

RETURN TO TRAINING & PLAY IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

AS AT 6TH JUNE 2020



GENERAL

What are the updated requirements for training?

As of 6th June 2020, full team training can occur, involving both contact and match simulation. There can be a maximum of 100 participants (including players and spectators) on one oval at any one time. If a club has 2 full sized ovals that are available for use then there can be 200 participants up to a maximum of 300 participants per venue. This is in line with the WA State Government restrictions that are currently in place.

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:

- Read and understand the resources provided by the WAFC, including:
 - Guidelines for a Return to Training in Western Australia,
 - Return to Training Protocols,
 - Return to 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 you no longer than 10-15 minutes to complete.
- Brief all participants, coaches, volunteers and parents on the requirements around Training. An overview of what the briefing should include is outlined in the Guidelines for a Return to Training in Western Australia.
- Ensure that a log, or register of all participants is taken at every training session.

When will we be able to Return to Play?

Each League and Competition will communicate to clubs and participants about their respective Return to Play dates. Encouragingly, this will be available under the easing of WA State Government restrictions. It is important that Return to Play is done so in a well-planned and well-coordinated manner that supports both clubs and volunteers.

What is the 100/300 Rule?

The 100/300 rule refers to the ability to have 100 participants per training zone or space (for football's purposes this is an oval). Hence, there can be 100 participants per oval. If the venue has more than one oval then there can be 100 participants per oval up to a maximum of 300 participants/patrons at a venue. So, if a club has 4 ovals at a venue they can still only have a maximum of 300 participants and spectators. Umpires and Coaches are not included in the participant count, but players and spectators are included.

Are we allowed to have spectators at venues?

Yes you can, however clubs are reminded that social distancing measures still apply of 1.5m, and no more than 1 person per 2m². Spectators or parents are to be included in the maximum number of people allowed to be present on an oval (so 100 people).

Is there a way of having more people at our venue?

A club can apply for an exemption to the maximum number of participants at their venue. Clubs, in conjunction with their LGA, can apply for approval to allow more than 300 patrons in a venue, for the purposes of sporting activities, on the condition it has sufficient square meterage to accommodate the total number, allowing for 2 square metres per patron, with up to 100 per undivided space, and there is suitable distancing between the gatherings. The exemption form can be accessed **HERE**.

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.

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. Further information is available from Marsh Insurance by clicking [HERE](#).

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

We would respectfully request that all clubs and players do the right thing and strictly adhere to the guidelines as advised. Sanctions can apply to clubs, teams and individuals that breach either State Government or WAFC restrictions. Breach of State Government restrictions, which form a key part of Football's Return to Training and Play protocols, include:

- Individuals can be imprisoned for up to 12 months, or fined up to \$50,000,
- Football clubs can be fined up to \$250,000 for breaching an enforceable direction as set by the Commissioner of Police.

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

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 the WAFC, the WA State Government, and the Australian Government.

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 Western Australia Returning to Training and Play.

What happens if the cases of COVID-19 begin to increase again in the community?

The WAFC will continue to take advice and follow direction from the State Government, however this may mean that Western Australia may have to tighten its COVID-19 restrictions. This may mean football is postponed.

Will the WAFC provide training or education for Clubs, Coaches or volunteers?

Yes. There is training available for clubs. The COVID-19 infection control training can be completed online [HERE](#). The WAFC recommends that all clubs (and in particular coaches) complete the online training, in order to ensure the appropriate checks are completed to ensure the health and safety of all participants and volunteers.

Printable PDF posters, flyers and checklists will also be made available from the WAFC and are available for download on the WAFC website. These can be displayed at club facilities and also circulated to all participants.

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?

Not at this time. The sharing of food, drinks, snacks, fruit or lollies for example, increases the risks of transmitting viruses.

Can I get strapping or a massage at training?

Yes. Trainers can now provide strapping and massages to players although it is important that strict hygiene protocols are adhered to.

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 and equipment to be properly cleaned after each session.
- If you, or people you have been in contact with are sick, please DO NOT attend training and advise the football coach.

There are lots of rules around hygiene and cleaning. How do we afford to pay for all the extra cleaning that is required?

