



COVID-19 COMPLIANCE

ACT

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Dear Community Football Network,

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome our football community to the 2021 Community Football Season. This time of the year is filled with anticipation, hope and enthusiasm for what the season will deliver.

As we head into a new season, the health and safety of our players, coaches, umpires and volunteers continues to be of utmost importance to AFL NSW ACT. As part of this, COVID-19 compliance remains a critical priority for our code and we are here to support and guide our clubs through their obligations and adherence to the ACT Public Health Directions.

Off the back of a 'season like no other' in 2020 our leagues, clubs and competitions are well-versed in COVID-19 compliance and recognise the importance of fulfilling their obligations under ACT Public Health Directions to minimise risk of transmission of COVID-19 at their venues. The Public Health Directions are constantly evolving so it is timely to highlight the current key requirements for clubs.

In the ACT, all sporting organisations, clubs and venues must have a Return to Play in a COVID Safe Environment plan or a COVID Safety Plan (whichever is relevant). Any event over 500 people must have its own COVID Safety Plan.

COVID-19 Safety Plans:

- ▶ must be in writing (use of a standard template is not required) and produced on request by compliance and enforcement officers;
- ▶ must be able to be produced on request by a compliance or enforcement officer; and
- ▶ may be updated and adjusted online as the season progresses or circumstances change.

AFL NSW ACT has developed a number of resources on subsequent pages of the guide to support our community football clubs to complete their COVID-19 Safety Plans ahead of the 2021 season.

Businesses (including sporting clubs) and venues must be registered for and using the Check In CBR app. Businesses and venues must take all reasonable steps to require patrons to check in before entering the premises. All patrons 16 years and older must check in.

AFL NSW ACT will continue to mandate nomination of a COVID-19 Safety Officer per club as per the 2020 season. This individual will be the primary contact for COVID-19 communications from AFL NSW ACT, as well as ensure that COVID-19 Safety Plans have been submitted and the relevant restrictions and contact-tracing measures are adhered to.

We thank you for your continued cooperation with the ACT Public Health Directions and encourage you all to take the time to plan, prepare and educate your members to ensure that we have a safe and successful 2021 community football season.

Look forward to seeing many of you at a local oval soon.



Tiffany Robertson
Head of AFL NSW/ACT

2021 OVERVIEW

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

- ▶ Protecting the community and preventing the spread of COVID-19
- ▶ Promoting good hygiene practices amongst participants
- ▶ Adhering to and promoting compliance with the ACT Chief Health Officer's Public Directions requirements around social distancing and gatherings
- ▶ Following their COVID-19 Safety Plan by fulfilling the obligations under Public Health Directions.

We trust the AFL community to lead and promote a strong culture of COVID-19 safety for the health and wellbeing of participants and the broader community.

EACH COMMUNITY CLUB AND STANDALONE NAB AFL AUSKICK CENTRE IN THE ACT IS CONSIDERED COVID-19 COMPLIANT IF THEY HAVE COMPLETED THE FOLLOWING STEPS:

2021 COMPLIANCE SNAPSHOT

ACT			
CLUB REQUIREMENT	DETAILS	HOW	RESOURCES
Participant Limits (Mandatory)	<p>Each venue can have 25 people across the entire venue.</p> <p>For more than 25 people, a venue must only have one person per two square metres of usable space in each indoor and outdoor space.</p> <p>Enclosed outdoor venues with permanent tiered seating and grandstands, can have up to 100% capacity. These events must be ticketed and seated. Density for any unfixed seating areas should be calculated using the one person per two square metres of usable space rule, up to 1,000 people. Each venue must have a COVID Safety Plan.</p>	<p>Utilise Google Maps satellite view and the "measure distance" tool (right click on map to select this).</p> <p>In considering a venue's maximum capacity, the field area and spectator areas should be measured separately.</p>	<p>https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/business-and-work/pools/venue-capacity</p>

