



# Australian Oztag Return to Play

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COVID – 19 SAFETY PLAN





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# Introduction

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COVID-19 is most likely spread through direct close contact with a person while they are infectious, or being in the same closed space for at least 2 hours.

The risk of infection through playing sport outdoors is minimal. Return to community sport is back when NSW reaches 80% fully vaccinated within the 16+ community.

The conditions set out in this document are in line with government directions/regulations & will be amended if & when necessary.





# Australian Oztag Covid-19 Safety Coordinator

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AO has appointed Bill Harrigan as its Safety Coordinator

It is his responsibility to oversee the delivery of this plan.

Continually check updated information from all relevant government & health organisations.

Continually update associations through email and social media on all aspects of Covid-19, restrictions, the safety plan and any other relevant information.



# Association Covid-19 Safety Officer

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Each Association will nominate a local Covid-19 Safety Coordinator each night of competition.

The co-ordinator will be responsible for ensuring the safety plan is adhered to each night of competition.

The coordinator will be identified by a fluro vest.



# Communication/Education

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AO will continually update associations through email and social media on all aspects of Covid-19, restrictions, the safety plan and any other relevant information.

It will be the responsibility of the association to pass on the information to players, staff & officials.

This needs to be done via email, texts, social media outlets & posters at competitions.





# Strategy

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The success of implementing this plan will come down to the diligence of associations & their staff and the educating of the players to adhere to the safety measures put in place.





# Vaccinated Only

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It is a NSW Government regulation that over 16+ fully vaccinated persons may participate or spectate in community sport. Under 16 are not bound by this regulation but all parents & spectators are.

This restriction will be lifted as of the 1<sup>st</sup> December. Then anyone can play & spectate.

The emphasis is on the unvaccinated person to stay away, however there is still a responsibility on the Licensee & staff to ensure we adhere to this regulation.

The best way to do this is have the delegate submit their team registration form and indicate who is vaccinated.

Use social media to educate your players on this regulation. Check in spectators using the QR code which will identify vaccinated persons.





# Covid-19 Information Sources

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- Australian Government Department of Health: <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>
- World Health Organisation: <https://www.who.int/>
- Australian Institute of Sport: <https://ais.gov.au/health-wellbeing/covid-19>
- Sport Australia: <https://www.sportaus.gov.au/>

# Protocols: Return to play - Registrations

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Associations will activate registrations in a way that suits their competition best.

On line through FIXI is the ideal method negating contact.

If associations aren't geared for on line then have the delegate pay for the team in one payment either by bank transfer or credit card over the phone.

If a rego night is organised the venue will need to be out doors or a room large enough to accommodate numerous people adhering to social distancing restrictions. (One person per 4 Sq metres). Only the delegate to attend and make a team payment. Time parameters need to be put in place for attendance. Eg. Booking times using google forms or similar or rostering times for certain divisions

# Protocol: On game night – Attendance Records

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Part of the return to play protocol by government is to have an attendance record including arrival & checkout time of players & spectators.

Registering your association with NSW Government will give you access to the QR code. This is necessary to track spectators.

Oztag team registration forms with players details will satisfy the 'who' and 'contact' details of the form.

Oztag player sign on sheets will satisfy the 'arrival & departure time'. Eg. Player arriving to play in a certain time slot could be expected to arrive within 15 minutes of game start and departing within 15 minutes of game finish.

Therefore it is imperative we maintain sign-ons.

# Protocol: On game night - Attendance

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Options for sign-ons.

Players go straight to field ready to play. Staff check in players at the field.

Dedicated sign on area with entry & exits indicated. Must enforce social distancing.

1.5m markings on the floor from the table/bench if you can.

Player announces to staff their team and name & are marked present.

Players exits through dedicated exit towards the fields.

Hand sanitiser to be located in this area.



# Protocol: Players

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Players to arrive no sooner than 15 minutes before their game.

Arrive ready to play.

Players are encouraged to bring their own hand sanitiser and apply before they take the field, at half time and again immediately after full time.

Delegate of team encouraged to bring hand sanitiser for team use.

Players to bring their own water bottle and not share.





# Protocol: Players

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Players to avoid high fives, shaking hands & spitting.

Interchange players on the side line to maintain social distancing.

Players to vacate venue immediately after full time. Do not loiter in a group. Pick up any belongings and depart the venue via dedicated exit route to car park if applicable.

Players playing in another time slot later need to return to their car or wait in an area away from crowding.



# Protocol: Game Equipment

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Ball: The ball must be supplied by the association not teams. This allows the association to control the cleanliness of the ball. The ball will be replaced or thoroughly washed between games.

