

AFL QUEENSLAND AND QUEENSLAND CRICKET CHANGEOVER PRINCIPLES



COVID-19 Return to Play - AFL Queensland and Queensland Cricket Changeover Principles

AFL Queensland and Queensland Cricket have been working proactively to ensure community football can return in 2020.

Both organisations entered these discussions understanding the impacts caused by COVID-19 and seeking to maximise the participation opportunities for football and cricket while also acknowledging the role that Local Government plays and the time required in transitioning grounds between football and cricket seasons.

Subject to restrictions allowing competition and contact from Stage 3, 10 July, this agreement provides flexibility and options for AFLQ, associations and clubs to explore various fixturing models to be able to deliver a 2020 season.

Below is a list of high-level principles AFL Queensland and Queensland Cricket have developed which all affiliated clubs and associations are urged to employ when working with winter code tenant partners to determine equitable access to grounds when community sport is permitted to commence from 10 July.

Local agreements and existing agreements between tenants sharing facilities, or localised agreements enforced or negotiated with or without local Council involvement, will take precedence over adherence to these high-level principles in Queensland.

All clubs, associations and individuals are requested to interact, communicate and negotiate with winter sport tenant partners in a respectful, accommodating and cooperative manner to ensure equitable use of facilities and grounds in COVID-19 Return to Play circumstances in 2020 and 2021.

Proposed competition models

- Senior 10 July – 27 September (inclusive eight rounds and two weeks of Finals)
- Junior 10 July – 18 October (inclusive 12 rounds and two weeks of Finals)

Principles

- A handover to Cricket two weeks later than normal for the home and away season
- A further two weeks for select grounds agreed by the parties as then being used for winter code finals
- To establish the agreed grounds for finals, both parties will work together to ensure there are sufficient grounds for winter code finals while minimising the impact to preparing turf wickets for the cricket season

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- In choosing grounds, the parties will apply the following guidelines to ensure winter code finals have adequate grounds while maximising the ability for cricket to commence - noting that 3-4 weeks is required to prepare turf wickets adequately before they can be used
- Minimise the number of grounds impacted by winter codes in the additional weeks
- Prioritise the use of venues that are not used for cricket
- Then utilise grounds without turf wicket squares
- Then minimising grounds within one cricket competition and where possible using grounds firstly where cricket is not played and secondly on those without turf squares
- No training over turf cricket wicket squares for winter code activities from normal changeover dates. Where season overlaps are deemed unavoidable, scheduling should still aim to avoid clashes for participants and volunteers between codes in an innovative manner
- Training arrangements throughout the cricket pre-season to allow both sports to share space on alternate dates
- Allowance for Premier sport, or the level immediately below state representation (e.g. Premier Cricket) cricket where the preference is that competition integrity is maintained as best as possible with winter premier levels to continue past the above dates on facilities without summer sport usage.
- The opportunity for cricket to also extend to early April in 2021 in some cases will be open for local determination.

ENDS