



RETURN TO PLAY FRAMEWORK

RETURN TO SMALL GROUP TRAINING FAQs

CURRENT AT 13 JUNE 2020

These FAQ's will be regularly reviewed in line with Government advice

TRAINING

What does Small Group Training mean?

Clubs/Teams are to strictly adhere to the maximum of 20 participants (inclusive of coaches and support staff) per group, as per the current NSW Government restrictions, and following the [Return to Small Group Training Up-To 20 People Protocols](#).

Does the COVID Safety Officer need to attend all training sessions?

If the COVID Safety Officer cannot attend a training session, they should appoint and brief a replacement to ensure compliance of the protocols, including completion of the training register which should be forwarded to the COVID Safety Officer once training has been completed. Where possible, we encourage clubs to have multiple people take ownership of this role and share the responsibility.

How many small groups can use an AFL oval at any one given time?

AFL NSW/ACT recommend that an AFL oval can be divided into three (3) distinct areas with groups of up to twenty (20) able to train in each area (i.e. a total of 60 people of the oval). Please refer to the [Return to Small Group Training Up-To 20 People Protocols](#) for a diagram and further advice.

My team has more players than allowed, can we just have a few more attend?

We must strictly comply with the guidelines in place at all times, and we are not able to stretch the limits on attendance, under any circumstances. Please refer to the [Return to Small Group Training Up-To 20 People Protocols](#) for a diagram and further advice.

Can participants change training groups during a training session?

No, under the Return to Small Group Training Protocols, participants cannot move between groups under any circumstances.

Do training group participants need to remain the same every training session?

While we recommend group members remain the same where possible, the makeup of training groups on different days can vary. As always, clubs must keep a register of all participants for every session.

Can our club set up a different training drill in each of the three areas of the oval and the three groups rotate through these across the training session?

Yes, groups can rotate through the three different drills across the three areas of the oval, however as per the Return to Small Group Training Protocols, participants cannot move between groups under any circumstances. Clubs must also ensure that all groups remain well clear of each other during any changeover, and any footballs used should remain with the same group for the entire session i.e. don't leave footballs at each drill for the next group to use.

My local oval still has signs up that it is closed and we can't access?

If your training venue remains closed, you will need to liaise with your local government authority to understand if or when that venue will open. If the venue remains closed, you need to find an alternative training location.



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My club utilises two different training ovals, can we have 60 participants on each oval?

Yes, if your club utilises more than one oval, 60 participants can train on each oval providing they follow the Return to Small Group Training Protocols. If the ovals are side by side, we recommend staggering the training times for each oval to minimise large groups congregating before or after training.

Can we have participants doing alternate training activities such as road runs while participants are training on the oval?

Yes, other training activities in line with the NSW Public Health Order can occur elsewhere while training occurs on the oval, providing participants follow the Return to Small Group Training Protocols. Clubs however are encouraged to use alternate meeting points and differing training times to those training on the oval to minimise large groups congregating before or after training.

My club is a Football and Netball Club with a football oval and netball courts side by side. Can both codes train at the same time?

Yes, training on an oval and netball court can happen simultaneously, providing all groups abide by their sporting codes Small Group Training Protocols. Where possible, we recommend staggering the training times for each training group to minimise large groups congregating before or after training.

Can we use our local clubhouse and gym?

It is recommended that access to indoor facilities and gyms remains restricted as per the latest NSW Public Health Order. Sporting club gyms are not to be accessed until at least 1 July and then access will be in line with the Government advice on commercial gyms.

What about our change room and facilities? Where do we get dressed/changed if we can't access these?

The AIS Framework recommends that change rooms facilities are limited.

Change rooms should remain closed for training except to access toilets if there are no alternative toilet facilities available, or for the purpose of obtaining equipment.

Players, umpires and coaches are to arrive dressed and ready to train. Showers must be conducted at home after training.

Our team normally shares the load with fruit and snacks? Can we still do this?

No. At no time can players share any drinks or food, including snacks, fruit or lollies. Similarly, there is strictly no sharing of water bottles.

CROWDS & SPECTATORS

My child is training, can the whole family come along to training/watch?

It is recommended in the AIS Framework that juniors are only accompanied by one parent/carer to minimise the risk of crowds and transmission spread. It is also recommended that you consider vulnerable members of your family (e.g. people over 70 years of age) and recommend they do not attend to minimise their risk of infection.



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STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Our Coach/Trainer/Assistant is aged over 70, what does this mean?

We strongly recommend that elderly and vulnerable individuals reconsider their need to attend training or competition environments. Whilst we cannot stop these individuals attending, we strongly advise that strict social distancing measures should apply. Where possible, we recommend they do not act in a service capacity interacting with crowds (i.e. serving, trainers, officials etc).

I'm a coach/trainer – do we need to wear Gloves or PPE Equipment?

It is not a mandatory requirement that team coaches or staff wear protective equipment. If you have a personal preference to do so, you are welcome to.

How often do we have to clean our equipment?

We understand the challenges around maintaining strict levels of hygiene amongst a football group. However, it is essential we implement the highest quality of hygiene at all times for the safety and comfort of our participants and their families. The AIS Framework specifies that we ensure “hospital grade disinfectant is used”. We ask that before and after training or equipment use that balls, mats, cones etc. are all thoroughly disinfected with hospital grade cleaning products and stored safely until next use.

NAB AFL AUSKICK

My Junior football club has started training. Why isn't Auskick back?

NAB AFL Auskick is a national program that has different safety implications that must be considered. Pleasingly, NAB AFL Auskick will commence in NSW from 18 July. We will continue to provide regular updates to all Auskick centres and participants regarding this.

