



SANFL & COMMUNITY FOOTBALL RETURN TO PLAY

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COVID SAFE PLAN

The State Government has introduced a COVID Safe Plan to assist businesses (including sporting organisations) with compliance with COVID Safe protocols.

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).

The protocols and strategies provided by SANFL for clubs, if followed, will enable clubs to meet all obligations detailed in the plan for provision of a COVID Safe environment for training. SANFL recommends Clubs adopt recommendations from Clubs SA to deliver a COVID Safe environment for their licenced venue.

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

Requirement → Clubs that previously completed a plan in Stage 2 or Stage 2.5 may need to update their plan to include any new areas they wish to open to patrons (including gaming areas)

Failure to complete and have plans available at your premises, or non-compliance with current directions, may result in fines.

Clubs should automatically receive an email including updated COVID Safe Plan reflecting Step 3 density changes at the venue.

You WILL need to complete a revised COVID-Safe Plan for Step 3 for your club if:

- **plan to offer more rooms or spaces to patrons**
- **plan to extend or alter the floorspace of any existing rooms or spaces**
- **are re-opening gaming areas**

For more information, and to complete your club's plan visit <https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/recovery/create-a-covid-safe-plan>

COVID MANAGEMENT PLAN

A COVID Management Plan, approved by SA Health, will be required for:

- Any activity of more than 1,000 people
- Venues wishing to offer both dancing and consumption of alcohol

Business (including football clubs) can operate with only a COVID Safe Plan provided you do not meet either of these criteria. For example, limit patrons to under 1000, or do not facilitate dancing.

A COVID Management Plan is a unique and comprehensive plan that must be specific to your venue or activity.

The plan sets out how a high-risk activity will be managed to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 between patrons/attendees and staff.

For more information, and to complete your Management Plan visit <https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/recovery/create-a-covid-management-plan>.

Material to support club's complete their Management Plan is available at sanfl.com.au/returntoplay



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COVID MARSHALS

From 21 August 2020, COVID Marshals will be required across various public activities/operations, including sporting clubs and licenced venues.

COVID Marshal Criteria

To be a COVID Marshal an individual must:

- Be 18 years of age or more;
- Complete the required training and keep records of the training to provide to an authorised officer on request (State Government to provide training);
- Take reasonable steps to visually identify as a COVID Marshal (ie: high-vis vest, hat etc)

Beyond the mandatory requirements it is recommended that people nominated as COVID Marshals have:

- good customer service, people and communication skills
- a good understanding of the club's COVID-Safe Plan and Return to Play protocols
- the ability to easily switch between and oversee different tasks and (physical) areas

How many Marshals are required at a football club?

The following should be taken into account when coordinating the number and appointment:

- A COVID Marshal must be on site on any occasion food and beverage is being served at the venue, this would include mid-week meals and match days;
- You can have more than one prescribed COVID Marshal (SANFL recommends at least one marshals is assigned to both the licenced venue and match day/spectator management);
- If less than 200 people in attendance, the role can be assumed by someone undertaking other duties (ie: ground manager, or bar manager etc);
- If more than 200 people are expected to be present at an operation a COVID Marshal who is supervising must have no other duties. (ie: must be a designated match day role or roles);
- At multi-sport venues, we recommend each sport nominates a COVID Marshal OR approach the asset owner to manage

Compliance

In order to be compliant with the new restrictions by Friday 21 August, clubs must undertake the following:

1. Appoint and train COVID Marshals
2. Ensure COVID Marshals are clearly identifiable
3. Ensure records are available if required

1) *Appoint & Train*

The State Government's online COVID Marshal training is now available [HERE](#).

The training covers the following:

- Understanding the role
- Understanding the virus and how it spreads
- Infection control strategies
- Recognising symptoms
- What to do if you, or someone else develops symptoms
- Importance of physical distancing and managing density
- Cleaning tips
- Additional tools and resources.



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Users must demonstrate understanding of the material by undertaking a brief multiple-choice test at the end.

Please note that the content included is similar to the Government issued Infection Control Training, as well as many of the materials provided on the SANFL Return to Play website. This course simply reinforces the learnings and practices already implemented during the Return to Play process.

Clubs can appoint more than one COVID Marshal, and SANFL recommends separate Marshals are appointed for spectator/football management and your sports club/licenced venue. Remember: a dedicated Marshal must be in attendance at events with greater than 200 people present.

