

SPORTS TRAINER PRACTICES IN A COVIDSAFE AUSTRALIA

Sports Trainers play a pivotal role in the health and safety of participants in all levels of sport, particularly at a community level. In community sport settings, an Accredited Sports Trainer may be the highest trained individual available to attend to onsite athlete health and wellbeing and as such, may also be suitable to play the role of a COVID-19 safety officer. Suitable engagement of Accredited Sports Trainers will be essential in the safe return to sport in our current environment. To successfully perform the role of Sports Trainer in a COVIDSAFE Australia, it is recommended that the following approach be considered:

All Australian Sports Trainers are advised to follow a simple 4-step process [plan, prepare, respond, recover] while working in a COVID-19 environment. This is to ensure the safety of all athletes, support staff and community members.

PLAN



EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Trainers education
Officials, staff, coaches and athlete education
Keep up to date with COVID-19 including local public health guidelines and transmission rates



PERSONAL INFECTION CONTROL

'Stay away policies' — if unwell, do not attend
Hand washing and personal hygiene activities
Access to hand sanitisation stands
Practice social distancing



PROTOCOLS TO SUPPORT INFECTION CONTROL

Cleaning of facilities
(as per [Government guidelines](#))
Rules and procedures regarding arrival, departure, and access to indoor facilities



RESOURCES

Cleaning supplies and equipment
Hand sanitisation resources
Safety waste disposal procedures

PREPARE



FACILITIES

First Aid Room

Limit access to essential people only. Always maintain an acceptable social distance between athletes and support staff.

Couch

Thoroughly clean between each athlete.

Surfaces

Clean before, during and after training. Ensure thorough cleaning between each use.

Treatment Space

If there is no room available ensure to set up in a designated and isolated area. This should include a marked or roped off section on the side-lines.

Hand Hygiene

Hand washing and sanitiser must always be available.

Waiting Areas

Waiting areas should be available as required and allow for physical separation of all athletes and support staff.



EQUIPMENT

First Aid Kits

First Aid kits always adequately stocked and managed hygienically.

Stretchers

Stretchers cleaned before and after use according to appropriate infection control guidelines.

Neck Braces

Neck braces cleaned before and after use according to appropriate infection control guidelines.



HYGIENE

Hand Hygiene Appropriate hand washing, and hand sanitisation should be available to all including athletes, coaches and staff.

Waste Disposal

Appropriate waste disposal procedures must be established.

Facility Rules

Rules and procedures regarding arrival, departure, and access to indoor facilities.

Equipment

Appropriate cleaning of all equipment.



HYDRATION SAFETY

Personal water bottles, or single use cups. There must not be sharing of water bottles.

Minimising handling of water bottles, except by athlete



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Used during treatment of unwell athletes or where high-risk exposure such as airway management.

Used according to local public health guidelines where close contact cannot be avoided.

Gloves

Gloves available for use where appropriate especially if contact with unwell athlete.

Face Masks

Masks easily accessible for at risk situations.

Eye Protection

Eye protection recommended for close contact assessment and treatment of for contact with unwell athlete.

Outer clothing

Change after each session, bag and wash if potential exposure to infected athlete



RECORD KEEPING FOR ATTENDANCE

Record treatments as per established protocols.

Recommend all athletes and staff the use of COVIDSafe App.

Ensure training attendance is recorded according to recommendations.

RESPOND



PROTOCOLS FOR TRAINING

Arrival procedures arranged according to plan for training to minimize mixing between different training groups.

Location according to return to sport guidelines to ensure appropriate separation between training groups.

Departure procedures arranged according to plan for training to minimize mixing between different training groups.



MANAGEMENT UNWELL PARTICIPANTS

Establish process for notification of illness prior to training (e.g. athlete/parent call designated person prior to training).

Notification process at training (e.g. if someone becomes unwell during training, athlete should notify a designated person).

Designated person/sports trainer should isolate athlete, apply mask, and arrange transport for them to be picked up.



PERSONAL DISTANCING

Policy to maintain appropriate social distancing wherever safe/possible, including waiting and treatment areas.

Limit access to indoor treatment areas.

Designated and restricted outdoor treatment areas (e.g. sidelines).

MASSAGE

Consider necessity of treatment.

Limit duration.

Consider masks for therapist and athlete.

Appropriate hygiene and cleaning.

Masks for trainers and players used according to local public health guidelines.



APPROACH TO THE INJURED PLAYER

Assess danger.

Assess threat to life and respond with "DRSABCD".

Perform initial injury assessment (STOP)

Verbal and visual assessment at safe distance where possible.

Instruct player to self-test.

Avoid/minimize contact where safe and possible (e.g. instruct player to palpate self).

Remove from play where indicated.

Perform detailed injury assessment (TOTAPS)

Minimize contact and maintain physical distancing where safe and possible.

Assess active movement and skills by observation at distance.

Transport/refer as required.

Maintain physical distancing where safe.



INJURY, BLOOD, AND WOUND MANAGEMENT

Usual blood/wound precautions including use of gloves and other PPE.

Use player to apply pressure.

Use of ice

Single use disposable bags should be used for containing and applying ice. Ensure appropriate disposal after use.

Blood and wound management should be performed according to established guidelines.



RECORD KEEPING FOR ATTENDANCE

Record treatments.

Recommend the use of COVIDSafe App



HEAD/FACIAL INJURY MANAGEMENT

Sports trainer is likely to be in close contact when assessing athlete and hence vulnerable to droplet spread.

Protective eye wear for trainer.

Mask for trainer and injured player where practical.

Prioritize lifesaving measures ahead of COVID risk.

Injury management of head/facial injuries should be performed according to established guidelines.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Check for responsiveness, do not open airway or have face close to athlete's mouth/nose.

Wear appropriate PPE as available including eyewear, mask, gloves.

Clear and maintain airway.

Consider rescue breath in infant/child.

Commence CPR Compression.

Defibrillation as soon as possible (even prior to donning PPE).

Handwashing, cleaning, and decontamination after resuscitation.

RECOVER



CLEANING

Ensure thorough cleaning of all treatment areas and shared equipment using detergent and disinfectant (chlorine-based bleach solution or >70% alcohol).



REPORTING

Appropriately collect all athlete data, contact information and treatment notes.



REVIEW

Consider issues with operation of a safe training/playing environment.
Report to club/sport personnel and/or COVIDsafe officer.

USEFUL RESOURCES

[Return to sport checklist](#)

[COVID-19 infection control training](#)

[Australian Resuscitation Council](#)

[Management of adult cardiac arrest in the COVID-19 era](#)

[Cleaning and disinfection principles for health and residential care facilities](#)

[COVID-19 safety coordinator](#)



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