COVID-19
RETURN TO PLAY CONDITIONS – ALL AGES

V1.0: 26 November 2020
VALID FROM: 26 November 2020
OVERVIEW

Football Victoria’s priority is to safeguard the health and wellbeing of the football community during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Victorian State Government has announced the easing of restrictions across Victoria. The updated Government directions allow for the commencement of a cautious return to football across all of Victoria.

Outdoor and indoor training and competition across all of Victoria may resume provided certain conditions as determined by the Chief Health Officer are met.

This document outlines the conditions that must be met for outdoor and indoor training and competition in order to limit the spread of COVID-19 in line with Federal and Victorian State government guidance.

Breach of these conditions may void insurance policies under the FFA insurance program, may be dealt with under FV’s Grievance, Disciplinary and Tribunal Bylaw and may incur substantial fines under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2018.

Clubs must source written approval from the landowner (e.g. Council) before training/competition commences.

Note that changes from Return to Play - Juniors V2.2 and Return to Train - Seniors V4.1 are marked in red
KEY CHANGES

**SPECTATORS**
Limited to 500 people total for outdoor venues in groups of up to 50 people

**CONTACT**
Full contact in training and matches (including friendlies)

**COMPETITION**
Competitive matches

**FACILITIES**
Clubrooms, changerooms and showers can open

**GROUPS**
Limited to normal squad/team/age group sizes plus required coaches

Full details of each change are provided below and must be read carefully
Outdoor sports venues and physical recreational facilities can open with a patron cap of 500 in groups of up to 50.

Indoor sports venues and physical recreational facilities are permitted to open with a patron cap of 150 in groups of up to 20.

People may travel between metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria to participate in recreational activities or community sport.

Communal facilities, such as clubrooms and change rooms, can open for outdoor sport venues applying the four-square metre rule to each enclosed space. Signage must be displayed at the entry to each indoor space outlining the maximum number of people allowed at a single time.

Shared spaces and spaces open to members of the public at facilities must be cleaned regularly, including at least twice a day for frequently touched surfaces. Ensure changerooms and toilets are cleaned as per cleaning requirements.

Sporting clubs that operate a restaurant, café or canteen within its facility may reopen with take-away and limited dine-in arrangements, provided it strictly adheres to the restrictions on hospitality venues.

All workers, volunteers and participants must wear a face mask when indoors or where physical distancing cannot be maintained. A face mask is not required while engaged in strenuous physical exercise, such jogging or running. You must carry a face mask with you, unless you have a lawful exception.

It is important that you keep at least 1.5 metres between yourself and others where possible, even when wearing a face covering.

Communal equipment can be used, provided it is cleaned between each use.

Keep records of worker, volunteer, parent, carer and participant details for contact tracing, where person attends work premises for longer than 15 minutes. Operators must collect the following information: first name, contact phone number, time and date in which they visited, and the areas of the premises that they attended.

For organised community sport activities:

- Organised non-contact training and competition are allowed for all age groups where participants can stay 1.5 metres apart.
- All age groups may resume full-contact community sport training and competition.
- For organised outdoor community sport, the minimum number participants required to conduct the sport should participate in the activity. The rules of the sport governing body (e.g. the State Sporting Association) determine the number that can participate (i.e. the number who would normally be involved in a match or training, including players on the field/court and allowed substitutes). This applies even if it exceeds the density quotient or group limit on the venue.
- Spectators for outdoor training and competitions are permitted. Spectators must abide by gathering restrictions and maintain physical distancing of 1.5m.
- Spectators for indoor training and competitions are permitted subject to the venue cap and density requirements. Spectators must abide by gathering restrictions and maintain physical distancing of 1.5m.
- All venues and facilities must have a COVIDSafe Plan (see FV template in the COVID-19 Football Portal).

The following conditions implement these directions for the purposes of football training and competition and form the mandatory requirements for any FV sanctioned training for those aged 19 and over.
PRIOR TO TRAINING/COMPETITION
PRIOR TO TRAINING/COMPETITION

INDIVIDUALS

You must not attend training/competition if in the past 14 days you:
- Have tested positive to COVID-19;
- Have been unwell or had any flu-like or respiratory symptoms (even if mild)*;
- Are living with a diagnosed person;
- Have been in contact with a known or suspected case of COVID-19; or
- Are at a high risk from a health perspective, including the elderly and those with pre-existing medical health conditions, further information can be found here.

Those with even mild symptoms are strongly encouraged to get tested. For more information, click here.