How can I keep my child engaged in AFL while Auskick isn't running?

Please make sure you check out NAB AFL Auskick at Home here and once you have practiced all these activities, we also have Footy at Home [here](#).

UMPIRES

Are umpires allowed to train?

Umpires can commence Small Group Training the week commencing Monday 22 June. We will continue to regularly communicate with umpires regarding the recommencement of their training.

GENERAL

When will we be able to play matches and complete full training with all players and staff in attendance?

The NSW State Government has confirmed that contact training and matches can resume from 1 July. To ensure players are well-prepared for competition, AFL NSW/ACT has confirmed that matches can commence the weekend of 17-19 July, with contact training and match simulation from 1 July. Further detail around a return to contact training and playing is outlined on the AFL NSW/ACT website.



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Why have other sports teams gone back, but we aren't playing football matches?

Each State or Territory Government is responsible for determining when each sport can return and some sports will return sooner than others. Understandably, there are different considerations for each sport including contact v non-contact, indoor v outdoor sports, numbers in teams etc. We are bound by the State or Territory Governments on when they decide AFL can move from stage 1 to 2 to 3.

Why do other sports have different safety and hygiene protocols to AFL?

The AFL is following the protocols set out by the Federal Government's AIS Framework. Each sport may take a different approach to how they adopt the protocols set out by the Federal Government's AIS framework.

Given our season has been delayed are we going to extend into October for competitions?

Season start and end dates for your competition will be determined by your League. The transition from winter to summer sport has been undertaken with considerable goodwill and cooperation by the winter and summer sport users of grounds with agreement on handover dates and in consultation with the NSW Government.

Will the AFL be providing education for Club staff or volunteers?

Yes, the AFL requires individuals responsible for coordinating protocol checks to undertake the [COVID-19 infection control training](#) which can be completed online [here](#). It is also recommended that the COVID Safety Officer completes the COVID Protocols Course specific to Australian Football which can be completed online [here](#).

How do we keep track of our club officials who have completed the online education training?

We have created templates for you to record who in your Club has completed the COVID-19 infection control training and the online training on the protocols specific for Australian Football. This template is available [here](#).

How do we record who attends organised football training at our Club?

We have created a template for you to record who attends each training session and when, so you have a record if required by your State Health department. This template is available [here](#). Clubs can also use a digital App to keep track of attendance, the AFL endorse the use of [TeamApp Attendance Tracker](#).

Where can we get posters or signs for our Club to make sure people know the rules?

Posters for Clubs are available here from the Return to Play page on the AFL NSW/ACT website to display at all training and playing venues.

There are lots of rules around sanitisation and cleaning. How do we afford to pay for all the extra cleaning equipment required?

In most cases your Club will assume responsibility for ensuring the additional cleaning and sanitation requirements are met, however we encourage you to contact your league, venue provider or local council to see if they have any suggestions or support to keep these additional cleaning requirements as affordable as possible.

My team has started training again, but I'm not feeling 100% or a family member has had/recovered from coronavirus.

It is absolutely essential that no one ever attends training or spectates if they are feeling unwell or they have been around someone who has been unwell. You must ensure you notify your Club official (E.G. COVID-Safety Officer) if you have attended training and been unwell or have concerns about a family member or close contact.



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What do we do if we're feeling unwell?

Anyone who has a fever or respiratory symptoms consistent with coronavirus, no matter how mild, is strongly recommended to attend a COVID-19 clinic, or their GP, for assessment and testing.

Monitor for symptoms such as fever, cough or shortness of breath. Other early symptoms to watch for are chills and body aches or muscle pain, a sore throat, headaches, runny nose, diarrhoea or unexplained loss of taste or smell.

If it is determined you are to undertake a test, following the test you must self-isolate by immediately going home and resting while you wait for your test result (which you should usually get within 2 days). Whilst you are waiting you must stay at home (i.e. do not attend work, school/university or training), wash your hands often with soap and water, cough and sneeze into a clean tissue or your elbow and avoid close contact with others, including members of your household.

You must also notify your club's nominated representative (E.G. COVID-SAFE Officer) that you have undertaken a COVID-19 test and they must then notify their relevant League official who will advise on next steps.

What to do if we have a positive test?

If you receive a positive test result, you must strictly follow all instructions to self-quarantine and advise your Club COVID Safety Officer who will in turn advise your League Administrator.

You will also be contacted by relevant authorities to assist in contact tracing.

Your league and club must also follow the advice of authorities with regard to any suspension of training.

INSURANCE

What does this mean for Insurance? Are we still covered?

Yes. Clubs & Associations will be covered as usual under the AFL's Community Football Public Liability and Club Management Liability policies. Participants will also be covered as usual and at their Club/Team elected level under the Personal Accident policy for physical injuries sustained in footballing activities, however cover does not extend to a sickness or illness. Cover under these policies is always subject to their terms, conditions and exclusions. Further information is available from the Marsh website by clicking [here](#).

Are we liable for a claim if there is a positive test case in our Club/Team?

A Club can limit the risk of being found liable for a claim in connection with there being a positive test by a player or other participant at the Club, by taking all reasonable precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the Club and the wider community, including but not limited to, following the advice and recommendations of Federal & State Governments. A Club's potential liability will need to consider the circumstances of the particular case. For further information please [click here](#).

TRANSFERS

The transfer system was closed when the season was postponed, but what about players that need to transfer clubs now? Will the transfer system be re-opened?

The AFL re-opened transfers as of Friday 15th May and at this stage remain open until 30 June 2020.