



RETURN TO PLAY FRAMEWORK

POSITIVE COVID-19 CASE

RESPONSE PLAN



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AFL NSW/ACT will continue to follow any direction from Government and Health Authorities and align with the AIS Framework for Rebooting Sport, to ensure community football activity in NSW/ACT does not compromise the health of individuals or the broader community.

INDIVIDUAL / CLUB REQUIREMENTS

If a participant receives a positive test result they must:

1. Strictly follow all Health Authority instructions to self isolate,
2. Advise their Club COVID Safety Officer (who will in turn advise the relevant League Administrator),
3. Assist relevant authorities in regards to contact tracing,
4. Remain in self isolation in accordance with Health Authority and [NSW](#) or [ACT](#) Government advice

AFL NSW/ACT ACTIONS

- ▶ League Administrator to immediately advise AFL NSW/ACT Head Office,
- ▶ AFL NSW/ACT Head Office to immediately confirm positive case with relevant authorities,
- ▶ Immediately suspend any activities of affected Club, and any other Clubs where potential contact occurred,
- ▶ Review all training and competition activities within the State / Territory,
- ▶ At all times follow the advice of relevant authorities with regard to the suspension and resumption of any Club / League activities including training and competition play.

PROCESS FOR A SUSPECTED COVID-19 CASE

A Player/Official must not join in at training, attend the Club or a competitive match if in the last 14 days they have had symptoms that might align to COVID (fever, sore throat, cold, respiratory difficulties etc) or had contact with a known or suspected case of COVID-19. If a Player/Official has arrived at training or competition, or has reported symptoms that might align to COVID following training or competition, the following steps should apply.

Has the Player/Official had contact with or exposure to a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case in the previous 14 days?

NO

Player/Official is to seek full medical clearance prior to returning to training or competition.

YES

Player/Official - Notify their Club COVID Safety Officer and either stay at home or immediately return home. Player/Official is to get tested for COVID-19 as soon as possible and remain in isolation pending the outcome of the results.

Has the Player/Official tested Positive for COVID-19?

NO

Player/Official is to seek full medical clearance prior to returning to training or competition.

YES

Player/Official – Notify the Club's COVID Safety Officer and follow any advice provided by the Public Health Authorities.

COVID Safety Officer – Notify the relevant League Administrator immediately and collate training registers for submission to Public Health Authority to assist with Contact Tracing. AFL NSW/ACT will assist clubs if there is a positive case.

NOTE: Localised outbreaks may require sporting organisations to again restrict activity and those organisations must be ready to respond accordingly. The detection of a positive COVID-19 case in a sporting or recreation club or organisation will result in a standard public health response, which could include quarantine of a whole team or large group, and close contacts, for the required period.

Has advice been given from the Public Health Authority for a team(s) or venue(s) to be placed into quarantine or isolation for an extended period?

NO

Player/Official is to seek full medical clearance prior to returning to training or competition. Venues of concern to undertake a thorough facility and equipment clean prior to the next training session or competitive match.

YES

AFL NSW/ACT – Notify all clubs and venues of the recommendations of the Public Health Authority. AFL NSW/ACT will adjudicate on the requirement to postpone or relocate games if required under the guidance of the Public Health Authority, and in line with their respective State Rules and Procedures.

NOTE: Facilities may be closed on the instruction of the local Public Health Authority or the State Chief Medical Officer. Re-opening of the training facility should only occur after close consultation with the local Public Health Authority. There cannot be any certainty of the impact on Competitions, as the Public Health Authorities will review each incident on a case by case basis, respective to their State.

What is the AFL NSW/ACT rule for the postponement or cancellation of games?

AFL NSW/ACT 2020 COVID REDUCED SEASON GUIDELINES: **3. Positive Case Implications**

- ▶ Forfeit, Cancellation or Suspension of Matches - If a team is unable to participate in a designated fixture due to COVID-related medical reasons, the club may apply to have the match cancelled rather than be deemed a forfeit. The club will need to substantiate that COVID-related medical reasons were the predominant reason for the team being unable to participate by submitting to the Competition Management Committee any available evidence (i.e. number of players affected, medical certificates etc.).
- ▶ In such circumstances, the Competition Management Committee will determine the outcome of the match.
- ▶ Such determination will factor in minimum player numbers, squad availability, player eligibility and notification timeframes as a basis for decision.
- ▶ Any Competitions where teams have played an uneven number of games will result in teams being positioned on the ladder in the order of club's "Winning Percentage" or "Match Ratio" in place of total premiership points accrued. A Club's match ratio will be the percentage of wins against matches played (draws will be 0.5 of a win). Where more than one club has the same "Match Ratio" those clubs will be positioned on the premiership ladder in order of percentages calculated from the points scored for and against, by such clubs. The premiership ladder will not count cancelled matches as matches played and thus 'Match Ratio' is only affected by the number of games played where a win, loss or draw can be affected.