Tags: Preferably change tags after each game however this may not be practical and with players using sanitiser before & during the game the transmission of the virus would be practically zero. Tags to be washed after each night of competition.



# Protocol: Spectators

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You may continue to encourage No spectators this summer season if you choose to do so.

But with the easing of restrictions, in particular the 500 gathering to 3000 you can let spectators return. There is still the provisor of 1 person per 2 square metres. So ensure the number of people is compliant with the size of your area.

They still must social distance at 1.5 metres.

You must record their presence by using the government QR code or physically recording particulars then storing confidentially.





# Protocol: Game Times

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Associations currently run 40 minute games with a new time slot every 45 minutes.

Small venues, where the gathering of people is below the restriction amount, taking into consideration the crossover of players at game time, may be able to maintain the 45 minute game slots.

Larger venues will have to provide a 15 minute changeover time for players to vacate and arrive to avoid breaching the gathering restriction.

In this situation associations may have to offer 30 minute games enabling them to still have the 45 minute time slots.

This will be determined by your booking times with council and the number of fields you access.





# Protocol: Venue Facilities

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Continually cleaning common staff areas eg. Sign on table/bench.

Staff will be required to spray disinfectant on all toilet taps at regular intervals during the night.

Hand soap/sanitiser to be placed in toilets.

Covid-19 posters to be placed in toilets re hand washing.

Covid-19 posters to be placed around venue re social distancing etc.

Disposable gloves and masks to be kept ready for use by staff & possible symptomatic players.



# Protocol: Management of Symptomatic Person

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If a player presents with symptoms or becomes unwell staff should immediately wear PPE.

Supply the symptomatic person with a mask.

Open a change room & isolate the person.

Notify the public health organisation in your area. E.g Hospital, GP Have numbers ready on hand.

Organise transport. Is person able to drive themselves? Relative or friend to transport?





# Covid-19 Posters

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The following slides include the Posters from Sport Australia

The PDF posters are attached to the email sent from AO.

Link to Sport Australia Hygiene Guidance:

[https://www.sportaus.gov.au/return-to-sport# covid-19 hygiene guidance](https://www.sportaus.gov.au/return-to-sport# covid-19_hygiene_guidance)

Coronavirus  
(COVID-19)

# SIMPLE STEPS TO HELP STOP THE SPREAD.

**Cough or sneeze into your arm**



**Use a tissue**



**Bin the tissue**



**Wash your hands**



HELP  
**STOP THE SPREAD**  
AND STAY HEALTHY

**TOGETHER WE CAN HELP STOP THE SPREAD AND STAY HEALTHY.**

For more information about **Coronavirus (COVID-19)** visit **health.gov.au**



Australian Government

Coronavirus  
(COVID-19)

# GOOD HYGIENE IS IN YOUR HANDS.

Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds to prevent passing on germs. Dry your hands.

**TOGETHER WE CAN HELP STOP  
THE SPREAD AND STAY HEALTHY.**

For more information about **Coronavirus  
(COVID-19)** visit [health.gov.au](https://www.health.gov.au)



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Coronavirus  
(COVID-19)

# KEEP THAT COUGH UNDER COVER.

Always cough or sneeze into your arm or a tissue and put the tissue in the bin straight away. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds afterwards.

**TOGETHER WE CAN HELP STOP  
THE SPREAD AND STAY HEALTHY.**

For more information about **Coronavirus  
(COVID-19)** visit [health.gov.au](https://www.health.gov.au)



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Coronavirus  
(COVID-19)

# KEEPING YOUR DISTANCE.

Help stop the spread of coronavirus by keeping your distance. Remember, don't shake hands or exchange physical greetings. Wherever possible stay 1.5 metres apart and practise good hand hygiene, especially after being in public places.

**TOGETHER WE CAN HELP STOP  
THE SPREAD AND STAY HEALTHY.**

Advice regarding **Coronavirus (COVID-19)** will change regularly. Keep up to date. Visit **health.gov.au**



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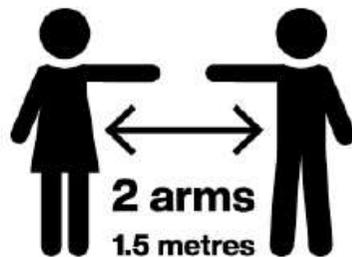


Australian Government

OFFICIAL MEDICAL ADVICE

**You must stay  
2 arms lengths  
from others to  
stop the spread  
of Coronavirus.**

And always practise  
good hygiene.



Download the App  
Visit [australia.gov.au](http://australia.gov.au)

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra



**KEEP YOUR DISTANCE**

**PLEASE STAND HERE**