<p>Hygiene Praces (Mandatory)</p>	<p>(Will also be covered under the club's COVID Safety Plan).</p> <p>Ensure key hygiene practices are in place for, and communicated to, all participants, eg:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Practice good hand hygiene ▶ Sanitise equipment after use ▶ Individual player water bottles ▶ No participant attendance if sick ▶ Spectators to maintain physical distancing ▶ Get in, Train / Play, Get out 	<p>Include provision for these items in the club COVID Safety Plan.</p> <p>Regular club communications (e.g. social media, email, TeamApp) to all participants.</p> <p>Place posters around the venue.</p> <p>Purchase stocks of sanitiser and paper towels for hand hygiene and equipment cleaning</p>	<p>https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/signs-and-factsheets</p> <p>https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0009/1554165/Covid-19-Poster-Hand-Washing.pdf</p>
<p>Return to Play in COVID Safe Environment plan (Mandatory)</p>	<p>Ensure your club has a current Return to Play in a COVID Safe Environment plan or COVID-19 Safety Plan in place (including for training). Your plan does not need to and will not be approved by the ACT Government, but a copy of the plan must be kept by the club and made readily available for inspection by an authorised officer as requested.</p>	<p>This plan should remain flexible, while also providing a level of operational detail relevant to your club and the facilities used.</p> <p>The plan should provide consistency of activity delivery, ensure that physical distancing and hygiene principles are clear and can be easily understood.</p> <p>Your plan must be clearly communicated to all stakeholders.</p>	<p>https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0009/1602855/PICC0149-Return-To-Sport-Framework.pdf</p>
<p>Record Keeping (Mandatory)</p>	<p>From 6 March, 2021, all restricted businesses, venues and facilities under the public health direction must register for and use the Check In CBR app to collect patron contact details of anyone aged 16 years and older.</p> <p>It is now mandatory for patrons to check in with Check In CBR.</p>	<p>Register to use the Check In CBR app.</p> <p>Businesses (including sporting organisations) that are not registered for Check In CBR are not compliant with the public health direction and may be penalised.</p> <p>Businesses must take reasonable steps to ensure patrons check in.</p> <p>A new business profile function in the Check In CBR app has been developed to assist businesses and patrons to comply with this requirement. This will allow venues to check in patrons who are unable to do so themselves.</p>	<p>https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/business-and-work/check-in-cbr</p>
<p>Club COVID Officer (Mandatory under AFL NSW/ACT Rules)</p>	<p>Appoint a person to ensure compliance with these protocols and to act as the club's primary contact for COVID related matters. In the absence of any appointed person, the responsibility will revert to the Club President.</p>	<p>Clubs are to advise their Leagues of their nominated club COVID Officer prior to Round 1 commencement.</p>	<p>Develop description of duties or check list?</p> <p>Link to training course?</p>

RECOMMENDED FOOTY HYGIENE MEASURES FOR TRAINING, COMPETITION AND NAB AFL AUSKICK

RECOMMENDED 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.
- ▶ Strictly 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.
- ▶ Ensure processes are in place to launder shared uniform items such as guernseys or bibs after use.
- ▶ Change rooms and club rooms can be used. However the number of people cannot exceed current ACT Public Health Directions capacity restrictions (such as one person per two square metres). This includes 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 or matches.

RECOMMENDED 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.

A QUICK GUIDE TO COMPLETING YOUR COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN FOR COMMUNITY SPORTING ACTIVITIES

WELLBEING OF STAFF AND CUSTOMERS

COVID-19 safety plan requirements:

- ▶ Exclude staff, volunteers, parents/carers and participants who are unwell.
- ▶ Provide staff and volunteers with information and training on COVID-19, including when to get tested, physical distancing, wearing masks and cleaning, and how to manage a sick visitor.
- ▶ Make staff aware of their leave entitlements if they are sick or required to self-isolate.
- ▶ Display conditions of entry (website, social media, venue entry).
- ▶ If hiring the facility, consult with the owners/operators to address these requirements to understand what measures may already be in place.
- ▶ Other types of venues or facilities within the premises must complete COVID-19 Safety Plans where applicable. If contact details are captured electronically upon entry to the main premises on the relevant day, additional collection of contact details via electronic methods may not be required if there is no other public access to the sub-premises. However, additional contact details and time of entry must be captured where these sub-premises are indoor gyms, nightclubs, dine-in hospitality venues, pubs and bars.

