



## SANFL & COMMUNITY FOOTBALL

# RETURN TO PLAY // FAQs

Updated 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2020

### Training

#### Are we allowed to Return to Training?

Yes. As of 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020, small group training of *no more than 10* is currently allowed in South Australia. For football training, teams are permitted to have up to three groups of 10 players on the oval at the same time, under strict protocols.

From 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020, clubs can commence contact training in groups of up to 20 players. Strict protocols still apply. Umpires can also resume group training at this time too.

#### Do we have to start training?

No. There is no expectation from SANFL that clubs start training. The COVID Safe protocols take time to be implemented. It will be up to leagues, clubs and communities to determine when and if they want to start training in accordance with the protocols.

#### Is there anything that we need to do prior to commencing training?

Yes, there is. There are a number of things that clubs and coaches must do prior to commencing training, these include:

- Complete a COVID Safe Plan by 1 June (or prior to the first training session). For more information visit <https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/recovery/create-a-covid-safe-plan>
- Read and understand the resources provided by SANFL at [sanfl.com.au/returntoplay](http://sanfl.com.au/returntoplay), including:
  - Guidelines for a Return to Training in South Australia
  - Training Protocols
  - Training Checklist
  - Frequently Asked Questions.
- Ensure that the club and team have the required hygiene protocols in place
- Coaches, and club officials, to undertake the online COVID-19 training, which is available [online here](#) and should take only 15 minutes – 30 minutes to complete.
- Split the club's teams to ensure that you meet the mandatory maximum of participants in each training group (note that only essential support staff ie: one coach is permitted with each group of players)
- Brief all participants, coaches, volunteers and parents on the requirements around Returning to Training. An overview of what the briefing should include is outlined in the Guidelines for a Return to Training in South Australia.
- Ensure that a log, or register, of all participants is taken at every training session.

#### Can we move between our smaller Training Groups?

No. Once the groups are established for the session then there is to be no movement or crossover between training groups, until full group training is approved by the State Government. Coaches must remain with their assigned group for the entirety of the training session. This is to help to control any spread of COVID-19 should an outbreak occur.

#### Can the coach or training personnel move between training groups?

No. As per above once a training group has been established then there is no movement between groups.

#### When will we be able to train as a full group?

SANFL is working closely with the State Government on when full group training can commence, which is in line COVID-19 SA Roadmap. This should occur when SANFL moves into Stage 4 of our Return to Play Roadmap.

**Does the group of participants include coaches?**

No, we have been advised by the State Government that each group at football training is just the number of participants. In addition, one coach or one support staff/volunteer is also allowed with each group .

**Can we use equipment at training?**

Yes, all equipment is now allowed to be used providing all equipment is sanitised before and after each training session. Please ensure where possible that equipment stay within the same training group and isn't used across groups. If clubs are unable to achieve this due to lack of footballs, then all footballs must be thoroughly disinfected after each training session using anti-bacterial wipes.

**How many groups can train on an oval at any one time?**

At Stage 2 (Level B protocols) of our Return to Play Roadmap, up to 3 groups of 10 can train on the same oval at any one time.

From 1 June 2020, up to 4 groups of 20 can train on the same oval at any one time. Approved configurations are as follows:

The following are approved training configurations:



### **What does group training mean?**

Group training means that teams will be required to break into groups of no larger than 10 (Stage 2) or 20 (Stage 3). Training groups must remain consistent with no player, coach or support staff movement between groups. This will assist in limiting any spread of COVID-19 should an outbreak occur.

### **Can the groups be changed between training nights or do they need to stay the same for all sessions?**

Until full training can commence, we recommend the groups remain the same across all sessions to reduce the risk of transmission, and also to allow for more streamlined management of training.

### **Can we have more than approved group numbers training at a venue with one oval (ie: one group running around the boundary)?**

No. Only three groups are permitted on an oval at any given time, and from 1 June up to four groups are permitted.

If you have two adjacent ovals, you can utilise both ovals for training at the same time – but staggered start/finish times must be adopted to avoid mass gatherings before and after training.

