

Swimming Australia

Overseas Travel During COVID 19 Policy

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Swimming Australia (SA)
Overseas Travel During Covid-19 Policy

1. INTRODUCTION

From 20 July 2020, Australian citizens are unable to travel overseas without an Australian Government exemption to travel which, among other criteria, could be granted for Government, medical, business or compassionate reasons (**Covid-19 Travel Restrictions**). Competing in international sporting events is not currently listed as a reason for travel exemption.

SA acknowledges that athletes have a natural desire to compete internationally in the 12 months preceding an Olympic/Paralympic Games. However, in these extraordinary times, the potential risks of international travel may outweigh the perceived benefits.

This Policy applies to SA contracted athletes seeking permission from SA to either compete or train overseas, or travel for reasons unrelated to swimming, during the period of Covid-19 Travel Restrictions. This policy will apply from the date it is adopted by SA until it is revoked or amended by SA.

2. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

SA has an overriding obligation to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of its contracted athletes as well as coaches and others connected to the Olympic and Paralympic and high-performance program.

SA acknowledges that overseas travel is likely to involve an elevated risk of contracting COVID-19.

SA complies with Covid-19 Travel Restrictions and all government sanctioned laws and guidelines relating to Covid-19.

SA seeks to maintain good relations with its stakeholders including Sport Australia, the AIS, the Australian Olympic Committee, Commonwealth Games Australia, Paralympics Australia and SA sponsors and supporters.

SA's vision is to enrich and inspire the nation by maintaining its position as Australia's most successful Olympic sport.

3. SA COVID-19 TRAVEL POSITION

Athletes must not travel overseas during the period of Covid-19 Travel Restrictions unless an exemption is granted by the Australian Government and by SA in accordance with this policy.

4. CONSIDERATIONS

If an athlete wishes to request an exemption in accordance with the SA Covid-19 Travel Position the athlete must submit a request, setting out their reasons in writing, at least 30 days **prior** to any such proposed travel (or such shorter period of time as agreed by SA). Each request for an exemption will be considered on its own merits, taking into account the criteria below. For the avoidance of doubt, requests must be made and a response received from SA prior to booking any travel or committing to third parties.

5. CRITERIA

SA will take into account the following criteria when considering a request for an exemption in accordance with the SA Covid-19 Travel Position:

- (a) whether an Australian Government exemption has been granted for the proposed travel
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- (noting international training or competition is not currently listed as a reason for exemption);
- (b) formal medical advice from SA's Chief Medical Officer, following consideration of the Australian Government medical advice through the AIS;
 - (c) the reasons for the request (all reasons must be submitted in writing to SA);
 - (d) any potential performance benefits and/or other possible detrimental impacts from the proposed travel (and other quarantine requirements), aligned to the athlete's campaign plan and the level of support required consistent with the Swimmer Agreement;
 - (e) the proposed duration of travel and the location(s) the athlete proposes to attend;
 - (f) whether the request is made on compassionate grounds;
 - (g) the risk management and mitigation plan for the proposed travel destination(s) and the circumstances to which the athlete may be exposed; and
 - (h) any other criteria SA deems relevant.

6. DETERMINATION

- (a) If, after considering the criteria above, SA's CEO, Chief Medical Officer & Chief Strategist High Performance (the Travel Panel) approves the request for an exemption in accordance with the SA Covid-19 Travel Position, the athlete will be formally advised in writing, setting out any additional requirements or conditions that must be met for the proposed travel to be permitted.
- (b) If, after considering the criteria above, the Travel Panel does not approve the request for an exemption in accordance with the SA Covid-19 Travel Position, the athlete will be formally advised in writing that:
 - (i) an exemption for the proposed travel is not approved and that the athlete should not travel; and
 - (ii) if SA's direction (that the athlete should not travel) is not complied with SA may immediately apply one or more of the following acts and sanctions:
 - (A) withdrawal of financial, coaching or Sports Science and Sports Medicine support for such period as SA in its sole discretion decides; and/or
 - (B) suspension of participation in the high-performance program.
 - (iii) if SA's direction (that the athlete should not travel) is not complied with, it will be deemed to be a serious breach of the Code of Conduct and (without limiting SA's right to take action under the Code of Conduct or the Swimmer Agreement) shall be dealt with under this policy.

For the avoidance of doubt, the athlete will be responsible for any risk to their health, safety and wellbeing and any insurances required, for the duration of any approved or unapproved travel.

SA will take no responsibility for the health, wellbeing or assistance to the athlete where such athlete decides to travel internationally against advice of relevant authorities and/or against the decision of the Travel Panel made pursuant to clause 6(b) above.

7. AUTHORITY

- a. Each request for an exemption in accordance with the SA Covid-19 Travel Position will be considered by the Travel Panel after receipt of a recommendation from the High Performance Committee of the Board.
- b. The Travel Panel may seek the advice of the Audit, Risk & Integrity Committee or the SA board in making a determination.
- c. The Travel Panel will then make a final decision.
- d. The decision of the Travel Panel cannot be appealed.