



RETURN TO PLAY FRAMEWORK

**COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS**

**RETURN TO CONTACT TRAINING**

**COMPETITION & NAB AFL AUSKICK**

Prepared for NSW Community Football Leagues, Clubs, Auskick Centres and Talent Program Activity ONLY

Updated August 18



## RETURN TO PLAY FRAMEWORK

### RETURN TO CONTACT TRAINING, COMPETITION & NAB AFL AUSKICK

#### BACKGROUND

Returning to play in a safe, hygienic and controlled manner is paramount to the AFL. The safety and wellbeing of our participants is our number one priority.

Following the recently revised NSW Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order (No 4) 2020, and in line with the [Office of Sport's](#) COVID-19 Safety Plan – Community sporting competitions and full training activities, AFL NSW/ACT endorse a return to club sanctioned contact training at community football level in NSW from Wednesday, July 1, and competition play and NAB AFL Auskick from Friday, July 17 provided Clubs and participants follow the relevant Government guidelines and AFL NSW/ACT's Return to Contact Training, Competition & NAB AFL Auskick Protocols are implemented.

In advance of contact training, NAB AFL Auskick and competitions recommencing, we encourage Leagues, Clubs, NAB AFL Auskick Centres and volunteers to review the following Protocols, undertake an education period to formulate an education and implementation plan for their Club to prepare members for a return to contact training, competition and NAB AFL Auskick safely.

We will continue to work with the NSW Government to ensure alignment with their advice in the event of further easing of restrictions, with hygiene and safety protocols firmly in place.

Our primary focus is to ensure our Clubs, NAB AFL Auskick Centres and Leagues prepare to return to contact training, NAB AFL Auskick and competition in a safe environment that is a carefully managed. In order for this to be successful, it is essential that clubs and individuals work within the protocols and government restrictions and do not move ahead of the current restrictions.

AFL NSW/ACT will continue to follow any direction from government 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.



## RETURN TO PLAY FRAMEWORK

### RETURN TO CONTACT TRAINING, COMPETITION & NAB AFL AUSKICK

#### **AFL COMMUNITY CLUBS CAN RESUME CONTACT TRAINING (FROM 1 JULY) AND NAB AFL AUSKICK AND COMPETITION PLAY (FROM 17 JULY) IF THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOLS ARE MET:**

1. Each Club, standalone NAB AFL Auskick Centre and Umpire Group must nominate one COVID Safety Officer and as a minimum this person must undertake the free Australian Government [online COVID-19 Infection Control Training](#) prior to recommencement of Club activity. It is also strongly recommended that other club officials also undertake this training. The certificate of completion needs to be emailed to your League Administrator prior to the recommencement of activity. Where possible, we encourage Clubs to have multiple people to take ownership of this role and share the responsibility.
2. A log, or register, using the approved AFL NSW/ACT template, SportsTG team sheets, or an online app or similar, which clearly identifies all participants, officials, umpires and volunteers in attendance at each training session, competition match or NAB AFL Auskick activity. This register **MUST** be maintained for a period of at least 28 days following each club activity and available upon request by either AFL NSW/ACT or health authorities.
3. Ensure the number of people in a facility, including communal facilities such as showers and change rooms, does not exceed one person per four square metres (including participants, officials, umpires volunteers & spectators). This includes the placement of clearly identifiable signage at the entrance of any such area.
4. Ensure any spectators (and participants before and after contact training or competition play) comply with social distancing requirement of 1.5m at all times.
5. Take all reasonable steps to minimise the number of spectators attending community sporting events (training or matchday) including encouraging only one parent/carer/other to attend per participant, and ensure that at no stage there are more than 500 participants at a venue.
6. The conditions of entry for each venue are clearly visible at all main entry points of a venue, along with major gathering areas i.e. canteen / bars and have been promoted through websites and social media. NB alcohol is to only be consumed while seated
7. Ensure a copy of these protocols can be immediately accessed for inspection by an authorised officer as requested.
8. Ensure processes are in place to exclude participants (including spectators and officials), if they have visited Victoria in the 14 days prior.
9. Ensure processes are in place to exclude participants (including spectators and officials) if they have attended any of the reported case locations listed on the [NSW Health Website](#).
10. The Return to Contact Training, Competition & NAB AFL Auskick hygiene protocols outlined in this document are to be strictly adhered to with no exceptions.

