

Hi All

I hope you are enjoying the long weekend and looking forward to another stage in our lifting of restrictions with all school age students returning on Tuesday. In relation to umpiring and community football in general, I would like to take this opportunity to clarify a number of concerns that some umpires may have, given a number of community and country leagues have abandoned their 2020 seasons.

The WRFL surveyed clubs on the 21 May and 88% of senior clubs and 82% of junior clubs were still interested in running a reduced 2020 season. However, most of the clubs required certain conditions, yet to be determined by the Victorian government, around return to play of community football. These decisions need to be made during the week commencing 21 June so, if community football is given the go ahead, that will give time to determine what a reduced season would look like, and which clubs wish to field teams in both senior and junior football. That will allow Matt Duck CEO WRFL and his team to determine what will happen in 2020. In that, we are all in a holding pattern until those conditions are explained/determined by the Victorian government, and clubs then make their final decision on the 2020 season.

It has been a very long 2020 pre-season, but we are about to re-start with training, which resumes from Tuesday 9 June, at Hanmer Reserve, Yarraville **ONLY**. The sessions are as follows:

Field and Boundary

Early: 5.45 – 6.30pm Tuesday and Thursday

Late: 6.45 – 7.30pm Tuesday and Thursday

Goal

5.30 – 6.30pm Tuesday **ONLY**

It is critical that only those umpires who returned the survey attend training for the next 3 weeks to ensure that we meet the strict training guidelines. In that, if you turn up to training and did not complete the survey you will not be able to train.

There are a number of training spots for goal umpires, who at this stage, will only train on a Tuesday between 5.30 – 6.30pm.

There are also a number of training spots for field and boundary in both late sessions and Thursday early session.

If you wish to train, and you did not complete the survey you **MUST** contact me (field and boundary) Graeme Hodgart (goal) via email/text the day before the training session you wish to attend.

Please understand these restrictions **MUST** be enforced for the next three weeks to give us every opportunity that a 2020 season will occur.

If you are not feeling well, **DO NOT ATTEND** training, please email or text me (field and boundary) and Graeme Hodgart (goal).

You must come ready to train, no access to the change rooms, except if you need to go to the toilet, no physical contact and any parent, spectator, etc **MUST** remain in their car or do not come near the ground.

Just a reminder that attending training **DOES NOT** give you a higher ranking, if a season commences. We are still in a restrictive environment therefore we still support training on your own or in a small group

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me, and I will see you on the track for those who can attend training, but for the majority of the group, keep your fitness up as I am hopeful that the season will start mid-July. (Just my feeling and if correct we only have 6 weeks to go!!!)

Mark