

## **RETURN TO BASKETBALL TIPS FOR CHANGING THE FLOW OF PEOPLE IN VENUES**

A safe return to basketball will be a concerted effort from the basketball community with associations, clubs and participants all needing to do things a little differently as we return to basketball in line with government regulations.

The return to basketball is governed by the restrictions in each state/territory and whilst these have been eased recently it is a constantly evolving space. Basketball has taken a national approach to returning to sport and guidelines to assist local basketball associations and clubs have been developed in consultation with Federal and State government ([www.australia.basketball/covid-19/](http://www.australia.basketball/covid-19/)).

One of the key requirements is to avoid having large concentrations of people and accordingly one measure that must be taken is to consider altering the “flow” of people in each venue. It is impossible to dictate how this must happen as the situations in each venue vary widely, however the following must be considered:

- Where possible, have different entry and exit points
- Ensure that one group has completely left an area before the next group moves in
- Have physical barriers in place in corridors or entry/exit areas where people move in both directions

To implement these measures may mean utilising different entry/exit points (e.g. Fire Doors), changing the route that people take within the venue or closing parts of the venue (e.g. seating areas, change rooms or toilets). However, in considering such measures we must ensure that we do not create more issues that we resolve. Accordingly, the following should also be considered:

### **1. ONLY USE ALTERNATIVE ACCESS WHEN IT IS BETTER**

The use of alternative access points (such as Fire Doors) should only be done if it is safe to do so. Consider:

- Lighting: is their sufficient lighting outside the door
- Flat: is the ground outside the door flat and easy to walk on
- Mobility accessible: is the door able to be used by people with a mobility restriction (e.g. wheelchair, walking frame, crutches). Do you need someone at the door to open it?
- Parent friendly: is the door parent friendly – can a person with a pram easily access it?

### **2. GUIDE PEOPLE ON A DIFFERENT ROUTE**

Habit can make us careless and no matter how good signage might be directing people where to go, they simply may not see it – they know where to go they do it all the time! Accordingly, if you are changing where and how people move around the stadium, consider having a person at points where there is a change to inform people.

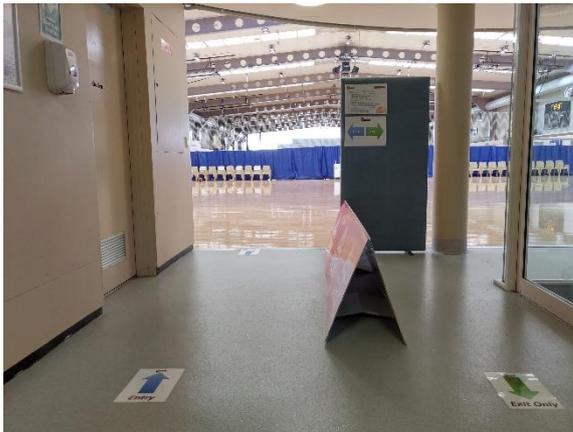
This will also help people with a level of vision impairment who might not see a sign.

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### 3. SEPARATE BUT DON'T CREATE HAZARDS

In many venues, there is only one entry/exit point and accordingly you need to clearly mark where people enter and where they leave. Create a physical barrier but not a hazard. For example, use an A-frame sign or rope to create two separate corridors.

Use arrows to show the direction people are meant to move and place them on the floor as well as on walls. When placing them on the floor make sure that they are well secured and will not slip. Paint them if you can.



### 4. ALLOW TIME FOR EVERYONE TO MOVE

Not everyone moves at the same pace. Allow time for everyone to move out of an area before the next group move in.

### 5. NO SPECTATORS, NO WORRIES?

Particularly in the early stages of the return to organised sport activities, only small numbers of people will be allowed in one area. For some competition, this does not present a problem. However, for activities involving young children or people with higher needs, not having parents or support people may mean it is not feasible to do those activities.