

Position Statement: Domestic and International Travel in a COVID Environment

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This Position Statement replaces any and all previous versions (most recently V20210428) of GA's Position Statement: ***Domestic and International Travel in a COVID Environment*** and is effective from 2 February 2022

This Position Statement supplements Gymnastics Australia's [Travel Policy](#) (BP11), and is therefore binding on all members. It remains in effect until the Expiry Date, unless modified or revoked (under the authorisation of the Gymnastics Australia CEO) sooner. The Position Statement may be subsequently reviewed and modified and/or extended beyond the Expiry Date based on government or other requirements with the authorisation of the Gymnastics Australia CEO.

In the instance of any inconsistency between this Position Statement and the Travel Policy, the Position Statement will prevail.

Introduction

In response to the ongoing nature of the global COVID-19 pandemic, Gymnastics Australia continues to update its position on competition, camp, training and conference/seminar activities. The health, safety, and well-being of all of our members is our highest priority.

In developing this Position Statement, consideration has been given to a range of factors including, but not limited to:

- Gymnastics Australia's duty of care towards all members and staff;
- the general environment and its effect on the population worldwide;
- the increase in case numbers in Australia and the increased risk of transmission due to the Omicron variant;
- international and domestic opportunities for training, competition and education;
- international and domestic travel restrictions, flight availability, travel costs, implications for travel cancellations/amendments, and the general risks of travelling in the current climate;
- the potential short and long-term health risks of COVID-19 and its current and emerging variants;
- the improved vaccine rollout both in Australia and overseas; and
- the availability and scope of international travel insurance.

Travel Insurance

* This information is provided by Chubb Insurance, Marsh and GA and is accurate as at the date of this Position Statement. It is not intended to be, nor should it be considered to be, an exhaustive explanation of the insurance environment in these uncertain times. Travellers should ensure that they are personally comfortable with the insurable and uninsurable risks as outlined before they make their decision to travel, as each traveller is personally responsible for this decision and the financial and health implications thereof.

In general, curtailment, disruption and cancellation costs linked to COVID-19 are not covered by the travel insurance program, except in a situation where the potential claim results from an unforeseen circumstance outside the control of the covered person, such as:

- the covered person contracting a confirmed case of COVID-19 prior to departure (noting the guidance in the paragraphs below);
- the covered person having to cancel a declared trip or incurring additional out of pocket expenses whilst on a journey due to the covered person, a close relative, close colleague, or travelling companion being directed by a health authority to quarantine due to a close contact with a positive case of COVID-19; or
- the covered person, a close relative, close colleague, or travelling companion contracting the virus which prevents the Covered Person continuing the journey as planned.

In accordance with the recommendations of Home Affairs and health.gov.au, travellers must check the COVID test requirements of their destination country/countries and airline(s). If required, a positive test result in this situation would force the traveller to cancel or adjust their trip and would likely trigger a travel insurance response.

Travellers who have had a COVID infection prior to departure, but have recovered and are healthy to travel, but then choose not to travel, would not be covered by travel insurance. In the same circumstance, travellers who continue to be unwell would likely be protected by travel insurance.

Medical cover related to COVID-19 is provided under the policy in situations where a traveller contracts COVID-19 internationally, or in transit internationally.

In the case where a minor contracts COVID and their travel is impacted in any of the listed circumstances, a parent/guardian/accompanying adult will also be covered in order to remain with and assist the minor. The costs of the adult will only be covered when the adult is insured under the same policy.

Cover is provided equally to all travellers regardless of their vaccination status.

Cover is only available to GA-approved travel and for trips that have been formally declared to the insurer either as part of the annual renewal or at any time during the insurance year.

What is not covered by the travel insurance policy in relation to COVID-19 is:

- mandatory COVID-19 testing;
- quarantine costs on entry and return home; and

- specialist security services in the instance that the borders close again and the person needs to be evacuated out (unrelated to medical evacuation).

At the time of preparing this position statement, a full COVID-19 exclusion remains in place for pure leisure trips. It is unlikely that any trips insured under the GA travel insurance policy would meet the definition of “pure leisure trips”.

