



BFQ Incorporated

2020 COVIDsafe Plan

Final - Effective 18 July 2020

Scope

This document has been created to address the Queensland Government's Level 3 COVID-19 restriction requirements and provide guidance for players and referees for situations that may occur before, during and after games hosted by BFQ Incorporated (BFQ). This document has been written in compliance with Queensland Government's COVID-19 restrictions as at 6 July 2020. If restrictions are changed and a review is required, it will be completed and approved by the BFQ Executive Management Committee and published to all stakeholders via established communication channels.

Approval

This 2020 COVIDsafe Plan for BFQ Incorporated has been approved by the BFQ Incorporated Executive Management Committee.

Approved on behalf of the BFQ Incorporated Executive Management Committee:

Russell Lee
President

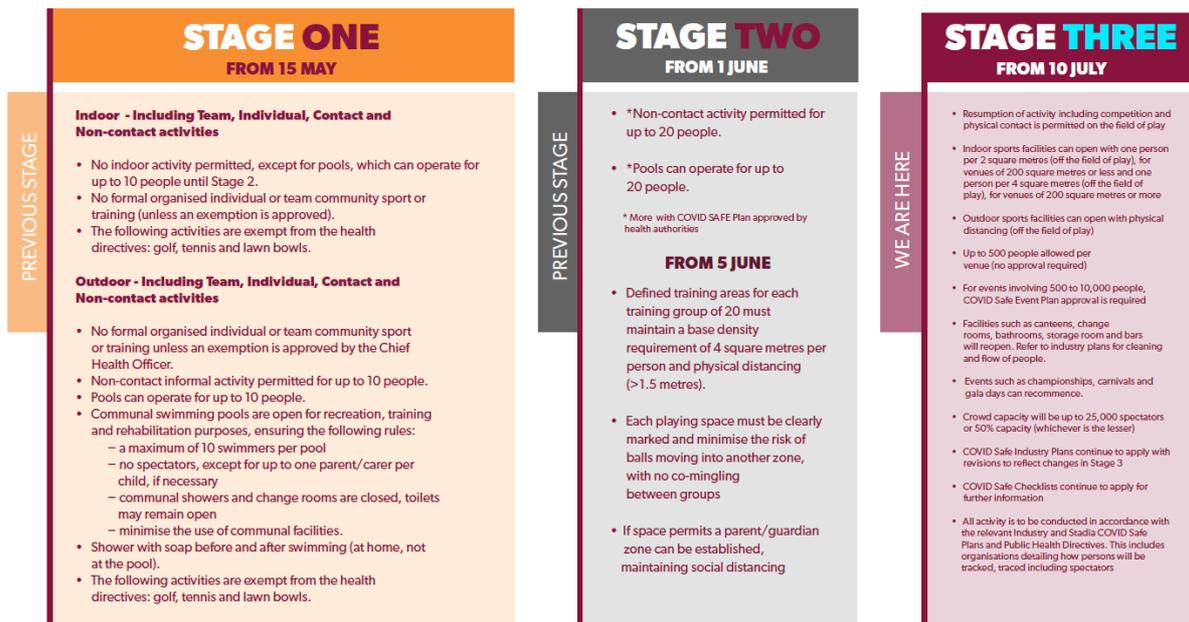
18 July 2020

Peter Noyes
Secretary

18 July 2020

Introduction

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the BFQ football competition was suspended in March 2020. In order to recommence the 2020 season, BFQ needs to develop this 2020 COVIDsafe Plan to identify how BFQ will ensure compliance with the Queensland Government's Level 3 restrictions (as outlined below). This Plan has been developed in compliance with the *Field Team Sports INDUSTRY COVID SAFE PLAN* approved by the Queensland Government, together with Football Queensland's *Return to Play Guidelines 3 July 2020*.