#### **ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO PROMOTE A COVID SAFE ENVIRONMENT AND MINIMISE SPECTATORS**

- ▶ Minimise co-mingling of participants and spectators from different training timeslots or matches where possible.
- ▶ Encourage only one parent/carer to accompany junior participants at Club activities.
- ▶ Minimise use of change rooms and strongly encourage participants to shower / change at home where possible.
- ▶ Reduce crowding wherever possible and promote physical distancing with markers on the floor where applicable.
- ▶ Clubs to regularly remind all participants in attendance of COVID Safety requirements through ground PA system or messages on electronic scoreboards utilising [AFL NSW/ACT recommended scripts / wording](#).
- ▶ At the conclusion of each match, the Home Clubs COVID Safety Officer, with the assistance of the Ground Manager and other Club personnel, should do a sweep of the venue and request they follow the 'Get In, Play, Get Out' philosophy and leave the venue if they can.
- ▶ Implement strategies to reduce potential gatherings immediately outside the facility such as drop off / pick up zones in carparks as well as staggering start and finish times of Club training and competition matches.
- ▶ Minimise participants playing across multiple teams on one day where possible.
- ▶ Any necessary meetings to occur remotely using video technology.
- ▶ Encourage contactless payment options for canteens and registration fees.
- ▶ Reduce the sharing of equipment where practical and ensure any equipment used, including footballs is cleaned with detergent and disinfectant after each use.
- ▶ Where practical, maintain an attendance register for all spectators at home venues.



## RETURN TO PLAY FRAMEWORK

### RETURN TO CONTACT TRAINING, COMPETITION & NAB AFL AUSKICK

#### HYGIENE PROTOCOLS FOR TRAINING, COMPETITION & NAB AFL AUSKICK

- ▶ Alcohol based hand sanitisers must be available at the venue entry and throughout the facility for all training sessions and competition matches, with participants encouraged to use prior, during and following activity.
- ▶ Ensure bathrooms are well stocked with hand soap and paper towels.
- ▶ Provide visual aids above hand wash basins to support effective hand washing.
- ▶ There is strictly to be no sharing of personal items such as water bottles, food or towels. Personal items need to be easily distinguishable, labelled and kept separate.
- ▶ Maintain high levels of hygiene when using a mouthguard (i.e. limit touching / removing mouthguards during training, clean / sanitise regularly).
- ▶ Players and coaches should avoid spitting or clearing nasal passages.
- ▶ Avoid high fives and handshakes.
- ▶ Ensure processes are in place to launder shared uniform items such as guernseys or bibs after use
- ▶ Change rooms and club rooms can be utilised however the number of people cannot exceed one person per four square metres (including participants, officials, volunteers and spectators)
- ▶ Club provided footballs and equipment to be wiped with antibacterial wipes or alcohol-based sanitiser prior to and after each training session or competition match.
- ▶ Clean frequently used hard surface areas, including communal facilities, several times per day with detergent and disinfectant.
- ▶ If you, or people you have been in contact with are sick, please DO NOT attend training and advise your football coach who is responsible for informing the COVID Safety Officer.

#### General Hygiene Practices

- ▶ Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds - if soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser.
- ▶ Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- ▶ Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- ▶ Stay home and seek medical treatment when you are sick.
- ▶ Cover your mouth to cough or sneeze.
- ▶ Any player or club member that has underlying health conditions or is considered a vulnerable person should consult with a healthcare professional prior to returning to Club & NAB AFL Auskick activities.

#### COVID SAFETY OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

- ▶ Ensuring all players, coaches, officials etc are aware of the Return to Contact Training, Competition & NAB AFL Auskick Protocols.
- ▶ Ensuring a club's adherence to these protocols and taking immediate steps to correct any identified breaches of the protocols.
- ▶ Developing any processes or initiatives that will aid a club's adherence to the Return to Contact Training, Competition & NAB AFL Auskick Protocols.
- ▶ Implementing and maintaining the training, NAB AFL Auskick, and competition logs / registers
- ▶ Keeping up to date with any changes to the protocols implemented by the AFL and communicating these to all within the club.
- ▶ Contact point for any questions from club members (players, coaches, officials, spectators etc) relating to Return to Contact Training, Competition & NAB AFL Auskick Protocols.

**CLUBS, NAB AFL AUSKICK CENTRES & UMPIRE GROUPS MUST ENSURE THAT THESE HYGIENE PROTOCOLS ARE IN PLACE FOR ALL TEAMS CONDUCTING CONTACT TRAINING, NAB AFL AUSKICK OR COMPETITION PLAY. IF THESE PROTOCOLS CANNOT BE ACHIEVED THEN TRAINING SHOULD NOT PROCEED.**



