



SANFL & COMMUNITY FOOTBALL

RETURN TO PLAY // FAQs

Date: 13th May, 2020

Training

Are we allowed to Return to Training?

Yes. As of 18th May 2020, small group training of *no more than 10* is currently allowed in South Australia. For football training, teams are permitted to have up to three groups of 10 players on the oval at the same time, under strict protocols.

The next stage of easing of State Government restrictions in SA will be from June 8, at which time full training in groups of 20 will be permitted. SANFL will provide further updates on this. Please do not make the decision to increase training numbers as a league or club unless authorised by SANFL as State Government approval is required.

Do we have to start training on Monday 18th May?

No. There is no expectation from SANFL that clubs start training on Monday 18th May. Stage B protocols will require time to be implemented. It will be up to leagues, clubs and communities to determine when and if they want to start training in accordance with the Stage B protocols.

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 SANFL, including:
 - Guidelines for a Return to Training in South 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 only 15 minutes – 30 minutes to complete.
- Split the club's teams to ensure that you meet the mandatory maximum of 10 participants in each training group (note that one coach or support staff is permitted with each group of 10 players)
- Brief all participants, coaches, volunteers and parents on the requirements around Returning to Training. An overview of what the briefing should include is outlined in the Guidelines for a Return to Training in South Australia.
- Ensure that a log, or register, of all participants is taken at every training session.

Can we move between our smaller Training Groups?

No. Once the groups are established for the session then there is to be no movement or crossover between training groups, until full group training is approved by the State Government. Coaches must remain with their assigned group for the entirety of the training session. This is to help to control any spread of COVID-19 should an outbreak occur.

Can the coach or training personnel move between training groups?

No. As per above once a training group has been established then there is no movement between groups.

When will we be able to train as a full group?

SANFL is working closely with the State Government on when full group training can commence, which is in line COVID-19 SA Roadmap which will move to competitive sport from June 8. Please do not make the

decision to increase training numbers to full squad as a league or club, unless authorised by SANFL as State Government approval is required.

Does the group of 10 participants include coaches?

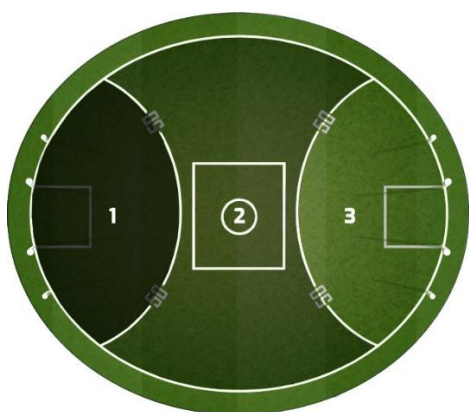
No, we have been advised by the State Government that each group of 10 at football training is just the number of participants. In addition, one coach or one support staff/volunteer is also allowed with each group (effectively 11 per group).

Can we use footballs at training?

Yes, footballs are allowed to be used between the group of 10 providing they are sanitised kept within each group for training drills before and after each training session. Please ensure where possible that footballs stay within that small training group and aren't used across groups. If clubs are unable to achieve this due to lack of footballs, then all footballs must be thoroughly disinfected after each training session using anti-bacterial wipes.

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

The South Australian Government has granted approval for three groups of 10 divided across three areas of the oval (see diagram below) at football training sessions.



Note: each area is 5,000m²

What does small group training mean?

Small group training means that teams will be required to break into groups of 10. Training groups must remain consistent with no player, coach or support staff movement between groups. This will assist in limiting any spread of COVID-19 should an outbreak occur.

Can the groups of 10 be changed between training nights or do they need to stay the same for all sessions?

Until full training can commence on June 8, we recommend the groups remain the same across all sessions to reduce the risk of transmission, and also to allow for more streamlined management of training.

What other equipment can we use?

Markers/cones can be used on the oval in training and weights and gym equipment can be used outdoors, providing they are sanitised. However, under the current restrictions, no other equipment can be used – this includes no use of bump bags, marking bags, tackle bags, weights, gym equipment, etc.

Are we allowed to have contact at training?

No. There is to be strictly no contact at training including no tackling, no bumping, no marking contests, and no small sided games or match simulation where incidental contact can occur. However, in South Australia, full training with contact activities will be allowed from June 8. SANFL will provide further updates at this time.

