Letter to Parents/Carers

Hi All,

We hope all our players and their families have been safe and well during these crazy couple of months. This email is quite long winded however is being sent to give you an update on the developments of getting a COVID safe 2020 rugby league season back up and running. With the governments announcement of the Roadmap to Recover and the staged easing of restrictions we are excited to see plans finally being put in place to get community sport back up and running.

As with everything in life at the moment the return to the “old normal” is no longer possible. In order for our kids to get back out on the footy field we have had to devise a COVID safe plan for the Return to Play in accordance with the governments proposed 3 staged easing of restrictions as well as adhering to any directives handed down by QRL and (Leagues Name).

We are current in Stage 1 and as you all may be aware this does not allow for the return of any type of community sport. At this point in time the commencement of Stage 2 will not start until 12 June 2020.

From 12 June 2020 we are hopeful that we will be able to commence NON-CONTACT training in groups of no more than 20 people including coaches. In order for this plan to turn into a reality we need to implement some changings to the way our juniors will be training and down the track attending games.

As we have all become experts in the world of social distancing and personal hygiene over the past couple of months, we ask for your continued support in following these vital lifestyle changes. We ask that you continue to education your children to follow these procedures as it will not only help get them all back out on the footy field soon but it will keep all the members of our community safe.

We want to reassure our families that the Club takes the health and safety of all players, coaches, volunteers, committee members very seriously. We intend to implement the changes to our training and eventually games days so as not only be compliant with Stage 2 & 3 of the governments requirements but also to offer reassurance to our families that we are provided the safest possible environment for your child.

Below is a list of the Stage 2 procedures our club will be implementing:

1. If your child is unwell with any types of symptoms, they MUST NOT attend training. Your child should not return to training until at least 24 hours after they have ceased to display any types of symptoms. We also ask that if a member of your household is sick with any cold or flu like symptoms that you keep your child at home until all household members are well. The club will be strictly enforcing this rule, and should your child turn up to training unwell they will immediately be refused the right to train, separated from the playing group and sent home. The club reserves the right to refuse entry to the grounds for anyone not obeying these rules. Please remember to notify your coach or team manager of your child’s non attendance at training so we can keep track of the attendance numbers;
2. Your coach/team manager will be keeping a written record of attendance for each training session and such record will be kept for a period of at least 28 days (this will be referred to in the case of an outbreak).
3. No parents will be permitted to remain on ground during the training session. Parents will be expected to drop off and pick up their children from the designated drop off/pick up zones. A layout diagram of the fields and drop off/pick up zones will be provided to all teams and families in the near future.
4. The club will be adopting the AIS training schedule focus of “**Get in, train and Get Out”**. This module of training focus is as follows:
5. Players are expected to turn up to training on time, be clean, toileted and fully dressed in whatever training clothing or protective equipment is required to training so there are no delays with starting training immediately No food is permitted to be eaten whilst at the grounds during training sessions;
6. Players are to present directly to their designated training area and remain in that area with their own player group at all times during the training session;
7. Training will take place and then the players are again required to immediately leave training following the most direct route to their pickup zone and head home with as little contact with others as possible whilst always observing social distancing practices.

We ask that you familiarize yourself and have discussions with your child explaining the “Get in, train and Get Out” model

1. Due to social distancing and hygiene protocols children will not be permitted to leave their designated training area (unless in the instance they need to go to the toilet). This means that communal drink taps are completely off limits. We therefore ask that all children bring the following packed in a small bag to every training session:
2. Water bottle.
3. Protective equipment e.g. mouth guard/ headgear etc.
4. Small bottle of hand sanitizer (our coaches will have a small supply of hand sanitizer for those that cannot bring their own however we would like to encourage all individual use where possible).
5. All players and coaches will be required to hand sanitise before and after every training session.
6. Training will consist of non-contact activities ONLY. Under no circumstances is there to be any player on player tackling/wrestling/contact. All children will be required to keep a 1.5m distance between each other wherever possible.
7. All training equipment such as balls, kicking tees, markers etc. will be cleaned by the coach after every training session and possibly even during some training sessions dependent on the type of activity. Please remind your child that they should not handle any equipment unless under the direct instruction of their coach.
8. Training Times:
9. Given social distancing and capping of numbers per training session the club will only allow 1 team per venue per training session.
10. A Training Roster will be prepared noting each age groups allocation of training day, time, field, drop off/pick up zones.
11. U6 to U9 will only be allocated 1 training day per week and U10 and up will be allocated 2 days per week. Training days and times will be posted on your teams Facebook page in the coming weeks.

We encourage everyone to continue to follow the social distancing, personal hygiene and cough etiquette guidelines. The club will be strictly enforcing the compliance of these guidelines for anyone that attends the grounds. Should you wish to seek further information in this regard we suggest you read the information provided on the Queensland Health or Department of Health websites. We also encourage you to download the COVID safe App.

Whilst we know that some people are going to be excited to return to training, we are also aware that some families will still feel anxious and may not wish for their children to return to training this soon. Please note that this is completely understandable, and the club will support your decision to do so. We also understand that some children have severe medical conditions that make them more vulnerable than most. If you have any concerns in this regard or in regard to any of the procedures mentioned above please do not hesitate to contact your coach or team manager. We look forward to seeing you all back on the footy field real soon.