Despite the global uncertainty and challenges posed by COVID-19, Gymnastics Australia’s travel insurance will continue to apply and respond as normal in the case of any non-COVID-19 incidents/issues.

A Business Travel COVID-19 Fact Sheet, issued by CHUBB Insurance, is included as Appendix A of this Position Statement.

Domestic Travel

Government Position on Domestic Travel

It is important to recognise the potential for restrictions and conditions for the state/territory to which you are wishing to travel to and from as each state/territory has discretion in applying their own travel restrictions, which can include:

- closing state borders and restricting travel in and/or out of the state;
- restricting travel in and/or out of areas within that state/territory; and
- requiring people who have travelled to and/or from certain areas to provide a negative COVID-19 test and/or to quarantine for different periods of time.

In some states/territories, some people may be required to contribute to the cost of quarantine.

More information regarding state and territory travel restrictions can be found here:

- [Australian Capital Territory](#)
- [Victoria](#)
- [New South Wales](#)
- [South Australia](#)
- [Tasmania](#)
- [Queensland](#)
- [Western Australia](#)
- [Northern Territory](#)

Gymnastics Australia’s Position on Domestic Travel

Travel restrictions between state and territories are still being implemented to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. The situation can, at any given time, change with minimal warning, with each state and/or territory having the power to quickly implement or modify domestic travel restrictions.



However, with border and access restrictions generally easing for most states and territories, Gymnastics Australia is optimistic that domestic competitions and events planned for 2022 will be going ahead.

Please use the links above to remain updated on travel restrictions, limitations, requirements, and exemptions for the state or territory in which you reside.

If the circumstances change another update will be published to inform all members of GA's position as soon as possible.

International Travel

Government Position on International Travel

Australia's borders are beginning to re-open, and as such all fully vaccinated travellers no longer need to provide an exemption to travel out of or return to the country. For more detail, please visit the [Australian Department of Health website](#).

To stay up to date with international travel advice, please continue to monitor the Home Affairs website, as well as "Smart Traveller" (<https://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/>) for official government travel advice.

In summary, outbound travellers must:

- be fully vaccinated unless they are a child 11 years or younger, or medically exempt;
- be aware of other countries requirements for a pre-departure test (Australia no longer requires outbound travellers to submit a negative COVID-19 PCR test at check-in); and
- wear a mask for the duration of the flight, and in all Australian airports (please also check the mask requirements of the country you are travelling to).

Gymnastics Australia's Position on International Travel

In reviewing GA's position on International Travel, the following factors have been considered:

- Gymnastics Australia's duty of care towards all members and staff;
- the improved vaccine rollout both in Australia and overseas;
- the recommencement and rescheduling of international competitions; and
- the recognition of elite Australian athletes' desire to continue to pursue their careers.

While Gymnastics Australia will not yet consider a full suite of international participation and will not be endorsing any international club tours, the following benchmark events for the first quarter of 2022 have been approved for international travel:

Event	Gymsport	Date
Trampoline World Cup Series – BAKU	TRP	12-13 February 2022
2022 Apparatus World Cup Series – various locations	MAG/WAG	February / March / April 2022
28 th FIG Acrobatic Gymnastics World Championships – BAKU	ACR	10-13 March 2022
EnBW DTB POKAL Mixed Cup Stuttgart	WAG	18-20 March 2022
Rhythmic Gymnastics World Cup Series – Greece & Italy	RG	March/April 2022

Please note that selection of athletes for these events only will be based on individual Gymsports performance targets for each event and as per the relevant Event Selection Policy.



All athletes selected to compete in these approved events must sign the Informed Consent for International Travel (see below), be fully vaccinated (and booster shot where applicable) and adhere at all times to Australian Government, event host government, and airline regulations concerning COVID-19 testing, isolation, quarantine, and mask requirements.

All international travel must be approved by the CEO of Gymnastics Australia (and in the event of the CEO travelling, by the President of Gymnastics Australia).

Gymnastics Australia will continue to monitor the situation and will align with Federal Government directions. A further statement on international travel will be made no later than Monday 28 February 2022, and a similar schedule of approved events for subsequent quarters in 2022 will be included in future versions of this Position Statement.

