



RETURN TO PLAY STAGE 3 PROTOCOLS

**BASED ON THE COVID SAFE
PLAN FOR FIELD SPORTS**

FINAL COVID SAFE INDUSTRY PLAN FOR FIELD SPORTS

[View Industry COVID Safe Plan Here](#)

SUMMARY OF KEY CHANGES BETWEEN STAGE 2 AND STAGE 3

The key changes as we transition to Stage 3 of Return to Play Protocols are:

- Competition and games can commence.
- Contact training and match simulation can commence.
- Restricted access only to change rooms, showers, and gyms (strict social distancing and cleaning protocols apply).
- Increased servicing by medical support staff.
- Increased numbers permitted on diamonds.
- Canteen and Bar use subject to State Government Food & Beverage restrictions.
- Spectators are permitted to attend games with social distancing measures in place.
- Hygiene protocols remain as per stage 2.

DETAIL FROM THE SPORTS INDUSTRY PLAN

Contact

Contact is permitted on the Field of Play similar to pre-COVID contact activities. At all other times, participants, coaches, officials, trainers and spectators are to observe social distancing requirements and undertake sound hygiene practices (i.e. sanitations) as detailed in the relevant approved Industry COVID Safe Plan.

DETAIL FROM THE SPORTS INDUSTRY PLAN CONT.

Facility Capacity

The total number of people to attend training, competition and events is to be based on the social distancing standard of one person per four-square metres. Group segmentation and buffer zones will be used to limit co-mingling. Risks will also be managed through mandatory record keeping, which could include the use of technology (e.g. movement tracking apps, ticket purchasing).

Facility Access

All elements of community sport, recreation and fitness facilities are to be accessible in line with relevant health guidelines and directives, including resumption of revenue generating activities (i.e. canteens) to resume and use of all facilities required for training and competition (change rooms).

Clubs may choose for facilities to be fully accessible including canteens and bars, change rooms, bathrooms and storage rooms, however must put in place systems to manage:

- Venue entry and exits (and separate where possible).
- Seamless flow of participants and attendees through the venue.
- Over-lap and congestion.
- Physical distancing including line markings, bollards and indicators.

Restrictions on facility access to limit those who have travelled from a declared COVID-19 hotspot in the previous 14 days. During stage 3 the opening and use of communal showers is permitted, however cleaning measures are to be consistent with Work Health and Safety during COVID-19: Guide to Keeping your workplace safe, clean and healthy. [Find more information here.](#)

Organisations that previously provided food and beverage services must complete a COVID-19 Checklist for dining at restaurant, cafes, pubs, clubs, RSL clubs and hotels or adopt the [Retail Food Services Industry COVID Safe Plan](#).

Events

Activities are to resume including championships and carnivals. The total number of people allowed to attend an event will be based on the social distancing standard of one person per four-square metres. Whole of Government event principles are to be applied in addition to measures to reduce co-mingling between groups.

Compliance with industry COVID Safe Plans

All activity is to be conducted in accordance with relevant Industry COVID Safe Plans and Public Health Directives. This includes organisations detailing how all persons at the activity/facility will be tracked, and traced, including spectators.

Canteens and Bars

Can reopen subject to the adherence to the following Checklist.
[Click here for checklist.](#)



SOFTBALL COMPETITION AND TRAINING CAN RESUME IF THE FOLLOWING PROTOCOLS ARE IN PLACE

- 1 Clubs/Teams strictly adhere to current State Government restrictions.
- 2 Full training activities to resume, including contact activities. Physical contact restricted to the above or similar training activities, with officials, players, and umpires to maintain 1.5m distance between each other at all times unless in contact activity/match simulation.
- 3 Limit the coming together of players and coaches in tight huddles during training and breaks.
- 4 Minimise use of change rooms for Juniors – use of change rooms, bathrooms, and communal areas to essential activities only.
- 5 Access to change rooms permitted for Senior teams, sanitising of surfaces and no more than 1 person per 2sqm at any given time. Showering at home instead of at venues is encouraged (where possible) for seniors.
- 6 Umpires permitted use of umpire change rooms, however no more than the 1 person per 2sqm at any given time. Ensure this is sanitised and cleaned thoroughly pre and post training and competition.
- 7 Promote BYO water bottle use. No shared water bottles.
- 8 Access to gyms (with suitable supervisions), however no more than the 1 person per 2sqm at any given time.
- 9 A log, or register, of all participants in attendance at each training session and game must be maintained and available upon request by either Softball Queensland or health authorities. Softball Queensland recommends the TEAMAPP attendance tracker.
- 10 The Return to Play hygiene practices outlined in this document are to be strictly adhered to.
- 11 COVID Signs are installed to communicate the rules around entry and behaviours and remind people of the risks of COVID-19. Markings are in place (1.5m) for any waiting or queuing areas.