### **Can we have a group in the gym or changeroom at the same time as others are training on the oval?**

No. The gym should be utilised outside of traditional training times, and the change rooms should only be used for medical servicing.

### **Can we train on other areas that aren't football ovals?**

Yes, provided the space meets the minimum 4sqm for each person in attendance, and also all other protocols are adhered to (group sizes, hygiene and social distancing etc).

Please also be mindful of other groups not associated with your club that may be present, and ensure social distancing is maintained at all times.

If the venue is crowded, you should re-locate or cancel training.

### **How many groups can we have training on a soccer pitch?**

SANFL recommends a maximum of two groups training on a soccer pitch.

### **Can we still have 80 people at training if we share a venue with other sports, such as netball and soccer?**

We have been approved for up to 80 people in four groups of up to 20 on an oval at once. With netball, soccer and other sports also permitted to have groups of participants on their courts/pitches too.

Clubs/codes should try to work together to coordinate programming to avoid mass gatherings in the car park or other areas, and encourage their participants to "Get In, Train & Get Out"

### **Are we allowed to have contact at training?**

Contact training is permitted from 1 June 2020, until that time there is to be strictly no contact at training including no tackling, no bumping, no marking contests, and no small sided games or match simulation where incidental contact can occur.

### **Do we have to do temperature checks?**

Temperature checks are recommended but not mandatory. SANFL recommends coaches asks players about their general health when they arrive at training, checking for common symptoms of COVID-19. A symptom checklist is available at [sanfl.com.au/returntoplay](https://sanfl.com.au/returntoplay)

### **Do COVIDSafe Officers have to be at every training?**

No. The COVIDSafe Officer is not required at every training. They are the key contact point between Leagues and Clubs and will act as the source of direction for Clubs implementing the COVID Safe protocols.

### **Do I have to do COVID-19 Infection Control Training?**

Any official responsible for training or other relevant activity must undertake COVID-19 infection control training. A register will be kept by each governing league. The COVIDSafe Officer will be required to manage the register and provide it to their governing league.

### **Do we have to download the COVIDSafe App?**

It is a strong recommendation that all participants involved in community footy install the COVIDSafe app to ensure that we are able to track and trace any active cases if they come to light. This is part of our commitment to Government as a sport in our return to play strategy.

### **Do we have to maintain records if our players/coaches/volunteers have all downloaded the COVIDSafe App?**

Yes you are still required to maintain records. The COVIDSafe App works by measuring the strength of the Bluetooth signal between devices.

If a player/coach/volunteer leaves their phone at home or in their car, it won't effectively measure the close contact between those individuals

### **What happens if a club/team breaches either the State Government restrictions or the requirements of the Return to Training/Play as outlined by SANFL?**

We really hope that all clubs and players do the right thing and strictly adhere to the guidelines as advised. Fines may apply to clubs, teams and individuals that breach either State Government restrictions as per the COVID-19 [Emergency Declaration and Directions legislation](#).

Clubs found to be in breach of the Return to Training protocols may also be sanctioned by the League and/or SANFL by way of fine, suspension or other measures deemed appropriate.

### **Why do we need to keep a log, or register of participants and what groups they are in?**

This assists with the tracing and tracking of the COVID-19 virus should an outbreak occur. This is a requirement of football clubs in South Australia returning to training, and at the appropriate time after State Government approval for returning to play.

### **Will SANFL provide training or education for club staff, coaches or volunteers?**

The SANFL Return to Play website has a number of educational materials, including instructional videos, checklists and posters for clubs to utilise. [sanfl.com.au/returntoplay](http://sanfl.com.au/returntoplay)

### **Are we allowed to have spectators at training venues?**

Under the current restrictions, clubs are asked to limit the number of people that attend training. We are encouraging parents to drop junior players off, or only one parent attend the training session with their child if necessary, and stay away from training groups. Spectators are also reminded that social distancing measures still apply of 1.5m, and no more than 1 person per 4m<sup>2</sup>.

We also recommend that vulnerable groups (people aged over 70, those that are immunocompromised) strongly consider whether they should attend training or games.

