



RETURN TO PLAY FRAMEWORK:

COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS
RETURN TO CONTACT TRAINING
COMPETITION & NAB AFL AUSKICK

COACHES AND MANAGERS BRIEFING JULY 2020

BRIEFING OUTCOMES

1. Returning to play in a safe, hygienic and controlled manner is paramount for the Manly Bombers JAFL club. The safety and wellbeing of our participants and community is our number one priority and accordingly the AFL Return to Play Framework (Framework) has been developed to ensure we return to play in a safe manner. The Framework has been informed by the National Principles for the Resumption of Sport and Recreation Activities and the AIS Framework for Rebooting Sport in a Post COVID-19 Environment, in consultation with health professionals and leaders in the football industry.
2. We encourage all of our coaches/ managers to take the time to plan, prepare and educate your teams prior to the commencement of any activity.

GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOLS

MBJAFL CAN RESUME CONTACT TRAINING (FROM 1 JULY) AND NAB AFL AUSKICK AND COMPETITION PLAY (FROM 17 JULY) ONLY IF THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOLS ARE MET:

1. The club has **nominated a trained Covid Safety Officer.**
2. **A log, or register,** using the approved AFL NSW/ACT template, or an online app or similar, **which clearly identifies all participants, officials, umpires and volunteers in attendance at each training session, competition match or NAB AFL Auskick activity which MUST be maintained for a period of at least 28 days** following each activity and available upon request by either AFL NSW/ACT or health authorities.
3. **Ensure the number of people in a facility,** including communal facilities such as showers and change rooms, **does not exceed one person per four square metres** (including participants, officials, umpires volunteers & spectators). This includes the placement of clearly identifiable signage at the entrance of any such area.
4. **Ensure any spectators** (and participants before and after contact training or competition play) **comply with social distancing requirement of 1.5m at all times.**
5. **Ensure conditions of entry for each venue are clearly visible and promoted through websites and social media.**
6. **Ensure any community sport activity (training or matchday) involves no more than 500 participants.**
7. **Ensure a copy of these protocols can be immediately accessed for inspection by an authorised officer as requested.**
8. **The Return to Contact Training, Competition & NAB AFL Auskick hygiene protocols outlined in this document are to be strictly adhered to with no exceptions.**

MANLY BOMBERS J AFL RETURN TO PLAY: COVID 19 TRAINING AND SAFETY GUIDELINES.



ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO PROMOTE A COVID SAFE ENVIRONMENT

1. **Minimise co-mingling of participants and spectators from different training timeslots or matches where possible.**
2. **Minimise use of change rooms** and strongly encourage participants to shower / change at home where possible.
3. **Reduce the sharing of equipment** where practical and ensure any equipment used, including footballs is cleaned with detergent and disinfectant after each use.
4. **Implement strategies to reduce potential gatherings immediately outside the facility** such as drop off / pick up zones in carparks as well as staggering start and finish times of Club training and competition matches.
5. **Reduce crowding wherever possible and promote physical distancing with markers on the floor** where applicable.
6. Any necessary meetings to occur remotely using video technology.
7. Encourage contactless payment options for canteens and registration fees.

HYGIENE PROTOCOLS FOR TRAINING, COMPETITION & NAB AFL AUSKICK

- 1. Alcohol based hand sanitisers must be available** at the venue entry and throughout the facility for all training sessions and competition matches, with participants encouraged to use prior, during and following activity.
- 2. Ensure bathrooms are well stocked with hand soap and paper towels.**
- 3. Provide visual aids above hand wash basins to support effective hand washing.**
- 4. There is strictly to be no sharing of personal items such as water bottles, food or towels.** Personal items need to be easily distinguishable, labelled and kept separate.
- 5. Maintain high levels of hygiene when using a mouthguard** (i.e. limit touching / removing mouthguards during training, clean / sanitise regularly).

HYGIENE PROTOCOLS FOR TRAINING, COMPETITION & NAB AFL AUSKICK

- 6. Players and coaches should avoid spitting or clearing nasal passages.**
- 7. Avoid high fives and handshakes.**
- 8. Ensure processes are in place to launder shared uniform items such as guernseys or bibs after use**
- 9. Change rooms and club rooms can be utilised however the number of people cannot exceed one person per four square metres (including participants, officials, volunteers and spectators)**
- 10. Club provided footballs and equipment to be wiped with antibacterial wipes or alcohol-based sanitiser prior to and after each training session or competition match.**
11. Clean frequently used hard surface areas, including communal facilities, several times per day with detergent and disinfectant.
12. If you, or people you have been in contact with are sick, please DO NOT attend training and advise your football coach who is responsible for informing the COVID Safety Officer.

FAQ'S

REGISTER OF PARTICIPANTS

- ***Will the register need to be continued for game days also?***
 - Yes, the register needs to be maintained for all participants, officials, umpires, and volunteers at every training session, match (including practice matches), and Auskick session. The register will be used to contact trace people if there is a positive test for COVID-19 so we need to have complete records of every activity conducted under a club's banner.
- ***Do we still need to record which part of the ground people train on?***
 - No, as teams can now train as a whole group. However, clubs will need to be aware of situations where multiple teams train on the same oval at the same time so that this can be factored in if contact tracing needs to take place.
- ***Could we just enter team sheets with players and have volunteers/team managers added to the team sheets?***

Yes, as long as the final team sheet captures all coaches, managers, trainers, physios, runners, and water carriers that were involved with the team on that day. Should there be a positive test and contact tracing be required, the club will need to provide Health authorities with these names together with their phone number and email address.
- ***Where would umpires register their attendance?***
 - Umpires attendance should be noted by the home club when the umpire first arrives and notifies the Ground manager of their arrival.
- ***Does the register need to include parents waiting in stands?***
 - AFL NSW/ACT is currently seeking clarification of this and will provide an update as soon as one is available.