For BFQ to recommence and conduct a successful competition in 2020, all parties need to work together to ensure that protocols are upheld to keep every one of us safe. It is expected that BFQ COVIDsafe officers, match officials, team officials and team captains will assist each other in ensuring that BFQ is compliant and doing its best to ensure that all Queensland Government health requirements and directives are being upheld to the best of our ability.

If it is proven at any time that this is not the case then the BFQ Executive Management Committee will work closely with, and where applicable, sanction any party that is not complying with the requirements of the COVIDsafe Plan, or more broadly creates problems that threaten to derail the 2020 BFQ competition.

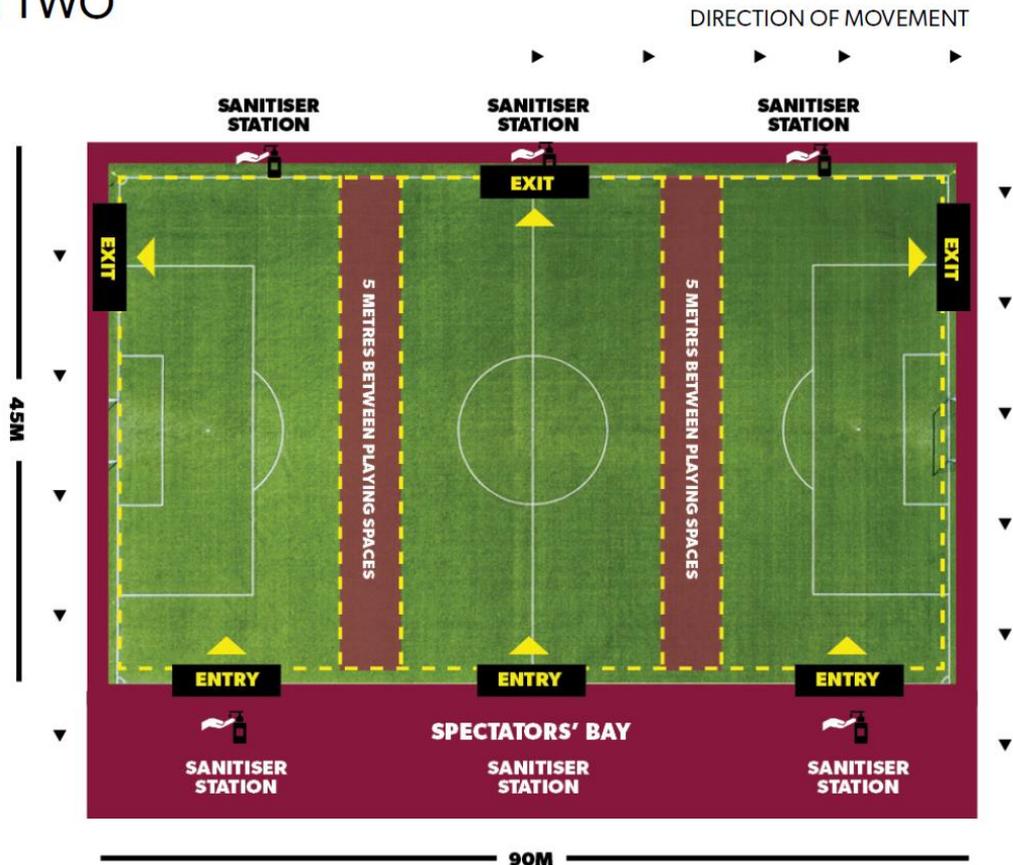
GENERAL GUIDELINES

Attendance at Games

In accordance with Queensland Government requirements, a maximum limit of 500 people can attend a venue, and social distancing must be observed. To facilitate adequate contact tracing should an attendee be confirmed with contracting COVID-19, **ALL** spectators and non-playing team officials are required to correctly fill out and sign the BFQ COVID-19 Attendance Register included in this Plan. This register is the responsibility of the BFQ COVIDsafe officer prior to the commencement of the match who will advise the match officials of its completion. The game cannot, and will not, commence unless the referee can verify that every person is

PLAYING SPACES

OPTION TWO



Sick Players

Any players, referees, assistant referees and team officials that are sick and have, or have had, cold/flu/COVID like symptoms in the last 14 days should stay home and not take part on that match day, unless they can provide evidence that they have been tested for COVID-19 and have returned a negative result within the past 14 days. Parties are reminded that it is their duty not to expose others to a potential COVID-19 infection. Any player that is showing obvious COVID symptoms will be asked to leave by the referee. This player is to be substituted immediately and take no further part in the game. Should this occur, the match official (via email) needs to report the incident to the BFQ referees administrator as soon as practicable and always within 24 hours.