### **What strategies can clubs use to schedule training sessions on the oval?**

Clubs should consider introducing a staggered training schedule for teams that may include different start times, different days and/or different locations. It is also advisable that where possible clubs ensure that there is a gap between training times to limit the potential for a crossover of training groups at the same venue. Training times may need to be shorter to accommodate this requirement.

### **What signage is required?**

Hygiene and social distancing resources should be displayed at entry points  
Resources available at: [www.sanfl.com.au/returntoplay](http://www.sanfl.com.au/returntoplay)

### **Our team has social functions and teams meetings after training – can this still occur?**

No. The principle of a Return to Training is '*Get in, Train, Get out*'. There is to be NO social or team mingling or activities either before or after training.

## **Can I travel between states/territories to play football?**

Sport has sought direction from SAPOL and SA Health regarding travel between States/Territories. SANFL follow the directions of SAPOL and SA Health. Currently borders are closed and exemptions must be sought for travel in and out of South Australia to other state/territories.

Any individual that requires to cross a border to attend football training or competition should refer to and follow the current Travel Restrictions outlined at <https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/restrictions-and-responsibilities/travel-restrictions>

SANFL does not have authority to permit exemptions to individuals to attend football training/competition, and each individual must consider their personal circumstances as per the current enforceable directions.

SANFL encourages affected individuals to seek further direction from the SA COVID-19 Information Line on 1800 253 787.

## **COVID Safe Plan**

### **Who needs to complete a plan?**

Any business/industry that was previously directed to close, must complete a plan before they reopen or continue operation (including football club training venues and operation of licenced venue).

Any Club that has resumed training and wishes to continue training MUST complete their plan before 1 June. This includes continuing operation of their licenced venue.

Clubs that have yet to commence training MUST complete their plan before they resume training/operation of their licenced venue.

Visit <https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/recovery/create-a-covid-safe-plan> for more information.

### **Do we need to complete a plan if we're just training, and not running a venue?**

Yes. You need to complete a plan for training.

### **Do we need separate plans for our junior and senior teams?**

No. You only need one plan for your football club.

### **What information do I need to include in the plan?**

In order to complete your plan you must provide details of:

- Any ovals or sports fields you may use for training (outdoor spaces only)
- Any indoor areas you may be serving patrons (including hosting internal meetings) in your licenced venue/sports club (if relevant)
- Any outdoor areas you may be serving patrons in your licenced venue/sports club (if relevant)

In the form you must declare that you understand the obligations linked to operating both your venue, and also your training venue.

Please note there is also a question related to the organisation of sport fixtures.

We appreciate Clubs are not responsible for the organisation of fixtures, and that is the responsibility of SANFL or your League, however you must tick the box to complete the plan.

We will work closely with all competition organisers to ensure that fixtures are closely aligned with government protocols.

## Season

### **When will matches start?**

The State Government has advised that competition for contact sports can commence from Friday 26 June 2020.

SANFL is working with SA Health and State Government to develop protocols to support the resumption of football competitions as per our Stage 4 of the SANFL and Community Football Roadmap.

Each League should be considering what their 'end' date is, meaning a final date on which competition can get started successfully to operate a 2020 season.

### **Why is football in SA starting after sports in other states, when SA is doing so well in regard to COVID case numbers?**

The sports that have resumed or will resume before SANFL and Community Football are professional competitions, that can provide rigorous testing and controls for their participants, or like in the case of NT have had no cases for significant periods.

As players, umpires, coaches and the valuable volunteers across our programs in SA are members of the wider community, and go to work and school etc, we can only resume at a time when it's deemed safe by medical experts, which is from June 26 2020

### **What is the latest Grand Finals can be played?**

SANFL has been in discussions with SACA regarding extension of the season into October. There may be some capacity to achieve this but a decision on any season extension will ultimately sit with land owners, generally local government.

### **What about Auskick, is that starting soon?**

Auskick is an AFL-run program and we are waiting on advice on when it will return. We will keep you updated or keep checking the [AFL Auskick website](#)

## Hygiene

### **Will hand sanitiser be provided before and after training?**

Yes. SANFL is distributing large supplies of hand sanitiser to every club in the state to meet the strict hygiene protocols.

