

This AFL NSW/ACT COVID-19 Directives Appendix is established in accordance with Rule 6.7(B). These Directives allow AFL NSW/ACT to regulate matters that are necessary for the ongoing management of its Competitions where any of those Competitions are, or may be, impacted by COVID-19 either directly or indirectly.

### 1. Public Health Legislation Compliance

- (A) All Leagues, Clubs, Players, Officials and supporters are required to adhere to all COVID-19 health and safety requirements established under:
- (i) the NSW Public Health Order;
  - (ii) the ACT Public Health Directions;
  - (iii) Clause 2 of these Directives.
- (B) Compliance includes a requirement by any person, who tests positive to a Rapid Antigen Test ('RAT'), to register the positive test result with:
- (i) ACT – ACT Health;
  - (ii) NSW – Service NSW;
  - (iii) QLD – Queensland Government;
  - (iv) VIC – Department of Health.

### 2. AFL NSW/ACT COVID-19 Directives

#### 2.1. Application and Variation of COVID-19 Directives

- (A) These Directives apply to all AFL NSW/ACT competitions and will remain in force until varied or repealed by AFL NSW/ACT.
- (B) Given the constant evolving nature of COVID-19 impacts and associated Government Health Orders, AFL NSW/ACT may make variations to these Directives at any time as is necessary for the proper management of its competitions.
- (C) These Directives may not be varied by a League without the prior approval of AFL NSW/ACT.

#### 2.2. Player Notification to Club

- (A) Each Club is required to have a system in place to enable any Player who tests positive to COVID-19, or who is required to isolate, to notify the Club of this at the earliest possible time.

#### 2.3. Club Application for Match Postponement

- (A) Subject to 2.3.1(B) and 2.3.1(C), a Club may make an application to the CMC of a League, seeking the postponement of a Match for which its Team is fixtured to play, in the following circumstance:
- (i) where the Team is unable to field the *Minimum Number of Players for a Match* as specified in Rule 13.4 (Senior competitions) or Rule 13.5 (Junior competitions); and
  - (ii) where the Club is able to demonstrate that the predominant reason for it being unable to meet the *Minimum Number of Players for a Match* is as a consequence of player absence due to current COVID-19 illness or having to meet Government Health Order isolation requirements.

**Guidance Note:** For example, if a Club has three players test positive for COVID-19 in the week prior the scheduled match, but also has five players unavailable due to injury or other personal reasons, it would be open to the CMC to determine that COVID-19 was NOT the primary reason for the Team being unable to meet the minimum number of players, and forfeit provisions would then apply.

- (B) Where the Club has Teams participating in multiple Divisions within a competition, an application under 2.3.1(A) must be made for the Team in the lowest Division.

**Guidance Note:** For example, if a Club has Teams in Men's Division 1 and Men's Division 2 of a competition, the application must be made for the Team in the Men's Division 2 grade. The expectation is that the Club will fill its Teams from the bottom up and always try to field the higher grade Team(s).

- (C) An application by a Club under 2.3.1(A) must:

- (i) be made on the *COVID-19 Match Postponement Application*; and
- (ii) be lodged with the League at the earliest possible time but no later than the scheduled start time of the Match.

- (D) At the time of its application to the League, the Club must also notify the opposition Club and the League's Umpire Coach.

- (E) Any supporting evidence the Club relies upon to meet the requirements of 2.3.1(A)(ii) must be lodged with the League by no later than 2.00pm on the next business day following the Match.

**Guidance Note:** Evidence of a player being unavailable to play due to a positive test might be a copy of the auto-text the player receives from the relevant government health department after the report of the positive test is made.

### 2.4. Payment of Umpires

- (A) Unless otherwise determined by the CMC, the Club seeking the postponement of the Match will be responsible for the payment of umpires where notice is unable to be given in sufficient time for cancellation of the umpires.

### 2.5. CMC Determination

- (A) After review of the Club's application and supporting evidence submitted by the Club, the CMC will determine, in its absolute discretion, if the Club's application is approved or declined, or whether additional information or evidence is required to properly determine the application.
- (B) Where a Club's application is declined by the CMC, the result of the Match will be treated as a forfeit by the applicant Club in accordance with the forfeit provisions of these Rules.

### 2.6. Rescheduling or Cancellation of a Postponed Match

- (A) Where a Club's application is approved by the CMC:
- (i) the Match will be deemed to have been postponed; and
  - (ii) both Clubs are to co-operate with the League to agree on an available date for the Match to be rescheduled, including the option of playing midweek or playing on a date set aside as a wet weather round.
- (B) If a postponed Match is unable to be rescheduled it will be deemed to be cancelled and the following will apply:
- (i) the Match does not contribute to either Team's "Match Ratio" pursuant to Rule 15.3; and
  - (ii) the Match shall not count towards Player eligibility for finals.
- (C) Where two or more of a Team's home and away Matches are cancelled due to COVID-19, the CMC will determine Player eligibility for finals.

### 3. COVID-19 Impact on Umpire Appointments

#### 3.1. General Principles

- (A) These principles apply wherever one or more umpires becomes unavailable to officiate in a match, to which they have been appointed, as a result of testing positive to COVID-19 or having to meet Government Health Order isolation requirements.
- (B) Leagues including Umpire Staff (Umpire Co-ordinators / Umpire Coaches) and Clubs will need to work closely together, potentially at very short notice, to make any necessary arrangements to appoint umpires that will allow matches to proceed.
- (C) Where sufficient notice of umpire unavailability is given, League Umpire Co-ordinators / Umpire Coaches, or Clubs in the case of Club Umpire appointments, are to look at all possible options for filling any such absence.
- (D) Whilst Rule 10, as it relates to the appointment of Umpires for a match, should be adhered to wherever practicable, if there is a COVID-19 impact on umpire appointments for a match, it is within the capacity of the League and Clubs to reach agreement on alternative appointment options that will allow a match to proceed. For example, if the Rules specify that three field umpires must be present for a match, Leagues may determine that the match can proceed with two field umpires. Many junior matches and some lower grade senior matches may be able to proceed with a single field umpire.
- (E) Any arrangement, which is considered necessary under these principles for a match to proceed, and which may be in conflict with the requirements of Rule 10, will not be considered a breach of policy.

#### 3.2. Cancellation of a Match

- (A) If there is no alternative other to cancel a Match due to the unavailability of sufficient umpires, the principles of 2.6 above will apply to the Match being deemed to be postponed and to the rescheduling of that Match.