

Position Statement: Domestic and International Travel in a COVID Environment

Document Version Number	2
Effective From	18 February 2021

This Position Statement supplements Gymnastics Australia's [Travel Policy](#) and remains in effect until such time as it is repealed or amended by the Gymnastics Australia CEO. In the instance of any inconsistency between this Position Statement and the Policy, the Position Statement will prevail.

Introduction

In response to the current global COVID-19 pandemic, Gymnastics Australia (GA) wishes to make public its current position in relation to international and domestic competition activities.

GA understands that gymnastics athletes, by their nature, want to test themselves in the competition arena and to compete against the best in the country and across the globe. In the current COVID environment however many domestic and international events have been postponed or cancelled, including the Tokyo Olympic Games. GA acknowledges the re-scheduling of some events and the extension of the FIG Olympic qualification for the Tokyo2020 Olympic Games meaning that our gymnasts still have the opportunity to earn an Olympic quota by competing in key international events.

The safety, health and well-being of all our members is our highest priority and gymnasts, coaches and administrators across all Gymsports need to recognise that in these extraordinary times, the potential risks of domestic and international travel may outweigh the perceived benefits, and, even if able to travel, should consider all relevant factors in their deliberations as to whether to seek approval to 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. 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 quarantine for 14 days.

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

Across the past 12 months and potentially into the future, travel restrictions between state and territories, in certain geographic regions, and in some remotes areas of Australia have been implemented to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. The situation changes quite often and with minimal warning, with each state and/or territory having the power to quickly implement border closures, harsher quarantine regulations and, in some instances, the requirement of a [travel permit](#) (or other formal application/approval process).

Further, Gymnastics Australia's travel insurance now classifies COVID-19 as a 'known circumstance' meaning that any claims directly or indirectly that result due to COVID-19 (or any mutation or variation of the COVID-19 strain) will not be covered.

(GA's travel insurance will continue to apply in the case of any non-COVID-19 incidents/issues.)

As a result of this uncertainty, Gymnastics Australia has made the decision to discontinue and refrain from any activity that requires domestic travel until further notice, with the only exceptions being (at the discretion of the CEO):

- genuinely business critical travel and
- athletes travelling for national squad camps in all disciplines.

These exceptions, and therefore all domestic travel requires the approval of the GA CEO.

Individuals wishing to travel domestically on behalf of Gymnastics Australia must apply for approval from the CEO and must complete the Informed Consent Form attached to this policy statement.

Government Position on International Travel

As at the effective date of this policy, all international travel from Australia is prohibited, with exceptions in very few circumstances (<https://covid19.homeaffairs.gov.au/leaving-australia>). Any prospective international traveller should continue to monitor the Home Affairs website, as well as "Smart Traveller" (<https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/>) for official government travel advice.

In summary the only reasons that international travel is allowed are as follows:

- your travel is as part of the response to the COVID-19 outbreak, including the provision of aid
- your travel is essential for the conduct of critical industries and business (including export and import industries)
- you are travelling to receive urgent medical treatment that is not available in Australia
- you are travelling on urgent and unavoidable personal business
- you are travelling on compassionate or humanitarian grounds
- your travel is in the national interest.

Gymnastics Australia's Position on International Travel

First and foremost, and in all circumstances, Gymnastics Australia will follow the advice of the Australian Government with all protocols based on credible evidence.

As such, GA will not conduct and/or endorse any national team or judging activity outside of Australia until further notice, with the following possible exceptions:

- gymnasts who have earned an Olympic quota place for Tokyo2020 and are required to attend international events in their preparation;
- gymnasts who are required to attend Olympic qualifying events in their pursuit to be awarded an Olympic quota place.

GA, at present, will only consider endorsing nominations for elite gymnasts with a genuine chance of Olympic qualification to participate in Olympic qualifying or preparation events. Gymnasts in these categories will be required to fulfill all requirements including but not limited to medical and health, travel and quarantine periods and acknowledge and accept cost and risk factors and will need to sign the attached "Informed Consent for International Travel" declaration.

It should be noted however that the granting of an exemption for travel by GA does not guarantee that the Federal Government will also grant an exemption. Any individual who chooses to pursue a travel exemption from the Federal Government without the endorsement of GA does so entirely at their own risk and their own cost.

Consideration of whether GA will support an individual's application for exemption will be based on the following:

- restrictions or advisory from the Australian Federal Government;
- regulations governing arrivals, permitted gatherings and activities in the destination country/countries;
- healthcare facilities at the destination;
- local transmission rates at the destination (and at points of transit to/from the destination);
- health vulnerabilities of all members of the travelling party;
- quarantine requirements at the destination (and at points of transit to/from the destination);
- availability/applicability of travel insurance;
- quarantine requirements upon returning to Australia.

Decisions in relation to the above exceptions will be made by the CEO in consultation with the National Performance Director.

For the avoidance of doubt, GA will not, in the current situation, select National teams and endorse applications for international travel exemption to participate in international events with the exception of the above.

Australian teams selected for 2020 events for non-Olympic Gymsports that have been rescheduled will not be endorsed for travel in the current environment. This is inclusive of World Championships and World Age Group Competitions. This decision is in line with the limited reasons for exemptions as published by the Federal Government, as detailed above.

Similarly, GA will not, in the current environment, conduct or endorse any international travel for non-competitive activities by athletes, coaches, judges, officials, or staff.

GA will continue to monitor the global situation and reserves the right to modify its approach to its activities as the situation develops over the next few months.

Travel Insurance and COVID-19

Statement from the insurer (Chubb):

Policies and paid travel arrangements purchased after 23 March 2020 will not provide any cover for claims directly or indirectly arising from, relating to or in any way connected with COVID-19 (or any mutation or variation thereof or any related strain). We will not therefore cover claims relating to any inability to travel, any decision not to travel or any changes to travel plans, nor any medical or health related loss or expense incurred, as a result of COVID-19.

Any claims directly or indirectly that result due to COVID-19 (or any mutation or variation of the COVID-19 strain) will not be covered. Any claims relating to the:

- inability to travel
- travel plans put on halt
- modified travel plans

as a result of COVID-19 will not be covered by Gymnastics Australia. Nor will any medical or health related expenditures or losses incurred as a result of COVID-19.

Informed Consent for International Travel

I confirm that I have requested exemption to travel overseas for reasons related to sport participation.

I acknowledge that I have been informed and have informed myself of the following:

- 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 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 ability to compete at Olympic Games.
- 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.
- It may be very difficult and expensive to book return flights to Australia.
- On return to Australia, 14 days of supervised hotel quarantine is likely to be required, 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

Informed Consent for Domestic Travel

I confirm that I have requested exemption to travel domestically (i.e. entirely within Australia) for reasons related to gymnastics participation or gymnastics administration.

I acknowledge that I have been informed and have informed myself of the following:

- Domestic travel may 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 are at higher risk of serious complications,.
 - that may cause long-term health effects that impact upon capacity to exercise,
 - may impact on ability to compete at gymnastics competitions,
 - will necessitate medical clearance from a specialist before resuming high intensity sport, and
 - may require one or more of enforced quarantine, restricted ability to travel, hospitalisation, ICU admission.
- Gymnastics Australia's travel insurance does not apply to issues pertaining to COVID-19 and if I am impacted by travel restrictions, I may be personally subject to costs associated with those impacts.

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