FAQ'S

CONTACT TRAINING

- **Can we use extra equipment from 1 July such as tackle bags and bibs?**
- **Yes, clubs can use whatever equipment is required to facilitate contact training.** Tackle bags, bump pads, etc are to be cleaned with antibacterial wipes or alcohol-based sanitiser prior to and after each training session or competition match. Bibs need to be laundered after every use.
- **Can we play practice matches from 1 July?**
- Yes, clubs in NSW can play both intra-club and inter-club practice matches from 1 July, which brings NSW into line with ACT. As has always been the case, inter-club practice matches need to be approved by the League beforehand to avoid possible issues with insurance so approval should be sought via the appropriate form ASAP.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

- **Do we need to mark spots for spectators to maintain physical distancing?**
- No, it is far too big a task to expect a club to mark spots around the entire ground. However, clubs should consider placing signage/markers in places where queueing and grouping are likely to occur, e.g. canteen/bar, seats in grandstand.
- **Will there be restrictions on anyone entering the ground during half time, quarter time, etc?**
- **Access to the playing surface is to be limited to players and officials only.** This should be regularly promoted by the club prior to the return to competition, identified at the required ground entry signage, promoted through ground announcements (where possible), and reinforced by the Ground Manager.

FAQ'S

HEALTH OF PLAYERS

- **Who determines if a player is too unwell to play?**

- The vast majority of team officials (coaches, managers, etc) aren't qualified to make a diagnosis so responsibility has to live with the individual (and their family in the case of Juniors). Clubs need to constantly educate players that training and playing whilst unwell increases the risk of infection. If a player, or people they have been in contact with, are sick they must not attend training or games otherwise they increase the risk that a team and/or competition could be suspended.

COMPETITION RULES

- **Is the Umpires' escort still required?**

- Yes, we need to continue to support Umpires on match day. This will apply to all Senior Competitions and also to many Junior Competitions. Any Umpire Escort must be recorded on the Home club's register of players, officials and volunteers.

- **What are the rules during game play in relation to the bench – 1.5m or next to each other?**

- This hasn't been considered to this point, however it is something that AFL NSW/ACT will look into and provide further info prior to the start of the season.

- **In Juniors we have to even up and there are some clubs that give their jumpers to loaned players, and swap when they change players each quarter. Is there any ruling around it?**

- Used jumpers are not to be worn by other players. AFL NSW/ACT will look into practical solutions and provide further info prior to the start of the season.

- **Who can fill the role of Goal Umpire?**

- Anyone can fill the role of Goal Umpire on the day. These people must be included on the match day register, together with their contact details, in contact tracing needs to occur. Flags must be wiped with antibacterial wipes or alcohol-based sanitiser after the match.

FAQ'S

WATER BOTTLES, WATER CARRIERS, & SNACKS

- **Considering we can't share water bottles, are Water Carriers allowed?**
- Each player should bring their own water bottle to training and matches. If these bottles are clearly marked with the player's name it would still be possible to run these bottles out to players during a match. If clubs do choose to operate in this way it is imperative that players understand not to share their bottle with team mates.
- **Will players only be allowed to drink water from their own personal bottle at breaks?**
- Yes. If a club is concerned that players will forget to bring a drink bottle it could provide a water dispenser and disposable cups. These disposable cups should be thrown out after each use.
- **Our team normally shares the load with fruit and snacks? Can we still do this?**
- No. At no time can players share any drinks or food, including snacks, fruit or lollies. Similarly, there is strictly no sharing of water bottles.

HYGIENE

- **Can players shower at the ground after training and matches?**
- The general advice is to encourage players to shower at home, however this may not always be practical. Players can shower at the ground however changerooms are limited to 4m² per person so access may have to be limited and players may have to wait for their turn.
- **Are we clear about removing mouthguards during play?**
- Players should be encouraged to maintain high levels of hygiene when using a mouthguard, i.e. limit touching / removing mouthguards during training and play, clean / sanitise regularly.

FAQ'S

Where must we provide hand sanitiser?

- Hand sanitiser must be provided at the entry point to grounds where the venue is gated. All facilities must provide hand sanitiser at central locations such as the canteen, bar, change rooms, and public toilets.

•Should players, coaches, and support staff use hand sanitiser between quarters?

- Yes, all participants are encouraged to use hand sanitiser prior, during and following activity. The break between quarters is a good opportunity to put this into practice.

RESPONDING TO A POTENTIAL POSITIVE TEST

•What will happen if one or more players contact the virus or test positive?

- As soon as the club is made aware of a positive test the President is to contact AFL NSW/ACT. We will advise the Health authorities and will be guided by them in relation to isolation of player(s), further testing, suspension of training and/or matches. The Health authorities' advice will be based upon a risk analysis of each individual situation, so there is no 'one size fits all' response.

•What is the procedure if one or more players test positive?

- Players need to be aware that they must notify the club as soon as they are aware they have tested positive. The club President is to notify their AFL NSW/ACT staff contact, and we will then notify the Health authorities. Once this has occurred the health authorities are in control of the situation and we will adhere to their requests/instruction. Health authorities will request access to COVID registers so clubs must ensure that these are complete and up to date.

•Will the season of the respective league be cancelled if any player tests positive?

- There is no blanket approach to this as we will be guided by the expertise of the Health authorities.

QUESTIONS?