



Queensland Rugby Football League Limited

Community Rugby League (CRL) COVID-19 Management Summary – as of February 2022

Overview: The guidelines below relate to the management of COVID-19 throughout the course of the 2022 season. This document will support local leagues to administer their competitions whilst navigating COVID-19 interruptions. It's important to note that local league competitions rules vary across Queensland and any information provided in this summary is a guide only.

Scope: The summary will provide the strategic approach to COVID-19 Management in three (3) key factors being:

1. **Administration** – Local Leagues
2. **Oversight and Support** – Clubs and Executive Committees; and
3. **Education and Process** – Coaches and Team Managers

Rationale & Assumptions:

- Government Regulations on COVID-19 are constantly changing.
- COVID-19 cases throughout our clubs will become inevitable in 2022 and a necessity for resilience and understanding will be required by all parties.
- Primary focus is on the continued health and wellbeing of all CRL members whilst alleviating interruptions caused by COVID-19 in season 2022.
- Budget limitations do not allow for significant changes to draw or for significant re-scheduling of matches
- Focus will be on completing scheduled matches with **appropriate risk assessments** and a **clear process**.
- Major Competitions have outlined a Management Strategy that is possible without significant impact on quality and volunteers.
- QRL does not currently have authority to mandate COVID-19 vaccinations for participants.
- QRL members include but are not limited to players, staff, and match officials.

1. Can sporting competitions take place?

- All sporting venues on council grounds are required to have a COVID safe event checklist in place.
- For further information refer to [COVID-19 Safe Checklist](#).

2. What happens when an individual tests positive to COVID?

- Current Government Protocol – the individual must self-isolate for seven (7) days from date of positive test.
- Close Contacts (includes living with the COVID-19 positive individual) must self-isolate for seven (7) days
- For further information refer to [First Steps COVID-19](#).

3. Are unvaccinated players/volunteers permitted to participate in Community Rugby League?

- QRL and relevant leagues/regions do not have authority to mandate COVID-19 vaccinations for players/volunteers. For further information refer to [QRL Clubhouse](#).
- Govt Regulations are in place for certain venues and individuals who are unvaccinated.
- For further information refer to [Restrictions for unvaccinated people](#).

4. What if a player or volunteer attended/participated in a match where there was a confirmed case of COVID-19?

- i. Individuals should monitor for COVID-19 symptoms.
- ii. **Individuals who are symptomatic** should inform their coach and team managers and not attend

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training or game fixtures.

- iii. Players/volunteers testing positive to COVID-19 should obtain QLD health documentation of a positive test and inform their Coach and Team Manager.
- iv. Coaches and Team Managers are responsible for communication between the Club, playing group, volunteers, and parents/guardians.
- v. Clubs are responsible to liaise with opposition club/team to advise of positive COVID-19 case.

5. What are the considerations taken to abandon a scheduled match?

- Relevant Stakeholders – Leagues, Clubs, Players, Volunteers (including Coaches and Team Managers), Parents/guardians.
- There is no movement in the draw as BYE rounds are associated with representative games and/or school holidays.
- Clubs will liaise with local league, opposition club and team to advise of positive COVID-19 case.
- Opposing clubs and teams must conduct their own risk assessment to determine if matches can proceed.
- Both clubs must AGREE whether the game can proceed and liaise with the League of the decision.
- If multiple positive cases are identified within an individual team:
 - a. 13+ - Seniors Competition – refer to [Laws of the Game – Section 4](#)
 - b. 6 – 12 Junior Competition – if recommended minimum playing numbers cannot be satisfied it will be a decision for the game to commence at the discretion of the relevant local league – refer to [Junior League Laws](#).
- If multiple clubs report positive COVID-19 cases:
 - a. Local leagues have the discretion to exercise powers based on appropriate risk assessment and will consider the current Government regulations and QRL Rules. Refer to [QRL Rules Part Local Leagues 3.3.3](#)

6. Are Clubs allowed to mix teams with vaccinated and unvaccinated QRL members?

- Teams should not be made up of an individual's vaccination status.
- Coaches and Team Managers must conduct a risk assessment of any players reporting symptoms and determine if players are not permitted to train (Junior Competition – coaches and managers to inform parent/guardian player unable to train/play).

7. What happens if there are further lockdowns implemented?

- Government has indicated this is unlikely but needs to be considered.
- Depends on whether lockdown is state-wide or local.
- Relevant Local Leagues will assess the information from the Government and will decide on training and fixtures scheduled.

8. Will Clubs be required to administer RAT tests?

- There is no requirement for Community Rugby League to supply and administer RATs to players and volunteers.
- For further information on COVID-19 testing please refer to [QLD Government website](#).

9. Who is responsible for cost of RATs?

- The individual is responsible for the cost.

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- Community Rugby League (Leagues and Clubs) are not responsible for the cost, supply, and administration of RATs.

FAQ's

Q: Do I have to be vaccinated to participate in Community Rugby League?

A: NO – QRL does not have authority to mandate COVID-19 vaccinations for its participants.

Q: Do I have to be vaccinated to be a spectator at Community Rugby League matches?

A: NO – QRL does not have authority to mandate COVID-19 vaccinations for its spectators. However, some venues will have COVID-19 safe checklists in place that may restrict unvaccinated persons from entering the venue. For further information – refer to [COVID-19 Safe Checklist](#).

Q: Is the whole team required to isolate after being a close contact to a positive COVID-19 case.

A: Individuals are responsible to monitor their own symptoms. If an individual shows signs of symptoms, they should inform their coaches and team managers immediately and follow Government protocols - [First Steps COVID-19](#).

Q: If a team must forfeit because of multiple positive COVID-19 cases, what is the outcome for that team?

A: Each local league administers their competitions differently and will consult clubs on an agreed process regarding the COVID-19 situation – refer to point 5 above.

Q: What happens if team officials (coaches, managers, first responders, league safe) are confirmed positive to COVID-19 and the team cannot participate without minimum officials required?

A: Clubs should consult with team coaches and managers within their club to help that team. If there is no reasonable resolution, the relevant Local League will (at their discretion) decide on that matter.

Q: What happens if the Referees Association is impacted by COVID-19 and matches are unable to go ahead?

A: The relevant Local League will liaise with the Referee's Association and will (at their discretion) decide on the matter. For further information please refer to Government protocols - [First Steps COVID-19](#).

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FAQ's

Q: What happens if a Club is impacted by multiple positive COVID-19 cases and are unable to host games at their venue?

A: The Local League will consult with all impacted teams to move fixtures to alternative venues. The Local League can at their discretion reschedule and/or abandon matches.

Q: Will there be any financial penalties for teams forfeiting due to COVID-19?

A: It will be at the discretion of the Local League.

Q: What restrictions/guidelines are in place for Dressing Rooms?

A: Individuals should follow recommended health advice. Clubs and Committees will need to undertake a risk assessment of their facilities and consider Government regulations. Local Leagues will need to liaise with Clubs on any questions/issues on potential risks to COVID-19.

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