

BMG guidelines for flying operations during COVID-19 restrictions: 13 May 2020

The Vic government has advised that a common sense approach be applied to the resumption of sport and outdoor recreational activities. The CFIs of the three Bacchus Marsh gliding clubs have agreed to the following guidelines to enable safe and compliant flying operations.

Flying operations can resume for each club at Bacchus Marsh under the following guidelines:

1. Club members must not to come to the airfield if they:
 - have an active case of COVID-19 or have been in contact with a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the last three weeks.
 - do not feel well, show signs or symptoms of cold or flu, (or if other members of their family who live with them under the same roof are similarly unwell)
2. Each club can operate simultaneously, but separately, on the airfield with only 10 people participating at any one time, in addition to those people running the operation (e.g. L2, tuggie), ensuring that people keep a distance of 1.5 m from each other. While it justifiably requires at least five additional people (i.e. tug pilot, L2 instructor, wing runner, front signaller, a duty pilot/time keeper) to run an operation in addition to the pilot, the three clubs should limit the number of people at the launch site to 10 in total for all three clubs.
3. People who don't need to be at the launch site should locate themselves elsewhere until required at the launch site (e.g. near the hangars doing maintenance or in their cars reading up on theory).
4. If using a pie cart of each club should be separated sufficiently (e.g. 5 m) to delineate each separate group. Members should stay near their club's pie cart unless assisting with the launch or retrieval of an aircraft. The number of people within the pie cart should be limited to one person per 4 m².
5. The clubhouse can be accessed only for the purpose of using the toilets and club equipment, ensuring that the number of people in a room doesn't exceed one person per 4 m² and people keep a distance of 1.5 m from each other.
6. Hangars can be accessed for essential maintenance activities and club equipment, ensuring that the number of people in a hangar doesn't exceed one person per 4 m² and people keep a distance of 1.5 m from each other.
7. Club members must exercise good hygiene in the form of regular hand washing or the use of hand sanitisers and should download the COVIDSafe app to their phones.
8. Club members must sanitise high-contact surfaces with 70% alcohol or detergent between uses, including control surfaces within aircraft between different pilots, and avoid touching the aircraft or equipment belonging to the other clubs.
9. All gliding flights must be conducted in a manner that will ensure there is a low risk of an out-landing.
10. Wherever possible pilots should use their own vehicle for moving their glider to and from the hangar and the use of the golf buggy should be limited to one person at a time.
11. Individual clubs should keep a record of attendees to the launch site.
12. The CFIs (or their nominees) of each club will coordinate when each club will be operating and the numbers of participants, at the launch site.

The above guidelines were determined based on the following clauses extracted from the DHHS website: <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/sport-cultural-and-recreational-activities-restrictions-coronavirus-covid19>

1. Outdoors activities are allowed, as long as the other principles are met
2. Non-contact sports and exercise are allowed but you need to maintain physical distancing
3. Your outdoor sport or exercise activity can be part of a club, but you cannot use club facilities, except toilets. You can use toilet facilities connected to a permitted sport location. However, clubhouses, bars, eating areas, indoor sitting areas, showers and change facilities must remain closed.
4. If the activity involves shared equipment, only equipment with smooth, hard surfaces should be available for use and the equipment should be sanitised between users.
5. You can participate in training for all sports, but it must be non-contact, with only 10 people participating at any one time in addition to those people running the training (e.g. coach, manager). You can take a tai chi or yoga class outside – as long as you are in a group of no more than ten people plus the minimum number of people required to lead the class.
6. Under the new directions, you can play golf in groups of no more than 10 people. You must ensure 1.5 metres can be maintained between yourself and others. As always though, Victorians are being asked to be considered and use common sense when it comes their activities.
7. Can I go to the park? Yes, you can relax at the park, have a picnic or play non-contact sports. Keep at least 1.5 metres between yourself and other people at all times. You can meet up with friends, family and loved ones at the park but only in groups of up to 10 people, and multiple groups of 10 people should not gather close by.
8. Yes, you can relax at the beach, have a picnic or play non-contact sports. Keep at least 1.5 metres between yourself and other people at all times. You cannot gather in groups of more than 10 people at any one time, and multiple groups of 10 people should not gather close by.
9. Can different fitness or recreation groups hold separate activities in the same park? Victorians are urged to continue to follow the rules and to use common sense while outside exercising. People should be mindful that numerous groups of 10 should not gather in the same location or close together.
10. The following principles have been developed to guide in the lifting of restrictions around recreation activity. Recreation activities can resume if:
 - you can keep your distance (at least 1.5 metres apart)
 - you are doing your activities in a public space; and
 - you are not competing (team vs team); and
 - it is a non-contact activity and you can keep 1.5 metres between yourself and others; and
 - you can do them with a maximum of 10 people.
11. Can I get out on the water in my boat with a mate? It's a small boat. Do we need to be physically distant? Under the new directions, you can go out boating. But you must maintain 1.5 metres between yourself and others. If you are doing these activities in a group there should be no more than 10 people.
12. Can I learn to drive? Under new arrangements that came into effect at 11.59 pm on Tuesday 12 May, driving for practice is now permitted, as well as attending driving lessons and flying lessons.