

## FOOTBALL QUEENSLAND RETURN TO PLAY

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**Last updated:** Thursday, 11 February

### **What is the maximum venue capacity in Stage 5?**

For outdoor venues, capacity is based on physical distancing requirements (one person per two square metres). Physical distancing while 'on the field of play' for training or competition is not required.

For indoor venues, the total number of people permitted is based on an occupant density of one person per two square metres regardless of facility size.

Contact tracing information (attendance register) must be kept for all participants, officials, spectators and anyone else who attends facilities. This information must be kept for 56 days.

### **Do clubs still need to keep an attendance registers in Stage 5?**

Yes, clubs are required to keep an attendance register for all participants, officials, spectators and anyone else who attends club facilities. This information must be kept for 56 days, including arrival and departure time. FQ has provided Queensland clubs with unique QR code posters to track attendance using EVA Check-in. Attendance records can also be kept using the provided [Record of Attendance template](#). However, the scanning of QR codes is a critical requirement for serving food and drinks (e.g. canteens) as per the [COVID Safe Checklist for dining and drinking](#).

### **What are the physical distancing requirements in Stage 5?**

At all times participants, coaches, officials, trainers and spectators are to observe physical distancing requirements (one person per two square metres), with the exception of on-field/field of play contact required for training and competition.

### **Is contact activity permitted in Stage 5?**

Yes, contact and non-contact activity is permitted **on the field of play** during training and competition only. Physical distancing requirements must be observed at all other times. Heading of the ball can take place in Stage 5.

### **Can participants interact with handshakes, team huddles, high fives etc?**

No, all participants are still required to avoid physical greetings and interactions with others including team huddles, handshakes and high fives as per the COVID Safe Plan for Field Sports.

### **Are four smaller sized fields permitted within the area of one full size field?**

Yes, separate areas on a field can be defined with buffer zones to reduce co-mingling between groups.

**Is there a maximum number of people allowed per zone if we split a field into separate areas?**

No, physical distancing while 'on the field of play' for training or competitions is not required.

**What is considered the 'field of play'?**

The definition of the field of play extends to incorporate the use of change rooms and match officials' rooms by active participants, allowing the full team and required coaching/medical officers without the occupant density requirements. Benches and dugouts are also considered part of the field of play and therefore social distancing of active participants is not required in these areas.

**Do playing shirts and/or bibs need to be taken home and washed?**

Yes, all participants should launder their own uniforms and wash personal equipment as per the [Return to Play guidelines](#) and [COVID Safe Plan for Field Sports](#).

Where possible, participants should bring their own equipment and minimise the use of shared equipment. Any shared equipment should be cleaned pre and post activity and participants should sanitise their hands.

**Does shared equipment still need to be sanitised?**

Yes, sanitisation and cleaning requirements from Stage 2 and Stage 3 is to continue. This includes washing or wiping down shared equipment (balls, training cones etc.) with antibacterial wipes or alcohol-based sanitiser prior to and after each use and at each activity break as per the [COVID Safe Plan for Field Sports](#). Handling of equipment should still be minimised where possible.

**Can clubs and venues open change rooms/showers in Stage 5?**

Yes, the opening of change rooms and showers is permitted in Stage 5. Cleaning measures should be consistent with [Queensland Government's guide to keeping your workplace safe, clean and healthy](#).

**Can clubs open canteens and bars in Stage 5?**

Yes, clubs may choose to open their canteens and bars as in Stage 3 and 4, however systems must be put in place to manage:

- venue entry and exits (separate where possible)
- seamless flow of participants and attendees through venue
- overlap and congestion
- physical distancing including line markings, bollards and indicators

Clubs and venues that previously provided food and beverage services must complete a [COVID Safe Checklist for dining and drinking](#) or adopt the [Retail Food Services Industry COVID Safe Plan](#).

### **Are any club facilities not permitted to be open/accessible in Stage 5?**

No, all venue/club facilities may open in Stage 5 in line with relevant health guidelines and directives. This means facilities such as canteens, change rooms, bathrooms, storage rooms and bars can reopen, as long as cleaning/sanitisation and flow of people within venues is managed as per the COVID Safe Plan for Field Sports or the relevant approved Industry COVID Safe Plan.

Clubs/venues must complete a COVID Safe Checklist for dining and drinking or adopt the [Retail Food Services Industry COVID Safe Plan](#) when reopening canteens and bars.

The scanning of QR codes is a critical requirement for serving food and drinks (e.g. canteens) as per the [COVID Safe Checklist for dining and drinking](#).

### **Can my club host events in Stage 5?**

Yes, events can continue in Stage 5 as in Stage 3 and 4. Events run by sports providers complying with the approved COVID Safe Plan for Field Sports do not require additional approval outlined in the Industry Framework for Events. However, organisations and providers should review and consider the Key Public Health Principles and Event Specific Public Health Strategies set out in the [Industry Framework for Events](#).

For sporting organisations, events can be defined as those that fall outside of regular competition structures/fixtures (e.g. carnivals, championships, large scale events etc).

### **Resources**

- [FQ Return to Play guidelines](#)
- [COVID Safe Plan for Field Sports](#)
- [Football Queensland COVID-19 updates](#)
- [Queensland Government Return to Play resources](#)
- [Queensland Health](#)
- [Australian Government Department of Health](#)