



RETURN TO PLAY FRAMEWORK

RETURN TO CONTACT TRAINING FAQs

CURRENT AT 19 JUNE 2020

These FAQs will be regularly reviewed in line with Government advice

TRAINING

What does Contact Training mean?

Clubs/Teams are able to conduct contact training sessions. This includes incidental or deliberate contact as per a normal training session. Players are still required to adhere to hygiene and social distancing requirements pre and post training.

Does the COVID Safety Officer need to attend all training sessions?

If the COVID Safety Officer cannot attend a training session, they should appoint and brief a replacement to ensure compliance of the protocols, including completion of the training register which should be forwarded to the COVID Safety Officer once training has been completed. Where possible, we encourage clubs to have multiple people take ownership of this role and share the responsibility.

How many people can be in a group at any one given time?

Groups have been extended to include 100 people. This means that teams are able to have 100 people per group with this number including coaches, officials, players and volunteers.

My team has more players than allowed, can we just have a few more attend?

We must strictly comply with the guidelines in place at all times, and we are not able to stretch the limits on attendance, under any circumstances.

Do training groups need to remain the same every training session?

While we recommend training members remain the same where possible, the makeup of training groups on different days can vary. As always, clubs must keep a register of all participants for every session.

My local oval still has signs up that it is closed and we can't access?

If your training venue remains closed, you will need to liaise with your local government authority to understand if or when that venue will open. If the venue remains closed, you need to find an alternative training location.

My club utilises two different training ovals, can we have 100 people per field?

Yes, clubs may have up to 100 people per field providing they follow the Return to Contact Training Protocols. If the ovals are side by side, we recommend staggering the training times for each oval to minimise large groups congregating before or after training.

Can we have participants doing alternate training activities such as road runs while participants are training on the oval?

Yes, other training activities in line with the ACT Government Guidelines can occur elsewhere while training occurs on the oval, providing participants follow the Return to Contact Training Protocols. Clubs however are encouraged to use alternate meeting points and differing training times to those training on the oval to minimise large groups congregating before or after training.



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Does the 100 apply just to the field of play? i.e. can the coach / assistants stay on the sidelines and not count towards the 100?

Yes. The major requirement is that the number of people at the venue does not exceed the 1 person per 4m squared rule, and 100 people on the field of play.

Can we use our local clubhouse and gym?

It is recommended that clubs follow the State/Territory Government guidelines which can be found on the [ACT Government FAQ's](#) on use of gyms.

What about our change room and facilities? Where do we get dressed/changed if we can't access these?

Changerooms and indoor community facilities can now be accessed by your patrons. Clubs must assess any risk and implement strict cleaning regimes. The use of changerooms is still subject to 1 person per 4 squared metres rule with no access to showers. Clubs should aim to minimise use of change rooms and strongly encourage participants to shower / change at home where possible. Players, and coaches are strongly encouraged to arrive dressed and ready to train. Showers must be conducted at home after training.

CROWDS & SPECTATORS

My child is training, can the whole family come along to training/watch?

It is recognised that junior training in particular may require the attendance of a parent or guardian. Any spectators should be separated from participants (within their group) and maintain physical distancing from other spectators of at least 1.5m. It is also recommended that you consider vulnerable members of your family (e.g. people over 70 years of age) and recommend they do not attend to minimise their risk of infection.

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Our Coach/Trainer/Assistant is aged over 70, what does this mean?

We strongly recommend that elderly and vulnerable individuals reconsider their need to attend training or competition environments. Whilst we cannot stop these individuals attending, we strongly advise that strict social distancing measures should apply. Where possible we recommend they do not act in a service capacity interacting with crowds (i.e. serving, trainers, officials etc).

I'm a coach/trainer – do we need to wear Gloves or PPE Equipment?

It is not a mandatory requirement that team coaches or staff wear protective equipment. If you have a personal preference to do so, you are welcome to.

How often do we have to clean our equipment?

We understand the challenges around maintaining strict levels of hygiene amongst a football group. However, it is essential we implement the highest quality of hygiene at all times for the safety and comfort of our participants and their families. The AIS Framework specifies that we ensure "hospital grade disinfectant is used". We ask that before and after training or equipment use that balls, mats, cones etc. are all thoroughly disinfected with hospital grade cleaning products and stored safely until next use.



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NAB AFL AUSKICK

My Junior football club has started training. Why isn't Auskick back?

NAB AFL Auskick is a national program that has different safety implications that must be considered and approved before the program can return. NAB AFL Auskick will recommence from the 17th of July.

How can I keep my child engaged in AFL while Auskick isn't running?

Please make sure you check out NAB AFL Auskick at Home and once you have practiced all these activities, we also have Footy at Home available on YouTube.

UMPIRES

Are umpires allowed to train?

At this stage, the Return to Contact Training does not include umpires. We will continue to regularly communicate with umpires regarding the recommencement of training at a later date.