MINIMUM STANDARDS ARE RECOMMENDED IN AIS FRAMEWORK FOR ROBOOTING SPORT TO BE FOLLOWED

- Access to support and treatment official for strapping, massage etc. (physios, sports trainers).
- Treatment officials to wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in line with Health recommendations – e.g. gloves.
- Treatment equipment to be wiped down and sanitised before and after each use.
- For senior competition - access to change rooms only for players and essential staff only as required (i.e. coach, team manager, trainers – no spectators or parents - unless in case of emergency).
- No shared food or drinks (i.e. lollies, fruit, sandwiches, water bottles) to be made available.
- Venues and accessed areas to be cleaned and sanitised before and after each training session/game.
- Any necessary meetings to occur remotely using video technology, or in venues where the minimum person per square metre ruling can be followed.
- Match fixtures and schedules need to reflect appropriate time between matches to meet cleaning requirements, as well as limiting the crossover of large groups. Softball Queensland recommends 10-15 minutes between games, minimum.
- It is recommended vulnerable individuals or people aged 70+years, consider their attendance. If attending, strict social distancing should apply.

HYGIENE PROTOCOLS FOR A RETURN TO PLAY

- Alcohol based hand sanitisers must be available for all teams training sessions, with players encouraged to use prior, during and following training and games.
- There is strictly to be no sharing of water bottles, food, or towels, and it is important to clean and disinfect these items following each training and game. Disinfect equipment and mouth guards (if applicable) after each session/game.
- Avoid high fives, handshakes, or unnecessary contact.
- Softballs to be wiped with antibacterial wipes or alcohol-based sanitiser prior to and after training sessions and each game.
- If you, or people you have been in contact with are sick, please **DO NOT** attend training or games and advise the team coach.
- Players should shower immediately before and after training and games, not at the venue, where possible.
- Reduce the sharing of equipment and establish cleaning protocols for any shared equipment.

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.
- Any player or official member that has underlying health conditions or is considered a vulnerable person should consult with a healthcare professional prior to returning to the training or match day environment.

**CLUBS MUST ENSURE THAT THESE HYGIENE PROTOCOLS ARE IN PLACE
FOR ALL TRAINING AND GAMES. IF THESE PROTOCOLS CANNOT BE
ACHIEVED THEN TRAINING AND GAMES SHOULD NOT PROCEED.**

EDUCATION PROTOCOLS

REQUIREMENTS

- ➔ Any COVID-19 Safety Officer must complete the Australian Government COVID-19 infection control training and adhere to any additional Softball Queensland COVID-19 briefings.
- ➔ Any Club Medical Official (doctors, physios, sports trainers) must complete the Australian Government COVID-19 infection control training designed for doctors, nurses and allied health personnel working in a medical/health setting.
- ➔ All players and official are encouraged to subscribe to the Government's COVID-19 tracing app.
- ➔ Briefings in advance of return to training for players, coaches and official to be held to outline protocols.
- ➔ Club/DA Committees to lead a strong culture of COVID-19 safety for the health and wellbeing of Club members and the broader community.

ASSOCIATION ROLES

All Softball Clubs/DA's 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 Play and Training.

It is important that clubs/DA's are stringent in adhering to the protocols outlined as part of Return to Play and Training, as they form part of the current Government directions, and sanctions can be applied to individuals and to clubs/DA's if they are in breach. By every club/DA and individual playing their part in adhering to the protocols, softball will play its part in the community through a commitment to a positive community health outcome.

