



“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 the Poker NSW 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 COVID Safety Plan was updated on 11/09/20 based on discussions with NSW Police about the requirements under the current NSW Public Health Order. Below is a list of updates that all operators must follow when conducting poker tournaments in licensed venues.

The “principal premise” of these updates, as required by the Public Health Order, is that a player may only interact with a maximum of 9 other people during the course of their visit to the venue. In order to remain compliant with all requirements of the Public Health Order Poker NSW has established best practise guidelines for table numbers and poker variants as per the below updates.

*The below updates assume all other conditions as per this COVID Safety Plan must be adhered to when conducting poker tournaments.*

Update	Title	Requirement
A	Distancing (table numbers)	A poker operator may only conduct poker events with a max of 8 players on a long poker table and a max of 6 players on a round poker table. This number has been reduced from the traditional seating arrangements of 10 players on a long table and 8 players on a round table.

<b>B</b>	10 people in a tournament	A traditional multi table poker tournament can be conducted with up to 10 people. The 10 players can interact with one another but must not mingle with other members of the general public in the venue. In this scenario 2 x tables of 5 players would play in the traditional multi table format.
<b>C</b>	Single table SNG's	SNG's can take place so long as the players seated at a table comply with item 1 above. A player may not participate in multiple SNG's unless those events are played on the same table with the same group of people.
<b>D</b>	Shootout Tournaments	Shootout tournaments can be conducted so long as each individual player only participates at 1 table for the duration of the night. A final table can not take place on the same day in the same venue under this variant so another method of determining the winner must be found.
<b>E</b>	Timed Tournaments	Timed Tournaments can be conducted so long as each individual player only participates at 1 table for the duration of the night.

### Equipment made available to Tournament Directors

Tournament Directors will be supplied with sanitiser, disinfectant spray, antibacterial wipes and a (thermometer) temperature gun, where not supplied by the venue. Masks should be made available at registration for those that do not bring their own.

Item #	Area	Actions
<b>1</b>	Infection Control Training for Tournament Directors	<p>All Tournament Directors must undertake the Infection Control Training offered by the Government via this link: <a href="https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-infection-control-training">https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-infection-control-training</a></p> <p>Tournament Directors must display their Infection Control Training Certificate at registration.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>2</b>	Room Capacity	<p>All Tournament's must be conducted within the room capacity requirements indicated by NSW Health. At present the capacity of a room is 300 or 1 person per 4 square metres whichever is the lessor.</p> <p>An example of the 1 person per 4 sqm rule is shown below:</p>

		<b>ROOM SIZE</b>	<b># Patrons (Max)</b>	<b># Poker Tables</b>	<b>Other</b>
		50m2	12	2	2 tables of 6
		100m2	25	4	4 tables of 6
		150m2	37	6	6 tables of 6
		200m2	50	9	5 tables of 6 and 4 tables of 5
		300m2	75	13	10 tables of 6 and 3 tables of 5
<b>3</b>	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.			
<b>4</b>	Temperature Check and General Health	<p>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.</p> <p>All players must be temperature checked prior at registration using a thermometer. If the reading displays a figure at or above 37.6C the player is entitled to a second test. If a similar reading is recorded the player will not be permitted to play and must be referred to venue management.</p> <p>The Tournament Director is to establish an opening spiel to the players which addresses the following conditions of participating in the event;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The importance of conducting the event in accordance with the Covid Safety Plan outlined in this document</li> <li>- The mandatory requirement of wearing a mask at all times during the tournament</li> <li>- The requirement to sanitize hands every 20 minutes using the provided hand sanitizer on each table or their own</li> <li>- The requirement to wash their hands during the breaks</li> <li>- The requirement to remain seated at all times during the tournament</li> <li>- Reminded to read and review the Covid Safety Plan on display at registration to ensure they are aware of their own and the tournament directors obligations</li> <li>- Asked if there are any questions</li> </ul>			
<b>5</b>	Mandatory Mask Policy	All players must wear a face mask when seated at a poker table at all times during the tournament. Players who refuse to wear face masks will not be permitted to participant in the event. All Tournament Directors must wear a mask at all times during the event.			

<b>6</b>	Seated Players	Players must remain seated during the tournament at all times and are not permitted to stand around and mingle with each other within the venue. There is no food permitted to be consumed at the poker tables. All food and beverages must be consumed whilst seated in the venue.
<b>7</b>	Hand Hygiene	<p>Hand Sanitizer will be made available at registration and a bottle is to be placed on all poker tables in the event. Players will be asked to sanitize their hands at registration and every 20 minutes thereafter.</p> <p>During the breaks of play players will be asked to wash their hands with soap and water.</p>
<b>8</b>	Cleaning of Equipment	<p>All Tournament Directors must wear gloves when cleaning equipment.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>9</b>	Distancing	<p>A maximum of 8 players can be seated at a long table (down from 10) and 6 players can be seated at a round poker table (down from 8) at any given time.</p> <p>Registration for the tournament is open for 1 hour 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.</p> <p>At registration, there must be a minimum of 3 X's marked and spaced out using tape at a distance of 1.5m to ensure players are reminded to socially distance during the registration period.</p> <p>All poker tables in the room must be spaced out at a minimum distance of 1.5m from each other.</p>
<b>10</b>	Contact Tracing	<p>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.</p> <p>Players will also be encouraged to download the Governments Covid Safe App.</p>

11	Conditions of Entry/Signage	<p>The Tournament Directors Infection Control Training certificate must be on display at registration of the event.</p> <p>A sign indicating appropriate hand and general hygiene practises must be made available at registration for players to view.</p> <p>A copy of this Play Poker Safe NSW COVID-19 must be available at registration of every poker tournament.</p> <p>A copy of this plan must be available on the poker league operators website and/or social media pages.</p>
12	Co-operation with NSW Health	<p>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.</p>

## Glossary of Terms

**“Covid-19 Safety Hygiene Marshal”** 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.

**“SNG”** is an abbreviation of ‘sit and go’ which is a single table tournament with up to 8 players.

**“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 a max of 10 players, timed tournament, shootout tournament etc)