

RETURN TO PLAY STAGE C PROTOCOLS



KEY AREAS TO CONSIDER

- Competition and games can commence/continue
- Contact training and match simulation can commence/continue
- Access to change rooms (Junior and Senior competitions), showers, and gyms (strict social distancing and hygiene protocols apply)
- No spectators on the ground during quarter time and three-quarter time breaks. Patrons are permitted entry at half time when players have exited the playing arena and are in change rooms. Patrons must ensure 1.5m physical distancing at all times.
- Increase to 1000 spectators, players and officials for matches. Clubs wishing to cater for more than 1000 spectators, players and officials you can apply for an increase [HERE](#)
- Canteen and Bar use subject to State Government Food & Beverage restrictions
- Spectators must sign in when entering the venue via mandatory **Check in Tas** contact tracing process [DETAILS HERE](#)

FOOTBALL TRAINING AND COMPETITION CAN RESUME IF THE FOLLOWING PROTOCOLS ARE IN PLACE:

1. Clubs/Teams strictly adhere to current State Government restrictions.
2. Full training activities to resume, including contact activities (i.e. tackling, bumping, marking contests). Physical contact restricted to the above or similar training activities, with officials, players, and umpires to maintain 1.5m distance between each other at all times unless in contact activity/match simulation.
3. Limit the coming together of players and coaches in tight huddles during training and quarter breaks. Keep players in player position groups where possible.
4. Access to change rooms permitted for Senior and Junior teams, with appropriate social distancing, sanitising of surfaces and no more than 1 person per 2sqm at any given time. Showering at home instead of at venues is encouraged (where possible) for seniors.
5. Umpires permitted use of umpire change rooms, however no more than the 1 person per 2sqm at any given time.
6. Access to gyms (with suitable supervisions), however no more than the 1 person per 2sqm at any given time.
7. The club/venue is setup with and has implemented the mandatory Check in Tas contact tracing process, to keep a track of all people that attend all training sessions and games. Setup information can be accessed [here](#).
8. The Return to Play hygiene practices outlined in this document are to be strictly adhered to.

LEVEL C | COMPETITION COMMENCES/RESUMES

Minimum standards are recommended in AIS Framework for Rebooting Sport to be followed.

- Access to support and treatment official for strapping, massage etc. (physios, sports trainers).
- Treatment officials to wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in line with Health recommendations – e.g. gloves.
- Treatment equipment to be wiped down and sanitised before and after each use.
- Access to change rooms only for players and essential staff only as required (i.e. coach, team manager, trainers – no spectators or parents - unless in case of emergency).
- No shared food (i.e. lollies, fruit, sandwiches) to be made available.
- Canteen and Bar use subject to State Government Food & Beverage restrictions – [CLICK HERE](#) for the current Tasmanian Government Restrictions.
- Venues and accessed areas to be cleaned and sanitised before and after each training session/game.
- Any necessary meetings to occur remotely using video technology, or in venues where the minimum person per square metre ruling can be followed.
- Non-essential social gatherings should be limited
- Match fixtures and schedules will need to reflect any time between matches to meet cleaning requirements, as well as limiting the crossover of large groups. AFL Tasmania recommends 10-15 minutes between games, minimum.
- Junior competitions are encouraged to consider reducing half time breaks and to keep participants on field.
- It is recommended vulnerable individuals or people aged 70+years, consider their attendance. If attending, strict social distancing should apply.

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HYGIENE FACTORS FOR A RETURN TO PLAY

Hygiene Protocols for a Return to Play

- Alcohol based hand sanitisers must be available for all teams training sessions, with players encouraged to use prior, during and following training and games.
- There is strictly to be no sharing of water bottles, food, or towels, and it is important to clean and disinfect these items following each training and game. Disinfect mouth guards after each session. Water carriers are permitted but they are strictly required to have individual water bottles for players. Labelled drink bottles are strongly encouraged.
- Avoid high fives, handshakes, or other physical contact.
- Club provided footballs to be wiped with antibacterial wipes or alcohol-based sanitiser prior to and after training sessions.
- If you, or people you have been in contact with are sick, please DO NOT attend training or games and advise the football coach.

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 official member that has underlying health conditions or is considered a vulnerable person should consult with a healthcare professional prior to returning to the training or match day environment.

**CLUBS MUST ENSURE THAT THESE HYGIENE PROTOCOLS ARE IN PLACE FOR ALL TRAINING AND GAMES.
IF THESE PROTOCOLS CANNOT BE ACHIEVED THEN TRAINING AND GAMES SHOULD NOT PROCEED.**

WHAT DOES TRAINING IN STAGE C LOOK LIKE?

- Staggered training schedule (start times, different days, potential for different locations).
- Training groups of full teams/squads providing social distancing protocols are being observed in-between contact activities.
- Consistent group members and no movement between groups to reduce risk of cross-contamination.
- Contact between players can occur, along with Match Simulation training.
- Footballs and all equipment can be used for all training sessions. Equipment must be cleaned after every session/game.
- If pair/group work is required, pairs should be consistent across each training session.
- Any necessary meetings to occur remotely using video technology.
- Parents or caregivers must remain socially distant to the athletes.



**AFL TASMANIA STRONGLY
RECOMMENDS THAT ALL AFL
PARTICIPANTS INSTALL
THE COVIDSAFE APP
[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD](#)**

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EDUCATION PROTOCOLS

- Requirement ⑦ Any COVID-19 Safety Officer must complete the Australian Government COVID-19 infection control training designed for doctors, nurses and allied health personnel working in a medical/health setting [HERE](#) and adhere to any additional AFL Tasmania COVID-19 briefings.
- Requirement ⑦ Any Club Medical Official (doctors, physios, sports trainers) must complete the Australian Government COVID-19 infection control training designed for doctors, nurses and allied health personnel working in a medical/health setting. [HERE](#)
- Requirement ⑦ All players and official are encouraged to subscribe to the Government's COVID-19 tracing app.
- Requirement ⑦ Briefings in advance of return to training for players, coaches and official to be held to outline protocols.
- Requirement ⑦ Club Office holders to lead a strong culture of COVID-19 safety for the health and wellbeing of Club members and the broader community.

ALL FOOTBALL CLUBS PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN:

- Reducing the spread of COVID-19;
- Promoting good hygiene practices amongst players and officials;
- Adhering and promoting the State Government requirements around social distancing and gatherings; and
- Following the clear protocols and requirements around Return to Play and Training.

It is important that clubs are respectful in adhering to the protocols outlined as part of Return to Play and Training, as they form part of the current Government directions, and sanctions can be applied to individuals and to clubs if they are in breach. By 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, but will also improve the opportunity for football to return to play sooner.

WORKSAFE COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN

Your council/landowner may require a WORKSAFE COVID-19 Safety Plan.

If they request you to complete a plan - the protocols provided by AFL Tasmania for clubs, if followed, will enable clubs to meet all obligations detailed in the plan for provision of a COVID Safe environment for training and matches.

You can find the [WORKSAFE GUIDELINES HERE](#)

The template for small businesses relates to clubs with fewer than 20 employees/volunteers and can be found [HERE](#)

The template for medium businesses relates to clubs with between 20 and 199 employees/volunteers and can be found [HERE](#)