In most cases the Club will assume responsibility for ensuring the additional cleaning and hygiene requirements are met. The WAFC will work with leagues and clubs on this to ensure that all appropriate requirements are undertaken. The club may also wish to consult with your local council to see if they have any suggestions to keep these additional cleaning requirements as affordable as possible for Clubs. The WAFC also has a list of retailers/providers that have bulk sanitiser and cleaning product available for clubs.

FACILITIES

Do we need permission to use an oval to train?

Yes – all clubs / teams must receive approval from the respective Local Governments/Facility Owner to utilise 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?

Yes. As of June 6th, 2020, changerooms, gyms and club rooms can be utilised, although it should be noted that social distancing still applies as does the 1 person per 2m² rule. Additional and thorough cleaning of the venue should be undertaken and in particular high touch areas. A cleaning protocol is available from [HERE](#).

Can we use Lecture Theatres for educating players?

Yes, you can. Although strict social distancing rules apply of 1.5m between participants, and also the 1 person per 2m² rule applies. Again, additional and thorough cleaning should occur.

Should we still come to training dressed in our football gear?

Although changerooms and wet areas are accessible, they are restricted in terms of the social distancing and the 1 person per 2m² rule. Where possible it is encouraged that participants still arrive at training in their football gear, and then return home to shower. This assists the club in maintaining a hygienic environment.

Can we open Canteen's and Bar facilities?

Yes. Under the easing of the WA State Government restrictions, Canteen and Bar facilities can be used. Although, the 1.5m social distancing and the 1 person per 2m² rules apply. The 100/300 rule is also applicable in this circumstance. The WAFC would strongly encourage all football clubs to work closely with their Local Government on their requirements around the use of Canteens and Bars including the completion of COVID Safety Plans for the venue.

RETURN TO TRAINING

Can we use Footballs and other training equipment?

Yes. Footballs and all training equipment is allowed to be used in training sessions and games. This includes all gym equipment. Clubs should clean or disinfect equipment following each training session.

Are we allowed to have contact at training?

Yes. Full contact training including tackling, bumping, contested marking and match simulation is allowed at all training sessions.

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

There can be 100 participants on an oval at any one time. This includes players and spectators, but doesn't include coaches and trainers.

How often should equipment be cleaned?

It is recommended that footballs and all other equipment is cleaned after each and every session to maintain high levels of hygiene and cleanliness.

RETURN TO PLAY

Will all the rules and regulations around football be the same?

There is likely to be some rule and regulation changes that impact your league and competition. This will be fully communicated and worked through with your respective club. Generally, any changes have been made to deal with the COVID-19 scenario and the modified seasons that we are facing.

WAFL FOOTBALL

When will the WAFL start?

The WAFL Competition will commence on the 1st August.

Will crowds be allowed to attend?

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

TALENT PROGRAMS

When will the WAFL Colts season start?

The WAFL colts season will likely be aligned to the WAFL season. Please speak with the respective WAFC Talent Manager at your WAFL Club for further information on the timing of the WAFL Colts season.

What about the WAFL Futures season which had already started?

The WAFC Talent Managers will be able to provide clear direction on the WAFL Futures Competition to all involved participants.

What about the State Academy programs?

The WAFC will communicate to all State Academy players about the programs and their training requirements.

Is the AFL Draft still going ahead?

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

COMMUNITY FOOTBALL

When will Community Football start?

Each individual League and Competition will communicate start dates to clubs and players regarding their respective competitions. It is likely that a majority of community football competitions will commence in July.

Can Auskick participants resume?

Auskick sessions at clubs will plan to recommence in line with the Junior Football season. The WA State Government restrictions of 1.5m social distancing and the 1 person per 2m² will apply, along with the 100/300 rule. This may mean that clubs need to be creative in their approach to scheduling Auskick and Junior Football.

Our team has social functions after training – can this still occur?

Social functions can occur at clubs, however the strict social distancing of 1.5m and 1 person per 2m² applies, along with the 100/300 rule. In saying that the principle of 'Get in, Train, Get out' should still apply for most sessions.

Will I still need to pay fees?

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

COUNTRY FOOTBALL

Can spectators watch Football from their cars at some venues?

Yes. However, social distancing rules of 1.5m, 1 person per 2m², the 100/300 rule applies.