

7 May 2020

## STATEMENT

**The Great Public Schools Association of Queensland (GPS) is monitoring the rapidly evolving health guidelines and rules associated with COVID-19 and refer our community to the recently announced [National Framework for the resumption of Sport and Recreation Activities](#).**

Since suspending all GPS Sport and Activities in mid-March, the GPS Association along side the nine (9) Member Schools has been working on scenario planning for the remainder of the year. The priority of the GPS Association is to provide all students with the opportunity to participate safely in a Sport or Activity.

In following the National Framework a staged return is required with an initial phase of small group (less than 10 individuals) activities in a non-contact fashion, prior to moving onto a subsequent phase of large groups (more than 10 individuals) activities including full contact training and competition in sport. **It is noted that we are currently on level A, which allows solo training only.**

The Queensland State Government will be responsible for sport and recreation resumption decisions, both at the professional and community level and will determine progression through the phases, taking account of local epidemiology, risk mitigation strategies and public health.

Following the May 6 announcement from the QLD State Government regarding school sport, there will be no GPS competition, including trial games or pre-season meets conducted in term 2. Pending changes to State Government guidelines, current social distancing restrictions and governing sporting organisations moving to level C, the GPS is modelling a return to competition option for Term 3.

The modelling would see Tennis, Football, Chess, Rugby and Basketball be facilitated in term 3 concurrently. Modifications may be made to the traditional home and away structures in facilitating a crossover of all activities in the one term.

The GPS Cross Country, Sailing and Gymnastics Championships will be postponed with a date to be announced with options being explored for term 3 and 4. Unfortunately the GPS Music Day of Excellence will be cancelled for 2020, based on a crowded calendar with the intention that member schools will focus on internal school music programs when restrictions are eased.

It is anticipated that all Sport and Activities will have continued restrictions on spectator numbers and as such the GPS will be placing guidelines around this if and when GPS Sports and Activities restart.

These are difficult decisions and the GPS Association appreciates the support of all nine (9) members schools in playing their part to reduce the risk of the spread of COVID-19. The GPS Association will continue to review the COVID-19 situation in the days, weeks and months ahead and make further decisions as required.

END.