It is the responsibility of the club to monitor players on arrival and the individual to self assess if they should attend.

Anyone who has been in isolation/quarantine may return to training/competition only if they have met all DHHS requirements. See here for further information.

*If you are unwell and you have taken a COVID-19 test which was negative, you should still isolate at home until symptoms have completely gone. Once gone, and subject to any other requirement to isolate/quarantine, you may return to training/competition sooner than 14 days.
PRIOR TO TRAINING/COMPETITION

CLUB

In advance of commencing training/competition, clubs must:

- Source written approval from the landowner of your facility e.g. Council
- Prepare a COVIDSafe Plan (see FV template on COVID-19 Football Portal)
- Comply with any additional requirements imposed by the landowner (including any applicable venue capacity limit)
- Assess any indoor space(s) within their venue (that is not a Food and Drink Facility) e.g. club room/change room/showers/referee rooms and limit the number of people in each such space in line with the density quotient* with clear signage at the relevant entry point indicating the maximum permitted number and encouraging distance within (access is permitted to saunas/spas with limits on people allowed in each space)
- Display signage at any other facility entry points indicating the maximum number permitted in line with the density quotient
- For venues with multiple separate indoor spaces, ensure there are measures in place to limit close contact between individuals in shared spaces such as foyers
- Consider closing off sections of seating/benches to help spectators keep a 1.5 metre distance
- If they intend to open a Food and Drink Facility, comply with applicable requirements (see next page)
- Use floor markings to promote physical distancing in changerooms and consider closing off some seats/benches, lockers/cubicles to make it clear how many users are allowed in the areas
- Ensure tight controls on access/keys – this includes keeping a record of the person responsible for access/keys on the list of attendees
- Ensure the venue meets all conditions in this document
- Ensure all communications with members aged 18 and under (and their parents/guardians) about the return to training/competition include this document, highlighting when not to attend
- Ensure all club officials, coaches and anyone coordinating training sessions or matches has read and is familiar with these conditions
- Liaise in good faith with each other as necessary prior to any match in order to be aware of, and to comply with any requirements in place at opposition facilities as a result of these conditions
- Ensure that any person who attends training sessions or competition who is known in the last 14 days to have tested positive, have (or had) symptoms, contact with a known/suspected case, is living with a diagnosed person, or be at high risk (further information here), is refused entry – see page 6 for full details
- Ensure that all players and coaches are appropriately registered on PlayFootball

*The density quotient limits the number of members of the public that are permitted in a large (200m² or larger) indoor space at any one time to the number calculated by dividing the total publicly accessible space (measured in square metres) by 4. This is the “four squaremetre rule”.

Example: if an indoor space is 8.5 metres long and 4.5 metres wide, its total area is 38.25 square metres. Its density quotient is 9.56, so no more than 9 members of the public would be permitted to be in the indoor space at the same time.

If a Food and Drink facility is operated and provides outdoor dining (see next page) or indoor dining in a space that is less than 200m², a density quotient of one person per 2m² will apply to those spaces only.

Example: if an outdoor space is 15 metres long and 8 metres wide, its total area is 120 square metres. Its density quotient is 60, so no more than 60 members of the public would be permitted to be in the outdoor space at the same time.
PRIOR TO TRAINING/COMPETITION

FOOD AND DRINK FACILITIES

Sporting clubs that operate a café, restaurant, fast-food store, cafeteria, canteen or licensed premises within its facility may reopen it with limited dine-in arrangements, provided it strictly adheres to the restrictions on hospitality venues. These include but are not limited to limiting the number of members of the public (including those waiting for takeaway) to the lesser of the maximum applicable number set out in the table below, or as permitted under the density quotient (see prior page).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indoor</th>
<th>Venues less than 200m² floorspace: 50 people indoors total per venue Venues 200m² or more floorspace: 150 people indoors total per venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor</td>
<td>300 people outdoors per venue *Note: total venue capacity cannot exceed 300 people including both indoor and outdoor spaces</td>
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In advance of opening a food and drink facility, clubs must consult the Industry Restart Guidelines - Hospitality (including electronic gaming) and carry out the actions required included but not limited to the following:

