



FOOTBALL COMMISSION INC.

# GUIDELINES FOR A RETURN TO TRAINING & PLAY IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

UPDATED AS AT 6TH JUNE 2020



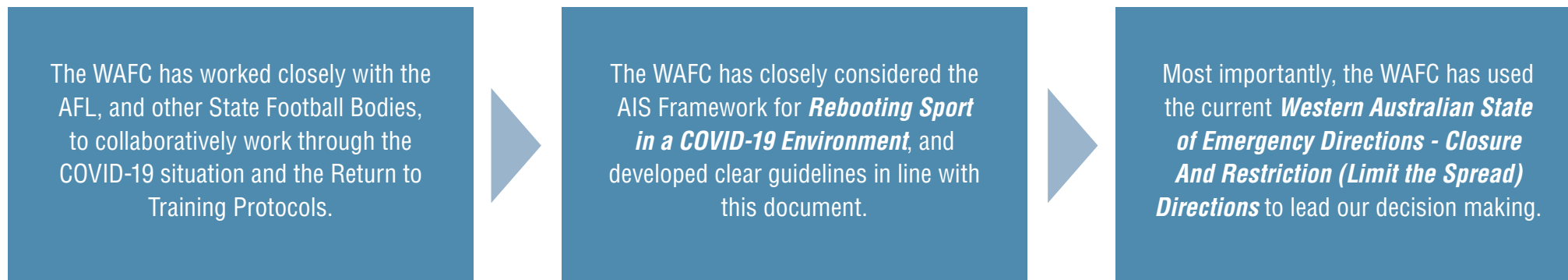
# BACKGROUND

- The AFL and State Bodies, in consultation with the Australian Government, State Governments, World Health Organisation and the AFL's Chief Medical Officer, made a recommendation in March to postpone all AFL community club competitions currently operating and those scheduled to begin.
- On 15 March 2020, the Minister for Emergency Services in Western Australia declared a state of emergency as a result of the pandemic caused by COVID-19. As a result, the WA State Government developed directions that closed and restricted mass gatherings and led to the postponement of football in Western Australia.
- This postponement of Football took effect from 20 March 2020, and is in effect until at least 31 May 2020.
- The decision to postpone community football in WA was made in line with the WA State Government with the aim to protect participants, spectators, coaches, umpires, and volunteers and to help mitigate risks of COVID-19 spreading in the wider WA Community.
- On May 10th 2020, the Premier of Western Australia announced a Roadmap for WA that outlined a process for the easing of restrictions. As such, the WAFC has also established a clear roadmap for a Return to Training and Return to Play which has been established in consultation with the AFL, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, WA Health authorities and the WA Police. On June 6th 2020, the WA State Government eased restrictions and outlined Phase 3 of the roadmap. The documents and checklists provide clear direction for all football clubs across Western Australia, and we ask that all clubs work in the right manner to ensure that we get football back sooner rather than later.



# PROCESS

Football plays a significant role in the Health and Wellbeing of so many participants across Western Australia, and positively footballers of all ages can return to training. The WAFC has followed a comprehensive process in developing the Return to Training protocols.



The WAFC has also taken advice from, and briefed the following Government agencies on the preferred protocols for a Return to Training from a football perspective:

- Health Department,
- Department Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries,
- Department Premier & Cabinet – Health Advisor,
- WA Police – Deputy Commissioner of Police,
- WALGA.

# RETURN TO TRAINING

## Football Training can resume if the following protocols are in place:

1. Clubs / teams can undertake full training (including contact), as per the current State Government restrictions which has a maximum of 100 people per oval. It is recommended that clubs still follow the principle of *'Get in, Train, Get out'*.
2. Contact between players can occur, along with Match Simulation training
3. It is recommended that Social distancing of 1.5m still be maintained where appropriate, along with ensuring only 1 person per 2sqm.
4. Access to club rooms, changerooms or wet areas is allowed, however appropriate cleaning of venues must occur.
5. Footballs and all equipment can be used for all training seasons. Equipment must be cleaned after every session.
6. A log, or register, of all participants in attendance at each training session **MUST** be maintained and available upon request by either the WAFC or Health authorities.
7. The Return to Training hygiene practices outlined in this document are to be strictly adhered to.
8. Online education is completed by coaches, presidents and other club personnel that can be accessed **HERE**.

