"Play Safe - Poker NSW" - COVID-19 Safety Plan for the conduct Poker in Licensed Venues in NSW

Poker NSW is a co-operative containing a large group of poker operators that represent >90% of the poker events that are conducted in NSW hospitality venues. Poker NSW has developed a strict set of guidelines as per the below for the conduct of all poker tournaments in licensed venues in this state. These guidelines have been developed in order to mitigate the risk associated with Covid-19 when operating a poker tournament in licensed venues. These guidelines have been drafted by Poker NSW based on discussions with NSW Police and they are established to ensure the poker playing environment remains as safe as possible for staff and the general public during the conduct of tournaments.

Latest Updates

This **VERSION 16.2** of the COVID Safety Plan was updated on **18/02/22**.

a) From 15th December, all people regardless of vaccination status can enter a venue, unless a venue has chosen to exercise their right under the NSW Public Health Order to exclude unvaccinated persons, in which case all players must be double vaccinated (or have the Services NSW medical exemption certificate)

b) All tournament directors, regardless of vaccination status, are permitted to work in venues that have not chosen to exclude unvaccinated persons – in this case, an unvaccinated tournament director is required to wear a mask. For venues that have chosen to exclude unvaccinated persons, then all tournament directors must be double vaccinated (or have the Services NSW medical exemption certificate) within NSW

c) All tournaments in NSW no longer have a density requirement

d) Until 11:59pm 24th February, masks must be worn by tournament directors and players (unless they have a medical exemption) at all events in indoor settings. From 12:00am 25th February, masks are strongly recommended (not mandatory) for all players and tournament directors, regardless of vaccination status

This plan applies to all events in NSW from 18/02/22

Equipment made available to Tournament Directors

Tournament Directors will be supplied with sanitiser, disinfectant spray and antibacterial wipes, where not supplied by the venue. Masks should be made available at registration for those that wish to wear them.

Item #	Area	Actions
1	Infection Control Training for Tournament Directors	All Tournament Directors must undertake the Infection Control Training offered by the Government via this link: https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-infection-control-training Tournament Directors must display their Infection Control Training Certificate at registration. Tournament Directors must be made aware of their obligations as per this COVID-19 Safety Plan. Tournament Directors must also be made aware if they are displaying any cold-like symptoms they must let their direct report know and not attend the event.
2	Room Capacity	There is no longer a density limit.
3	Contact with Covid-19 Safety Marshall	Tournament Directors are asked to make contact with the Covid-19 Safety Hygiene Marshall appointed by the venue prior to each event to ensure they are and remain satisfied with the conduct of the tournaments.
4	General Health	**All players, regardless of vaccination status, can enter a venue UNLESS the venue has chosen to exclude unvaccinated persons as outlined in the NSW Public Health order, in which case players at that venue must be double vaccinated (or have the Services NSW medical exemption certificate) as condition of entry into the venue.** At registration the Tournament Director must ask all players if they have experienced any cold like symptoms in the previous 7 days. If they answer in the affirmative, they are not permitted to play. Any player showing signs of ill health such as persistent coughing, runny nose or fever will be asked to leave the tournament and referred to venue management.
5	Masks are Strongly Recommended (not Mandatory)	Until 11:59pm 24th February, masks must be worn by tournament directors and players (unless they have a medical exemption) at all events in indoor settings. From 12:00am 25th February, masks are strongly recommended (not mandatory) for all players and tournament directors, regardless of vaccination status
6	Seated Players	There is no food permitted to be consumed at the poker tables. All food and beverages must be consumed whilst seated in the venue.

7	Hand Hygiene	Hand Sanitizer will be made available at registration. Players will be asked to sanitize their hands at registration and every 20 minutes thereafter. During the breaks of play players will be asked to wash their hands with soap and water.
8	Cleaning of Equipment	All tables must be sanitised with an anti-bacterial wipe on the outer rims prior to the commencement of the event. Tables must also be sanitised again using anti-bacterial wipes prior to any player changing seats and during the breaks of play. Chairs must be sanitised using anti-bacterial wipes prior to any player changing seats. All chips and cards are to be sprayed with an anti-bacterial solution before and after each event and during each scheduled break of the tournament.
9	Distancing	There is no longer a density limit. It is recommended that all poker tables in the room should be spaced out at a minimum distance of 1.5m from each other. Registration for the tournament is open for at least 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the tournament which allows players to register at different time intervals and spreads out the potential for a queue to develop during this process.
10	Contact Tracing	Player details must be captured at registration to ensure contact tracing can occur if required. The minimum details required include date and time of participation in the event, first name and surname and either a mobile or email address.
11	Conditions of Entry/Signage	The Tournament Directors Infection Control Training certificate must be on display at registration of the event. A sign indicating appropriate hand and general hygiene practises must be made available at registration for players to view. A copy of this Play Poker Safe NSW COVID-19 must be available at registration of every poker tournament. A copy of this plan must be available on the poker league operator's website and/or social media pages.
12	Co-operation with NSW Health	All poker leagues and Tournament Directors are informed to co-operate with NSW Health if contacted in relation to a positive case of COVID-19 at their place of work.

Glossary of Terms

"Covid-19 Safety Hygiene Marshall" is the person identified by the venue responsible for ensuring the implementation of the venues COVID-19 Safety Plan

"Poker Table" means a table used specifically used for the playing of poker in a poker tournament.

"Registration" is the process of registering the players into the poker tournament. This is generally done via a computer system that records personal details and the participants entry into the tournament. A person will register their details with the Tournament Director prior to the commencement of the tournament.

"Tournament Directors" refers to the person facilitating the Poker Tournament in the venue. This person is responsible for setting up the tournament area, registering players and generally conducting the event.

"**Tournament**" refers to a poker tournament taking place inside a licensed premises. The tournament could be one of many different types, (eg, multi table tournament with, timed tournament, shootout tournament etc)