

Rogaining Queensland Covid Safe Plan

Like all sports, Rogaining was stopped in Queensland at the start of the Covid 19 pandemic to keep people safe. To restart Rogaine races we must operate with a Covid Safe Plan that is designed to work within the approved Industry Covid Safe Plan. The “Covid Safe Plan for Outdoor Recreation Activity Providers” is the QLD government approved plan that this document is working within.

https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/131040/industry-covid-safe-plan-recreation-activity-providers.pdf

Rather than repeat what is included in that document, this document will focus on specific areas of Rogaining where risk of Covid 19 could occur and how Rogaining will minimise those risks.

Prior to the Event

An event and safety briefing will be available via online video prior to the event day, and a written copy distributed electronically. Event registration forms will require competitors to state they are well and have had no contact with a suspected Covid-19 case in the last 14 days, nor have they visited any recognised hotspots.

Teams will arrive in their vehicles and spend most of the pre event time near their vehicle preparing for the start. Marshalls will be on hand to adequately distance vehicles.

Maps and Navlight Readers will be pre-packed into sealable document wallets at least 24 hours prior to the race. Map distribution will be conducted outdoors ie. Under a gazebo. Maps will be laid out and teams called up by team number to be collected by a single team member. Admin handling the document wallets will be be gloved and marshalls will ensure social distancing is maintained.



Picture 1. Parking during event.

Event Start

Teams will be spread out over a field, approximately the size of a football oval and marshalls will direct teams to maintain social distancing. Teams will move off in a variety of directions as there will be many options for navigating to their first and all future checkpoints.



Picture 2. Start of an urban Rogaine as teams head off.

During the Event

Teams move by walking and jogging through the competition area. Occasionally they will encounter another team. Teams will be directed to use the stand back – give way method of passing as recommended in the Outdoor Council of Australia Framework (4). There is no physical contact between teams. Each person on a team supplies all their own equipment, food and water, limiting contact between team members.

Risks during this time are effectively zero.

Checkpoints

At each checkpoint, teams need to record proof of their visit. This is done via a small tube called an electronic punch which is pressed against a Navlight reader (like a watch band) worn on two team members wrists. The punch is then left for the next team to do the same.

The punch is one possible transmission vector for Covid-19 and Rogaining Queensland recognises that this process needs to be addressed in a Covid-19 world.



Picture 3. Team at a checkpoint. The punch is hanging from the orange and white flag.

We aim to overcome this by instituting a rule that at each checkpoint a teams will wipe the punch with a sterilised hand wipes before and after use.

Rogainers have for many years had to comply to strict land use conditions and this additional process will gain 100% adoption to the compliant nature of our members towards regulation.

Event Finish

At the conclusion of the event teams must punch one of two final finishing punches that records their finish. During this time volunteers with gloves will hold the finishing punch and punch each person's reader without touching them. The two volunteers will be at least 2 metres apart.

Navlight readers are then removed and placed into a ziplock bag. They will be sterilised and read through the bag.

During the Covid-19 season no meals or awards presentations will be provided, and teams will be expected to depart the race immediately upon finishing.

Toilets

Most Rogaines are held in bush areas with bush toilets provided at race headquarters. Plenty of sanitiser and wipes will be provided so competitors can ensure minimal risk of transmission.

For events where that is not appropriate, hired portable chemical toilets will be used with plenty of sanitiser available and participants will be responsible for their own hygiene while using.

Spectators

Rogaining is not a spectator friendly sport. We will require teams not to have any spectators.

Organisers/Administrators

Rogaines normally have around 4 volunteers running the event. Most of the work is done prior to event day. During the event, there is a first aid officer in a 4WD on the course, the Event Director, who spends most of their time at Race Headquarters, and 1-2 others doing odd jobs. Social distancing will be maintained by these people.

Race Headquarters is normally a simple gazebo in an open outdoor area.

Sick Competitors

Sick competitors are not allowed to compete.