GENERAL

When will we be able to play matches?

AFL Canberra has outlined a season start weekend of the 17th-19th of July 2020. This is in line with both the ACT & NSW Government protocols of return to contact competition.

Why have other sports teams gone back, but we aren't playing football matches?

Each State or Territory Government is responsible for determining when each sport can return and some sports will return sooner than others. Understandably, there are different considerations for each sport including contact v non-contact, indoor v outdoor sports, numbers in teams etc. We are bound by the State or Territory Governments on when they decide AFL can move from stage 1 to 2 to 3.

Why do other sports have different safety and hygiene protocols to AFL?

The AFL is following the protocols set out by the Federal Government's AIS Framework. Each sport may take a different approach to how they adopt the protocols set out by the Federal Government's AIS framework.

Will the AFL be providing education for Club staff or volunteers?

Yes, the AFL requires individuals responsible for coordinating protocol checks to undertake the COVID-19 infection control training which can be completed online [here](#). We will also be providing training on the protocols specific for Australian Football which can be found [here](#).

How do we keep track of our club officials who have completed the online education training?

We have created templates for you to record who in your Club has completed the COVID-19 infection control training and the online training on the protocols specific for Australian Football. This template is available [here](#).



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How do we record who attends organised football training at our Club?

We have created a template for you to record who attends each training session and when, so you have a record if required by your State Health department. This template is available [here](#). Clubs may utilise an online app or similar, providing it clearly identifies all participants in attendance at each training session and is readily available upon request by either AFL NSW/ACT or health authorities.

Where can we get posters or signs for our Club to make sure people know the rules?

Posters for Clubs are available [here](#) to display at all training and playing venues.

There are lots of rules around sanitisation and cleaning. How do we afford to pay for all the extra cleaning equipment required?

At government owned facilities, Sport and Recreation Facilities have installed additional soap dispensers in toilet facilities at sportsgrounds. All ACT Government sportsground facilities will be cleaned weekly by a professional cleaning company. For other venues, in most cases your Club will assume responsibility for ensuring the additional cleaning and sanitation requirements are met, however we encourage you to contact your league, venue provider or local council to see if they have any suggestions to keep these additional cleaning requirements as affordable as possible for Clubs.

My team has started training again, but I'm not feeling 100% or a family member has had/recovered from coronavirus.

It is absolutely essential that no one ever attends training or spectates if they are feeling unwell or they have been around someone who has been unwell. You must ensure you notify your Club official (E.G. COVID-Safety Officer) if you have attended training and been unwell or have concerns about a family member or close contact.

What do we do if we're feeling unwell?

Anyone who has a fever or respiratory symptoms consistent with coronavirus, no matter how mild, is strongly recommended to attend a COVID-19 clinic, or their GP, for assessment and testing.

Monitor for symptoms such as fever, cough or shortness of breath. Other early symptoms to watch for are chills and body aches or muscle pain, a sore throat, headaches, runny nose, diarrhoea or unexplained loss of taste or smell.

If it is determined you are to undertake a test, following the test you must self-isolate by immediately going home and resting while you wait for your test result (which you should usually get within 2 days). Whilst you are waiting you must stay at home (i.e. do not attend work, school/university or training), wash your hands often with soap and water, cough and sneeze into a clean tissue or your elbow and avoid close contact with others, including members of your household.

You must also notify your club's nominated representative (eg. COVID Safety Officer) that you have undertaken a COVID-19 test and they must then notify their relevant League official who will advise on next steps.

What to do if we have a positive test?

If you receive a positive test result, you must strictly follow all instructions to self-quarantine and advise your Club COVID-Safety Officer who will in turn advise your League Administrator. You will also be contacted by relevant authorities to assist in contact tracing.

Your league and club must also follow the advice of authorities with regard to any suspension of training. For further information please refer to the [Positive COVID-19 Case Response Plan](#) document.



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INSURANCE

What does this mean for Insurance? Are we still covered?

Yes. Clubs & Associations will be covered as usual under the AFL's Community Football Public Liability and Club Management Liability policies. Participants will also be covered as usual and at their Club/Team elected level under the Personal Accident policy for physical injuries sustained in footballing activities, however cover does not extend to a sickness or illness. Cover under these policies is always subject to their terms, conditions and exclusions. Further information is available from the Marsh website.

Are we liable for a claim if there is a positive test case in our Club/Team?

A Club can limit the risk of being found liable for a claim in connection with there being a positive test by a player or other participant at the Club, by taking all reasonable precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the Club and the wider community, including but not limited to, following the advice and recommendations of Federal & State Governments. A Club's potential liability will need to consider the circumstances of the particular case. For more information please [click here](#).

TRANSFERS / PERMITS

The transfer system was closed when the season was postponed, but what about players that need to transfer clubs now? Will the transfer system be re-opened?

The AFL re-opened transfers as of Friday 15th May. For more information about transfers and permits including closing dates please [click here](#).