

# OFFICER



KANGAROOS  
JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

26 May 2020

Hi Kids, parents, guardians and extended families

Following on from my update of 16 May and recent announcements by the State Government, here is the latest update applicable to our club. Please note, this is based on current decisions made by the committee during the week and not any Government announcements made today or since the last committee meeting on Thursday, 21 May.

I request you read the letter in full, it's long, but we need to ensure everyone understands the requirements during these unprecedented times. The health and well-being of our members is the number one priority for both our club and AFL South East, and your engagement in creating a healthy and safe environment is a vitally important aspect of this journey. A crucial part of this implementation is that all members read and fully understand the protocols, which provide the guidelines for compliant training sessions to resume on or after Monday, May 25.

The Officer Kangaroos Junior Football Club (OKJFC) is working closely with AFL South East to implement the Return to Small Outdoor Group Training Protocols released by AFL Victoria on Tuesday, May 19.

#### Return to Small Outdoor Group Training Protocols

As advised previously, all clubs and leagues are now operating under the guidelines of AFL Victoria. While the 25th May has been recognised as the date training can recommence, no planned group training sessions are allowed until the Club has all the necessary AFL Victoria protocols in place and we have council approval of our Return to Training plan.

Please be aware OKJFC could face serious fines if anyone associated with the Club is caught running planned training sessions before our official approval to Return to Training. This also extends to running sessions outside of the protocols once our Return to Training is approved.

Kim Isaacs, our Girls Football Operations Manager has volunteered to be the OKJFC COVID Safety Officer. Kim will be supported by all members of our committee to help the Club ensure we meet and maintain our Return to Training requirements as set out by AFL Victoria.

This is a comprehensive plan that needs to be submitted and approved by AFL South East and Cardinia Council before any training sessions can recommence. For your reference, the link to the AFL Victoria Return to Training protocol checklist is available at <https://okjfc.com.au/COVID-19-resource-page/>. The AFL Vic Return to play page link lists the general guidelines and protocols that must be met, what a small group training looks like, field layouts, hygiene protocols and practices, the responsibilities of club's safety officers and education protocols.

#### OKJFC Training Dates

Despite Saturday's Government announcement that people can train in groups 20, we fall under the restrictions imposed by AFL Victoria. As of 25 May, it is AFL Victoria's position is that any sanctioned training must take place within the current protocols of training in groups of 10, a maximum of 20 players plus coaches inside the boundary fence at one time. Several other protocols and requirements were provided to clubs, and we've made these available to you on our website at the website above. We'll let you know if there is a change to the group of 10 rule and how this will be managed as they occur.

As a committee, we have agreed to begin training, though we will stagger the start dates. It means we'll need to work hard to meet our requirements, but that's our commitment to you and your family.

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From 1 June our U11-17 age groups can begin training. Our U8-10 age groups can begin training one week later from 8 June. Each team will be allocated one 50-minute session per week with an additional 5 minutes either side to enter and exit the ground.

We've still got a fair bit of work to do but are confident by not rushing into training from 25 May, we can ensure training can be held safely.

We'll update you this week on a training day and time for each team, note this may be weeknights or a Sunday.

### **OKJFC Return to Training Requirements**

The key principle for training must be '**Get in, Train, Get out**'. To ensure we can return to train, we've set our requirements. Some of these are above and beyond Government and AFL Victoria protocols but we make no apology for ensuring we provide a safe environment for our families. Information communicated to our coaches, players and parents will be a prerequisite to read as a part of this process. This extensive process is necessary to ensure the safety of our players and families.

To train at OKJFC, we've set, and players and families must adhere to the following requirements;

