



# Footscray Swimming and Water Polo Clubs Inc. **Covid Safety Policy**

Version	Prepared by	Date:	Endorsed by:	Date endorsed:	Next review date:
1	Emma Steele (President)	May 2022			Feb 2023

## 1. Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused major disruption to all parts of life, not least to community sport. As the world learns to adjust to life with Covid, our Club will do all it can to keep our members and the rest of the community as safe as possible.

## 2. Purpose

The purpose of this COVID-19 Safety Policy is to provide an overarching principles and procedures by Footscray Swimming and Water Polo Clubs Inc (The Club) to support its members and participants in Covid-safe club activities.

The arrangements set out in this policy are intended to minimise transmission of COVID-19 among members, participants, coaches, officials, administrators/volunteers, visitors, families and the broader community. The policy provides the framework to govern the general operation of the Club, the playing/training behaviour of all members and participants and the monitoring and reporting of the health of attendees of Club activities.

This policy includes, but is not limited to, the conduct of:

- a. staged training and competition activities (sport operations); and
- b. facility management and supporting operations (facility operations).

At all times this policy is subject to all regulations, guidelines and directions of government and public health authorities.

## 3. Policy

This policy is based on, and accepts, Water Polo Victoria's 'Return to Sport Guidelines', which have been developed in accordance with established health regulations and government frameworks as well as information or checklists provided by VicSport, Sport & Recreation Victoria, Water Polo Australia (WPA) and Sport Australia.

The policy also accepts as key principles that:

- The health and safety of members, participants, coaches, officials, administrators/volunteers, visitors, families and the broader community is the number one priority;
- Members, participants, coaches, officials, administrators/volunteers, families and the broader community need to be engaged and briefed on the Club's Covid-safe policy;
- Facilities are assessed and appropriate plans are developed to accommodate upgraded hygiene protocols, physical distancing and other measures to mitigate the risk of transmission of COVID-19;
- Training and games cannot take place until the arrangements for sport operations and facility operations are finalised and approved, if necessary; and
- The Club must consider and comply with all applicable State and Territory Government and local restrictions and regulations. The Club needs to be prepared for any localised outbreak at our facilities, within our competitions or in the local community.

While all care has been taken in the preparation of this policy, The Club has not and cannot make any representation or provide any warranty that relying on this guide and the templates will ensure the health and safety of participants. Further, The Club does not accept any responsibility for the accuracy of the information or your reliance upon it. Participants acknowledge that The Club is not liable to users of this policy for any loss or damage however caused resulting from its use.

All participants agree that they will keep abreast of information available from government and health agencies that can be found in the public domain. To avoid any doubt, it is the athlete's (and parent/care giver for children under 18 years of age) responsibility to appropriately adhere to the guidelines contained herein and The Club or coaching personnel shall not be held responsible for non-compliance.

The procedures and recommendations detailed herein may be superseded by instructions communicated by venue management and/or government regulations or restrictions where inconsistencies are found to exist.

Vulnerable individuals (chronic medical conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, autoimmune conditions) should seek medical advice before participating in any training, competition or other club activities to assist with personal risk management.

## 4. Responsibilities

The Club retains the overall responsibility for the effective management and implementation of this policy. The committee of the Club is responsible for:

- Approving the policy and overseeing the implementation of the procedures; and
- Revising the policy as required, ensuring it reflects up to date information from government and public health officials.

The committee has appointed the following person as the Club's COVID-19 Information Officer to execute the delivery of the policy and to act as a point of contact for information relating to this policy:

Name	Emma Steele
Contact Email	info@footscraywaterpolo.com
Contact Number	0407 248 656

The Covid Information Officer is responsible for:

- Completing the online Covid-19 Infection Control Training (available at <https://www.covid-19training.gov.au/login>)
- Keeping abreast of, receiving and processing information from relevant authorities;
- Liaising with the Club's local pool operator, to understand any specific requirements of the facility;
- Liaising with Water Polo Victoria and other competition organisers with regards to Covid-safe requirements for competitions.
- Coordination of communications to club coaches and members regarding information and guidelines;

The Club expects all members, participants, coaches, officials, administrative staff and volunteers to:

- Comply with the health directions of government and public health authorities as issued from time to time;
- Understand and act in accordance with this policy as amended from time to time;
- Comply with any testing and precautionary measures implemented by the Club;
- Act with honesty and integrity in regard to the state of their personal health and any potential symptoms; and
- Monitor their health and take a cautious approach to self-isolation and reporting of potential symptoms.

## 5. Procedures

### *Screening Measures:*

All participants are required to adhere to venue regulations around checking in, vaccination status and wearing of masks.

Participants shall notify their coach or team manager via email if unable to attend a training session or game due to having symptoms (listed below). Participation should only be resumed upon advice/clearance from a medical doctor or after receiving negative results from testing.

Symptoms of COVID-19:

- fever
- coughing
- sore throat
- shortness of breath.
- runny nose or congestion
- headache or fatigue

- muscle or joint pains
- nausea or loss of appetite
- diarrhoea or vomiting
- temporary loss of smell or altered sense of taste

Participants shall not attend training, games or other club activities if they are experiencing any of the symptoms listed above or have been directed to self-isolate due to contact with a Covid-positive person.

### ***Personal hygiene and Covid-safe behaviour:***

All participants shall follow the below listed procedures to minimise the occurrence of infectious transmission:

1. Wash hands thoroughly, preferably with disinfectant wipes or hand sanitiser, immediately prior to training/games;
2. Sneeze or cough into upper arm or use a tissue which is to be disposed of immediately into a receptacle;
3. Endeavour not to touch your face;
4. No spitting in or out of the water;
5. Avoid where possible touching surfaces in communal areas (ie: hand-rails, water fountains, doors);
6. Bring a full water bottle for your personal use;
7. Do not share food, drinks, towels or clothing;
8. To avoid any unintended handling by any other person, all personal items (ie: towels, water bottles, clothing) will be clearly labelled and placed in an area separate from any item of any other participant;
9. Socially distance from other participants when possible.

## **6. Definitions**

COVID-19: Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Most people infected with the virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. However, some will become seriously ill and require medical attention. Older people and those with underlying medical conditions like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, or cancer are more likely to develop serious illness. Anyone can get sick with COVID-19 and become seriously ill or die at any age.

## **7. Related Documents**

[Water Polo Australia COVID-19 Vaccination Statement](#)

[Victorian Government Coronavirus Information](#)