

**HAWTHORN CITIZENS JUNIOR
FOOTBALL CLUB**

RETURN TO PLAY

3 JULY 2020



Dear Citz players & families

The Season will start on Sunday 12 July !

At the YJFL Presidents & Directors meeting held of Wednesday 1 July, the YJFL have confirmed that the 2020 Season will proceed.

Round 1 will be Sunday 12 July. There will be **12 consecutive rounds** through to the end of September. **Finals will be run across 2 weekends in October.**

The complete list of Season dates is included at the end of this document. Fixtures have not yet been published but are expected to be released from the YJFL in coming days.

As we have all experienced, Covid 19 has made 2020 unique in so many ways.

Returning to competition football is no different and there are many things that need to change in order to prevent & manage the spread of Covid.

As we have seen over recent weeks, community transmission of Covid can happen quickly and there is a real risk that further outbreaks may jeopardise the season.

We all have a collective responsibility in making sure we all do what we can to minimise the chance of spreading Covid and in particular, it is critical that everyone at Citz both understands and complies with the new return to play protocols

The table on the following page summarises that key points of the Return to Play Protocols and changes that will be put into effect at Citz.

These bullet points relate to Return to Play and game day matches. The existing contact training protocols have not changed.

Please remember that these protocols are not simply guidelines. They are set of rules and process that must be strictly adhered to by all participants (players, coaches and parents).

A copy of the the complete AFL Return to Play guidelines and amended YJFL rules can be found on the Citz website.

<p>MANAGEMENT & HANDLING OF COVID</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Club and the broader Citz Community all have a collective responsibility in managing the spread of Covid 19 • It is highly likely that throughout this season, we will have instances of suspected or even confirmed cases of Covid 19. • The ability of this season to continue will depend of everyone following these protocols and doing what they can to minimise the spread of Covid. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a Club, the health, safety & wellbeing of our community is our priority & are following the AFL Return to Play protocols and the YJFL directives. • We cannot do this alone. We need the support & cooperation of all the Citz community and in particular, parents, players, coaches & TMs need to support the Club in making sure our actions and behaviours on and off field reflect these protocols and our hygiene / sanitizing standards are in line with govt directions and community expectations. • In particular, if a Citz player family member is instructed to isolate, suspected of contracting or has been diagnosed with Covid 19 we ask that you inform the Club ASAP so we can take appropriate measures to minimise the impact across the community. Please be assured the Club will not breach privacy nor disclose confidential information. • In addition, the YJFL have advised that Games will not be fixtured in “hotspots” areas and any YJFL Teams / YJFL players in hotspots must follow the Vic govt. “lockdown” directives and not participate in YJFL matches / Club training <p>We strongly encourage everyone to download the CovidSafe App to help in tracing the spread of Covid 19</p>
<p>DO NOT PARTICIPATE IF YOU ARE UNWELL,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You MUST NOT participate in any club activity, including training, games and club events if you are unwell, have any Covid 19 symptoms, been at risk of exposure to Covid 19, been diagnosed as Covid positive or directed by Vic Govt to isolate. • Clubs, coaches and participants who 	<p>This is a collective responsibility of Parents, Coaches & TMs.</p> <p>Coaches and TMs to check with participants on arrival at training or game day matches for symptoms and / or potential exposure to Covid 19</p> <p>If a participant becomes unwell during training or a game, Coaches must remove that participant from the training session or game immediately.</p>