- Create a plan for their business that takes into account these guidelines as well as guidance from WorkSafe Victoria
- Deep clean the premises before reopening
- Set up the venue to ensure physical distancing requirements of one person per four square metres (for larger indoor dining spaces) or one person per two square metres (for outdoor dining spaces and smaller indoor dining spaces) are met and place tables so that any diners on a neighbouring table remain 1.5 metres apart when seated
- Display hygiene, physical distancing and wayfinding signage to emphasise to staff and patrons the expectation on all of us to stay safe
- Encourage all staff and managers to complete the Victorian Government online COVID-19 training, including ensuring at least one staff member at the venue has completed the training
- Maintain a contact register of all visitors to the venue (first name, telephone number, date and time of visit) including patrons, suppliers, maintenance workers to support contact tracing and store it securely on-site for at least 28 days after the visit
- Workers must wear face masks (unless an exemption applies) and patrons must wear face masks indoors or where physically distancing is not possible, unless consuming food or drink (or unless an additional exemption applies)
HYGIENE
HYGIENE PROTOCOLS

CLUBS

All clubs must ensure, in conjunction with the Council / landowner that:

- Facilities are cleaned at least twice daily when in use, with communal facilities and contact surfaces disinfected – advice on cleaning is found at the [DHHS website](http://dhhs.gov.au).
- All equipment including balls must be cleaned and disinfected before each training session/match.
- Regular and thorough hand washing is promoted via prominent signage (including at entry and exit points – to be marked as such) around the venue. Signage is available to download via our [Return to Football portal](http://returntofootball.com) and via the [Victorian Government](http://victorian.gov.au).
- Prominent signage (including at entry and exit points to be marked as such) around the venue instructing people when not to attend training/competition.
- Hand sanitiser dispensers are provided in prominent places around the venue (including entry and exit points) and are regularly refilled.
- Soap dispensers in toilets are regularly refilled.
- Bins are provided around the venue and regularly emptied.
- Prominent signage that not more than 1 person is permitted per toilet facility at any one time.

Clubs have access to a complimentary allocation of Two Hands Hand Sanitiser, and a discount on future purchases of Two Hands Hand Sanitiser. Further information is available on the [Football Victoria website](http://footballvictoria.com).
HYGIENE PROTOCOLS
INDIVIDUALS

All individuals attending training/competition must:

- Carry a face mask, unless you have a lawful reason not to wear a face mask. You should wear a face mask when you are outdoors and cannot keep 1.5 metres from others. If you go indoors (e.g. bathrooms, clubhouse) you must wear a face mask unless you have a lawful reason not to.
- If you are playing or training for indoor football or futsal, wear a face mask when exercising indoors except where you are out of breath or puffing. All coaching personnel and permitted spectators observing competition or training indoors must wear a mask, unless they have a lawful reason not to.
- Wash hands with hand sanitiser immediately before and after each training session/match and during scheduled breaks in each training session/match
- Not spit at any time
- Not share drink bottles and clearly label their own bottle
- Take their training bib, kit or any other items worn/used during each training session/match, home to wash individually
- Carry hand sanitiser in order to enable good personal hygiene
- Cover mouth and nose with a tissue or your elbow (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze and place tissues directly in bins
- Avoid the use of public toilets, however if necessary, ensure hands are washed thoroughly
- Avoid sharing pens or clip boards
- Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean
- Ensure not more than 1 person per toilet facility at any one time
- Shower at home where possible to avoid congestion at facilities
ATTENDING TRAINING/COMPETITION
TRAINING/COMPETITION PROTOCOLS
COACH/CLUB OFFICIAL

When conducting training sessions or hosting matches, the following conditions must be implemented:

- Any person who attends an outdoor training session or competition must carry a face covering unless they have a lawful reason not to.

- Any person who attends an indoor training session or competition must wear a face covering unless they are actively participating in a match or training drill (excluding providing coaching or instruction) or have a lawful reason not to.

- Entry must be refused to any person who attends who is known in the last 14 days to have tested positive, have (or had) symptoms, contact with a known/suspected case, is living with a person diagnosed, or is at high risk (further information here) – see page 6 for full details.

- If any person presents with COVID-like symptoms, they must be immediately isolated and sent home as soon as possible.

- Group sizes are limited to the minimum number of participants required to conduct the sport – FV would expect this to mean normal squad/team/age group sizes. Support personnel, including coaches, trainers, parents or carers are allowed in addition to the participants.

  - **Outdoor**: the total venue capacity limit is 500, consisting of groups of up to 50 people with at least 5 metres between groups.

  - **Indoor (“large sporting complexes”)**: the total venue capacity is the greater of 150 people and 25% capacity, consisting of groups of up to 20 people with at least 5 metres between groups.

  - **Indoor (smaller venues)**: the total venue capacity is the lesser of 150 people and the number permitted under the four square metre rule/density quotient (see page 7), consisting of groups of up to 20 people with at least 5 metres between groups.

