



NRL TELSTRA PREMIERSHIP

NRL: Apollo Match-Day Protocol

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1. Preliminary

1.1. Purpose & Enforcement

- 1.1.1. The Apollo Protocols are issued as an enforceable Guideline to the *NRL Rules*.
- 1.1.2. The Apollo Protocols include this Apollo Match-Day Protocol and also comprises the following documents:
- a. Apollo Player Protocol;
 - b. Apollo Club Protocol; and
 - c. Other associated materials described as forming part of the Apollo Protocols.
- 1.1.3. A breach of any of the Apollo Protocols, including this Apollo Match-Day Protocol, may be enforced by the imposition of a penalty or penalties pursuant to Part 2 of the *NRL Rules*.
- 1.1.4. Where any breach proceedings are commenced in relation to an alleged breach of this Protocol, the Player or Club Official shall immediately be provisionally suspended from having access to secure areas under the Apollo Protocol (including each Club's Training Facility and Match-Day Facilities) unless expressly permitted by the *NRL*.
- 1.1.5. For clarity, a reference in this document to "this Protocol" is a reference to the Apollo Match-Day Protocol, unless otherwise indicated.
- 1.1.6. Cross-references to Rules in this Protocol are, unless otherwise noted, a reference to a Rule within this document.

1.2. Who must comply with this Protocol

- 1.2.1. The Apollo Protocol establishes a controlled environment in which matches can occur.
- 1.2.2. Players, Club Officials, Match Officials, Football Operations Personnel, Broadcast Personnel, Venue Personnel, Medical Personnel and Media who are seeking to access Match-Day must observe this Match-Day Protocol. For those personnel who are not bound by the *NRL Rules*, this Protocol forms part of the conditions of entry to the Match-Day Facility.
- 1.2.3. Compliance with these Protocols will be actively monitored by the *NRL*, including through use of compliance officers and the *NRL Integrity & Compliance Unit*.
- 1.2.4. All Players and Club Officials, whether observing this Protocol or not, must do all things necessary to give effect to it and ensure that it is not breached.

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1.3. Applications for Exemptions under this Protocol

- 1.3.1. Any Player, Club Official, Club or person seeking exemption from compliance with one or more provisions of this Protocol must apply to the NRL Head of Football or their nominee by submitting a QER to **Irrelevant**
- 1.3.2. Any application for exemption must:
- a. Be in writing in the form required by NRL Football Operations;
 - b. Identify the provision(s) of the Protocol from which exemption is sought;
 - c. Provide full reasons for the request for exemption, including supporting medical or other information where necessary.
- 1.3.3. Upon receipt of an application for exemption, the Head of Football:
- a. Will consider the application, including if necessary seeking the input of the Apollo Committee, NRL Medical or such other expert/individual as the Head of Football may consider necessary;
 - b. Advise the applicant in writing, through his or her Club, as to whether the application is approved in part or in full, denied or if other alternative arrangements are acceptable to NRL.
- 1.3.4. For the avoidance of doubt, any Player, Club Official, Club or other personnel seeking an exemption under this Protocol must continue to comply with all aspects of the Protocol until in receipt of a written exemption from the NRL Head of Football.
- 1.3.5. The NRL Head of Football may grant such exemption from requirements of this Protocol as they regard necessary, in their absolute discretion and regardless of whether the matter is the subject of an application under Rule 1.3.1 or otherwise.
- 1.3.6. It is a condition of entry to the Match-Day Venue that all personnel follow the directions of the NRL Head of Football, or their nominee, in relation to any matter which is in their view necessary for the safe and efficient delivery of Match-Day.

1.4. Protocol must be read in conjunction with the 2020 NRL Operations Manual

- 1.4.1. This Protocol amends and augments the provisions of the 2020 NRL Operations Manual.
- 1.4.2. Unless amended or revised by this Protocol, the provisions of the 2020 NRL Operations Manual shall apply to Matches conducted during 2020.
- 1.4.3. To the extent of any inconsistency between this Protocol and the 2020 NRL Operations Manual, the provisions of this Protocol shall prevail.