If the player is not willing to comply with this request, the team captain and team manager should be spoken to so that the situation can be remedied. If they refuse to remedy the situation this is also to be reported to the BFQ referees administrator so that further action can be considered. Team officials are reminded that match officials are not doctors and as such there needs to be a common-sense approach to the request and the outcome in all cases.

Turning up to Games

Players must not turn up to their game any later than 25 minutes prior to the commencement of the match. Players and match officials turning up for their games must go directly to their field via established exit and entry points, and there must be no movement of players between fields. Fields must clear of players from an earlier game prior to players attending their field

for their match. There must be no more than 500 people in attendance at each venue at any one time, although social distancing of 1.5 metres must be complied with. Players and match officials must be dressed ready to play before they get out of their car or set foot on the park that they are playing at on any day. This includes playing shirt, shorts, socks and boots (which must be put on in your car before you enter the park. Players must have their own playing jersey (no sharing), including goalkeepers, and must not remove this jersey after the game until such time that they are in their car or have left the field. There must be no changing of clothing etc at the ground.

Leaving After Games

Players leaving after their games must go directly from their field via established exit and entry points, and there must be no movement of players between fields. Players are to leave the field as quickly as possible after the game. Again, players and match officials are not permitted to change clothing at the ground until they reach their vehicle. There is also to be no social activity from players/spectators at the grounds.

Forced Substitution

As communicated elsewhere in this COVIDsafe Plan, the referee will have the power to ask for a forced substitution in cases where the referee sees a player (or players) failing to adhere to the Queensland Government hygiene protocols of on field social distancing and the refraining of fluid secretion. The request of a referee to conduct a forced substitution is not negotiable and the player **MUST** leave the field immediately for a minimum period of five minutes. They may be interchanged if the team has more than 11 players on matchday. If the team is playing with 11 players, for the minimum five-minute period of play the team will play one player short.