Do we have to do temperature checks?

Temperature checks are recommended but not mandatory. SANFL recommends coaches ask players about their general health when they arrive at training, checking for common symptoms of COVID-19.

Can players get massages?

No. Massages aren't permitted.

Do COVIDSafe Officers have to be at every training?

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 Level B 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.

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. Sanctions can apply to clubs, teams and individuals that breach either State Government or SANFL restrictions. Penalties for 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 SANFL by way of fine, suspension or other measures deemed appropriate.

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 South Australia returning to training, and at the appropriate time after State Government approval for returning to play.

Will SANFL provide training or education for club staff, coaches or volunteers?

Yes, there is training for all clubs and SANFL is rolling out a State-wide education program for all clubs. This also requires anyone involved in supervising training complete the SA Covid awareness training which can be completed [online here](#).

In addition, the AFL will also be running a national webinar with the AFL's Chief Medical Officer, Dr Peter Harcourt, which will outline the AFL's protocols in more detail. More information will be provided on this shortly.

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

Are we allowed to have spectators at training venues?

Under the current restrictions, clubs are asked to limit the number of people that attend training. We are encouraging parents to drop SANFL Juniors players off, or only 1 parent attend the training session with their child if necessary, and stay away from training groups. Spectators are also reminded that social distancing measures still apply of 1.5m, and no more than 1 person per 4m².

We also recommend that vulnerable groups (people aged over 70, those that are immunocompromised) strongly consider whether they should attend training or games.

What strategies can clubs use to schedule training sessions on the oval?

Clubs should consider introducing a staggered training schedule for teams that may include different start times, different days and/or different locations. It is also advisable that where possible clubs ensure that there is a gap between training times to limit the potential for a crossover of training groups at the same venue. Training times may need to be shorter to accommodate this requirement.

What signage is required?

Hygiene and social distancing resources should be displayed at entry points

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

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

No. The principle of a Return to Training is '*Get in, Train, Get out*'. There is to be NO social or team mingling or activities either before or after training.

Season

When will matches start?

SANFL is continuing to work with the South Australian Government to determine when football returns to competition, within the COVID-19 SA Roadmap. This will be in line with the relaxation of State Government restrictions, when SA moves into Phase 3, and aligned with the phased approach of the 'AIS Framework for Rebooting Community Sport'. SANFL will provide advice to all Football Clubs once a Return to Play date is approved. It is important to note that although Return to Training in small groups is now permitted, it will still be some time before football Returns to Play with a number of Government restrictions required to be lifted before this occurs. [CHECK]

Our League would need to start competition by July? What are the proposed timelines for competition return?

SANFL is in constant discussion with State Government and SA Health around a return to competition. The focus for clubs and leagues now should be to manage Level B which will support a move to full competition.

Each League should be considering what their 'end' date is, meaning a final date on which competition can get started successfully to operate a 2020 season.

What is the latest Grand Finals can be played?

SANFL has been in discussions with SACA regarding extension of the season into October. There may be some capacity to achieve this but a decision on any season extension will ultimately sit with land owners, generally local government.

What about Auskick, is that starting soon?

Auskick is an AFL-run program and we are waiting on advice on when it will return. We will keep you updated or keep checking the [AFL Auskick website](#)

Hygiene

Will hand sanitiser be provided before and after training?

Yes. SANFL is distributing large supplies of hand sanitiser to every club in the state to meet the strict hygiene protocols.

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?

No. Players are responsible for their own strapping, and there are to be no player massages at the current level of restrictions that are in place.

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 prior to and after training sessions.
- If you, or people you have been in contact with are sick, please DO NOT attend training and advise the football coach.

How do we afford to pay for all the extra cleaning and sanitation that is required?

In most case the club will assume responsibility for ensuring the additional cleaning and hygiene requirements are met. SANFL is working with leagues and clubs on this to ensure that all appropriate requirements are undertaken. The club may also wish to follow up your local council to see if they have any suggestions to keep these additional cleaning requirements as affordable as possible for Clubs.

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 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 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?

Direction regarding player payments for Community Football in season 2020 is a work in progress. SANFL continues to consider all options dependent on if and when competition football can start.