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- 1.4.4. In circumstances where there is a genuine dispute as to the operation of a provision of this Protocol, the 2020 NRL Operations Manual or the interaction between them, the NRL Head of Football will make the final determination in their sole and absolute discretion.
- 1.4.5. Where a Match is being conducted as a home Match (within the meaning of the NRL Operations Manual), the Home Club shall be responsible for the delivery of such obligations under this Match-Day Protocol as are designated in this Protocol or notified to the Home Club by the NRL.

2. Definitions

2.1. Definitions

- 2.1.1. **Authorised Attendee** means a person who has been approved by the NRL to attend the Match-Day Venue in the Venue Zone but does not attend in an operational capacity requiring entry on the Match-Day Register (for example, ticketed spectators). The NRL will issue policies governing the admission requirements of Authorised Attendees such as ticketed spectators, in addition to those set out in this Protocol.
- 2.1.2. **Biosecurity Liaison Officer (BLO)** means the compliance officers appointed and provided by the NRL to assist with and monitor Club compliance with these Protocols.
- 2.1.3. **Isolation Protocols** mean the self-isolation protocols set out in:
- a. the Apollo Club Protocol;
 - b. the Apollo Player Protocol;
 - c. such other protocol as provided by this Match-Day Protocol requiring that personnel stay home when not at training or Match-Day. Where such a protocol is issued, it shall identify itself an Isolation Protocol for the purposes of this Rule.
- 2.1.4. **Match-Day** means all activities preparatory to and in delivery of a Match in the 2020 NRL Competition at the Match-Day Venue.
- 2.1.5. **Match-Day Presentation Elements** means elements of Match-Day presentation requiring access to the Clean Zone (Field of Play) and which are not directly related to the delivery of the Match of rugby league itself. Examples of Match-Day Presentation Elements include pyrotechnics, guards of honour, props, run on banners and Club mascots.
- 2.1.6. **Match-Day Venue** means a stadium or ground approved as a Match-Day Venue by the NRL.

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- 2.1.7. **NRL Match-Day Co-ordinator** means the person appointed by the NRL to have overall co-ordination responsibilities for a particular Match-Day.
- 2.1.8. **PPE** means Personal Protective Equipment to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19, as required in sections of this Protocol.

3. Match-Day Attendees

3.1. General

- 3.1.1. All persons accessing the Match-Day Facility shall comply with this Protocol in accordance with the obligations which are described for them.
- 3.1.2. The Match-Day Facility is a secure area and access of any person (including Players, Club Officials, Football Operations staff, Broadcast personnel and Media) to the Match-Day Facility is at the absolute discretion of the NRL. Where the NRL considers it necessary, including where based on the advice of its experts, a person(s) may be excluded from entry to the Match-Day Facility. This is necessary to ensure the NRL is able to comply with its obligations concerning bio-security, the safety of all personnel and the broader interests of the NRL Competition.

3.2. Who may access the Match-Day Venue?

- 3.2.1. The following persons shall have access to the Match-Day Venue, subject to the obligations and restrictions imposed upon them under this Protocol and pre-approval in the form of the Match-Day Register and at all times subject to government requirements where the Match is played:
- a. the 55 persons listed on a Club's Apollo Protocol Register as nominated to access Match-Day Clean Zone, being:
 - i. 21 selected Players;
 - ii. Up to 13 Club Officials essential for Match-Day activities;
 - iii. Up to 15 back-up Players (who may be utilised in accordance with the provisions of the 2020 NRL Operations Manual and this Protocol);
 - iv. Up to 6 back-up Club Officials; and
 - v. An additional 2nd doctor (ACMO) for one or both Clubs (as a permissible 56th person).
 - b. Club Officials who are approved by the NRL for access to the Match-Day Venue Zone and in accordance with government requirements where the Match is played;

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- c. Match-Day Medical Personnel, including the second doctor provided by the Home Club, first-aid and other necessary non-Club medical staff;¹
- d. NRL Football Operations Personnel;
- e. NRL Match Officials;
- f. Venue Personnel;
- g. Broadcast Personnel;
- h. Accredited Media;
- i. Authorised Attendees;
- j. Such other persons as the NRL elects to grant access in its absolute discretion and in accordance with government requirements where the Match is played.