Suggested club actions to consider when adhering to requirements

- ▶ Advise club members via email, social media and website that they, or family members, must not attend any football related activity if they have been unwell or had flu-like symptoms in the past 14 days, or been potentially exposed to a person with a suspected case of COVID-19.
- ▶ Advise club members via email, social media and website of the need to get tested and self-isolate in the event they are feeling unwell or have flu-like symptoms.
- ▶ Display COVID-19 Conditions of Entry signage at venue entry points – i.e. gates, canteen, toilets and changerooms.
- ▶ Distribute COVID-19 Conditions of Entry to participants, team managers, parents, coaches, umpires and volunteers prior to the season via email and social media including links to key resources for further information on these matters.
- ▶ Include your COVID-19 Conditions of Entry on your Club website.
- ▶ Conduct an online training session for all club volunteers on COVID-19 compliance.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Return to Play in a COVID-Safe Environment Plan – Plan Requirements

- ▶ Each venue can have 25 people across the entire venue.
- ▶ For more than 25 people, a venue must only have one person per two square metres of usable space in each indoor and outdoor space.
- ▶ Enclosed outdoor venues with permanent tiered seating and grandstands, can have up to 100% capacity. These events must be ticketed and seated. Density for any unfixed seating areas should be calculated using the one person per two square metres of usable space rule, up to 1,000 people. Each venue must have a COVID Safety Plan.
- ▶ In indoor areas, spectators should not sing or chant.
- ▶ Minimise co-mingling of participants from different games and timeslots where possible. For mass participation events, stagger the starting times for different groups to minimise crowding where possible
- ▶ Ensure 1.5-metre physical distancing where possible, including:
 - at points of mixing or queuing such as food and drink stations, toilets and entrance and exit points
 - between seated groups
 - between staff.
- ▶ Have strategies in place to manage gatherings that may occur immediately outside the premises, such as with drop off and pick up zones or staggered start/finish times.
- ▶ Beyond the field or court, maintaining physical distancing between yourself and other people and groups you do not know.
- ▶ Limiting spectators to one parent or carer as required.
- ▶ Where possible, encourage participants to avoid carpools with people from different household groups.
- ▶ Reduce crowding wherever possible and promote physical distancing with markers on the floor where people stand or are asked to queue.
- ▶ Ensure communal facilities such as showers, change rooms and lockers have strategies in place to reduce crowding and promote physical distancing.
- ▶ Where practical, stagger the use of communal facilities. Strongly encourage participants to shower/change at home where possible.
- ▶ Use telephone or video platforms for essential staff meetings where practical.
- ▶ Review regular business deliveries and request contactless delivery and invoicing where practical.

Suggested club actions to consider when adhering to requirements

- ▶ Ensure you have worked with your venue hirer, or ACT Government, to determine maximum outdoor and indoor venue capacity based on current physical distancing restrictions.
- ▶ Ensure player numbers, projected spectator attendance and the staggering of matches, has determined that this number will not be exceeded.
- ▶ Ensure Grandstand capacity is known and adheres to current restrictions.
- ▶ Wherever there are multiple teams at the venue for training, start and finish times have been staggered by 30 minutes to minimise cross-over at entry or departure.

- ▶ Where multiple teams are training at the same time, each team is provided with an allocated part of the ground.
- ▶ Maintain the “Get in, train/play, get out” philosophy.
- ▶ Use markers on the ground at key gathering spots such as canteen and BBQ areas to encourage physical distancing.
- ▶ Use barriers to control entry and exit points to canteen and BBQ areas.
- ▶ Display physical distancing signage in toilets and change rooms.
- ▶ Display physical distancing signage at the entry to seating areas to advise of capacity limits.
- ▶ Advise Team Managers, participants and parents to avoid carpooling with different households.
- ▶ Encourage participants, especially junior teams, to shower at home after training or matches.
- ▶ Conduct Committee, Coaches and Team Manager meetings online.

