

# COVID-19 RETURN TO PLAY CONDITIONS – ALL AGES, VICTORIA

V4.0: 18 June 2021  
VALID FROM: 11.59pm 17 June 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 a number of changes that allow for a cautious, staged return to football for Victoria.

**Outdoor training and matches across Victoria may occur for all players, provided certain conditions as determined by the Chief Health Officer are met.**

**Indoor football and futsal can also return, subject to metro/regional capacity and density limits.**

This document outlines the conditions that must be met for 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 FA insurance program, may be dealt with under FV's Grievance, Disciplinary and Tribunal Bylaw (as applicable) 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 the All Ages RTT 1.0 document for Greater Melbourne are written in red and changes from RTP 3.1 for Regional Victoria are highlighted in yellow.**



# KEY CHANGES



## SPECTATORS

**Regional Victoria:**  
Spectators allowed within venue limits (300 indoors, 1,000 outdoors)

**Greater Melbourne:**  
Spectators are not permitted other than for parental supervision (1 per participant) and support people for players with additional needs.



## CONTACT

Full contact indoor and outdoor training/matches including friendlies (all ages).



## COMPETITION

Competitive indoor and outdoor matches (all ages) – indoor football/Futsal is subject to indoor venue capacity limit.



## FACILITIES

Canteens can open subject to food & drink facility restrictions. Changerooms and toilets can open.

Venue limits apply inc. participants /officials/ spectators:

**Regional Victoria:**  
300 indoors (max group size of 50), 1,000 outdoors

**Greater Melbourne:**  
50 indoors, 1,000 outdoors



## GROUPS

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

25km rule is removed.

Travel between Greater Melbourne and Regional Victoria to participate/ officiate in football can occur, but residents of Greater Melbourne cannot travel to Regional Victoria matches as spectators, other than for parental supervision.

**Full details of each change are provided below and must be read carefully**

# PRINCIPLES

## VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT

### Restrictions for return to sport for players in Victoria.

- Outdoor sports venues and physical recreational facilities can open.
- Players may resume indoor & outdoor full-contact community sport training and matches, subject to indoor facility cap.
- For indoor football/Futsal, a maximum venue capacity of 50 people indoors applies in Greater Melbourne, and 300 in Regional Victoria (with a maximum group size of 50 people). Venue employees are excluded from the cap.
- Spectators are not permitted in Greater Melbourne, other than for parental supervision (1 per participant) and support people for players with additional needs, and must abide by gathering restrictions and face mask requirements
- Spectators are allowed in Regional Victoria within overall venue limits (300 per indoor space with a maximum group size of 50, 1000 per outdoor space) and must abide by gathering restrictions and face mask requirements
- Residents of Greater Melbourne are not permitted to travel to Regional Victoria matches as spectators, other than for parental supervision.
- Change rooms, showers and other indoor areas may open subject to the indoor cap (50 indoors in Greater Melbourne, 300 indoors with max group size of 50 in Regional Victoria) and density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm.
- 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 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 (see page 9).
- 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.
- All workers, volunteers, spectators 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.
- Attendance records must be collected of all people entering the venue using the Victorian Government [free QR code service](#). Paper based records may only be used as a backup if an individual cannot access the QR Code.
- All venues and facilities **must** have a COVIDSafe Plan (see FV template in the [COVID-19 Football Portal](#)) and review the [Public Event Framework](#) information to understand their obligations.
- 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 football in Victoria.**

# **PRIOR TO TRAINING/ COMPETITION**



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# 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
- Register for the Victorian Government [free QR code service](#)
- 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)
- Limit the number of people in toilets/changerooms in line with the density quotient\* with clear signage at the relevant entry point indicating the maximum permitted number and encouraging distance within.
- If they intend to open a Food and Drink Facility, comply with applicable requirements (see page 9)
- Display signage at any other facility entry points indicating the maximum number permitted in line with the density quotient
- Consider closing off sections of seating/benches to help spectators keep a 1.5 metre distance
- 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 4.

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, which when divided by 4, allows for 9 people within that space.

# 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.
- ❑ 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](#).
- ❑ 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

- Attendees: More than 7,500 per day.

### Requirements

- Seated events capacity: 75% of the venue's fixed seated capacity (no capacity limit).
- Non-seated events capacity: Density quotient of one person per two square metres.
- Zoning: mandatory for all Tier 1 events exceeding 7,500 attendees and highly recommended for Tier 2. Zones have a maximum of 7,500 attendees.
- COVID Marshals: A minimum ratio of 1:200. This can be made up of dual roles where the role has a direct responsibility for engaging with patrons, e.g. security, ushers, and other crowd control roles.
- COVIDSafe event plans: published on the website.

## Tier 2 Criteria

- Attendees: 1,001 to 7,500 per day

### Requirements

- Seated events capacity: 75% of the venue's fixed seated capacity (no capacity limit).
- Non-seated events capacity: Density quotient of one person per two square metres.
- Zoning: mandatory for all Tier 1 events exceeding 7,500 attendees and highly recommended for Tier 2. Zones have a maximum of 7,500 attendees.
- COVID Marshals: A minimum ratio of 1:200. This can be made up of dual roles where the role has a direct responsibility for engaging with patrons, e.g. security, ushers, and other crowd control roles.
- COVIDSafe event plans: published on the website.
- Public Health Attestation: published on website.

## Tier 3 Criteria

- Attendees: Up to 1,000

### Requirements

- Seated events capacity: 100% of the venue's fixed seated capacity (no capacity limit).
- Non-seated events capacity: Density quotient of one person per two square metres.
- Event checklist: published on website.