3.2.2. Each of the above categories of personnel shall have different levels of obligation concerning Isolation Protocols and associated protocols, and shall as a result have differential levels of access to areas of the Match-Day Facility as set out below. The composition and size of the group of authorised personnel may change from time to time on the advice of the Project Apollo specialised advisers and due to changes in COVID-19 circumstances in Australia or elsewhere.

3.2.3. The NRL may issue specific restrictions/guidelines/protocols for access of specific personnel and these must be strictly followed as a condition of entry to the Match-Day Venue.

3.2.4. Every person accessing the Match-Day Venue:

- a. where attending in an operational capacity, shall be recorded on the Match-Day Register (see 5.1);
- b. where attending as an Authorised Attendee in accordance with an NRL or Government Policy (for example, ticketed attendees), shall have their details recorded in such manner as the NRL and/or government prescribes.

3.2.5. Access to the Match-Day Venue is at all times subject to the approval of the NRL. It is a condition of entry to any Match-Day Venue that the individual consents to the collection and use of information collected under this Protocol for the purposes of ensuring the proper operation of Match-Day, including where necessary providing that information to Government, experts and

¹ See NRL Operations Manual 2020, as amended by this Protocol

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advisers and such other entities as the NRL determines necessary in its absolute discretion.

4. The Match-Day Venue

4.1. Match-Day Venues

4.1.1. The Match-Day Venues will be as approved by the NRL.

4.2. Match-Day Venue will comprise two divided areas

4.2.1. The Match-Day Facility will be divided into two distinct areas:

- a. areas in which heightened bio-security measures are applied (**Clean Zone**);
- b. areas where less stringent bio-security measures are applied, sometimes for convenience referred to as "dirty" areas (**Venue Zone**).

4.2.2. Boundaries must be in place to ensure that the Clean Zones and Venue Zones are clearly demarcated and so that personnel cannot move between the Clean Zone and Dirty Zone (except where necessary when moving between Clean Zones).

4.3. Clean Zone

4.3.1. The Clean Zone comprises:

- a. A single entry point to the Clean Zone, which shall be an Assessment Point in accordance with Rule 7.2 below;
- b. Player change rooms, common areas and medical screening rooms;
- c. Match Official facilities;
- d. The Tunnel;
- e. The Field of Play;
- f. The Coaches Box, or such other area as is provided for coaching staff;

4.3.2. The Venue Clean Zone is an area of heightened bio-security measures and is **accessible only to persons who are complying with Isolation Protocols, or as otherwise authorised in this Protocol.**

4.3.3. Depending on venue, it will be necessary for persons to move through a "dirty" area (Venue Zone) when moving between areas of the Clean Zone. Where this occurs, arrangements must be made to ensure that personnel from the Clean

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Zone do not come into contact with personnel in the Venue Zone. For example, when Club Officials are moving to the Coaches Box they should be escorted by Biosecurity Liaison Officers, not venue security, with the route of travel cleared of persons not observing the Isolation Protocols. The Assistant Coach or another member of the coaching team who will be present in the Coaches Box must be nominated to familiarise themselves with the route to the Coaches Box in case the Biosecurity Liaison Officer is unavailable.

4.3.4. Personnel approved for access to the Clean Zone will be provided with a Clean Zone sticker which must be affixed to the individual's Accreditation Pass (see Rule 5.4).

4.3.5. The Clean Zone will be opened three hours fifteen minutes prior to kick-off.

4.4. Venue Zone

4.4.1. The Venue Zone comprises all other accessible areas which do not form part of the Clean Zone.

4.5. No crossing between Zones

4.5.1. No person shall move between the Clean Zone and the Venue Zone, except in the case of emergency, where required for movement between Clean Zones or as provided in Rule 7.12.

4.6. Match-Day Venue Plans

4.6.1. Plans of the approved Match-Day Venues with the Clean Zone and Venue Zones identified will be provided by the NRL.

5. Match-Day Register, Schedule & Accreditation

5.1. Match-Day Register

5.1.1. All persons accessing Match-Day must be entered on the Match-Day Register. The maximum numbers will be advised by the NRL Football Department.