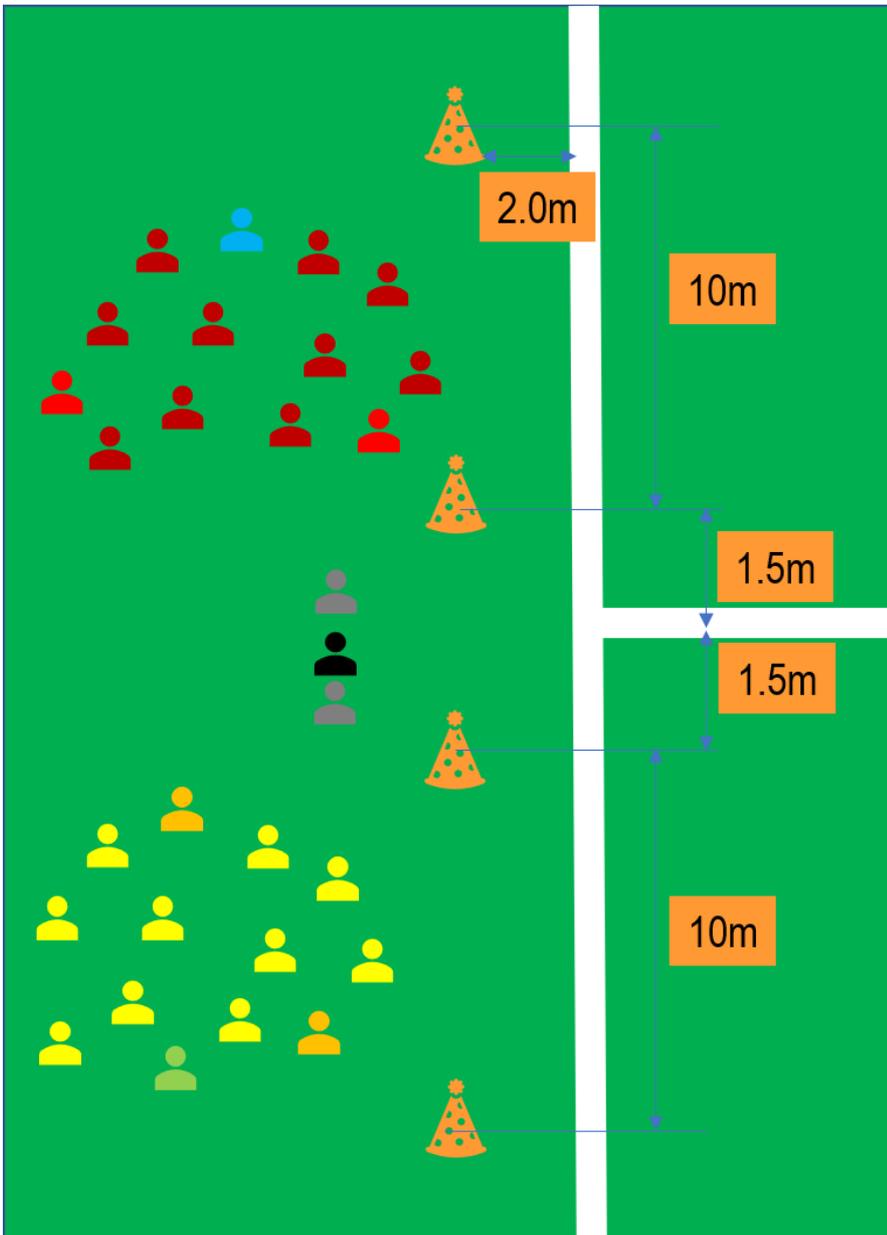
Should the player refuse to leave the field of play, the player will be subject to further sanction of a yellow card. The referee will also inform the captain of the players' team that continued failure to comply with forced substitution requests may result in the abandonment of the game for health safety reasons. The player may also receive further sanction from the BFQ Executive Management Committee.

Huddles

Any player gatherings must be non-contact whilst trying to maintain a 1.5 metre distance between players. Ignoring this rule will result in a warning to the team captain/manager, followed by a caution to the offending player(s), then followed by a red card should the social distancing protocols not be adhered to. Please note that this can happen before, during or after a game and is something that BFQ is taking very seriously.

Additional Line Markings

BFQ will ensure that the fields are marked appropriately to ensure that social and safe distancing can be complied with.



Spectators

NO SPECTATORS are to be inside additional line markings which are marked out for the exclusive use of teams and match officials to ensure that there is enough space to social distance at all times before during and after the match.