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**.

# HYGIENE FACTORS FOR A RETURN TO TRAINING

## Hygiene Protocols for a Return to Training

- Alcohol based hand sanitisers must be available for all teams training sessions, with players encouraged to use prior, during and following training.
- There is strictly to be no sharing of water bottles or towels, and it is important to clean and disinfect these items following each training session. Players should disinfect mouth guards after each session.
- Players and coaches should avoid spitting or clearing nasal passages at training.
- It is still recommended to avoid high fives, hand shakes or other physical contact.
- Changerooms, Club Rooms and wet areas can be accessed, although the principle of 'Get in, Train, Get Out' should still be followed.
- Footballs and equipment should be cleaned following each session.
- Trainers are allowed to attend training / games. They should maintain really high hygiene principles.
- If you, or people you have been in contact with are sick, please DO NOT attend training and advise the football coach.

## General Hygiene Practices

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds - 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
- Stay home and seek medical treatment when you are sick
- Cover your mouth to cough or sneeze

**Clubs must ensure that these hygiene protocols are in place for all teams that are training.**

**If these protocols cannot be achieved then training should not proceed.**



**THE W AFC STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT CLUBS AND PLAYERS UTILISE THE COVIDSAFE APP TO ASSIST WITH TRACKING THE VIRUS.**

# EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

As clubs, and leaders in the community, it is important that all participants, coaches, volunteers and parents are educated in the key principles of the Return to Training protocols, and the required hygiene practices required for football.

As such, the following education processes must be undertaken by clubs:

- Clubs must brief coaches, and club officials, on the requirements of Return to Training in order to ensure that they reinforce the protocols consistently.
- Club must brief participants on the protocols and expectations prior to training.
- WA Government Health, and WAFC COVID-19 resources to be prominently displayed outside all venues.
- All club/team First Aid Personnel should complete the Australian Government COVID-19 infection control training available online via <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-infection-control-training>
- All players, volunteers and families are encouraged to download the COVIDSafe App.

## Participant Briefing (players, coaches, volunteers, parents, etc)

Prior to the recommencement of training, clubs should provide a briefing to all participants, coaches, volunteers, parents that includes:

- Intended training dates, times and procedures established to limit team cross-over on ovals.
- Hygiene practices that have been implemented by the club, including hygiene procedures around the venue and equipment.
- Hygiene expectations of all participants.
- What to do if you are feeling unwell or have been into contact with people who are sick.
- Opt-out options for individuals who may not yet feel comfortable returning to training, and alternative training options available.
- Restrictions on total number of attendees on an oval (i.e. 100 maximum per oval up to a MAX of 300).
- Any restrictions that are in place on club rooms, changerooms, club gyms, etc.

## Coaches Briefing

Clubs should also brief all coaches on the required expectations as leaders within the club environment, including:

- Importance of the required hygiene protocols and practices.
- Still reminding players about the importance of social distancing and hygiene.
- Procedures around access and use of changerooms, club rooms and club gym facilities.
- Reintroduction of contact training.
- Responsibility as Leaders to influence behaviour change in this period.

# CLUB REQUIREMENTS

## All Football Clubs play an important role in:

- Reducing the spread of COVID-19
- Promoting good hygiene practices amongst players and officials;
- Adhering and promoting the State Government Requirements around social distancing, and gatherings; and
- Following the clear protocols and requirements around Return to Training.

It is important that clubs are respectful in adhering to the protocols outlined as part of Return to Training, as they form part of the current Government directions, and sanctions can be applied to individuals and to clubs if they are in breach. By every club, and individual playing their part in adhering to the protocols, will mean that football would have played its part in the community through a commitment to community health outcomes, but will also improve the opportunity for football to return to play sooner.

### **Please Note:**

Individuals can be imprisoned for up to 12 months, or fined up to \$50,000, whilst football clubs can be fined up to \$250,000 for breaching an enforceable direction as set by the Commissioner of Police. These directions form a key part of the Return to Training protocols.

Clubs found to be in breach of the Return to Training protocols may also be sanctioned by the league by way of fine or suspension. However in saying this, we would ask that all clubs do the right thing and play their role in ensuring that the protocols are met, so that we can get all participants across Western Australia back playing football again soon.