

COVID-19 RETURN TO PLAY CONDITIONS – ALL AGES

V2.1: 17 February 2021
VALID FROM: 18 February 2021



FOOTBALL
VICTORIA

#LIVELOVEFOOTBALL

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 occur 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 Conditions – All Ages 2.0 are marked in red



KEY CHANGES



SPECTATORS

Permitted subject to capacity limit and
Public Event Framework



CONTACT

Full contact in training and matches
(including friendlies)



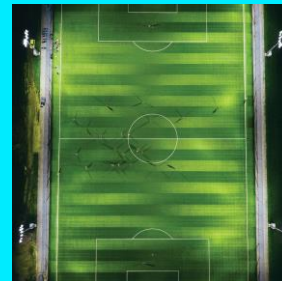
COMPETITION

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

PRINCIPLES VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT

Restrictions for return to sport across Victoria

- Outdoor sports venues and physical recreational facilities can open with a patron cap of 1000 subject to a density quotient of one person per **two** square metres if the venue is using electronic records (e.g. QR code) or one person per **four** square metres if the venue is using manual records in groups of up to 100. Patrons include sport participants.
- Indoor sports venues and physical recreational facilities are permitted to open with a patron cap calculated based on a density quotient of one person per four square metres, in groups of up to 50. Patrons include sport participants
- Fixed seated spaces in sporting facilities (indoor and outdoor) are permitted to be used with the lesser of 1000 patrons and 75% of the fixed seated capacity. All fixed seated spaces in sporting facilities must apply the restrictions developed for entertainment venues when used as a spectator venue (e.g. bleachers or grandstand used). The density quotient does not apply to seated areas. Participants, staff and officials participating in the sport are not counted in the capacity limit.
- *For events (including matches) that exceed the allowable number of attendees and/or that are a one-off event not covered by a club or association's COVIDSafe Plan (e.g. carnivals), the club or association must comply with the Public Event Framework.*
- People may travel between metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria to participate in recreational activities or community sport.
- Change rooms can open for outdoor sport venues applying the two-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 as required and communicated by the State Government and/or where physical distancing cannot be*

maintained. A face mask is not required while engaged in strenuous physical exercise, such as 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 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. The Victorian Government offers a free QR code service.

For organised community sport activities:

- All age groups may resume full-contact community sport training and competition.
- For organised community sport, permitted participants and spectators are limited to the number of patrons and group sizes allowed under the patron cap.
- Spectators for training and competitions are permitted subject to the venue patron 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).
- **Venues with capacity of greater than 500 patrons must publish their COVIDSafe Plan on their website.**

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



FOOTBALL
VICTORIA

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](#))
- ❑ **Consider whether they are required to complete a COVIDSafe Event Plan or Checklist and submit to the Government under the Public Event Framework (see next page).**
- ❑ 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
- ❑ 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 page 9)
- ❑ 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 space at any one time to the number calculated by dividing the total publicly accessible space (measured in square metres) by 2 or 4 (depending on whether records are kept electronically or manually).

Example: if the publicly accessible space of a venue is 8.5 metres long and 4.5 metres wide, its total area is 38.25 square metres.

If the venue requires patrons to sign in electronically using a QR code, its density quotient is 19.16, so no more than 19 members of the public would be permitted to be in the venue at the same time.

If the venue requires patrons to sign in using pen and paper, its density quotient is 9.56, so no more than 9 members of the public would be permitted to be in the venue at the same time.

PRIOR TO TRAINING/COMPETITION PUBLIC EVENT FRAMEWORK

The State Government has introduced a Public Event Framework for all public events:

- ❑ Organisations planning a public event must comply with the [Public Event Framework \(PEF\)](#) conditions.
- ❑ Public events are assessed according to the size, complexity, and associated risk factors.
- ❑ A three-tiered categorisation system is used to ensure the appropriate level of public health oversight is applied. The three tiers have different timelines that must be adhered to. Below is a summary of the definitions, regulations, and requirements around public events.
- ❑ If your event (including but not limited to matches, training) will host fewer than 1,000 participants and can run in accordance with the current Restricted Activities Direction requirements for community sport (including preparing a COVIDSafe Plan), then the event can proceed with a COVIDSafe Event Checklist or a pre-prepared COVIDSafe Plan compliant with the [current Restricted Activity Directions](#).
- ❑ The public event risk factors are:
 - ❑ The event is held primarily indoors.
 - ❑ The event includes unallocated seating.
 - ❑ Alcohol is served at the event.
 - ❑ There is extensive singing, chanting or cheering amongst attendees.
 - ❑ There is close physical interaction between attendees and/or participants, where they may not be able to maintain a physical distance of 1.5 metres for short periods of time.
 - ❑ The event is held over multiple successive days with different attendees each day.
 - ❑ The event is actively promoted interstate and is therefore likely to attract interstate attendees
- ❑ Further information about the [Public Event Framework](#), and [preparing a plan](#), is available on the Government's coronavirus website.
- ❑ The application process is completed via [this online form](#).

Tier 1

Criteria

- Events with 5000+ attendees
- Events with 1000 to 5000 attendees that involve six or more public health risk factors for events.

Requirements

- Tier 1 events must submit a COVIDSafe Event Plan to the Victorian Government for public health approval.
- Tier 1 events must submit a plan 8 to 10 weeks before the start of the event.

Tier 2

Criteria

- Events with 1000 to 5000 attendees
- No more than five public health risk factors.