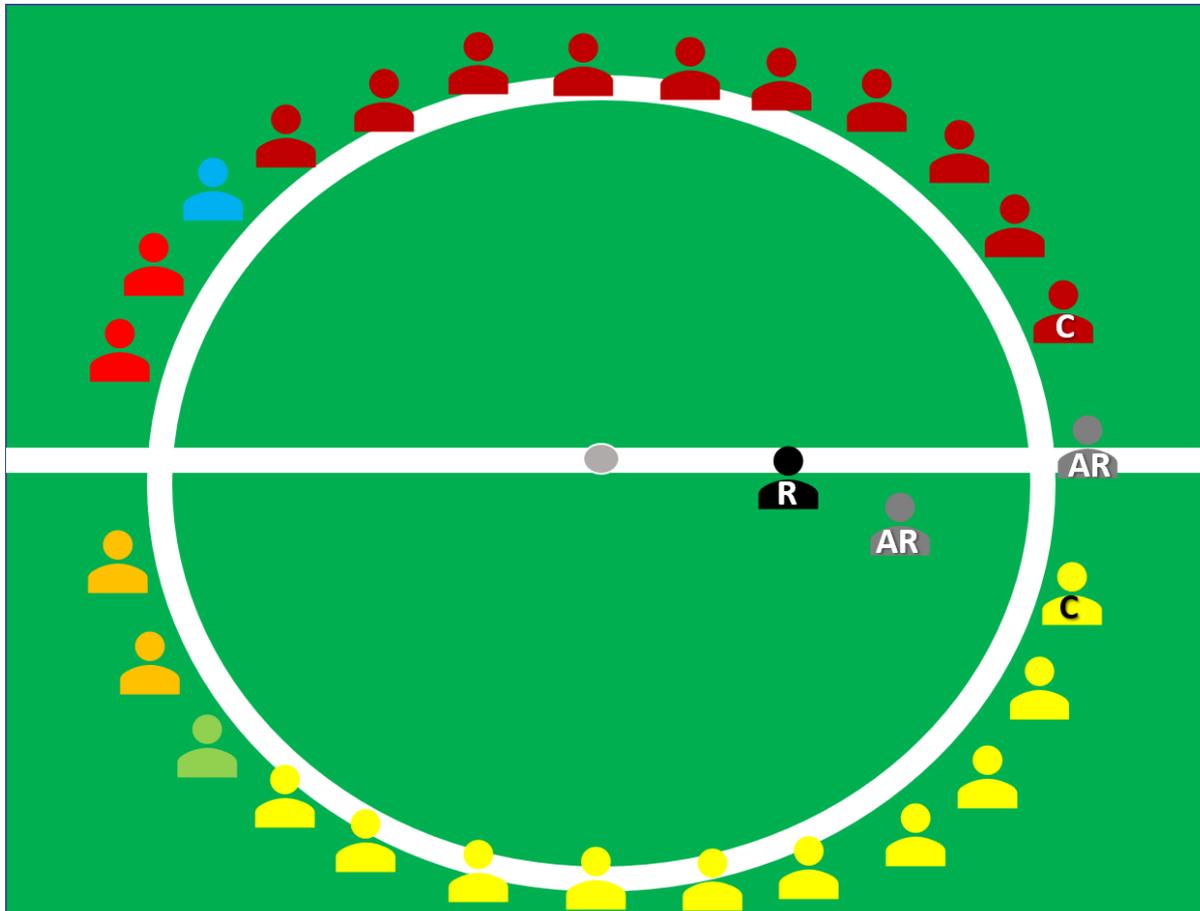
COVIDsafe officers and referee's will be instructed to ask any spectators in breach of this directive to be moved outside of the marked zone even when the players are on the park.

Spectators must comply with Queensland Government social distancing requirements and are reminded that they are responsible for their own safety.

An example of the marking is shown in the attached diagram (witches' hats will be replaced by line markings for BFQ).

Etiquette – Start of Game

When entering the field of play at the start of the game, social distancing protocols are to be observed by both teams on either side of the halfway line. Handshakes are not permitted while COVID-19 restrictions and social distancing are in place. The coin toss will be performed by the referee and the coin used will only be handled by the referee. Whilst social distancing is to be observed, it is the expectation that teams will show the respect normally afforded to the opponents as would be shown during a regular season.



Etiquette – During the Game

Helping a Fellow Player/Opponent Up

At this time, this shall not be permitted. However, BFQ strongly encourages players to apologise/check that the other player is okay while maintaining required distance.

Changing of Goalkeeper at Any Time

In the event that a goalkeeper needs to be interchanged, substituted or replaced the referee will allow the use of a bib (that is not a similar colour to the colour being worn by the players team, the opposition team or the match officials) over the top of a players' jersey as a common-sense approach to dealing with such an event.