HYGIENE & CLEANING

Return to Play in a COVID-Safe Environment Plan – Plan Requirements

- ▶ Adopt good hand hygiene practices.
- ▶ Ensure hand sanitiser is accessible at the venue entry and throughout the facility or ground.
- ▶ Ensure bathrooms are well stocked with hand soap and paper towels or hand dryers. Consider providing visual aids above hand wash basins to support effective hand washing.
- ▶ Encourage participants to bring their own water bottle, snacks/orange slices and sweat towels. Avoid shared food and drinks.
- ▶ Ensure processes are in place to launder shared uniform items after use, such as bibs or jerseys.
- ▶ Clean frequently used indoor hard surface areas, including children’s play areas, at least daily; first with detergent and water, and then disinfect. Clean frequently touched areas and surfaces, including in communal facilities, several times per day.
- ▶ Clean indoor hard surface areas used for high intensity sports with detergent and disinfectant after each use.
- ▶ Reduce sharing of equipment where practical and ensure these are cleaned with detergent and disinfectant between use.
- ▶ Ensure there is accessible detergent/disinfectant and gloves for visitors to use, should they wish.
- ▶ Disinfectant solutions need to be maintained at an appropriate strength and used in accordance with the manufacturers’ instructions.
- ▶ Staff should wash hands thoroughly with soap and water before and after cleaning.
- ▶ Encourage contactless payment options.
- ▶ In indoor areas, increase natural ventilation by opening windows and doors where possible, and increase mechanical ventilation where possible by optimising air conditioning or other system settings (such as by maximising the intake of outside air and reducing or avoiding recirculation of air).

Suggested club actions to consider when adhering to requirements

- ▶ Ensure purchase of adequate hygiene supplies (hand sanitiser, hand soap, paper towels, disinfectant etc).
- ▶ Advise all players and team officials by email and social media of key hygiene requirements (e.g. bring own labelled water bottles, no spitting, no sharing of food, mouthguard management etc).

- ▶ Post signs at prominent locations (e.g. canteen, toilets, change rooms) detailing key hygiene requirements including regular washing of hands.
- ▶ Prior to each event (e.g. training or matches) distribute adequate hygiene supplies to key venue locations including toilets and change rooms
- ▶ Following any event, clean (or arrange for cleaning of) any indoor area that has been used during the event (e.g. canteen, change rooms, toilets)
- ▶ Nominate one person per Team who is responsible for equipment management including disinfecting equipment prior to and after an event.
- ▶ Implement system for each player to be responsible for their own playing attire.
- ▶ Have sufficient training bibs available so players don't need to share these.

RECORD KEEPING

Suggested club actions to consider when adhering to requirements

- ▶ Register as a COVID Safe business and use the QR code that comes with this.
- ▶ Advise all potential attendees (players, officials, supporters) via email and social media of record keeping requirements on attendance at the venue
- ▶ Post signs, with the QR code displayed, at key locations (e.g. entry gates where applicable, canteen).
- ▶ Have hard copy attendance sheets available for each event at key locations for those who are unable to sign in via a QR code.
- ▶ Ensure that any hard copy attendance sheets for each event are collected immediately after the event and scanned / saved to the club document directories, and that these records are readily available to NSW Health in the event of a contact tracing request
- ▶ Review the Club COVID Safety Plan at each committee meeting to ensure it remains up to date, and modify as required.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What happened to the AFL NSW/ACT Protocols?

The AFL NSW/ACT Protocols were developed at short notice in early 2020 to help support clubs to participate in competitions in that year. This included protocols and detail beyond what was available at the time in Public Health Directions. As the Public Health Directions have become more specific and detailed around individual industries, including community sport, there's no need to have separate protocols and AFL NSW/ACT can now align closely to those Public Health Directions.

What are the maximum Spectator Numbers Allowed?

- ▶ Each venue can have 25 people across the entire venue.
- ▶ For more than 25 people, a venue must only have one person per two square metres of usable space in each indoor and outdoor space.
- ▶ Enclosed outdoor venues with permanent tiered seating and grandstands, can have up to 100% capacity. These events must be ticketed and seated. Density for any unfixed seating areas should be calculated using the one person per two square metres of usable space rule, up to 1,000 people. Each venue must have a COVID Safety Plan.

How do we determine the maximum number of spectators allowed?

- ▶ Use Google Maps satellite view and the “measure distance” tool (right click on map to select this).
- ▶ Calculate the square metres of the logical areas where spectators would gather to watch matches taking place on the oval ie don't include carparks, areas behind trees etc. Divide this total number by 2 (for the 1 person per 2 sqm rule)

Can the club run a canteen / BBQ

Clubs may still run canteens and BBQ's as long as there is adherence to relevant Public Health Directions requirements, including physical distancing for customers. Sharing food items such as sauce bottles should be avoided where possible (e.g. use sauce satchels). Electronic payment methods are strongly encouraged.

Can we use changerooms?

We encourage clubs to avoid use of changerooms where possible (i.e. “get in, play/train, get out”). If changerooms need to be used:

- ▶ there must be strict adherence to the one person per two square metre rule
- ▶ avoid cross-over of teams
- ▶ must be appropriate hygiene supplies provided (soap, sanitiser, paper towels etc)
- ▶ must be cleaned after use.