5.1.2. The Match-Day Register will identify:

- a. Those personnel who are observing Isolation Protocols and are to have access to the Clean Zone;
- b. Those personnel who are not observing Isolation Protocols, but are required to have access to the Clean Zone under the procedures set out in Rule 7.12.

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5.2. Submission of Match-Day Register

- 5.2.1. Each Club, Broadcaster and other entity requiring access to the Match-Day Venue must submit a Match-Day Register in the form in the Appendix to the NRL Match-Day Co-ordinator (or their nominee) by **2pm the day before the Match**. The NRL Match-Day Co-ordinator will confirm the approval of the Match-Day Register to the submitting entity.
- 5.2.2. Late changes to the Match-Day Register must be notified directly to the NRL Match-Day Co-ordinator by phone and confirmation e-mail. Personnel added to the Match-Day Register after the 2pm deadline will not be permitted to access the Match-Day Venue until cleared by the NRL Match-Day Co-ordinator and for this reason late changes must be reserved for essential/emergency reasons.

5.3. Match-Day Schedule

- 5.3.1. The NRL and/or Home Club will provide each Club, Broadcaster and other personnel requiring access to the Match-Day Venue with a Match-Day Schedule in the form set out in the Appendix.
- 5.3.2. The Match-Day Schedule will set out a plan of all actions preparatory to, during and following the Match, including:
- the time scheduled for each Club to enter the Assessment Point for the Clean Zone;
 - the times by which all personnel must have departed the Clean Zone;
 - other matters relevant to the delivery of Match-Day.
- 5.3.3. It is important that all personnel observe the times and directions in the Match-Day Schedule to avoid bottlenecks and other problems around access to the Match-Day Facility. If a problem is anticipated in meeting the requirements of the Match-Day Schedule, the affected person/Club/Broadcaster must immediately contact the NRL Match-Day Co-ordinator on the numbers provided on the Match-Day Schedule.

5.4. Accreditation

- 5.4.1. All personnel attending the Match-Day Venue in an operational capacity must be accredited by the NRL and wear their Accreditation Pass **at all times**.
- 5.4.2. Personnel who have been approved for access to the Clean Zone must affix a "Clean Zone" sticker to their Accreditation Pass. These will be distributed to Clubs prior to Match-Day.

6. Travel to the Venue

6.1. Assessment prior to Travel

- 6.1.1. Where teams are travelling together to the Match-Day Venue, Clubs must conduct health screenings (temperature testing and symptom screen) prior to commencing travel (whether by air, coach or both). This must include direct inspection of the NRL Check-up app to confirm completion of the App without any alerts on that day (and that prior days daily screenings have been completed) before allowing access to club transport.
- 6.1.2. Club should note that notwithstanding any pre-travel screening, all personnel will be required to submit to screening at the Assessment Point for entry into the Match-Day Venue in accordance with Rule 6.4. This must include direct inspection of the NRL Check-up app to confirm completion of the App without any alerts on that day before allowing access to the Match-Day venue. This is regardless of whether the journey from pre-travel assessment to the Match-Day Venue could be considered a "clean" one.
- 6.1.3. It is advised that Players and Club Officials **not** use earphones, headphones or place coverings over their ears, or take any hot showers or baths in the **30 minutes** prior to arrival at the Assessment Point, as this may affect temperature readings.

6.2. Team Travel

- 6.2.1. Teams (including persons on the Club's Apollo Register as nominated to access Match-Day Clean Zone) may travel to the Match-Day Venue by dedicated bus/coach or individually by car as determined by their Club. Where teams travel together, the Daily Confirmations in the NRL Check-up App must be sighted and a health screening must be conducted (temperature testing and symptom screen) prior to departure from the Club (or hotel, for non-NSW based teams). Individual daily temperature screenings and symptom checks must still be submitted in accordance with the requirements and timings of the Apollo Protocols via the mobile App on Match Day. For individuals travelling independently to the Match, the individual temperature screen and symptom check must be completed prior to travel and submitted by the mobile App.
- 6.2.2. Seating of Players and staff on the bus/coach is to be spread out as much as possible to maintain social distancing requirements. Players and staff must not sit in the first two rows of the bus to avoid close proximity to the driver.
- 6.2.3. All Players and staff should have personal alcohol-based hand sanitiser for use throughout trips. It is recommended that Players and staff have individual tissues and rubbish bags for trips.
- 6.2.4. Players and Club Officials may travel to the venue in their private cars if this is preferable, but must observe the Isolation Protocols as they relate to motor

