



MEMORANDUM

To:	AFLNEB Clubs, Leagues, Umpires and Auskick Centres
CC:	AFLNEB Commission and Management
Date:	Tuesday, 17 March 2020
Re:	COVID-19 Season 2020 postponement

I wanted to take this opportunity to confirm AFL North East Borders position on the current situation regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19) and community football and netball following the release of AFL's recommendations.

AFLNEB and its member leagues support the position and that the commencement of the **2020 season has been postponed until May 31st, 2020** to assist in reducing the spread of the COVID-19 virus. This now provides further time and the opportunity to monitor the scenario as it continues to evolve and consider the delivery of the various seasons under such extreme circumstances.

We appreciate that Football and Netball are an important part of individual, family and community life, however, this decision has not been made lightly and the health, wellbeing and safety of individuals at all levels of our games (football and netball) and members of our community remain paramount.

The postponement extends to Community League games, training session practice matches, Auskick, AFLNEB Umpires and includes School and Community based development and promotional programs, Representative Squads and Carnivals and Next Generation Academy Programs.

AFLNEB will continue to receive expert advice provided by the Government, the AFL and relevant health authorities in relation to the COVID-19 virus and future community activities and encourage clubs, players, volunteers and families to take appropriate measures to mitigate the risks.

Whilst AFLNEB staff have been encouraged to work from home from Wednesday March 18th, we remain committed to supporting clubs during this uncertain period and will be providing regular communications as further planning is conducted with the view to commencing the season whenever possible. All AFLNEB staff will be contactable by mobile phone and email during this time and we will endeavour to answer any questions you may have at the appropriate time.

Thank you for your understanding and ongoing commitment to Country Football and Netball which will be required when the season is to commence. Again, AFLNEB will communicate regularly and as the situation evolves further

Regards

John O'Donohue
Region General Manager
AFL North East Border
0428 507332