Celebrations

Celebrations shall observe social distancing. Referees should always show discretion including firm warnings where applicable and maintain a consistent enforcement of the social distancing protocols whilst they are controlling the game. This also extends to before and after the game with the assistance of team captains and other team officials. There is to be no touching/shaking hands/elbows etc. after the game and a more appropriate “three cheers” should be considered as acknowledgement of the game and the opposition.

Fist Bumps/High Fives etc

Fist Bumps and other encouragement/celebrations that require physical contact shall not be done while COVID restrictions and social distancing are in place. Referees should enforce this with a warning to the player(s), then a caution(s) and then red card.

Throw Ins

The rules for throw ins will not change. However, all players shall sanitise their hands before the game, before and after half time and after the conclusion of the game. Players should also not touch their faces during play.

Goal Kicks

The rules for Goal kicks will not change. Players should avoid using their hands when retrieving the ball during a stoppage in play. However, all players shall sanitise their hands before the game, before and after half time and after the conclusion of the game. Players should also not touch their faces during play.

Player Challenges

As contact with the face is already against the rules, this should not need to change. This includes heading the ball in general play..

Conflict Between Players

Conflict between players is not tolerated at any time, especially during these times where social distancing is required. If two players engage in face to face confrontation and aggression but there is no other cautionable offence, play will be stopped and both players will be asked to leave the field for a minimum time period of five minutes (this is to be called a forced substitution and the player(s) may be substituted for this breach). Play will recommence with a drop ball if no other infringement has occurred. If two players engage in face to face confrontation and aggression and there are other cautionable offences involved (shoving each other for example, or there was a previous foul that warranted a caution before the confrontation), the player(s) that would have been cautioned shall be shown a yellow card prior to a forced substitution.

Should this be the players second yellow card offence then the referee will show a red card (for a second cautionable offence) and the player will take no further part in the game. This is NOT a forced substitution situation and the player cannot be substituted in this case, in the same way that a player shown a red card is not able to be substituted.

Spitting and Clearing Nasal Passages

Spitting to clear fluid from the mouth and/or clearing nasal passages is totally banned whilst COVID restrictions and social distancing are in place. If a player is seen to be doing this by the match officials but there is no other caution or send off offence, play will be stopped, and a forced substitution will occur. The player will be asked to leave the field for a minimum time period of five minutes on the first occasion and the player may be substituted for this breach. Play will recommence with a drop ball.

If the referee sees the same player spitting to clear fluid from the mouth and/or clearing nasal passages for a second time in the same match the player will be cautioned and shown a yellow card in addition to a forced substitution.

Should this be the player's second yellow card offence then the referee will show him a red card (for a second cautionable offence) and the player will take no further part in the game. The player cannot be substituted in this case, in the same way that a player shown a red card for any other offence is not able to be substituted.

Disinfecting of Match Balls

Teams must provide one match ball each to the referee prior to the start of the game. These balls must be sanitised before they are provided to the referee. Referees shall disinfect the match balls before the game and at full time.

Approaching the Referee

Players shall not touch the referee and if a player wants to converse with the referee, the player must remain 1.5 metres away from the referee. This shall be enforced by the referee under the scope of dissent by word and action.

First Aid

First Aid should only be performed by a maximum of one person on the field (with the assistance of no more than one person off the field in the case of serious injuries) and/or paramedics as required. Failure to do so should be enforced as per the rules for dissent.

Match Times and Spacing of Matches

BFQ will be spacing matches at grounds a little further apart to allow for player and crowd dispersment between games. As has already been mentioned, players are not to turn up to their games any later than 25 minutes prior to the scheduled commencement of the match and must not move into their field until the field has totally cleared from the previous game. ALL players and spectators will be asked by the match officials to leave the playing area immediately after each game has finished. If you are a player that is playing in both games on the one day at one field, it is expected that you will wait with other spectators at an acceptable social distance. The COVIDsafe officer will control the players areas and spectators' areas for social distancing requirements.