WORKSAFE COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN

- Your Council/Landowner may require a WORKSAFE COVID-19 Safety Plan/Statement of Compliance.
- If they request you to complete a plan - the protocols checklist provided by Softball Queensland for clubs/DA's, if followed, will enable clubs/DA's to meet all obligations detailed in the plan for provision of a COVID Safe environment for training and games.
- You can find the [COVID-19 SAFE WORKPLACE GUIDELINES HERE](#).

CHECKLIST FOR ORGANISATIONS TO FOLLOW IN OPERATING UNDER THE INDUSTRY PLAN

- Keep up to date with any Queensland Government information regarding sport, fitness and recreations via the Return to Play website. Access [Return to Play website Here.](#)
- Read/complete a Safe Work Australia COVID resource kit to the industry. [Access Resource Kit Here.](#)
- Check the Queensland Governments COVID019 website to confirm your industry has a COVID Safe Plan in place. Otherwise abide by the specific restrictions outlined in the roadmap regarding number of people, the type of activity and travel allowed.
- Check with your State Level Organisations or Peak Body if there is further information or guidance material applicable to both training and competition.
- Check with your venue or facility on any procedures and requirements applicable for the return of activity.
- Check with your insurer(s) or insurance broker and confirm coverage inclusions and exclusions. Clarify if there are any specific exclusions caused by COVID-19, if any conditions apply to your policies, if any specific approvals/consents are required and whether return to sport plans can be noted against relevant policies.
- Update Risk Management processes in line with the approved Industry Plan and ensure records are kept up to date.

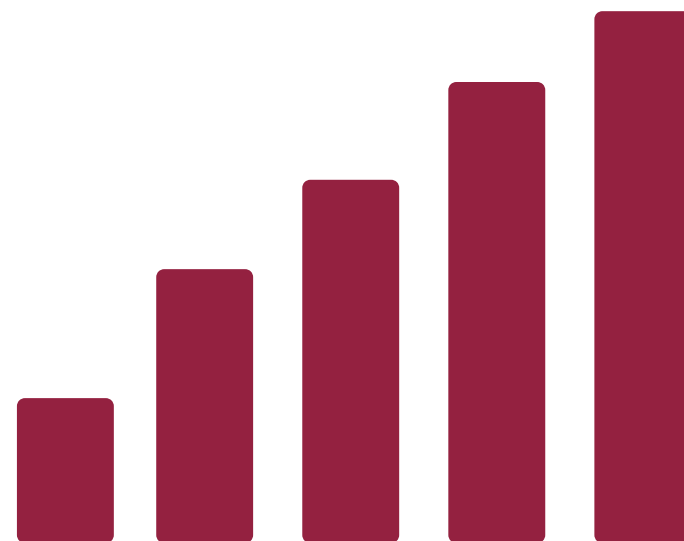
WORKFORCE AND TRAINING

- Review the Roadmap for easing restrictions Framework for COVID Safe Businesses to ensure that Workplace Health and Safety requirements are been met. [Access Framework here.](#)
- Consult with workers/volunteers and their representatives on COVID-19 measures and provide adequate information and education, including changes to tasks and practices and appropriate cleaning and disinfection practices.
- Provide personal protective equipment (PPE) where necessary and in accordance with the relevant State and National guidelines. For more information view the Workplace Health and Safety Queensland guide. [Access guide here.](#)
- Ensure completion of any required training – including any that is mandated by the Queensland.
- Government such as staff in industries requiring a COVID Safe Checklist. Training programs will be free to access online through TAFE Queensland. [Access Tafe Queensland website here.](#)

- Postpone or cancel non-essential face-to-face gatherings, meetings and training. Consider teleconferencing/online meeting capabilities.
- Implement measures to maximise the distancing between volunteers/workers and participants to the extent it is safe and practical. Review tasks and processes that usually require close interaction and identify ways to modify these to increase physical distancing.
- Modify processes to limit volunteers/workers having to be in close contact, as much as possible. For example: assign volunteers/workers to specific areas to minimise the need to go into other spaces.
- Established sports medicine/first aid protocols that limit exposure (refer to Sports Medicine Australia SMA Support during COVID-19)
- Ensure any psychosocial risks are managed with processes implemented to manage stress from COVID-19 as outlined in the Workplace Health and Safety Queensland guide. [Access WHS guide here.](#)

FINANCIAL

- The financial costs of COVID measures and the return to activity have been researched and communicated to your organisation.
- Adjust budgets as necessary for COVID-19 measures and costs.
- Check any applicable Federal or Queensland Government supports such as grants and subsidies have been implemented or applied for.
- Ensure communication of any financial changes (registration/usage/membership fees etc.) to your participants.