ARE WE REQUIRED TO USE A QR CODE FOR RECORD KEEPING? CHECK IN CBR APP

Contact-tracing

Efficient contact tracing helps slow or stop the spread of COVID-19 in the community.

Using a QR code system (particularly the Check In CBR app) helps ACT Health to quickly identify and alert people who may have been in contact with a person with COVID-19 while visiting your venue.

Training

Clubs should implement measures that help limit the potential spread of COVID and limit contact between different teams. For example:

- ▶ Where multiple teams train at a venue, stagger team training times by at least 30 minutes to limit cross-over between participants at entry and exit times.
- ▶ Allocate teams to specific parts of the field and mark these areas with hats or cones.
- ▶ Adopt the “get in, train, get out” philosophy.
- ▶ Where possible avoid the use of changerooms and encourage participants to come dressed and ready to train.
- ▶ Ensure adherence by participants to hygiene requirements.
- ▶ Ensure training equipment is disinfected before and after training.

What are my club’s matchday COVID requirements

Key matchday requirements would include, but not be limited to:

- ▶ Setting up signage in prominent locations around the venue (e.g. gates, canteen, changerooms, toilets)
- ▶ Ensuring Check In CBR app is in place.
- ▶ Set up marking and barriers to enable safe physical distancing (e.g. in grandstands, canteen / BBQ queues, entry gates etc)
- ▶ Ensure sufficient hygiene supplies are in place (e.g. at gates, toilets, canteen)
- ▶ Make regular announcements over the PA system reminding attendees of key requirements
- ▶ Promote “Get in, Play, Get Out” philosophy
- ▶ Refrain from singing the team song in changerooms
- ▶ Ensure spectator adherence to physical distancing requirements
- ▶ Know what your venue’s attendee limits are and ensure compliance with this
- ▶ Ensure cleaning of equipment after use
- ▶ Ensure cleaning of indoor areas used (e.g. canteen, toilets, changerooms, social rooms etc.).

What are the main hygiene requirements?

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Strictly 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.
- ▶ 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 current ACT Public Health Directions capacity restrictions such as one person per two square metres. This includes 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 train

Do I need a separate plan for juniors and senior football clubs?

Where a junior and senior club share the same venue, a single COVID Safety Plan may be used as long as the plan covers any specific requirements that may be unique to one or the other. For example, if juniors have considerably more teams than seniors, they may need to build additional requirements in around scheduling of training times.

How many people can train or play together at one time?

The current limitation on participant numbers, including players, is the application of the one person per two square metre rule. However, it is still strongly recommended that clubs endeavour to limit numbers at training.

Do COVID Safe Officers need to be at every game / training?

The club's COVID Safe Officer should attend training and matches when available to ensure that the club is meeting its Public Health Direction requirements. All club and team officials present at training or matches should be familiar with key COVID requirements and ensure strict compliance with these.

What signage is required?

Clubs should determine their signage requirements as part of their COVID Safety Plan. At minimum, clubs should have signs placed in prominent locations (e.g. entry gates, canteen, changerooms and toilets) that detail fundamental COVID compliance requirements, including:

- ▶ Conditions of entry, including signing in
- ▶ Physical Distancing
- ▶ Maximum numbers allowed (e.g. in change rooms, toilets)
- ▶ Hygiene requirements

Can we share team water bottles?

No. Each player and team official is to have their own individual water bottle clearly identifiable.

Can players still get strapping and use trainers?

Where practicable, players are encouraged to apply their own strapping. Players may still use trainers which includes the application of strapping.

Trainers need to ensure strict compliance to relevant hygiene protocols, including the disinfecting of equipment prior to and after each individual use, wearing of disposable surgical gloves etc.



COVID-19 COMPLIANCE – ACT

How often should equipment be cleaned?

Equipment should be cleaned / disinfected before and after each use. In a training / match context, “each use” would be before and after each training session or match.

Are there restrictions on crossing borders to play or train?

Border crossing restrictions are determined by individual state and territory governments and can change rapidly and significantly. There is generally significant media around any changes to border restrictions. Any clubs that rely on players who have to cross a border and who are unsure of any current restrictions should, in the first instance, check the relevant state or territory government website.