2) *Visibility of COVID Marshal*

While you are free to choose the solution that best fits your club, the garments or items your COVID Marshals wears must stand out immediately and must be recognisable as indicating a COVID Marshal – not just for you, but also for a patron who has never been to your premises before.

We recommend a high-vis vest with a sticker, badge or lanyard that says COVID MARSHAL.

3) *Records*

A copy of your COVIDSafe Plan, as well as any training records of COVID Marshals must be available upon request from a member of SAPOL or SA Health.

We recommend the COVID Marshal carries a copy of the club's COVIDSafe plan, as well as a copy of their certificate of completion.

This can be hard copy or electronic on a phone/tablet etc.

For more information on COVID Marshals, please visit https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/recovery/covid-marshals?fbclid=IwAR1wSKTsi0hjtZMgBcMLpdKKAE2ACAhfWar3ADah8BsrD_0Sng9VoB_PLj8



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TRAINING & MATCH DAY PROTOCOLS

Key Principles

- Density requirements, and/or maintaining 1.5m apart where possible must be observed where possible
- “Get In, Train/Play, Get Out” should be observed where possible
- Thorough cleaning and sanitisation must occur before and after each training, trial and match day, including spot cleaning of changerooms in between user groups, and cleaning of equipment
- Hygiene and testing protocols previously implemented will still apply

Training

- Full training activities to continue, including contact activities (tackling, bumping etc)
 - Physical contact restricted to the above or similar training activities, with official, players and umpires to maintain 1.5m distance between each other at all times unless in match simulation
 - Limit the coming together in tight huddles during training

Gyms

- Access to gyms permitted for essential physical conditioning that cannot be achieved by the player or umpire at home
 - Staggered gym/weights schedule ensuring no more than density limits allow
 - Any gym equipment to be wiped down before and after each session, including in between change over of users on equipment

Changerooms

Access to changerooms is permitted, with each team and umpires to be allocated a changeroom for their exclusive use. Access to change rooms should be limited to essential personnel only.

Showers and wet areas can be accessed if required, with strict cleaning and density limits to be observed.

Access to treatment rooms for strapping, massage etc is also allowed. Treatment rooms must adhere to density limits.

The following behaviours should be encouraged:

- Maintain 1.5m from others where possible
- Arrive dressed to play/umpire where possible
- Players should utilise personal towels or matting if required to lay or sit on floor for any reason
- Limit time coming together in larger groups (ie: match briefings)
- Get In, Play, Get Out (no loitering post-match)

The following is NOT permitted:

- Strictly no warm-up or drills to be conducted in changerooms
- Teams/Umpires cannot access a changeroom until the previous user group has vacated, and cleaning has been undertaken
- No access for non-essential personnel such as:
 - Anyone who is considered a spectator (ie: board/committee members, sponsors)
 - Anyone whose match day role doesn't support player preparation or recovery
 - Media

Change rooms, and any other match day areas to be deep cleaned and sanitised before and after each training/match day, and spot cleaned between user groups



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Showers & Wet Areas

Showers are permitted under the following conditions:

- Capacity limits as per density requirements must be observed
- One person in a shower cubicle at each time or use of every second shower in an open shower room
- No sharing of hard soaps (pump bottles permitted)
- No sharing of towels
- Spot cleaning following each user, and deep cleaning following each training/match day
- Showers users are responsible for cleaning the shower following use as per checklist (available on Return to Play website)
- Venues must ensure cleaning supplies available in all shower cubicles, and for each shower station being utilised as follows:
 - Disposable cloths or paper towels, which must be changed between each user
 - Alcohol based cleaning spray or solution
 - Rubbish bins

Strictly no ice-baths permitted.

Coaches Box & Bench

- Coaches can access coaches' box, however no more than density requirements permit
- Any players, coaches and support staff must maintain 1.5m from each other on the bench. Additional chairs may be added if extra seats are required but must be spaced 1.5m apart. Seating positions on benches should be marked with tape or stickers
- The host venue is responsible for supplying plastic chairs for required additional bench seating (strictly no metal or wooden chairs allowed on the boundary)
- Hand sanitiser and sanitising wipes to be available on the bench
 - Each participating team is responsible for bringing hand sanitiser for their team/bench, with the host venue responsible for providing umpires with sanitiser

Other Match Day Matters

- Host venue is responsible for providing cleaning materials to sanitise football
 - Footballs should be wiped down and sanitised before each game, in between quarter breaks and after the match
- Each player must bring or be allocated an individual drink bottle which is clearly labelled. The use of water runners is permitted, however must ensure no sharing of drink bottles
- Following the match, club songs can only be sung on the oval
- Host venue is responsible for thorough cleaning of all change room and match day areas, including spot cleaning in between matches



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SPECTATOR MANAGEMENT

Clubs must use their best endeavours to ensure their venue does not exceed permitted capacity, as well as encourage appropriate social distancing of spectators.