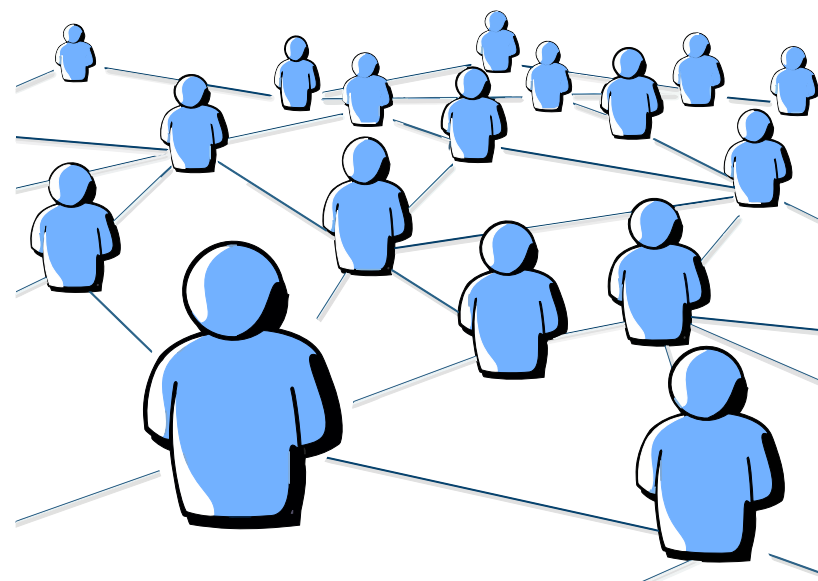


COMMUNICATION

- Update or develop communications plan with existing channels such as emails, text messages and social media to share timely and accurate information with internal and external stakeholder groups.
- Ensure staff and volunteers (coaches, officials, sports medicine, equipment/ ground and administrative personal) have been informed and trained about the conditions/restrictions of re-starting the activity.
- Ensure participants, spectators, parents and carers have been informed about the conditions/restrictions of re-starting the sport and recreation activities, for example:
 - Change of activities (group sizes, etc.)
 - Changes of venue/facility practices (hand washing, equipment access, allocated areas).
- Ensure everyone within your organisation (including paid staff and volunteers) understands their role.
- A nominated COVID Safety Coordinator is in place to oversee delivery of your return to activity plan.

LEGAL AND COMPLIANCE

- Ensure your organisation is across all relevant legislation and requirements applicable to return to activity.
- Ensure any necessary consents and approvals to resume sport have been received.
- Ensure completion of a COVID-19 Safety Plan.



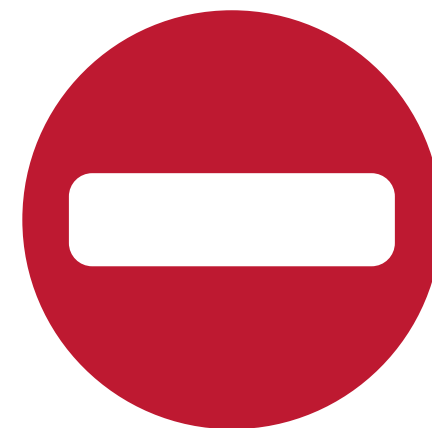
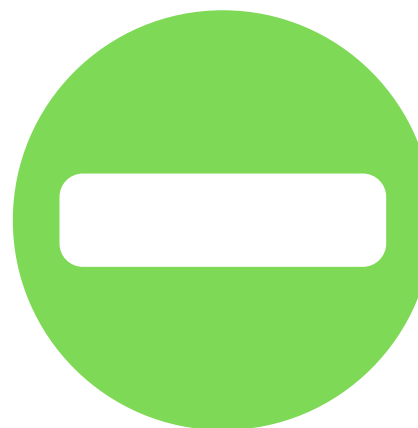
PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- Place signs at entry points to instruct participants and visitors not to enter the venue/facility if they are unwell or have COVID-19 symptoms. The sign should state that your organisation has the right to refuse service and must insist that anyone with these symptoms leaves the premises.
- Use signage and communicate separate entry and exit points (drop off/point up points) and separate participation space areas to minimise contact and maintain the required physical distancing.
- Implement measures to adhere physical distancing requirements off field, during training and competition (noting contact / incidental contact on the Field of Play only is allowed).
- Implement measures to restrict numbers on the premises, ensuring these comply with the Industry COVID Safe Plan and the current stage of roadmap.