## RETURN TO PLAY FRAMEWORK

### RETURN TO CONTACT TRAINING, COMPETITION & NAB AFL AUSKICK

#### EDUCATION PROTOCOLS - REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ AFL NSW/ACT strongly recommends that Community Clubs, NAB AFL Auskick Centres and Umpire Groups implement a minimum one-week preparation and education phase to ensure they undertake the necessary preparations prior to Contact Training, Competition matches & NAB AFL Auskick. Clubs must not return to Contact Training, Competition play or NAB AFL Auskick until all items on the Checklist have been completed.
- ▶ Each Club, standalone NAB AFL Auskick Centre and Umpire Group must nominate one COVID Safety Officer and as a minimum this person must undertake the free Australian Government [online COVID-19 Infection Control Training](#) prior to recommencement of Club activity. It is strongly recommended that other club officials also undertake this training. The certificate of completion needs to be emailed to your League Administrator prior to the recommencement of activity. Where possible, we encourage Clubs to have multiple people to take ownership of this role and share the responsibility.
- ▶ All players, umpires and officials are encouraged to download the [Government's COVID-19 tracing app](#).
- ▶ Protocol Briefings (as outlined below) must be held in advance of return to contact training and competition play for players, coaches, umpires and officials.
- ▶ The AFL Community must lead and promote a strong culture of COVID-19 safety for the health and wellbeing of participants and the broader community.

PARTICIPANT BRIEFING	COACHES BRIEFING
<p>Prior to the recommencement of contact training, competition play &amp; NAB AFL Auskick, clubs to provide a briefing to all participants, coaches, coordinators, umpires, volunteers, parents that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Intended training NAB AFL Auskick and competition match dates, times and procedures established to limit team cross-over on ovals.</li><li>▶ Hygiene practices that have been implemented by the club, including hygiene procedures around the venue and equipment.</li><li>▶ Hygiene expectations of all participants.</li><li>▶ What to do if you are feeling unwell or have been into contact with people who are sick.</li><li>▶ Opt-out options for individuals who may not yet feel comfortable returning to contact training or competition play.</li><li>▶ Restrictions that are in place on club rooms, changerooms, club gyms, etc.</li><li>▶ Restrictions on people attending the training or competition venue – i.e. spectators, parents, etc.</li></ul>	<p>Clubs should also brief all coaches and NAB AFL Auskick Coordinators on the required expectations as leaders within the club environment, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Importance of the required hygiene protocols and practices.</li><li>▶ Preventing crossover of different teams.</li><li>▶ Limited use of changerooms, club rooms and club gym facilities.</li><li>▶ Acceptable skills and drills.</li><li>▶ Requirement for players to 'get in / get out'</li><li>▶ Responsibility as Leaders to influence behaviour change.</li></ul>

#### ALL FOOTBALL CLUBS, NAB AFL AUSKICK CENTRES & UMPIRE GROUPS PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN:

- ▶ Reducing the spread of COVID-19;
- ▶ Promoting good hygiene practices amongst participants;
- ▶ Adhering to and promoting the NSW Government requirements around social distancing and gatherings;
- ▶ Following the clear protocols and requirements around Return to Contact Training, Competition and NAB AFL Auskick.

It is important that Clubs, NAB AFL Auskick Centres and Umpire Groups are respectful in adhering to the requirements outlined as part of Return to Contact Training, Competition & NAB AFL Auskick Protocols, as they form part of the current Government directions, and sanctions can be applied to individuals and to clubs if they are in breach. Every club and individual playing their part in adhering to the protocols, will mean that football would have played its part in the community through a commitment to community health outcomes.

**CLUBS, NAB AFL AUSKICK CENTRES & UMPIRE GROUPS MUST ENSURE THAT THESE HYGIENE PROTOCOLS ARE IN PLACE FOR ALL TEAMS CONDUCTING CONTACT TRAINING, NAB AFL AUSKICK OR COMPETITION PLAY. IF THESE PROTOCOLS CANNOT BE ACHIEVED THEN TRAINING SHOULD NOT PROCEED.**



## RETURN TO PLAY FRAMEWORK

### RETURN TO CONTACT TRAINING, COMPETITION CHECKLIST

This checklist has been established to support teams returning to 'Contact Training & Competition Play' under the current NSW Government COVID-19 restrictions. The Football Club and Teams have an obligation to strictly adhere to these protocols at every Club activity. The key principle for training must be **'Get in, Train/Play, Get out'**

#### **AT LEAST ONE NOMINATED COVID SAFETY OFFICER**

At least one nominated Club official has undertaken the Australian Government [online COVID-19 Infection Control Training](#) and submitted a certificate of completion to their League Administrator prior to recommencement of Club activity.

#### **A REGISTER OF PARTICIPANTS, OFFICIALS & VOLUNTEERS**

The Club has implemented a log, or register, to keep a track of which participants, officials and volunteers are in attendance at all training sessions, and this is available upon request by AFL NSW/ACT or health authorities.

