



# SANFL & COMMUNITY FOOTBALL

## **RETURN TO PLAY**

### **SEASON 2021 - FAQs**

These FAQs have been created to provide additional support and clarification to Clubs & Leagues in the planning and delivery of football activities at their venues. This document is not exhaustive and should be considered alongside the current Return to Play Protocols and Government issued directions.

#### **CURRENT RESTRICTIONS,**

##### **What are the current restrictions in place for hosting spectators at sporting/football matches?**

A summary of current restrictions are detailed below, but SANFL encourages everyone to keep up to date with the emergency directions at <https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/emergency-declarations> and football specific protocols at [sanfl.com.au/returntoplay](http://sanfl.com.au/returntoplay)

The following general principles also apply:

- Density of 3 persons per 4sqm applies in all indoor/outdoor areas (75%)
- Individuals should remain 1.5m from those not in their household or social group (unless undertaking an approved activity such as playing/umpiring)
- Venues must ensure adequate handwashing facilities are available

#### **COVIDSAFE/COVID MANAGEMENT PLANS, CHECK-IN & COVID MARSHALS**

##### **What does my Club need to do?**

- All football clubs and their licenced venues/sporting clubs must have a Government issued COVIDSafe Plan
- Any event where more than 1,000 persons are in attendance must have an approved COVID Management Plan (education materials to assist clubs in developing a plan is available at [sanfl.com.au/returntoplay](http://sanfl.com.au/returntoplay))
- Implement check-in systems using the QR Codes or manual registers when running any activity at the club, including training and matchday
- COVID Marshals must be present at any time an activity is occurring (ie: football matches/training, or when the licenced venue is in operation)

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

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

##### **How many COVID Marshals do we need for our event?**

Irrespective of whether your venue is operating under a COVIDSafe Plan (up to 1,000 spectators) or COVID Management Plan (more than 1,000 spectators), at least one COVID Marshal must be present. Any event with more than 200 persons, a dedicated COVID Marshal must be appointed.

SANFL recommends where possible venues have multiple COVID Marshals on site to assist in the compliance with COVIDSafe behaviours. Provided venues have at least one dedicated COVID marshal, additional Marshals can undertake additional or other duties such as security, gate staff, ground/team managers, bar/canteen staff.

SA Health may recommend a specific number of Marshals for COVID Management Plan approved events.

##### **Who needs to check-in when attending our club/venue?**

All persons (players, parents, coaches, volunteers, umpires, club officials, spectators etc.) visiting a venue MUST check in each time they are at the site. This is required for training, match day and any other occasion/purpose patrons may visit your venue.

Patrons can check in via the QR codes or via a manual log.



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#### **Where do we need to display our QR Codes?**

Clubs should display their QR codes in prominent positions at the venue, including but not limited to:

- At entry gates
- In changerooms
- In bathrooms
- At service points (bars, canteens etc)

#### **How do we check in if our club is training at a different venue?**

- Utilise the QR code of the venue the training an activity is being held at (if available)
- No QR codes are in place for public venues such as running tracks or the beach
- If there is no QR code available (due to it being a public place or another venue not required to have a code, manual records of attendance must be maintained for at least 28 days)

#### **Do kids need to check in?**

- All persons are required to check in (either by QR code scan or manual logs)
- If the child has a phone, they should check-in using the QR Code
- If the participant doesn't have a phone, but their parents drop the child at training or match day, they should check-in
- Clubs should maintain records of players training and game day attendance

## **OVAL & CHANGEROOM ACCESS**

#### **Can we host kick & catch on the oval at our venue?**

Kick and catch can occur provided participants remain in the 50m arcs and do not approach the playing huddles. COVID Marshals should be on the oval to ensure appropriate physical distancing occurs.

#### **What access restrictions apply to changerooms?**

Access to changerooms should be limited to essential personnel only (players, coaches and support staff). 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 or the media. Density limits must be observed.

Changerooms should only be used for changing, showering and very brief team addresses. There is to be no loitering.

#### **Can we have a drink in the changeroom post-game?**

As per [SA Health guidelines for Sporting Changerooms](#), only water is to be consumed in changerooms with no food permitted.

#### **Can we have banners for match milestones?**

This is at the discretion of each League, however there should be no guard of honour and only the persons required to hold the banner should be on-field.



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#### **HYGIENE**

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

The sharing of water bottles can significantly increase the risk of transmitting viruses. This is clearly outlined by SA Health in their [Sport & COVID fact sheet](#), as well as reinforced in the Australian Institute for Sport Rebooting Footy Framework.

##### **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.

##### **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.

#### **COVID CASES & BREACHES**

##### **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. SANFL will clearly communicate any changes and requirements with our Affiliated Leagues and Clubs.

##### **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 may need to self-isolate for at least 14 days. If you are feeling unwell then you should seek medical advice immediately by calling your GP an/or seek testing. If you feel unwell at all, then please do not attend training or match day at your football club.

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

This is highly unlikely. 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.

##### **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 SANFL Return to Play protocols may also be sanctioned by the League and/or SANFL by way of fine, suspension or other measures deemed appropriate.