



SANFL & COMMUNITY FOOTBALL **RETURN TO PLAY // FAQs**

Updated 6 August 2020

COVID Safe Plan & COVID Management 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/match day venues and operation of licenced venue).

Clubs that have yet to commence training/match days **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/playing, and not running a venue?

Yes. You need to complete a plan for training/match days

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

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

Do we need to do a new plan for Stage 3?

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

Does my club need to submit a COVID Management Plan to SA Health?

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.

Management plans can now be submitted to SA Health for assessment. Visit <https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/recovery/create-a-covid-management-plan> for more information.

Education materials to assist clubs in the development of their plan is available at sanfl.com.au/returntoplay

Training & Match Day

Are we allowed to Return to Training/Playing?

Full training activities are permitted, including contact activities (tackling, bumping etc).

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

Each League/Competition is setting its own competition dates.

How many people can train/play together at one time?

From Monday 29 June there is no limit on the number of people permitted in training groups/squads/matchdays, provided venues can accommodate space for 1 person per 2sqm.

Can we use equipment at training/match day warm ups?

Yes, all equipment is now allowed to be used providing all equipment is sanitised before and after each session.

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

Yes. The club can accommodate as many players/coaches/officials at the venue as density limits allow.

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

Yes, provided the space meets the minimum 2sqm for each person in attendance, and also all other protocols are adhered to (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.

What if we share a venue with other sports, such as netball and soccer?

There is no limit on the number of persons permitted at venues/premises provided 2sqm per person can be accommodated. 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.

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

Do COVIDSafe Officers have to be at every training/match day?

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?

It is no longer a requirement for sports to maintain contact records.

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.

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

Are we allowed to have spectators at training and match day venues?

Yes. Spectators are also reminded that social distancing measures still apply of 1.5m, and no more than 1 person per 2m². Clubs need to submit a COVID Management Plan to SA Health for approval if they wish to host over 1,000 people at their venue at any given time.

What signage is required?

Hygiene and social distancing resources should be displayed at entry points

Resources available at: www.sanfl.com.au/returntoplay

Do we have insurance coverage if we decide to train, but have abandoned competing for season 2020?

Insurance payments are still required for training only to ensure player coverage.

If your team is not playing in season 2020, but wishes to continue training; please contact SANFL to discuss your insurance coverage.

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.

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?

Access to changerooms is permitted, with each team and umpires to be allocated a changeroom for their exclusive use on a match day. 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.

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

Can we open our canteens and bars?

Snack food, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages can be sold and purchased at the club canteen and bars. Where possible, cashless payments should be used to pay for food and drink.

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.

Can we run our BBQ/Sausage Sizzle?

SANFL have advice from Clubs SA that BBQs are permitted, however there must be no sharing or communal condiments such as sauce/mustard. Clubs should provide individual sauce packets, or sauce must be applied by a staff member/volunteer.

Spectators

How many spectators are allowed in our venue?

From Monday 29 June there is no cap on the number of persons allowed at a venue, provided density requirements are met.

Venues wishing to host over 1,000 people will need to complete a COVID Management Plan.

Do we need to keep contact records of spectators?

There is no requirement to keep contact records of spectators for crowds less than 1000 persons, however we encourage clubs to promote the downloading of the Government's COVIDSafe App.

Can spectators sit in the Grandstand?

Yes. However only every second row should be utilised, and patrons should sit 1.5m apart.

Can we provide food and beverages to spectators?

Yes. However alcoholic beverages must be consumed by patrons while seated. Non-alcoholic beverages and hand-held food can be consumed while standing. Please be aware that restrictions are subject to change, and clubs should keep an eye on and abide by the current [Emergency Declaration and Directions legislation](#).

Hygiene

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. Refer to the Medical Support Staff fact sheet for more information, which is also available at 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
- If you, or people you have been in contact with are sick, please DO NOT attend training and advise the football coach.

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 may 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?

SANFL has announced that there will be no player payments in Community Football leagues across the State for season 2020 to assist with a viable return to play for all clubs.

The decision by SANFL Community Football and the SA Football Commission to reduce the Player Payment Salary Cap to \$0 follows extensive consultation with affiliated leagues and clubs.

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.