

RETURN TO PLAY POLICY

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Drafted by	Daniel Noonan	Approved by Board on	MAY 2020
Responsible person	Governance	Scheduled review date	JUN 2020

INTRODUCTION

Last week we saw the announcement from the Victorian Government that they will be reducing the restrictions on community sport. We are now in a position to be able to share more definitive plans in terms of what this means for Gridiron Victoria.

Returning to play in a safe, hygienic and controlled manner is paramount to GV. The safety and wellbeing of our participants is our number one priority. As such, our return to play strategy has been focused on ensuring we have the clear endorsement of State Government and public health officials at every phase of return.

The return to train protocols for American Football in Victoria will enable:

- Training to resume in groups of up to 10 people. The group of 10 does not include a coach or the minimum number of support staff who are reasonably required to manage the activity.
- Two groups of 10 can utilise the same oval provided they do not operate closely together, and the oval is split into two zones.
- There is to be no contact between players or coaches and a minimum distance of 1.5m must always be maintained. This means you WILL NOT be able to do many drills Eg. Blocking on bags or each other, hand offs, tackling, flag/touch football.
- A register of who attended each and every session must be maintained and we recommend all participants download the Covid Safe app.

We will continue to work with the State Government to ensure alignment with their advice, and in the event of further easing of restrictions, we hope to be able to return to full training and competition later in the year, with hygiene and safety protocols firmly in place. Our primary focus is preparing to return to train in a safe environment in a well prepared and educated manner. In order for this return to play to be successful, and in line with Government advice, it is essential that clubs and individuals work within the timelines and protocols and do not move ahead of the level and restrictions in place.

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SRV GUIDELINES

The Victorian Chief Health Officer has approved that from 11:59pm on 12 May 2020, some sport and recreation activities can resume according to the following rules:

- Participants gather outdoors in groups of no more than 10 (or people from the same household), plus a coach or the minimum number of support staff reasonably required to run the activity
- Parents or other people are required to keep a reasonable distance or will be included in the group of 10.
- No indoor activity – indoor physical recreation facilities must remain closed
- Maintain physical distancing of 1.5 metres wherever reasonably possible
- All activity and training must be non-contact, and no competitions are to take place. Contact sports must be modified so that you can maintain 1.5m distance
- No outside communal gyms, playgrounds or skateparks can be used
- No outdoor or indoor swimming pools can be used.
- No use of communal facilities, except for toilets
- If the activity is run by an operator of an indoor physical recreation facility (such as a gym, health club or fitness centre), a personal training facility (indoors or outdoors) or an arena or stadium, then the operator must keep a record of attendees including first name, phone number, date and time of attendance
- No use of shared equipment that touches the head or face or cannot be effectively cleaned i.e. soft materials or clothing
- Hand hygiene, frequent environmental cleaning and disinfection, use of own equipment where possible and minimise sharing of equipment.

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PHASE 1

Based on the directions from the Victorian State Government through the DHHS, Gridiron activities can resume into what SRV are calling Phase 1, if:

- All participants keep 1.5m apart.
- No activities are conducted indoors.
- No contact for players/staff during No Touch/ tag games are permitted.
- A maximum of 10 players train together in a group.
 - No more than 2 groups of 10 per field and there is to be no crossover between groups
 - A reasonable amount of support staff can attend on top of the 10 players
 - If you have access to multiple fields you can have two groups of 10 per field
- Clubrooms remain closed.
- Toilets can be made available as long as hygiene protocols are followed. Clubrooms can be opened for players for the purpose of using the toilets.
- Social distancing must be practiced at all times. No gatherings at or around the club's facilities.
- All participants in the game are encouraged to download the COVID Safe app to assist with participant tracking

Clubs must seek clarification and approval from their local council regarding access to venues and any conditions they may have in relation to that access.

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FUTURE PLAN

PHASE	PHASE 1	PHASE 2 SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS	PHASE 3 SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS
TARGET DATES	MAY 18 – MAY 31	1 JUNE – JUNE 30	JUNE 30 ONWARDS
SOCIAL DISTANCING (WHILE TRAINING)	1.5M	1.5M EXCEPT DURIG CONTACT TRAINING	N/A
GROUP SIZE	Less than 10	Less than 20	N/A
ON FIELD ACTIVITY EXAMPLES	Fitness Passing Drills DB Drills NO TACKLING, HITTING BAGS, SHIELDS, BLOCKING NO FLAG OR TOUCH	Tackling Drills Blocking Drills Tackle Bags, Shields can be used 7 v 7 scrimmage NO 11 v 11	FULL TRAINING
SCRIMMAGE OR GAMES	NO	7 v 7	INTRA AND INTER CLUB