SANFL recommends clubs implement the following protocols:

Entry/Exit Gates

- Multiple gates open (where possible) to allow for consistent ingress and spreading of crowd
- Queuing lanes should be implemented if required for ticket sales and entry, with points marked out on the ground 1.5m apart
- Crowd clickers or apps used at gates to ensure the maximum attendance does not exceed restriction
- Where possible, cashless payments should be used to collect payment for entry (if relevant)

Spectator Seating, Standing & Parking Areas

- Patrons should be seated in every second row in grandstands or fixed seating
- Patrons/groups of patrons should be seated or standing 1.5m apart at all times
- Patrons encouraged to bring their own chairs to sit in
- Patrons encouraged to spread around ground as much as possible
- Car parking around ovals is permitted at relevant venues. Patrons in cars, even if they remain in the vehicle must be included in spectator numbers

Oval Access

- Spectators/Patrons are not permitted on the oval at any time

Food & Beverage

- Snack food, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages can be sold and purchased at the club canteen and bars
- Queuing lanes should be implemented for bars and kiosks if required
- Where possible, cashless payments should be used to pay for food and drink
- Spectators must be seated to consume alcoholic beverages

Cleaning & Hygiene Provisions

- High traffic surface areas such as handrails, entry points, door handles, canteen surfaces, should be regularly wiped down
- Soap, water and disposable hand towel or dryers must be available in all bathrooms
 - Routine cleaning will occur, with particular focus on frequently touched surfaces such as door locks, toilet buttons, sinks and tapware
- If possible, clubs can provide hand sanitiser at entry points and food/drink service points

Records & Contact Tracing

- Contact tracing of spectators is not required for outdoor sports (unless hosting an event for over 1,000 patrons). In order to host over 1,000 spectators, clubs must have an approved COVID Management Plan from SA Health
- Clubs should encourage spectators to download the COVIDSafe App to assist with contact tracing



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Spectator Number Exemptions

The following staff/officials do not need to be included in spectator numbers:

- Umpires
- Coaches
- Team Managers
- Medical Support Staff
- Water Carriers
- Property Steward
- Match Day Managers/Officers
- Time Keeper/s & Statisticians
- Club COVID Safe Officer
- Cleaners
- Gate Staff
- Canteen & Bar Staff
- Media/Broadcast/Live Streaming*
- Licenced Venue Staff/Patrons*

The numbers of persons in the above roles should be strictly limited to essential only, and as soon as they are no longer functioning in an official capacity, they must be included in spectator numbers.

Any other club person or contact that doesn't have an official role must be included in spectator numbers (ie: club sponsors, committee members etc).

Media/Broadcast/Live Streaming*

Clubs and Leagues can continue to deliver on commitments to media and outside broadcast (such as livestreaming etc). The numbers of these persons should be limited to essential to deliver the service or cover the match.

Media are also subject to social distancing requirements.

Strictly no changeroom access is permitted.

Licenced Venue

The licenced venue staff and patrons are not included in the total spectator number at the premises. The licenced venue can operate as per its Government COVIDSafe Plan during training and match days.

While spectator limits apply, clubs should be mindful of patrons moving between the licenced venue and the oval viewing/spectator areas. If they do not believe they can manage the flow of persons between the two areas, they should include the licenced venue area in the overall spectator numbers.

Venues with No Gates & Multi Sport

SANFL appreciates the additional challenges of venues without gates, as well as hosting other sports. SANFL recommends the following:

- Monitor numbers in attendance where possible
- Ensure those who are in attendance are following social distancing protocols
- Communicate in advance with key stakeholders who may be able to support messaging to local residents and other user groups such as Council, as well as the other sporting clubs on-site
- If concerned with spectator numbers, kindly ask people to leave the venue
 - Ensure that parents/caregivers of junior participants are able to remain
- If further concerns, contact SAPOL for support



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Spectator Non-Compliance

Every attendee at football has a personal responsibility to abide by COVIDSafe practices, including maintaining 1.5m apart at all times, using appropriate hygiene measures and not attending matches or training if they are unwell.

