris 2024
- Coaching Framework → [Link](#)
- Support for businesses in Australia (Federal, State, Local) → [Business.gov.au](#)
- Ongoing AOC support - Sport Climbing welcomed as a true member of the Olympic Family



Agenda

1. AIS Return to Sport Framework & Ongoing Dialogue with Governmental Agencies
2. International Brief and Resource Sharing
3. Coordinated Approach - Principles and Objectives
4. Open Forum to Discuss Reopening Strategies:
 - Capacity and Contact Management
 - Climber Protection Measures
 - Facility Hygiene Protocols
5. Conclusion



AIS Return to Sport Framework

New Version to be released by COB today

Level A General

Activity that can be conducted by a solo athlete or by pairs where at least 1.5m can always be maintained between participants. No contact between athletes and/or other personnel. Examples for all sports — general fitness aerobic and anaerobic (e.g. running, cycling sprints, hills).

Strength and sport-specific training permitted if no equipment required, or have access to own equipment (e.g. ergometer, weights).

Online coaching and resources (e.g. videos, play books).

No sharing of exercise equipment or communal facilities.

Apply personal hygiene measures even when training away from group facilities — hand hygiene regularly during training (hand sanitisers) plus strictly pre and post training. Do not share drink bottles or towels. Do not attend training if unwell (contact doctor).

Spitting and clearing of nasal/respiratory secretions on ovals or other sport settings must be strongly discouraged.

No spectators unless required (e.g. parent or carer).



AIS Return to Sport Framework

New Version to be released by COB today

Level B general

As per Level A plus:

Indoor/outdoor activity that can be conducted in small groups (not more than 10 athletes and/or other personnel in total) and with adequate spacing (not more than 1 person per 4m²).

Some sharing of sporting equipment permitted

Non-contact skills training. Accidental contact may

occur but no deliberate body contact drills. No wrestling, holding, tackling or binding.

Communal facilities can be used after a sport-specific structured risk assessment and mitigation process is undertaken.

'Get in, train and get out' — Minimise use of communal facilities with limited numbers (not more than 10 athletes/staff in total). Have cleaning protocols in place for equipment and facilities.

Hand hygiene (hand sanitisers) on entry and exit to venues, as well as pre, post and during training. Thorough full body shower with soap before and after training (preferably at home). Where possible maintain distance of at least 1.5m while training.

No socialising or group meals.

No spectators unless required (e.g. parent or carer).

Separate spectators from athletes. Spectators should maintain social distancing of at least 1.5m.



AIS Return to Sport Framework

New Version to be released by COB today

Level C General

As per Level B plus:

Full sporting activity that can be conducted in groups of any size including full contact (competition, tournaments, matches). Wrestling, holding, tackling and/or binding (e.g. rugby scrums) permitted.

For larger team sports, consider maintaining some small group separation at training.

For some athletes full training will be restricted by commercial operation of facilities.

Return to full use of sporting facilities. Continue hygiene and cleaning measures as per Level B.

If any massage beds being used, hygiene practises to include no bed linen except single use towels, cleaning treatment beds and key surfaces after each athlete and hand hygiene.

Limit unnecessary social gatherings.

Minimum contact of non-essential surfaces to occur and hands on treatment should be kept to essential only.

Non-essential personnel should be discouraged from entering change rooms.



Government Agencies Frameworks

→ National Principles for the Resumption of Sport and Recreation Activities

→ AIS Framework for Rebooting Sport in a COVID-19 Environment

New Version to be released by COB today → [LINK](#)

Level A Climbing Specific	Level B Climbing Specific	Level C Climbing Specific
Restricted Training	Full Training	Full Training and Competition
Aerobic and resistance training (solo)	Use of hand sanitiser prior to and after the use of each climb/station	
Climbing on home wall and equipment	Use of liquid chalk only	
Outdoors climbing (if allowed by local Government)	Daily cleaning of floor equipment including bouldering mats	

Also,

- Sport / Amusement / Fitness
- State government and local government decision



International Brief

There is a lot of international cooperation happening to establish best practice. Great leadership has been demonstrated by the German and Italian Federations as well as the Climbing Walls Association in the US. We have been participating via the IFSC MedCom.

Resources to Check Out:

ifsc-climbing.org/index.php/covid-19

↑ Aggregation of Covid related resources. Is being regularly updated on the IFSC site.

climbingwallindustry.org/page/Coronavirus

↑ Ongoing work to share reopening strategies in the US - important to follow as many gyms in the US have already been reopened and are the first to implement these strategies.



Principles and Objectives

We want to re-open!	Exercise and doing the physical activity we love is important to our communities wellbeing - doing everything we can to reopening is an important part how we respond to the current situation.
We need to re-open in a manner that is as safe as possible.	We need to always consider the health and safety of the communities in which we operate and be realistic and transparent about the persistent risks.
We must be ready for changing situations	We may be moving in and out of different levels of social distancing and lockdowns for a significant period of time requiring different actions. We also need to recognise that emerging evidence and information may change advice and guideline developed today.

<https://www.pm.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/attach-national-principles-resumption-sport-recreation-activities.pdf>



Reopening Strategies

Opportunity to discuss in the chat specific action points in 3 categories of strategies:

- Capacity and Contact Management
- Climber Protection Measures
- Facility Hygiene Protocols

Model to evaluate/prioritise strategies:

↑ Cost/Effort	Low Impact High Cost/Effort	High Impact High Cost/Effort
	Low Impact Low Cost/Effort	High Impact Low Cost/Effort
		→ Impact on Transmission Risk



Strategies:

Capacity and Contact Management

operational management interventions:

- Limit of number people in the facility by square metre (timeslots, booking etc)
- Routesetting strategies to spread people out and discourage congregation (spacing, alternating use of lanes, etc)
- No in person events - can we get creative with live streamed events?
- Planning employee rostering to avoid infection across all staff - creation of teams
- Contact minimisation between staff and climbers
- Customer data sharing policies for contact tracing



Strategies:

Climber Protection Measures

Expectations of climbers using the facility:

- Face covering
- Use of hand sanitiser (or liquid chalk) between routes or between distinct boulder problems (not attempts)
- No use of loose chalk
- For roped climbing - no changing pairs and maintain 2 metres distance -> new buddy check protocols
- No sharing ropes outside pairs
- Extra protection for belayers? Goggles needed?
- Follow rope manufacturer guidelines for cleaning/disinfecting rope regularly (focus on 2 metres from either rope end)
- Overall increased responsibility to follow good hygiene practices (ie bring towel to wipe up sweat on mats)



Strategies:

Facility Hygiene Protocols

Cleaning procedures and protocols for staff:

- Staff face covering and regular hand sanitisation
- No rental equipment
- Place a number of hand sanitiser stations around facility
- Close showers
- Regular disinfectant wiping of high traffic areas
- Hold washing protocols



Conclusion

Pace of change can be very rapid; please review your change management procedures within your organisations.

Also be aware that contradictory information may emerge and so change to advice may occur.

Suggestions for regular communication medium

- Regular zoom calls?
- Slack group or alternative?
- Other suggestions?