	<p>ignore symptoms or directions to isolate will be subject to severe YJFL penalties of suspensions of up to 20 weeks.</p>	
<p>GET IN, PLAY, GET OUT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to the Citz Clubrooms / Pavilion will be restricted. Entry is only permitted to access essential services and toilet facilities. • Change rooms will be off limits • Canteen will not operate 	<p>Arrive in your footy gear ready to play</p> <p>Players to arrive no earlier than 20 minutes to their game</p> <p>Participants (Parents / Carers & Players) should leave the venue within 5 minutes of the conclusion of a match</p>
<p>FIELD OF PLAY / OVAL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only Players and matches officials (Coaches / TMs, Trainers etc) can access the oval. • Parents / Spectators ARE NOT PERMITTED onto the Oval AT ANY TIME. 	<p>Only players, the 4 match team officials (Coach, Asst Coach, trainer & runner), TM & Ground Manger are permitted to enter the oval.</p> <p>Players and match officials are not to enter the field of play before all participants from the previous match have exited the oval.</p> <p>Players / officials to sanitise hands when entering and exiting the field play</p>
<p>PRE GAME / POST GAME</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Players / Teams MUST NOT congregate / warm up / conduct post game debriefs as a group outside of the playing surface • Teams must exit the oval immediately at the end of the game. 	<p>When “off field”, teams are considered a gathering of “spectators” and must observe physical distancing rules (Max group of 10 and 1.5m social distancing separation applies).</p> <p>A 20-minute gap has been scheduled between games to allow teams to warm up prior to their game.</p>
<p>TEAM OFFICIAL RESPONSIBILITIES & DUTIES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are a number of changes to match regulations & conditions that are part of the Return to Play protocols (see below) • In line with these protocols, there are a number of changes to the responsibilities and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citz require that all Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Team Managers and Trainers have completed the Covid 19 infection management course. https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-infection-control-training • Team Managers need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – ensure that Team sheets in Sports TG are accurate and updated with any

	<p>duties of Team officials.</p>	<p>changes to players by 5.00pm on game day;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Escort Umpires on / off field (there are no separate umpire escorts this season) – Provide sanitiser to umpires at the end of each quarter to allow game ball to be sanitised – Sanitise Coaches bench at the start / end of matches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground Managers must be observant of spectator behaviour and remind people of physical distancing requirements & group gathering restrictions • Teams are not permitted to have water carriers • Trainers should sanitiser stretcher before and after games (regardless of whether it has been used during the match or not)
<p>MATCH CONDITIONS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modified match and playing conditions apply to all matches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Length of quarters reduced. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – U8-U10: 10mins – U11-U14 girls: 15 mins – U14 / U15: 17 mins • Reduced breaks between quarters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – ¼ time: 5 mins – ½ time: 10mins – ¾ time: 15 mins • Players on the bench must physically distance (1.5m) • Players to use hand sanitiser as they go on / come off field of play during matches. • No water carriers. Teams must use the interchange to rotate players for a drink. Players must have their own water bottle. • No gloves are allowed in any age group • No sharing or food (i.e oranges / snakes etc) or other personal items • No spitting or clearing of nasal passages during play and cough into the crook of your arm • Team Mangers must sanitise game footballs at the start / end of matches and between quarters. • Umpires may direct players to leave the field of play for Covid related matters.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evening up of teams is required. Teams to play equal numbers by reducing the number of players. • No lending of players between teams. • No wristbands to be used in lower age groups where games zones are used. • No handshaking after matches • No milestone banners are permitted
SPECTATOR REQUIREMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spectator attendance at matches should be minimised. • Physical distancing of 1.5m and in groups of 10 people or less 	<p>Only 1 parent or carer should attend matches</p> <p>Sanitise hands regularly</p>

2020 SEASON DATES

Round 1	Sunday, 12 July 2020
Round 2	Sunday, 19 July 2020
Round 3	Sunday, 26 July 2020
Round 4	Sunday, 2 August 2020
Round 5	Sunday, 9 August 2020
Round 6	Sunday, 16 August 2020
Round 7	Sunday, 23 August 2020
Round 8	Sunday, 30 August 2020
Round 9	Sunday, 6 September 2020
Round 10	Sunday, 13 September 2020
Round 11	Sunday, 20 September 2020
Round 12	Sunday, 27 September 2020
Elimination Finals	Sunday, 4 October 2020
Grand Finals	Sunday, 11 October 2020