If the club has concerns over behaviour of spectators the should do the following:

- Kindly remind patron/s of their responsibilities in keeping others safe
- If continued non-compliance, ask the patron/s to leave the venue
- If further issue, contact SAPOL

SANFL will provide a number of resources to support clubs in providing safe environments for spectators, including:

- Posters
- Social media graphics & messages
- Scripts for ground announcers outlining key messages
- EDM content



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GET IN, TRAIN/PLAY AND GET OUT

Where possible, players and umpires should prepare at home, minimising need to congregate in change rooms/sporting facilities.

Strategies to limit time and person-to-person contact on site – promoting social distancing – should be implemented:

- Arrive dressed and ready to train/play where possible
- Minimise use of change rooms, bathrooms and communal areas
- Showering at home instead of at training/match venues
- Between training efforts, maintain at least 1.5m apart
- Any tasks that can be done at home, should be done at home (e.g. recovery sessions, online meetings).

HYGIENE

The following general hygiene practices for players, umpires and official apply at all times, in line with Government advice:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
- Wash or sanitise your hands before eating (all players and official should have personalised hand sanitiser);
- If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth;
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick;
- Cover your mouth to cough or sneeze (using your elbow);
- No sharing of towels/water bottles/food, including lolly or fruit bowls;
- Any areas accessed by players, officials, spectators and staff/volunteers to be comprehensively cleaned and sanitised after each use;
- Clubs must do all they can to reinforce the above precautions, including making available appropriate hand washing facilities, as well as the provision of alcohol-based hand sanitiser and tissues
- Medical official must follow protocols as outlined in infection control training (ie: disposal of gloves in between treatments, wearing of face masks)

Additional hygiene

- Mouthguards are not to be removed during training or play and must be sealed away when not in use;
- Disinfect mouth guards and whistles after each session and ensure they are appropriately stored;
- Spitting and clearing of nasal/respiratory secretions on ovals or other sport settings not permitted;
- No sharing of headsets or computer screens/ipads;
- All playing kit and equipment to be cleaned and disinfected between training sessions and matches;
- Avoid high fives, handshakes or other unnecessary physical contact;
- Training and Gym equipment to be wiped with antibacterial wipes or alcohol-based sanitiser prior to and after each use

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Players, umpires, coaches and staff must continue to follow State Government mandated social distancing, and only engage in approved activities as per the SA Government Roadmap.

Everyone should maintain 1.5m physical distancing from others who are not in their household or others they may otherwise regularly spend time with.



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CONTACT TRACING

Contact tracing is a way of slowing the spread of infections by identifying people who have been in contact with an infected person.

Requirement → All persons involved in the conduct of training and match day are encouraged to subscribe to the Government's COVID-19 tracing app.

Requirement → Clubs should promote spectators to subscribe to the Government's COVID-19 tracing app.

Requirement → Clubs operating under an approved COVID Management Plan to host more than 1,000 spectators must collect contact information of all patrons

TESTING

Any advice on testing for COVID-19 will be guided by the State Government and Health officials.

Requirement → Any symptomatic players or official must undergo relevant testing and follow isolation procedures until the results of the tests are available.

ASSESSMENT & NOTIFICATION

Any person, including player/umpire/official/member/spectator must not join the training or match environment if they are unwell or had contact with a known or suspected case of COVID-19. They must also not attend if they have been at a location identified by SA Health as high risk.

Symptom monitoring should also occur, and anyone feeling unwell (particularly with the symptoms below) should not attend training or matches:

- Cough
- Sore Throat
- Runny Nose
- Shortness of Breath
- Unexplained Loss of Taste and/or Smell
- Fever
- Any Other Health Concerns (Upset Stomach, Headache)

Individuals should seek medical advice if they have any symptoms.

If a player, coach or other club official tests positive for COVID-19, they must notify their Club COVID Safe Officer, who must notify SANFL.

The individual must follow all directions by SA Health and SA Police.

Any other person/s at the club must also self-isolate if directed to.

SANFL and all affiliated leagues/clubs must follow direction by SA Health regarding impact on training and/competition