# 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:

Food & drink facilities:

Open for seated service or takeaway only with a maximum patron cap of 50 people (Greater Melbourne) or 300 (Regional Victoria). Group sizes to a maximum of 10 people (Greater Melbourne) or 50 people (regional Victoria). Density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm applies. Members of the public at the premises must remain seated except when ordering food or drink, using toilets or entering and leaving the facility.

- ❑ 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
- ❑ Register for the Victorian Government [free QR code service](#) in order to comply with the contact tracing requirements.
- ❑ 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 an exemption applies).

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
- ❑ 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

# HYGIENE



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# 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



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# TRAINING/COMPETITION PROTOCOLS

## COACH/CLUB OFFICIAL

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

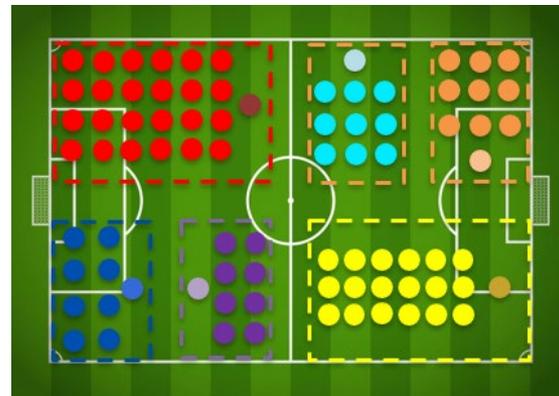
- ❑ Any person who attends a training session or competition must carry a face covering unless they have a lawful reason not to and must wear a face mask where required by the State Government and/or where physical distancing is not possible (unless an exemption applies). Players and match officials are not required to wear masks while participating. Coaches and non-playing players aged 12 and over must wear masks outdoors wherever physical distancing of 1.5m cannot be maintained.
- ❑ Group sizes are limited to the minimum number of participants required to conduct the sport – this means normal squad/team/age group sizes. Support personnel, including coaches, trainers, one parent or carer are allowed in addition to the participants
- ❑ Fixed seated spaces in outdoor sporting facilities are permitted to be used (for spectators in Regional Victoria and permitted spectators only in Greater Melbourne, eg 1 parent), up to 50% of the seated capacity and within the overall venue cap (1,000).
- ❑ Non-seated spaces in outdoor sporting facilities are permitted to be used (for spectators in Regional Victoria and permitted spectators only in Greater Melbourne, eg 1 parent). Density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm applies. Group sizes to a maximum of 20 people (Greater Melbourne) or 50 (Regional Victoria).
- ❑ Fixed seated spaces in indoor sporting facilities are permitted to be used (for spectators in regional Victoria and permitted spectators only in Greater Melbourne, eg 1 parent), up to 50% of the seated capacity. Indoor facility cap of 50 (Greater Melbourne) and 300 (Regional Victoria) applies, including participants/officials with a maximum group size of 10 (Greater Melbourne) and 50 (Regional Victoria).
- ❑ Venues (indoor or outdoor) with a capacity of greater than 500 patrons must publish their COVIDSafe Plan on their website
- ❑ A gap of no less than 15 minutes in between scheduled training sessions or matches to avoid congregation
- ❑ Staggered start times to minimise risk of congregation 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)
- ❑ Register for the Victorian Government [free QR code service](#). An accurate record of all attendees (including parents/carers/officials/workers) for the purposes of contact tracing **must be kept**, including full name, phone number, date and time of attendance, and any indoor spaces visited (e.g. toilets/canteen).
- ❑ 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
- ❑ 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
- ❑ Any access to equipment storage areas limited to one person
- ❑ All normal safety protocols apply – including Child Safety requirements (WWCC)

# TRAINING PROTOCOLS ZONES

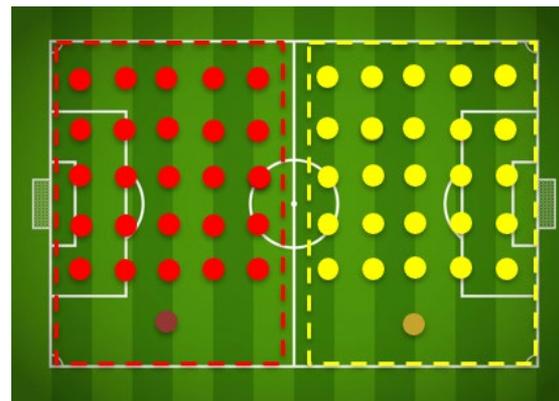
When conducting training (but not competition),  
the following conditions must be implemented:

- Contact training is permitted
- 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)
- Team sizes are limited to the minimum number of participants required to conduct the sport – meaning normal squad/team/age group sizes.
- Training zones must be clearly marked to ensure teams 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
- Indoor training spaces are subject to the caps outlined on page 4.

EXAMPLE – MULTIPLE MINIROOS  
UNDER 9'S TEAMS



EXAMPLE – 25 PERSON SQUADS



# TRAINING/COMPETITION PROTOCOLS

## PLAYER/SPECTATOR

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

- ❑ Spectators are not permitted in Greater Melbourne, other than for parental supervision (1 per participant) and support people for players with additional needs
- ❑ Spectators are allowed in Regional Victoria within overall venue limits (300 per indoor space with a maximum group size of 50, 1000 per outdoor space) and must abide by gathering restrictions and face mask requirements
- ❑ Residents of Greater Melbourne are not permitted to travel to Regional Victoria matches as spectators, other than for parental supervision.
- ❑ All spectators must abide by gathering restrictions and face mask requirements
- ❑ All attendees must check in using the venue's Victorian Government QR Code.
- ❑ 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 follow the hygiene protocols in this document - regular breaks will be provided for the purpose of rehydrating and hand sanitizing
- ❑ 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)
- ❑ 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 **18 June** 2021 and effective from **11.59pm 17 June** 2021. FV will continue to work with the State Government, FA, 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.



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