**TO OUR PIRATE MEMBERS AND FAMILIES:**

We hope all of our Pirates family members have kept well during the Covid-19 Pandemic and hope you are all ready to return to Basketball very soon. We are grateful for the support we have received from so many of you during COVID-19 and look forward to hitting the ground running when we can resume operation. There has been a tremendous amount of work that has been going on behind the scenes, to ensure we are ready to provide a safe and healthy environment when we can resume once the restrictions are lifted.

**Our Road Map back to Basketball:**

The Queensland Government has released a document outlining a timeline for the easing of restrictions for the community. Based on these guidelines, and the national guidelines from Basketball Australia, Basketball Queensland has drafted a document for a return to Basketball. South West Metro has contributed to the development of this document and have shared this document with the Brisbane City Council, to ensure all parties will be aware of the processes that will be followed once we can recommence our basketball activities.​

Basketball Queensland is expected to have the final draft of the “Return to Sport” document delivered by the end of May.  South West Metro Management and Committee will then meet to discuss the document, and our action plan, in partnership with Brisbane City Council.

We will then action and implement the plan and operational guidelines, looking to reopen Hibiscus Stadium at Stage 2 level (June 12 – Qld Gov’t date). This will heavily depend on all health requirements being met.

It is anticipated that most of our competitions will recommence once we are in Stage 3 of the plan in mid-July.

​A return to basketball operations will look vastly different to the previous, normal processes we used before Covid-19. We will need to ensure that our new operations and processes are safe, first and foremost, and it will be necessary to implement and follow the strict guidelines that will be required for us to open our doors again. We are also currently discussing access with our many school venues, that will hopefully enable the resumption of Representative basketball trainings in the next month.

​New requirements including, but not limited to, will be:​

* Separate designated entry and exit points of the Hibiscus Stadium, plus any other venue we will use.
* Sanitisation points on entry, exit and throughout the stadium.
* Temperature checks on entry.
* A log of every person who enters and exits the stadium and relevant COVID-19 questions.
* Limitations on spectators (for the first few weeks, or even months, this may mean NO spectators at all).
* Additional time between games to exit players, sanitise court areas and allow the next teams to enter (20 minutes).
* Limited access to areas inside the stadium.
* Payments via Eftpos or prepaid online.
* Stadium users must bring own ball and equipment for training or casual use, but only two basketballs may be permitted per team during competitions.

​There will be further communications regarding restrictions and limitations once the updated “Return to Sport” guidelines are released.

​**Stadium Bookings**

​All bookings for Hibiscus Stadium must be sent through to: bookings@hibiscusstadium.com.au

We anticipate limited access during Stage 2 from mid-June, and as further Government restrictions are eased, greater access from mid-July. With restrictions on numbers allowed in the venue, there may be minimal casual booking access until further notice.

**McDonald’s Superhoopers Skill Development Programs:**

With the proposed restrictions on spectator numbers in each venue at one time, it has been decided to wait until Term 4 to restart our McDonald’s Superhoopers Skill Development Programs. Given the young ages of the participants, some programs require at least one parent to attend and sometimes two parents, plus siblings, do come along to watch the sessions. South West Metro will reassess the start dates and formats once the Basketball Qld “Return to Sport” guidelines are released.

​**Junior Club Domestic Competition:**

​The McDonald’s Junior Competition is set to recommence from 17th/18th July. The current plan has been advised to our Clubs that make up this highly successful and competitive competition. We will make sure that we operate this competition in a safe and appropriate environment. Guidelines around how the competition will be delivered will be announced once the final “Return to Sport” protocols are released. This will be an extended season which will continue until the end of the year. Teams and age brackets that were in place prior to the Pandemic break will continue in the returned competition.

​Any questions on the SWMBI Junior competition can be emailed to your Club in the first instance and then these will then be communicated to our Competitions Manager - Chris Rideout, if necessary​.

**Senior Competitions:**

​SWMBI Senior Men’s and Women’s domestic competitions will commence from mid-July. Teams are currently being contacted to develop the competition structure. Protocols around how the competition will operate in relation to COVID-19 will be announced once the final “Return to Sport” guidelines are released. These will be seasons that will run on Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. These competitions will be made up of a full season which will conclude in December 2020.

​All correspondence relating to our Senior competitions can be directed to Chris Rideout at: admin@southwestbasketball.com.au

**SWM Pirates Representative Program:**

​Following a decision by Basketball Queensland and all affiliated associations, the remainder of BQJBC and State Championships will be confirmed and announced prior to the end of May. Teams have been contacted regarding the decision and the calendar that will be in place for the remainder of the 2019/2020 season and the plans for the following season 2020/2021. The intention is to recommence these competitions and still conduct State Championships if possible. This will be dependent on confirmation from Government authorities on the numbers of attendees permitted inside the stadiums and the clarification of Basketball as a ‘non-Contact’ activity.

We are looking forward to welcoming you back to Basketball very soon,

Rob Tankey

SWMBI General Manager

for, and on behalf of, the SWMBI Management Committee and Staff

24 May 2020



​