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vehicle travel. Where Players and Club Officials are unable to park immediately next to/within the Match-Day Venue, they must ensure that they maintain social distancing from members of the public as they walk to the entry Assessment Point. Clubs must facilitate appropriate barrier protection where necessary, this may include physical barriers or security personnel.

- 6.2.5. Staff required to arrive at the match venue earlier for preparation should be minimal in number (maximum 2 per vehicle) and must meet venue screening protocols prior to any unloading of equipment or set up of dressing rooms. The NRL will advise when areas of the Match-Day Facility will be open for access.

6.3. Match-Official Travel

- 6.3.1. Match-Officials may travel to the venue in their private cars if this is preferable, but must observe the Isolation Protocols as they relate to motor vehicle travel.
- 6.3.2. Overnight accommodation and other transport near Match-Day Venues will be organised by NRL Football Operations. All requests/plans concerning hotel accommodation will be raised through Apollo QER pathway for decision and documentation.

6.4. Respiratory Illness and Travel

- 6.4.1. If a Player/staff member/official becomes unwell with mild respiratory illness symptoms or fever whilst at a match or prior to travel to or from a match, the Club Medical Officer (CMO) must be contacted for assessment of the situation and they must immediately report the matter to the NRL Independent Medical Officer for management advice.
- 6.4.2. The NRL Independent Medical Officer in consultation with the Club Medical Officer will determine if the Player/staff member/official can be transported safely with the rest of their team to the match, club or hotel accommodation, or if alternative arrangements are required along with whether quarantine +/- testing procedures are required.
- 6.4.3. The NRL Match-Day Co-ordinator must be immediately advised of the situation.

7. Entry Procedure

7.1. Assessment Point for Clean Zone

- 7.1.1. Teams must arrive in accordance with the Match-Day Schedule issued to each team.

7.2. Single Access Point to Clean Zone (Assessment Point)

- 7.2.1. The Clean Zone must be accessible a single entry point only. All other access points to the Clean Zone areas must be permanently locked.

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- 7.2.2. An Assessment Point will be established at the Clean Zone access point. This location may be different to the entry point to the stadium itself. The Assessment Point is designed to:
- a. Prevent entry to the Clean Zone by persons not authorised on the Match-Day Register;
 - b. Screen authorised personnel before every entry to the Clean Zone (see Rule 7.4 below).
- 7.2.3. The Assessment Point will be located immediately outside the external physical entry point to the Clean Zone.
- 7.2.4. The Assessment Point will include:
- a. Coverage sufficient to allow assessments to take place in wet weather;
 - b. Table/tables for NRL officials manning the Assessment Point;
 - c. other requirements to be advised by NRL Apollo team.
- 7.2.5. The Assessment Point will make provision for social distancing – all persons attending the Assessment Point must be able to maintain a 1.5m distance between each other at all time. Floor or other markings must be used to help judge and maintain these distances. This is important as individuals who do not pass the entry screening process will be required to leave the Assessment Point and undergo off-site assessment.

7.3. Staffing at Assessment Point

- 7.3.1. The Assessment Point will be attended by personnel who have been trained and approved by NRL Medical in administering entry assessments. A member of the venue's security team will also be present in the area.
- 7.3.2. Assessment Point Personnel must wear protective clothing/PPE as prescribed by NRL Medical.