### **Why can't we share team water bottles?**

The sharing of water bottles can increase the risk of transmitting viruses. Participants are to bring their own water bottle and not share this with anyone else. We would also recommend that personal water bottles are thoroughly washed and disinfected after every training session.

### **Our team usually brings fruit or snacks to training and or games – can we still do that?**

No. At no time can players share any food, drinks, snacks, fruit or lollies for example, as this increases the risks of transmitting viruses.

### **Can I get strapping or a massage at training?**

Contact between medical support staff (ie: trainers and physios) is limited to essential or emergency contact only. Players should strap themselves where possible. Refer to the [Medical Support Staff fact sheet](#) for more information, which is also available at [sanfl.com.au/returntoplay](http://sanfl.com.au/returntoplay)

### **How often should equipment be cleaned?**

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. Footballs, and any other equipment like cones or markers must be thoroughly cleaned with anti-bacterial wipes following each training session.



### **What are the other hygiene protocols that we must follow?**

There are a number of key hygiene protocols that must be followed including:

- Alcohol based hand sanitisers must be available for all teams training sessions, with players encouraged to use prior, during and following training.
- No sharing of towels.
- Disinfect mouth guards after each session.
- Players and coaches should avoid spitting or clearing nasal passages at training.
- Avoid high fives, handshakes or other physical contact.
- 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 and advise the football coach.

### **How do we afford to pay for all the extra cleaning and sanitation that is required?**

In most cases the club will assume responsibility for ensuring the additional cleaning and hygiene requirements are met. SANFL is working with leagues and clubs on this to ensure that all appropriate requirements are undertaken. The club may also wish to follow up your local council to see if they have any suggestions to keep these additional cleaning requirements as affordable as possible for Clubs.

## **COVID-19**

### **What happens if we have a number of new cases of COVID-19 in the community?**

SANFL will continue to take advice and follow direction from the State Government, however this may mean that South Australia may have to tighten its COVID-19 restrictions.

### **What happens if there is a positive test in our team?**

If there is a positive case within the team environment then all participants, coaches and volunteers who have been in contact will need to self-isolate for 14 days. If you are feeling unwell then you should seek medical advice immediately by calling your GP. If you feel unwell at all, then please do not attend training at your football club.

### **Are we liable if there is a positive test in our club/team?**

Not necessarily. A club's potential liability will need to consider the circumstances of the particular case. A club can limit the risk of being found liable for a positive test case by taking reasonable precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the club and the wider community, including but not limited to, strictly following the advice and recommendations of SANFL, the State Government and the Australian Government.

## **Fees, Insurance, Player Payments**

### **Do I still have to pay full fees given the season is delayed/shortened/may not play?**

Where it was originally agreed that certain goods and/or services would be delivered to you by your Club in return for your fees (e.g. an 18 game season), you are strictly entitled to receive a reduction to your fees proportionate to the value of the goods and/or services that will no longer be supplied. However, you may still wish to pay full fees as a gesture of goodwill to your Club. You should contact your club to discuss any reduction to your fees.

### **Will I still need to pay fees?**

Once competitions recommence then it is likely that football clubs will charge fees for participation. Please liaise directly with your respective Football Club on this matter.

### **Our Club has said they don't want to proceed for the season, when will I get my money back?**

You should contact your club to discuss the timing of refunds for fees paid in circumstances where your season does not proceed.

### **Are we still insured to train/play?**

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.

### **What are the JLT insurance costs for this season?**

This is still a work in progress. The current direction from the AFL is that there will be a pro-rata discount for Personal Accident/Injury during the shutdown period, but there is still further information to be provided.

### **What is happening with Community Football Player Payments for 2020?**

Direction regarding player payments for Community Football in season 2020 is a work in progress. SANFL continues to consider all options dependent on if and when competition football can start.

SANFL notes that player payments are problematic in the current climate as club financial viability is tested and when clubs are requesting concessions regarding rate relief and other support from Councils and Government.

### **What power does a league have to reduce/eliminate player payments independent of SANFL?**

SANFL continues to be the governing body for football in South Australia. As an affiliate of SANFL, Leagues are expected to follow advice from SANFL regarding player payments.