#### **1.5M SOCIAL DISTANCING**

The Club has advised its participants, coaches, volunteers and parents that, apart from during training and competition play, social distancing requirements of 1.5m must be strictly observed along with adhering to the requirement of no more than 1 person per 4sqm.

#### **MINIMISE SPECTATORS TO PARENTS AND CARERS ONLY**

The Club understands that they are to take all reasonable steps to minimise the number of spectators attending community sport events (training or matchday) which should not exceed 500 participants (defined as players, officials and spectators) at any one time.

#### **CONDITIONS OF VENUE ENTRY**

The conditions of entry for each venue are clearly visible at all main entry points of a venue, along with major gathering areas i.e. canteen / bars and have been promoted through websites and social media.

#### **SIGNAGE AT ENTRY OF ANY COMMUNAL AREAS**

Clearly identifiable signage will be placed at the entry of any communal facilities such as change rooms and club rooms, to ensure all areas do not exceed one person per four square metres (including participants, officials, volunteers & spectators).

#### **CLUB UNDERSTAND THE CONTACT TRAINING & COMPETITION PROTOCOLS**

The Club and all teams have read, understood and agree to adhere to the Return to Contact Training, Competition & NAB AFL Auskick Protocols, including hygiene protocols provided by AFL NSW/ACT.

#### **HYGIENE PROTOCOLS ARE IN PLACE**

The Club has implemented the hygiene protocols as outlined in the Return to Contact Training, Competition & NAB AFL Auskick Protocols document.

#### **COVIDSafe APP**

The Club has encouraged all players, volunteers and families to download the COVIDSafe App to help in tracing the spread of COVID-19.

#### **FOLLOW DIRECTIONS**

The Club and training groups understand that they must follow the direction and advice of local and state authorities at all times, including excluding participants as required by the State Government.



## RETURN TO PLAY FRAMEWORK

### RETURN TO NAB AFL AUSKICK CHECKLIST

This checklist has been established to support participants returning to 'NAB AFL Auskick' under the current NSW Government COVID-19 restrictions. The NAB AFL Auskick Centre and its participants, coordinators, coaches and volunteers have an obligation to strictly adhere to these protocols at every NAB AFL Auskick activity. The key principle for NAB AFL Auskick must be **'Get in, Play, Get out'**

#### **AT LEAST ONE NOMINATED COVID SAFETY OFFICER**

At least one nominated Club official has undertaken the Australian Government [online COVID-19 Infection Control Training](#) and submitted a certificate of completion to their League Administrator prior to recommencement of Club activity. If a NAB AFL Auskick Centre does not have an aligned Junior Club, then it is the responsibility of the Centre to appoint a COVID Safety Officer and submit a certificate of completion to their League Administrator.

#### **PROTOCOLS UNDERSTOOD**

The Club and NAB AFL Auskick Centre coordinators have read, understood and agree to adhere to the Return to Contact Training, Competition & NAB AFL Auskick Protocols provided by AFL NSW/ACT.

#### **A REGISTER OF PARTICIPANTS, OFFICIALS & VOLUNTEERS**

The NAB AFL Auskick Centre has implemented a log, or register, to keep a track of which participants, officials and volunteers are in attendance at all training sessions, and this is available upon request by AFL NSW/ACT or health authorities.

#### **1.5M SOCIAL DISTANCING**

The NAB AFL Auskick Centre has advised its participants, coordinators, coaches, volunteers and parents that all activities must strictly observe social distancing requirements of 1.5m where appropriate, and adhere to the requirement of no more than 1 person per 4sqm. Adhering to the recommended small group ratio as outlined on the [play.afl/Auskick](#) website will assist in planning sessions.

#### **CONDITIONS OF VENUE ENTRY**

The conditions of entry for each venue are clearly visible at all main entry points of a venue, along with major gathering areas i.e. canteen / bars and have been promoted through websites and social media.

#### **SIGNAGE AT ENTRY OF ANY COMMUNAL AREAS**

Clearly identifiable signage will be placed at the entry of any communal facilities such as change rooms and club rooms, to ensure all areas do not exceed one person per four square metres.

#### **EQUIPMENT CLEANED**

Footballs and other equipment used in NAB AFL Auskick sessions must be wiped with antibacterial wipes or alcohol-based sanitizer prior to and after each session.

#### **COVIDSafe APP**

The NAB AFL Auskick Centre has encouraged all players, volunteers and families to download the COVIDSafe App to help in tracing the spread of COVID-19.

#### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT APPROVAL**

The Club has received approval from the Local Government to access the oval for NAB AFL Auskick activities.

#### **FOLLOW DIRECTIONS**

The NAB AFL Auskick Centre understand that they must follow the direction and advice of local and state authorities at all times.