



SANFL & COMMUNITY FOOTBALL

RETURN TO PLAY

MANAGING MASK COMPLIANCE

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING COMPLIANCE WITH MASK WEARING?

This is at the discretion of each venue. However, SANFL suggests initial responsibility sits with gate staff/volunteers and COVID Marshals, with security and/or SA Police involved for serious issues of non-compliance. Ultimately SA Police are responsible for the enforcement and issuing of infringement notices.

WHO NEEDS TO WEAR A MASK?

It is a mandatory requirement for all persons attending indoor sporting events and gyms to wear a mask (not required during exercise)

It is also a mandatory requirement for medical support staff (trainers, physios, doctors etc) to wear a mask while administering treatment to an athlete.

Masks are also mandatory while inside shared public spaces – such as the club's licenced venue

Masks continue to be strongly recommended by SA Health in all settings where persons cannot physically distance.

SA Health's mask messaging is simple - **if you can wear a mask, please wear a mask.**

DO WE NEED TO PROVIDE MASKS TO PATRONS?

Individuals attending events should ultimately be responsible for supplying their own masks, however we recommend the club/league/venue has a small allocation on hand to provide them to those who forget.

Where possible, gate staff and/or COVID Marshals should be provided with a small number of masks to disseminate as required.

UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES DO MASKS NOT NEED TO BE WORN

It's really important to understand that there are legitimate reasons why an individual may not be able to wear a mask.

SA Health have outlined some of these circumstances where it might not be possible to wear a mask as follows:

- During exercise
- By persons under the age of 12
- Where a person may have a physical or mental health illness or condition, or disability, which makes wearing a face covering unsuitable
- For a person communicating with those who are deaf or hard of hearing and visibility of the mouth is essential for communication
- For a person who wears hearing aids of a style that makes wearing masks difficult and where an alternative style of mask (with ties rather than ear loops) is not available
- Where the nature of the work or education means that clear enunciation (ie speech) or visibility of their mouth is essential. This includes teachers, lecturers, broadcasters or call centre staff
- When a person is consuming food, drink or medicine
- In circumstances where removal of the mask is lawfully required for identification purposes



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HOW DO WE DETERMINE LEGITIMACY?

Venues are responsible for encouraging the use of masks and making a general enquiry as to why a mask may not be worn by a patron. Patrons can be asked to produce evidence of their exemption to enter without a mask (ie: medical certificate).

We appreciate that those responsible for managing mask compliance aren't health professionals, and if an individual says they have a physical or mental health illness or condition, or disability, which makes wearing a face covering unsuitable, it's not the responsibility of the venue to further query this person.

CAN WE DENY ENTRY OR EVICT SOMEONE FOR NOT WEARING A MASK?

If an individual does not have a legitimate reason for wearing a mask (ie: they simply refuse or detail a reason not in line with advice provided by SA Health), if you feel comfortable in doing so you can deny them entry to the venue and/or evict them. Individuals can also be subject to infringement notices from SAPOL for non-compliance with mandatory mask wearing orders, and SAPOL can be contacted to manage these matters.

HOW SHOULD WE APPROACH SOMEONE NOT WEARING A MASK?

Firstly, again remember that there are legitimate reasons why an individual may not be able to wear a mask (as detailed overleaf).

We suggest the following strategy in approaching someone not wearing a mask:

- Approach the person in a friendly and respectful manner, mindful that reasons for not wearing a mask are always obvious

Hello, How are you? In line with government directions, it's currently mandatory for all spectators to wear a mask while indoors at this venue. Is there a reason why you're not wearing a mask today?

- Review their response in line with advice from SA Health on mask exemptions (as overleaf)
 - If they've simply forgotten their mask – if you can, provide them with a mask
 - If deemed legitimate, the individual can enter/remain in the venue (refer below for ongoing management of these persons)
 - If not deemed legitimate, the individual can be denied entry or evicted
 - If you have concerns for your safety in denying entry or evicting the individual, SAPOL can be contacted for support

HOW SHOULD WE MANAGE THOSE WHO HAVE A LEGITIMATE REASON TO NOT WEAR A MASK?

Once you have established that an individual has a legitimate reason for not wearing a mask, SANFL recommends providing these persons with a visual identifier, such as a wrist band to wear during their time at the venue.

This hopefully means that this person won't be constantly questioned by officials, or other people in attendance.

This is not a requirement, but something that might help in making everyone feel more comfortable, and enjoy their time at the footy.