Additional Team Manager COVIDsafe Responsibilities

The Team Manager or delegate must:

1. Ensure the players follow the extra rules to allow football to be played.
2. Ensure the teams spectators follow social distancing.
3. Ensure all players use the hand sanitisers when arriving and leaving the ground.
4. Ensure that supporters are separated from the players as per the BFQ COVIDsafe guidelines.
5. Provide a sanitised match ball to the referee prior to the start of the game.
6. Encourage team mates to have a flu shot.
7. Monitor their teammates well-being.
8. To bring a first aid kit with band-aids and bandages to treat injured players.
9. Inform the BFQ Secretary (via email secretary@bfq.org.au) if a registered player becomes unwell at training or at a match or returns a positive test for COVID-19.
10. Provide hand sanitiser at any training session and at all matches. Hand sanitiser is to be used by all players on arrival / leaving and when necessary (half time and after toilet break or attending to a player injury).
11. Clean all balls and bags at end of training sessions.
12. Ensure that all players of a team agree to COVID-19 testing should any one player from their team or an opposition team that they have played in the last seven days has tested positive for COVID-19.
13. Ensure players do not remove any clothing at the ground, and that they turn up to the ground fully dressed.
14. Ensure shirts / bibs are washed between games or training sessions.

Additional Player COVIDsafe Responsibilities

The player must agree to:

1. Provide a water bottle with their name on it for each game.
2. Always use their water bottle and not share or lend their water bottle to any other person.
3. Use the hand sanitiser provided by the team manager/captain when arriving and leaving the ground as well as at half time and any other time deemed necessary.
4. Practice social distancing while at the ground and encourage all others to do so.
5. Refrain from spitting or clearing nasal/respiration secretions at the ground.
6. Clean boots at home after each match.
7. Stay away from the ground if feeling unwell or have cold or flu symptoms and be honest with the team manager about such matters.
8. Consider waiting for 14 days after being unwell before resuming to play.
9. Arrive and leave at the designated times for each match on every match day.
10. Limit unnecessary social gatherings at the field.
11. Turn up ready to play. Get dressed at home, change shoes at your car.
12. Try to ensure minimal contact with non-essential surfaces.
13. Consider having a flu shot.
14. Inform **team manager** immediately if they have tested positive for COVID-19 or been in contact with any other person that has tested positive for COVID-19.
15. Obtain a doctor's clearance before turning up to any training session or ground if they have tested positive to COVID-19.
16. Cough into elbows and spit / blow nose into tissues and dispose of correctly in rubbish bins
17. Bring a towel or two in their kit bag and use only their towel.
18. Remove shoes at car and place in a plastic bag for cleaning when at home.
19. Consider the Queensland Government health directive to download the COVID-19 app and have it turned on at all times when training/playing/a spectator at any BFQ game to assist with contact tracing should it be needed for safety and the safety of all others.

BFQ COVIDsafe Officer Responsibilities

The BFQ COVIDsafe Officer must:

1. Complete the BFQ COVIDsafe Attendance Register and advise the referee when completed before the commencement of the match.
2. Update the BFQ COVIDsafe Attendance Register with people attending the ground during the match,
3. Scan or photograph the registers (separately for each match) and email to the BFQ Secretary at secretary@bfq.org.au by 3pm of Sunday following the matches. The BFQ Secretary will securely store the registers for each individual match.
4. Treat the information provided by people on the Register as highly confidential which MUST NOT be shared.
5. Spray toilets with approved disinfectant prior to the start of each game and at the end of the day.
6. Ensure the teams spectators follow social distancing.
7. Ensure that no more than 500 people and in attendance at a field at any one time.
8. Ensure all players use the hand sanitisers when arriving and leaving the ground.
9. Ensure the flow of people at BFQ grounds follows the social distancing requirements set out in the COVIDsafe plan.
10. Ensure that supporters are separated from the players as per the BFQ COVIDsafe guidelines.
11. Direct spectators to leave the grounds if they do not sign the Register, or constantly convene social distancing requirements or behaviours.