## **Facilities**

### **Do we need permission to use an oval to train?**

Yes – all clubs / teams must receive approval from the respective local governments to use their facilities. Please ensure that you do the right thing and get appropriate approvals for oval access.

### **Can we use the changerooms, club rooms or the gym?**

From 1 June 2020, access to change rooms and gyms permitted for essential activities, such as medical treatment and physical conditioning, however no more than the 1 person per 4sqm at any given time (maximum of 20 in any given area). No access permitted, except for emergencies (or for toilet access) until this time.

You will need to ensure any areas that are accessed are captured in your club's COVID Safe Plan.

<https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/recovery/create-a-covid-safe-plan>

### **Where do we get changed for training?**

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

### **Can we open canteen facilities?**

No, not at this stage. They are to remain closed. SANFL will work with the State Government on the opening of football clubs' canteen and will advise clubs accordingly. Please do not make the decision to open these facilities, unless authorised by SANFL as State Government approval is required, and Government sanctions would apply.

### **Can we open kitchen or licenced venue?**

Yes. You will need to ensure any areas utilised are captured in your club's COVID Safe Plan.

<https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/recovery/create-a-covid-safe-plan>

Refer to Clubs SA for details on the safe management of your licenced venue.



## **SANFL State League**

### **Will crowds be allowed to attend?**

Crowds at SANFL games will be dependent on the State Government restrictions on gatherings that are in place at that time.

### **Will matches be held at SANFL suburban grounds?**

SANFL is intending for matches to be played at SANFL grounds, but is considering various scenarios for season 2020. Ultimately, any decision on location of matches will be guided by the State Government and restrictions in place.

### **Why won't Port Adelaide Magpies and Adelaide Crows be in SANFL in 2020?**

It was a directive of the AFL to all clubs that AFL-listed players are not permitted to play in second-tier (State League) competitions for health and safety reasons. This effectively means both Port and Adelaide are not in a position to be able to field teams in SANFL this season.

### **Will Port and the Crows come back to SANFL in 2021?**

At this stage, both clubs have agreements in place to field teams in the SANFL State League competition and both have a desire to return to SANFL in 2021.

### **I have an Adelaide Oval Football Membership, can I get a refund for that?**

For any enquiries with regards to Adelaide Oval Football Membership, please contact Member Services on 1300 100 336.

### **What happens about my SANFL Club Membership this season?**

Your Club Membership can be used for matches when the season commences. We understand it is a difficult time for many people, but if you are in a position to continue to support your Club financially with a Membership, we urge you to please do so. For any further Club Membership enquiries please contact your club.

### **I've purchased a SANFL Digital Pass subscription for the season, what happens with that if there are no matches to live stream?**

SANFL will review Digital Pass subscriptions once it has greater clarity on the 2020 men's and women's seasons. Please be mindful that proceeds from every Season Pass sale go directly to your nominated SANFL Club. For any further enquiries about your SANFL Digital Pass subscription, please email [digitalpass@sanfl.com.au](mailto:digitalpass@sanfl.com.au)

## **Talent Programs**

### **Will SANFL's talent program be commencing training?**

Yes, Under 18s at each SANFL Club will also resume training from May 18. For more specific information please speak to your club's Talent Manager.

### **What about the SANFL Under 16s season which had already started?**

As only two rounds of this seven-round competition were completed, the decision was made to cancel the U16s competition. However, the SANFL Clubs, together with SANFL, are working through options to ensure SANFL Under 16 players are provided with an opportunity late in the year to play for their SANFL Club.

### **What about the State Academy programs?**

SANFL is awaiting confirmation from the AFL that the National Championships for males and females will take place later in 2020. Once this is confirmed a revised schedule for the State Academy programs will be communicated to players in those programs.

**Is the AFL Draft still going ahead?**

Yes. The AFL has communicated that the Draft is scheduled to occur before the 2021 AFL season. The AFL will provide more detail and information on timing at the appropriate time.

**Will SANFL'S U13-U15 Development Squad programs commence?**

SANFL and SANFL Clubs are working through what the development programs may look like later in the year. These are an important part of a player's development and the talent pathway, so SANFL is pursuing plans to commence these programs.