Club Tours

GA will not be endorsing any club tour requests in the first quarter of 2022. GA does however understand this does not prevent a club from travelling overseas to international competitions. If a club does decide to travel to an international competition during this period, the club will not be able to access GA's Travel Insurance Policy.

Individual Responsibility

This Position Statement MUST be read in conjunction with GA's Vaccination Position Statement ([here](#)).

In the current climate, GA will not mandate travel for any events. Where possible, GA will endeavour to provide an online/virtual alternative to enable participation by an individual.

Travellers are encouraged to consider this Position Statement, to consult widely credible sources of medical information, to discuss the risks with family and/or friends, before arriving at an individually informed decision.

Minors should, of course, undertake this decision-making process in consultation with his/her/their parents/guardians.

From an athlete perspective, whilst an individual's decision to not travel in the current climate will impact their participation in camps and/or competitions at present, it will have no bearing on their future consideration for selection for travel on behalf of Gymnastics Australia.



Informed Consent for International Travel

I confirm that I have read GA's latest version (v20220204) of the Travel Position Statement in regards to international competition and acknowledge the following:

- I am required to have completed a full and approved vaccination course, or have government approved medical exemption;
- Overseas travel is likely to involve an elevated risk of contracting COVID-19.
- COVID-19 is a serious disease that can be fatal or can cause long-term health impacts.
- Individuals with pre-existing disease/conditions are at higher risk of serious complications from COVID-19.
- Contracting COVID-19 may cause long-term health effects that impact upon capacity to exercise.
- Contracting COVID-19 may impact on my ability to compete at events.
- Contracting COVID-19 will necessitate medical clearance from a specialist before resuming high intensity sport.
- Contracting COVID-19 may require one or more of enforced quarantine, restricted ability to travel, hospitalisation, ICU admission.
- Medical treatment overseas could result in financial costs in multiple tens of thousands of Australian dollars per day. It is my responsibility to ensure that I have appropriate insurance or other arrangements in place to meet any medically related financial costs that may arise. Insurance policies must specifically cover treatment for COVID-19.
- On return to Australia, quarantine may be required (differing between each state and territory), and, if required, will be at the expense of the traveller.

Name

Signature

Date of Birth

Date of Signing

If I am under 18 at the time of making this declaration, my parent/guardian consent is indicated by their signature below:

Name

Signature

Date of Birth

Date of Signing

Appendix A: CHUBB Insurance Business Travel Insurance (COVID-19 Endorsement)

Business Travel Insurance

COVID-19 Endorsement

CHUBB



Alterations to cover under the Policy have been made by way of Endorsement with regard to losses incurred due to Coronavirus Disease 19 (COVID-19).

The Policy will NOT cover any claims under Section 6 - Cancellation and Disruption of the Policy where the loss directly or indirectly arises from, relates to, or is in any way connected with COVID-19 (or any mutation or variation thereof or any related strain) and/or its outbreak (COVID-19 Exclusion),

provided that this COVID-19 Exclusion shall not apply in respect of claims resulting from an unforeseen circumstance outside the control of the Policyholder or Covered Person for:

- Loss of Deposits, if the Journey is necessarily altered or cancelled prior to commencement; or
- Cancellation and Curtailment Expenses, if unbudgeted additional or forfeited Travel or Accommodation Expenses or out of pocket expenses are necessarily incurred while on a Journey,

in each case due to:

- the Covered Person's unexpected death from COVID-19; or
- the Covered Person contracting COVID-19; or

- the Covered Person, a Close Relative, Close Colleague or travelling companion of the Covered Person being directed by a health authority to quarantine because of a close contact with a positive or suspected positive case of COVID-19; or
- a Close Relative, Close Colleague or travelling companion of the Covered Person contracting COVID-19, or their unexpected death from COVID-19,

which prevents the Covered Person commencing/continuing the Journey as planned.

This COVID-19 Exclusion shall not apply in respect of claims under Section 4 - Medical, Evacuation and Additional Expenses where the Covered Person contracts COVID-19 while travelling overseas. Therefore, claims for Medical, Evacuation and Additional Expenses arising from COVID-19 are covered (subject to the terms, conditions and exclusions of the Policy).

Contact Us

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