

Mt Mawson Ski Field

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Safety Plan

Southern Tasmanian Ski Association (Inc.)

Version 1.1

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1. Introduction & Context

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is a new strain of virus that was discovered in 2019 and has not been previously identified in humans. In severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death. There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to the virus. The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person, between people who are in close contact with one another (within less than 1.5 metres), and through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

Following the continued low number of new cases and the encouraging public response to COVID-19 in Tasmania, the Premier, Peter Gutwein, announced on 8 May 2020 the State Government's Roadmap to Recovery¹. Based on this, and the minimum standards required in all 'workplaces' for managing the risks of COVID-19² in accordance with Public Health Guidelines³ STSA has prepared this Coronavirus (COVID-19) Safety Plan. The purpose of the plan is to outline the additional safety procedures needed for the operation of the Mt Mawson Ski Field in this environment and to minimise the health and safety risks of volunteers and visitors to the ski field.

STSA will continue to monitor the Public Health Advice and will update this plan as needed. If an increase in COVID-19 cases occurs in Tasmania to the point where the risk management outlined in this plan is insufficient to protect volunteers and visitors STSA may elect to close the ski tows, and will advise of this decision via the mtmawson.info website.

¹ <https://coronavirus.tas.gov.au/families-community/roadmap-to-recovery>

² <https://www.worksafe.tas.gov.au/topics/Health-and-Safety/safety-alerts/coronavirus/covid-safe-workplaces-framework>

³ www.health.gov.au

2. General Principles

The safety of our volunteers and members of the public who attend the Mt Mawson Ski Field is paramount, and hence there are some general guidelines which must be adhered to if downhill skiing is to be offered this season. All volunteers and visitors should be aware of the guidelines and are advised to follow them.

- Do not come to Mt Mawson Ski Field if unwell or exhibiting respiratory or other symptoms of COVID -19, or if you have been instructed to quarantine or self-isolate OR if you have been in contact with a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19 OR you are awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test.
- Avoid physical contact with other skiers.
- Maintain physical distancing of at least 1.5 m at all times.
- Minimise use of shared equipment and facilities.
- Do not share your tow belt with others.
- Minimise unnecessary co-mingling before, during and after skiing.
- Encourage good hygiene, use hand sanitiser provided, and wash hands frequently. Cleaning and sanitising your ski gloves is encouraged. Avoid putting your hands or gloves near your face.
- Observe signage/markings and support record keeping in compliance with current restrictions and advice.
- Do not share drink bottles, food, clothing, ski equipment etc. If equipment is shared, suitable cleaning/disinfecting must occur between each user.
- Wherever possible people should only travel in their own car and with people who live under the same roof as them. Where this is impractical, participants should, before sharing a car, enquire amongst themselves as to individual circumstances to ensure that no participants are at higher risk of COVID-19 exposure (recent cold or flu symptoms, recent interstate/international travel or contact with COVID-19 sufferers). Numbers in any car should be kept as low as practical.
- All equipment must be wiped down with sanitiser at the end of each ski session.
- Recognise that the Mt Mawson Ski Field is entirely operated by volunteers who are donating their time and effort to provide downhill skiing at Mt Field National Park. Many of these volunteers are older and in the category regarded as more vulnerable to COVID-19. It is essential that the guidelines and procedures in this plan are diligently followed to minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19, and to allow the ski field to operate this winter.

3. Ticket Office

The STSA ticket office is the location at which ski belts are issued, and records kept of all users of the ski tows to assist with Government contact tracing in the event there is a COVID-19 infection recorded amongst visitors to the Mt Mawson Ski Field.

- The ticket office shall have a maximum of three people in it at any one time.
- STSA does not have credit card facilities, so volunteers will wear disposable gloves for handling cash. Ideally a single volunteer will be dedicated to managing the cash and will avoid touching other items in the ticket office.
- Hand sanitiser will be available both outside and inside the ticket office.
- All individuals are asked to sanitise their hands prior to participating in transactions for belt hire.
- Surface wipes and spray disinfectant will be available to volunteers to regularly clean the bench tops, door handles etc.
- STSA volunteers may ask you to confirm you do not have any respiratory systems, and have not been in contact with someone with symptoms. If you are unable to answer in the affirmative STSA reserves the right to refuse to serve you, and will ask you to leave the ski field area.
- Before hiring a ski tow belt all visitors must record their name and telephone number for contact tracing if required.
- STSA does not have credit card facilities, so providing the correct amount of cash for the tow ticket is preferred, with a drivers licence or credit card to act as the deposit for the tow belt.
- Volunteers must wear disposable gloves when receiving tow belts back after use.
- Each tow belt will be spray sanitised and wiped down with an alcohol-based disinfectant before being returned to the numbered tow belt hooks.
- In the event that STSA elects to sell hot drinks these will be provided in disposable paper cups. Volunteers will wear disposable gloves whilst preparing and serving drinks.
- Volunteers should wash their hands thoroughly with soap or use an alcohol based hand sanitiser before and after wearing gloves.
- A bin with bin liner will be provided outside the ticket office.
- Posters will be displayed on keeping at least 1.5 m distance between people.

4. Tow Management

The key issues associated with use of the rope tows are maintaining appropriate physical distancing while queuing, on the tow and whilst skiing, and maintaining good “glove” hygiene by disinfecting gloves, and avoiding putting them near your face.

- Physical distancing of at least 1.5 m is required whilst queuing for the tow. Avoid crowding!
- This means that 2-3 separate well spaced lines will be required whilst waiting your turn on the tow.
- If the tow queue is “full” pause on the slope before joining the queue.
- Listen to instructions from the STSA volunteer manning the bottom stop button.
- Only move forward on the tow when the skier ahead of you has passed the red flag.

5. Ski Patrol

The Mt Mawson Ski Field is only able to operate due to the support of volunteer ski patrollers with the Mt Mawson Ski Patrol. The Ski Patrollers are responsible for the management of the Mt Mawson First Aid Room, and for assisting skiers who have been injured or become unwell.

Due to physical space constraints the First Aid Room is limited to a maximum of 5 people at any one time. Specific procedures in relation to the operation of Ski Patrol (and the use of Personal Protective Equipment in particular) are covered in the Mt Mawson Ski Patrol COVID Safety Plan (see separate document).

6. Management of Public Shelter

The management of the Mt Mawson Public Day Shelter is the responsibility of the Parks and Wildlife Service, but in the event that rangers are not present on site it is up to members of the public to follow the guidelines outlined in the Mt Mawson Ski Field COVID-19 Safety Plan. Everyone visiting Mt Mawson Ski Field needs to take responsibility to ensure the risk of transmission of COVID-19 is minimised.

In particular the following procedures should be followed for the Day Shelter and Public Toilets:

- Physical Distancing to be followed at all times. This means that a maximum of twenty people are allowed in the day shelter space at any one time.
- Hand sanitiser to be provided at the entrance to the day shelter, and in the bathrooms.

- Public Toilets to also be provided with soap, paper towel and bins.
- The Day Shelter and Public Toilets are to be cleaned and disinfected with appropriate products at the beginning and end of each ski day.

7. STSA Club Huts

The Mt Mawson Ski Field can only operate with the assistance of volunteers and members from the various Ski Clubs that make up the Southern Tasmanian Ski Association:

Alpine Club of Southern Tasmania

Hobart Walking Club

Mt Mawson Ski Club

Oldina Ski Club

Ski Club of Tasmania

Wellington Ski and Outdoor Club

Each of these clubs has developed their own COVID-Safe plans.