SANFL notes that player payments are problematic in the current climate as club financial viability is tested and when clubs are requesting concessions regarding rate relief and other support from Councils and Government.

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.

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?

No. Under the current restrictions from the State Government, and in line with the AIS Framework for Re-Bootng Community Sport, there is currently no access allowed to changeroom facilities, club rooms or gyms under the restrictions that are in place. We will advise if these restrictions change.

If changerooms are closed, then where do we get changed for training?

The AIS Framework recommends that change rooms facilities are strictly limited, and only used for emergency toilet use. For football teams we recommend that change rooms are closed at all times during training. Players, coaches and support staff are to arrive dressed and ready to train. Showers must be conducted at home after training.

Can we open canteen and bar facilities?

No, not at this stage. They are to remain closed. SANFL will work with the State Government on the opening of football clubs' canteen and bar facilities and will advise clubs accordingly. Please do not make the decision to open these facilities, unless authorised by SANFL as State Government approval is required, and Government sanctions would apply.

SANFL State League

When will the SANFL start?

SANFL is working closely with the eight SANFL Clubs to be in a position that when the State Government eases its restrictions about sporting competitions, then a decision about the season can be made that is in the best interests of the SANFL competition and the SANFL Clubs.

Will crowds be allowed to attend?

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

Will matches be held at SANFL suburban grounds?

SANFL is intending for matches to be played at SANFL grounds, but is considering various scenarios for season 2020. Ultimately, any decision on location of matches will be guided by the State Government and restrictions in place.

Why won't Port Adelaide Magpies and Adelaide Crows be in SANFL in 2020?

It was a directive of the AFL to all clubs that AFL-listed players are not permitted to play in second-tier (State League) competitions for health and safety reasons. This effectively means both Port and Adelaide are not in a position to be able to field teams in SANFL this season.

Will Port and the Crows come back to SANFL in 2021?

At this stage, both clubs have agreements in place to field teams in the SANFL State League competition and both have a desire to return to SANFL in 2021.

Will there be a Reserves competition in 2020?

SANFL intends to start/resume all SANFL competitions in 2020, including Reserves, providing Government easing of restrictions allow.

Will SANFL Women's players return to training next week and resume their 2020 season?

Yes. All eight SANFL Clubs' women's teams will commence training from next week and we will be announcing a return to play date for the SANFLW competition at the same time as we announce the men's State League.

I have an Adelaide Oval Football Membership, can I get a refund for that?

For any enquiries with regards to Adelaide Oval Football Membership, please contact Member Services on 1300 100 336.

What happens about my SANFL Club Membership this season?

Your Club Membership can be used for matches when the season commences. We understand it is a difficult time for many people, but if you are in a position to continue to support your Club financially with a Membership, we urge you to please do so. For any further Club Membership enquiries please contact your club.

I've purchased a SANFL Digital Pass subscription for the season, what happens with that if there are no matches to live stream?

SANFL will review Digital Pass subscriptions once it has greater clarity on the 2020 men's and women's seasons. Please be mindful that proceeds from every Season Pass sale go directly to your nominated SANFL Club. For any further enquiries about your SANFL Digital Pass subscription, please email digitalpass@sanfl.com.au

Talent Programs

Will SANFL's talent program be commencing training?

Yes, Under 18s at each SANFL Club will also resume training from May 18. For more specific information please speak to your club's Talent Manager.

When will the SANFL Under 18s season start?

SANFL will be in a position to announce further details about the Under 18s season when the State Government further eases its restrictions about sporting competitions.

What about the SANFL Under 16s season which had already started?

As only two rounds of this seven-round competition were completed, the decision was made to cancel the U16s competition. However, the SANFL Clubs, together with SANFL, are working through options to ensure SANFL Under 16 players are provided with an opportunity late in the year to play for their SANFL Club.

What about the State Academy programs?

SANFL is awaiting confirmation from the AFL that the National Championships for males and females will take place later in 2020. Once this is confirmed a revised schedule for the State Academy programs will be communicated to players in those programs.

Is the AFL Draft still going ahead?

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

Will SANFL'S U13-U15 Development Squad programs commence?

SANFL and SANFL Clubs are working through what the development programs may look like later in the year. These are an important part of a player's development and the talent pathway, so SANFL is pursuing plans to commence these programs.