Requirements

- Tier 2 events must submit a COVIDSafe Event Plan to the Victorian Government for public health approval.
- Tier 2 events must submit a plan 4 to 6 weeks before the start of the event.

Tier 3

Criteria

- Events with 1000 or fewer attendees per event
- Risk factors do not apply

Requirements

- Tier 3 events must complete and submit a COVIDSafe Event Checklist to the Victorian Government to register the event.
- Tier 3 events must submit the checklist at least 1 week before the start of the event.
- Tier 3 events may also proceed under clauses 5 and 6 of the Restricted Activity Directions

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 applicable number or density quotient set out in the table below, which depends on whether you keep attendance records electronically or manually:

Electronic records (e.g. QR code)	Patron cap equal to density quotient of one person per two square metres <u>Note:</u> up to 25 patrons are permitted in a venue before the density quotient applies.
Manual records	All venues: patron cap equal to density quotient of one person per four square metres

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 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 and patrons must carry face masks **and must wear a face mask where required by the State Government and/or** where physical 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](#).
- ☐ 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](#) and via the [Victorian Government](#).
- ☐ 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](#).

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 **where required by the State Government and/or** when you cannot keep 1.5 metres from others.
- ☐ 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:

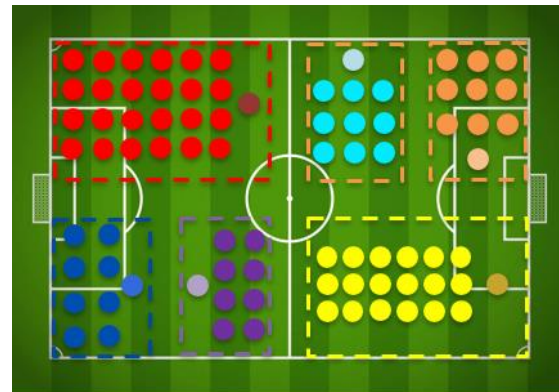
- ❑ Any person who attends a training session or competition must carry a face covering unless they have a lawful reason not to.
 - ❑ Entry must be refused to any person who attends who is known in the last 14 days to have tested positive, have (or had) symptoms, contact with a known/ suspected case, 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 number of patrons permitted by the venue patron cap (which includes participants, officials and spectators) **and subject to Public Event Framework compliance and approval (where applicable).**
 - ❑ **Outdoor:** 1000 patrons subject to a density quotient of one person per two square metres if the venue is using electronic records (e.g. QR code) or one person per four square metres if the venue is using manual records in groups of up to 100.
 - ❑ **Indoor:** a patron cap calculated based on a density quotient of one person per four square metres, in groups of up to 50. Patrons include sport participants **but not a carer, parent or guardian of a person with a disability where their child or dependent cannot participate without their supervision or participation.**
 - ❑ Spectators are permitted to attend training and competitions in accordance with venue capacity limits and must abide by gathering restrictions **and face mask requirements.**
 - ❑ **Fixed seated spaces:**
 - ❑ in **indoor** sporting facilities are permitted to be used with the lesser of 300 patrons and 50% of the fixed seated capacity. **Over 300 patrons must operate under the Public Events Framework. Density quotient applies when not seated.**
 - ❑ in **outdoor** sporting facilities are permitted to be used up to 75% of the seated capacity. **Over 1000 patrons is subject to the Public Event Framework.**
- Patrons participating in the sport are not counted in the capacity limit for a fixed seated space. **Clubs must have regard to the Public Event Framework.**
- ❑ Venues (indoor or outdoor) with a capacity of greater than 500 patrons must publish their COVIDSafePlan on their website.
 - ❑ Staggered start times to minimise risk of congregation particularly in communal areas
 - ❑ Physical distancing of 1.5 metres should be maintained where possible (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, phone number, date and time of attendance, and any indoor spaces visited (eg toilets/clubrooms/changerooms), (Updated template available **here** **or** you can register for the Victorian Government free QR code **here**) 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, except for permitted hospitality operated in line with the CHO's directions (including density and venue limits)
 - ❑ 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

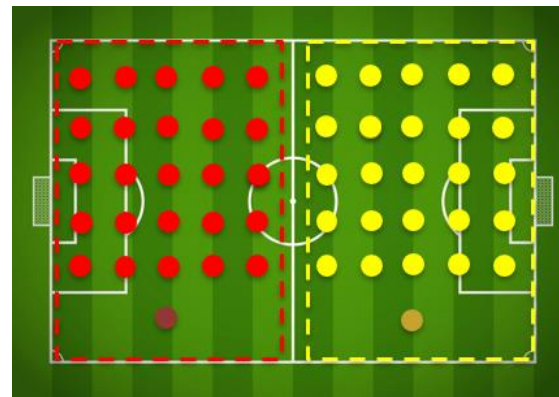
**When conducting training (but not competition),
the following conditions must be implemented:**

- ❑ 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

EXAMPLE – MULTIPLE MINIROOS UNDER 9'S TEAMS



EXAMPLE – 25 PERSON MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SENIOR SQUADS



TRAINING/COMPETITION PROTOCOLS

PLAYER/SPECTATOR

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

- ☐ You must carry a face mask at all times and you **must** wear a mask **where required by the State Government and/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 14)
- ☐ 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, 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, except for permitted hospitality operated in line with the CHO's directions (including density and venue limits)
- ☐ Players are to leave the venue in a staged approach, with sessions concluding in a clockwise manner

This document is current as at **17 February** 2021 and effective from **18 February** 2021. 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.



**FOOTBALL
VICTORIA**