



## RETURN TO PLAY FRAMEWORK

### RETURN TO COMPETITION FAQs - FOR UMPIRES

#### CURRENT AS JULY 16

#### REGISTER OF PARTICIPANTS

##### **Do umpires need to keep a list of match participants?**

No, this will be the responsibility of the clubs. Within their register, home clubs should be including the details of all umpires, including Field, Boundary, and Goal. Upon arrival at the ground Umpires should present to the Ground Manager and ask them to ensure that the Umpires details are recorded on the register.

##### **Do we need to keep a register for training sessions?**

Yes, if Umpires are meeting for a formal training session. There should be a record of each participant, their phone number and email, and this record should be kept for at least 28 days.

#### SOCIAL DISTANCING

##### **Do umpires have to maintain 1.5 metre social distancing on the field?**

As an umpire it is easier to maintain social distancing on the field and this should be done wherever possible.

##### **Change rooms are small can we all be in there at once?**

The principle is one person per 4m<sup>2</sup> and clubs should have signage at the entry to change rooms specifying the maximum number of people able to be accommodated at any one time. Umpires should adhere to these principles at all times.

If ground managers or other officials want to speak to umpires it should be done outside of the umpire's room. If a club official needs to speak to the umpires regarding 'sensitive' issues this should be done in an area away from spectators and players so that information can be kept confidential.

##### **Do umpires still need to address players before each match?**

Yes, this is a standard that has not changed. For the 2020 season it is recommended that:

- Umpires address teams on the field prior to each match to avoid having too many people in small change rooms.
- Social distancing is observed.
- Keep these conversations 'short and sweet'. Use these conversations to introduce yourself and 1 or 2 short points or expectations for the match.



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#### HYGIENE

##### **Who is responsible for sanitizing game balls on game day?**

It is the home club that will take care of this prior to the umpire(s) receiving the ball. If this has not been done, please ask the Ground Manager to complete this. Balls should also be cleaned with antibacterial wipes or alcohol-based sanitiser at the end of each quarter.

##### **Will clubs be supplying hand sanitizer?**

Yes, the home club should be supplying hand sanitizer. In case a club has overlooked this expectation, it is suggested that umpires bring their own as a back-up.

##### **What if a player is bleeding?**

This process also has not changed and should be addressed as a matter of urgency.

##### **Who determines if a player is too unwell to play?**

Umpires aren't expected to make a diagnosis so responsibility has to live with the individual (and their family in the case of Juniors). Clubs will continue to educate players that training and playing whilst unwell increases the risk of infection.

##### **What if I'm feeling unwell?**

If an umpire, or people they have been in contact with, are sick they must not attend training or games otherwise they increase the risk that a team and/or competition could be suspended. If you are unwell please speak to your Umpire Coach about your ability to participate.

##### **Can I shower at the ground after the match?**

The general advice is to shower at home, however this may not always be practical. Changerooms are limited to 4m<sup>2</sup> per person so access may have to be limited and umpires may have to wait for their turn.

##### **How do we manage players spitting?**

Umpires are not expected to enforce a zero tolerance on spitting or clearing of nasal passages. Clubs are constantly educating players that spitting and clearing nasal passages increases the risk of infection. It is the personal responsibility of every player to refrain from activities such as spitting and clearing nasal passages that could result in infection and potentially see a team and/or competition suspended.

##### **Are high fives and other forms of celebratory contact OK during a game?**

High fives, handshakes, and all other forms of non-essential contact are discouraged but this is not an area that umpires have to control.

##### **Will clubs continue to supply drinks?**

Yes, clubs will still be required to bring drinks to the umpires during breaks. To reduce the likelihood of disease transmission Umpires will be required to supply their own drink bottle, towels etc as per COVID-19 guidelines. These cannot be shared and all precautions must be taken to avoid contamination.



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#### DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

##### **Do we still report players for incidents?**

Yes, nothing has changed with this process.

##### **Will there still be a tribunal if the player contests the charge?**

Yes, due to the integrity of the reporting process tribunals will still be conducted where appropriate. Social distancing will be a focus during the process, with AFL NSW/ACT investigating the practicality of conducting Tribunal hearings by video conference.

#### MATCH DAY

##### **Who can fill the role of Goal Umpire?**

Anyone can fill the role of Goal Umpire on the day. These people must be included on the match day register, together with their contact details, in case contact tracing needs to occur. Flags must be wiped with antibacterial wipes or alcohol-based sanitiser after the match.

##### **Have competition rules been modified because of COVID-19?**

Some rules may have changed on a League by League basis. Speak to your Umpire Coach to determine if there are rule changes that you need to be aware of.

##### **What are the rates of pay for the 2020 season?**

Rates vary from League to League, speak to your local Umpire Co-ordinator or Coach to find out about the rates for your League. Most Senior Umpire groups have agreed to a reduction in fees in 2020 to keep overall club affiliation and player registration costs down, which has had a major positive benefit on getting clubs and players to commit to playing this year. Thanks to all Umpires that are taking a pay reduction in 2020 for helping to ensure footy gets back on the park this season.

#### OTHER QUESTIONS

##### **Can Umpire groups train together at a local oval?**

The suspension of physical training sessions is to reduce the number of contact training sessions and the time commitment / travel requirements of our umpires. Some groups may wish to come together for fitness training sessions. However, this is an individual choice and umpires may wish to train under their own circumstances for this season.

##### **What is happening with the Next Gen program?**

This program is currently being reviewed for the 2020 season. All umpires involved in the program will be advised in due course of the outcome of this.