  Our understanding is that participants do count towards the venue capacity under State Government directions.

- Spectators are permitted to attend training and competitions in accordance with capacity limits and must abide by gathering restrictions.

- Staggered start times to minimise risk of congregation particularly in communal areas.

- Physical distancing of 1.5 metres must be maintained (with the exception of a parent/carer supporting their child or a person with disability in their care).

- A gap of no less than 15 minutes in between scheduled training sessions or matches to avoid congregation.

- An accurate record of all attendees (including parents/carers/officials/workers) who attend for longer than 15 minutes for the purposes of contact tracing must be kept, including full name, FFA number, phone number, date and time of attendance, and any indoor spaces visited (e.g., toilets/clubrooms/changerooms), (Updated template available here) - to be completed by one club official only in line with physical distancing. This record must be kept securely for 28 days and then destroyed and is to be disclosed only to an authorised officer under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act.

- Handshakes, high fives or similar unnecessary contact is to be avoided.

- Sharing of equipment must be minimised.

- No use of shared equipment that touches the head or face or cannot be effectively cleaned i.e. soft materials or clothing.

- Adherence to the hygiene protocols in this document.

- Regular breaks are to be provided for the purpose of rehydrating and hand sanitising.

- No social activity is to occur at the ground or venue once training/matches have concluded.

- Players are to leave the venue in a staged approach, with sessions concluding in a clockwise manner.

- Any access to equipment storage areas limited to one person.

- All normal safety protocols apply – including Child Safety requirements (WWCC).
TRAINING PROTOCOLS

ZONES

When conducting training (but not competition), the following conditions must be implemented:

- Training zones must be large enough to encourage social distancing where possible (although contact training is permitted) and must not create an unnecessary risk of people congregating (e.g. at entrances or exits).
- Group sizes are limited to the minimum number of participants required to conduct the sport - FV would expect this to mean normal squad/team/age group sizes.
- Groups must not mix with each other and must remain constant, where participants cannot swap between groups.
- If a ball from one training zone enters another training zone, players are directed to gently kick the ball back rather than pick it up and throw it.
- Training zones must be clearly marked to ensure groups do not operate closely to each other and all those attending (including permitted spectators) must be notified that they are not to move into any other zone during training.
TRAINING/COMPETITION PROTOCOLS
PLAYER/SPECTATOR

When attending training or matches, the following conditions must be observed:

- You must wear a face mask if you are indoors or if you cannot physically distance, unless you are actively participating in a match or training drill, or have a lawful reason not to.
- You must not attend training sessions or competition if in the last 14 days you have tested positive, have (or had) symptoms, contact with a known/suspected case, are living with a diagnosed person, or are at high risk (further information [here]—see page 6 for full details).
- You may arrive at the venue a reasonable period of time earlier than the commencement of training/a match for the purposes of warming up provided you do so away from other groups and venue entry and exit points.
- You must not congregate at the entry point.
- You must bring your own drink bottles clearly labelled. No sharing of drink bottles is permitted.
- Spectators (subject to density and capacity requirements) are permitted to attend training and competitions and must abide by gathering restrictions and physical distancing (see page 13).
- If reasonably practical, only one parent/carer to take their child(ren) to training/match.
- You must follow the hygiene protocols in this document—regular breaks will be provided for the purpose of rehydrating and hand sanitising.
- Players are encouraged to continue to physically distance (1.5 metres) where reasonably possible during training.
- Handshakes, high fives or similar unnecessary contact are to be avoided.
- Sharing of equipment must be minimised.
- No use of shared equipment that touches the head or face or cannot be effectively cleaned i.e. soft materials or clothing (not including balls).
- Attendees (including parents/carers/ofﬁcials) who attend for longer than 15 minutes must provide their details including full name, FFA number, phone number, date and time of attendance and any indoor spaces visited (e.g. toilets/clubrooms/changerooms) to the coach/club ofﬁcial for the purposes of contact tracing.
- You must take your training bib, kit or any other items worn/used during each training session/match, home to wash individually.
- No social activity is to occur at the ground/venue after training.
- Players are to leave the venue in a staged approach, with sessions concluding in a clockwise manner.
This document is current as at 26 November 2020 and effective from 26 November 2020. FV will continue to work with the State Government, FFA, Councils and other bodies regarding the safe resumption of football.

The document is subject to change including upon the advice of government and clubs are expected to remain up-to-date with the latest advice.

Further information guide(s) will be published in line with government advice.