FOOD AND BEVERAGE SERVICES (CAFES AND CANTEENS)

- Please complete and display the COVID-Safe Checklist for dining at Restaurants, Cafes, Pubs, Clubs, RSL clubs and Hotels.
[Access checklist here.](#)

- Implement measures to restrict numbers on the premises, ensuring these comply with the Industry COVID Safe Plan and the current stage of roadmap.
- Ensure physical distancing by placing floor or wall markings or signs to identify 1.5 metres distance between persons for queues and waiting areas.
- Consider using physical barriers (where practical) in high volume interaction areas to promote physical distancing.
- Remove seating or space seating at least 1.5 metres apart. Mark railings or ground to encourage appropriate distancing and BYO seat measure).
- Provide contactless payments or ordering and payment online.



KEEPING PEOPLE HEALTHY

- Promote and encourage all participants, volunteers, workers and visitors to sign up to the COVID Safe App.
- Maintain a record of people in attendance for the activity – including spectators, for a period of at least 56 days so you have accurate records in the event of an outbreak.
- A system is in place to record, store and if required share data (subject to privacy law).
- Avoid changing participants between groups to limit co-mingling.
- Promote BYO water bottle to limit water bubbler/tap use.

- Set up hand washing/sanitising stations and practices for participants to easily wash hands before and after (and during if required) their activity.
- Direct participants, volunteers, workers and visitors to stay at home if they are sick, and to go home if they become unwell.
- Put signs and posters up to remind people of the risk of COVID-19.
- Consider the requirements of vulnerable groups (i.e. people with disabilities, Indigenous people, and elderly).
- Know the protocols for notifying health authorities of issues or suspected COVID-19 cases.

DELIVERIES, CONTRACTORS AND VISITORS ATTENDING THE PREMISES

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HYGIENE AND CLEANING

- Assess supply needs (including sanitisation, cleaning and PPE) and explore options for sourcing additional supplies required.
- Instruct everyone to practise good hygiene by frequently cleaning their hands. Hand washing should take at least 20 to 30 seconds. Wash the whole of each hand, covering all areas with soap before washing with water.
- Instruct participants to practise good hygiene including no touching of eyes, nose or mouth and no spitting or clearing nasal/respiratory secretions on field of play or in other activity settings.
- Implement measures to limit contact with between participants including eliminating handshakes, high fives, huddles and celebrations.
- Provide hand washing facilities including clean running water, liquid soap, and paper towels. If hand washing facilities are not readily available, provide an appropriate alcohol-based hand sanitiser.

- Reduce the sharing of equipment and tools and establish cleaning protocols for both shared equipment (e.g. balls), and equipment used in competition (e.g. post pads, goals).
- Establish a protocol for laundering bibs, jerseys or other shared uniform items.
- Where practical - limit use of communal facilities such as change-rooms, showers, gyms and ensure there is the appropriate number of people according to the restriction stages.
- Implement cleaning protocols for communal facilities.
- Clean frequently touched areas and surfaces at least hourly with detergent or disinfectant (including shared equipment and tools, Eftpos equipment, tables, counter tops and sinks). Surfaces used by clients, such as tables, must also be cleaned between clients.
- Consider any necessary changes to the administration of first aid and communicate to necessary personnel.



RETURNING TO COMPETITION AND EVENTS

- Amend usual scheduling of regular fixtures to reduce the number of people at a venue at one time.
- Establish a protocol for 'game day' operations which is communicated to all participants / home and away teams.
- Determine whether your organisation will have a nominated COVID Safety Coordinator as a point of contact / escalation on the day of competition.
- Ensure appropriate approvals are sought for any events.

REVIEW AND MONITOR

- Regularly review your systems of operation to ensure they are consistent with current directions and advice provided by health authorities.