- **COVID Safety Officer** - As advised, Kim Isaacs is our nominated COVID Safety Officer, however other members of the committee have completed the Australian Government online COVID-19 Infection Control Training and submitted the certificates of completion to the league.
- **Group training up to 10 and equipment** – teams will be grouped into two groups of 10 not including coaches. The groups will train on the same oval provided they do not operate closely together, and the oval is split into two zones. Where teams have more than 20 kids, the team can be broken up into 3 groups, with the third group training on the netball court (no football boots), cricket nets (no football boots) or grassed areas outside the boundary fence and parents clear of the group. Only footballs and cones will be used (no bump bags, boxing gloves etc).
- **Session times and entry and exit from the ground** – Training times will be restricted to 50 minutes. In addition to the 50-minute session, kids will have 5 minutes to enter and exit to ensure kids are not mixing as they enter/exit the field. We will be allocating entry and exit points to each ground and will advise each coach accordingly.
- **Strictly no contact or spitting** - all training must be strictly non-contact. We will be providing coaches with a list of non-contact training drills they can use. Players are not to give Hi5's, handshakes etc. Players should not spit on the ground.
- **Physical distancing** - all training must strictly observe social distancing requirements of 1.5m
- **No access to rooms or toilets** - all club rooms, changerooms and wet areas will be closed and not available. This includes toilets.
- **Hygiene protocols/sanitiser stations** - We have implemented hygiene protocols as outlined in the Return to Small Outdoor Group Training Protocols document which includes sanitiser at entry and exit points to the ground and coaches are required to spray footballs at the start and end of each session with spray bottles provided by the club.
- **Attendance register** – We need to keep a track of who is in attendance all training sessions (players only), and this is available upon request by their League, AFL Victoria or health authorities. Our Team Managers will need to keep a record of attendees and forward the details of each session to Kim Isaacs.
- **Cardinia Shire approval** – We've received conditional approval to use our grounds
- **Feeling unwell** – If a member of your family is unwell or displaying cold-like symptoms, no member of your family is to attend training.
- **Coach/Assistant Coach/Team Manager requirements** – As well as completing and agreeing to the protocols above, we will be requesting all coaches, Assistant Coaches and Team Managers complete the COVID-19 Infection Control Training to help ensure your child and family is safe.
- **Parent/Guardian responsibilities** - Unless participating in coaching or training, no other person can cross the fence onto the ground. **We request all parents and siblings remain in their cars unless walking around the walking paths as part of exercise.** Anyone not in cars must strictly observe physical distancing requirements of 1.5m. If any parent/guardian would like to complete the COVID-19 Infection Control Training, register and complete the training at <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/COVID-19-infection-control-training> that the training covers/ The training module covers the fundamentals of infection prevention and control for COVID-19 including:
  - COVID-19 – what is it?
  - Signs and symptoms
  - Keeping safe – protecting yourself and others

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KANGAROOS  
JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

# OFFICER KANGAROOS

## JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

Founded 2001. Incorporation No. A0041097A

Affiliated with the South East Juniors

Address: PO Box 37 Officer VIC 3809

Home Grounds:

Officer Recreation Reserve

Cnr Starling Road and Princes Highway Officer

Heatherbrae Recreation Reserve

12 Bellerive Avenue Officer

Email: [secretary@okjfc.com.au](mailto:secretary@okjfc.com.au)

Web: [www.okjfc.com.au](http://www.okjfc.com.au)



If you complete the training, please send your certificate to [girlsfooty@okjfc.com.au](mailto:girlsfooty@okjfc.com.au) so this can be registered and may become part of our support the return to play.

- **Understanding and acceptance** - players and parents understand the return to training protocols and club requirements – as part of our planning, we need to ensure you all (and your children) understood and agree to adhere to the Return to Small Outdoor Group Training Protocols provided by AFL Victoria (this plan). If you allow your child to train, it is understood you accept the OKJFC training plan, which is over and above that required by AFL Victoria. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or Kim Isaacs.

### COVIDSafe App

Our first step towards preparing for a hopeful return is something that everyone can do. As a part of our Return To Training plan, AFL Victoria is recommending the club community download the COVIDSafe app. This includes our committee, parents, players, and team officials.

I must stress though, it is completely optional to download the app. The OKJFC does NOT have a policy requiring you to download the app to begin training.

To download the COVIDSafe, go to <https://COVIDsafe.gov.au> or your Google Play or App store. You can read more detailed information here <https://www.health.gov.au/reso.../apps-and-tools/COVIDsafe-app>

### Return to play

Return of games will be reliant on the relaxing of restrictions, possibly including the allowance of crowds to attend matches. Whilst we are hopeful that the Government and AFL Victoria can re-ignite junior footy, we need to still follow the guidelines set by the state and local governments and the relevant sporting bodies.

In positive sign that we might get a reduced season, Cricket Victoria has given permission for junior football to continue through to October 11. This allows a season of 8 matches plus, though the league is also considering all options available, based on when the go-ahead to competitive football is given by the State Government.

If we get a return to play, it is most likely there will be some physical distancing rules in place, with games being played at several grounds and a number of other restrictions such as parents not allowed in rooms and the number of people around the fence/boundary line.

In the meantime, please stay safe and we will keep you updated on any changes over the coming days and weeks as further information becomes available.

Kind regards,

Shayne Honey  
President  
Officer Kangaroos JFC  
[president@okjfc.com.au](mailto:president@okjfc.com.au)  
0400 242 802

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