7.4. Procedure for Entry to Clean Zone

- 7.4.1. All personnel entering the Clean Zone must be assessed before being permitted to enter beyond the Assessment Point.
- 7.4.2. Each Home Club will provide a Match-Day Schedule in the form in the Appendix which shall set out:
- a. Timings for the arrival of transport with the Home Club and Away Club's Players and Club Officials;

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- b. Directions on how to present at the Assessment Point in a manner which maintains social distancing – these directions will vary from venue to venue.
- 7.4.3. Each team's Biosecurity Liaison Officer is responsible for overseeing their team's entry at the Assessment Point.
- 7.4.4. At the Assessment Point, all personnel must undergo an admission assessment, under which they must:
- Confirm that neither they nor any member of their household have experienced any of the specified symptoms in the preceding 24 hours;
 - Confirm that they have observed the Isolation Protocols;
 - Confirm that they have completed the Daily Confirmations in the NRL Check-up app (which must be sighted and confirmed by staff at the Assessment Point);
 - Submit to and pass an individual temperature check (administered in accordance with instructions from NRL Medical) which **records a temperature of 37.2c or less.**
- 7.4.5. Personnel who pass these requirements and who are accredited will be granted immediate access to the Clean Zone.
- 7.4.6. Personnel entering the Clean Zone must clean their footwear prior to entry. There is no requirement for individuals to change footwear at the Assessment Point.
- 7.5. Documentation of entry into the Clean Zone**
- 7.5.1. As personnel on the Match-Day Register are admitted to the Clean Zone, staff at the Assessment Point will record this against the Match-Day Register and record the time at which each person was admitted.
- 7.5.2. A copy of the Match-Day Register will be retained by the NRL Match-Day Co-ordinator recording all information regarding access to the Clean Zone during Match-Day.
- 7.6. Where an individual does not pass admission assessment**
- 7.6.1. There may be many reasons why an individual does not initially meet the requirements of the admission assessment. This does not mean that the individual is suspected to have contracted COVID-19 or is considered a significant risk, but that further assessment is required.
- 7.6.2. The following process shall be followed for individuals recording results at the Assessment Point in excess of 37.2c:

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- a. **Individuals recording a temperature above 37.3c or above** must be directed to a designated safe area (as identified on the Match-Day Schedule) where they are isolated from others for 15 minutes.

At the expiry of the 15 minute period the individual must be temperature tested again. If the result is replicated in the above range, the individual **will not be admitted** to the Match-Day Venue. Assessment staff must immediately inform the NRL Match-Day Co-Ordinator who will liaise with the NRL Independent Medical Officer regarding further assessment.

Individuals whose temperature records as 37.2c or less may be admitted to the Clean Zone as per normal procedures.

- b. **Individuals who report symptoms personally or within their household, or otherwise report non-compliance with home isolation must not be admitted** to the Match-Day Venue. Assessment staff must immediately inform the NRL Match-Day Co-ordinator who will liaise with the NRL Independent Medical Officer regarding further assessment.

7.6.3. A flow-chart of the assessment process is in the Appendix.

7.7. Off-Site Assessment

7.7.1. Any individual who is referred for off-site assessment must go directly to the place advised by NRL Medical and remain there until they have successfully completed the off-site assessment process and received instructions from the NRL Independent Medical Officer (including concerning any associated testing). The NRL Match-Day Co-ordinator will liaise with NRL Medical and the Club concerning members of travelling teams who require assessment.

7.8. Early Entry to the Clean Zone

7.8.1. Teams who arrive early at the Match-Day Venue will go direct to the 'lounge/chill out area' on arrival at the venue. This area to be cleaned with appropriate clean and kept clean with support by venue staff.

7.8.2. Teams/players cannot have access to their change room or the Field of Play until they have gone through the Assessment Zone that leads into the Clean Zone upon its activation minus 3 hours and fifteen minutes pre kick off. That is, they must stay in the "chillout area" until moved for final preparations for kick off in the Clean Zone spaces.

7.9. Entry to Venue Zone for operational personnel

7.9.1. Entry to the Venue Zone is restricted to persons:

- a. who have been identified, accredited and approved on the Match-Day Register as operational personnel; or

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- b. or are otherwise approved for entry as an Authorised Attendee (see Rule 7.10).
- 7.9.2. The Match-Day Schedule will identify entry/access points (Entry Point) for personnel entering the Venue Zone. All personnel must comply with all directions from staff at those entry points.
- 7.9.3. Subject to State or Territory government requirements, all personnel entering via the Entry Point must:
- a. Submit to and pass a temperature check conducted in accordance with the procedure in Rule 7.6.2;
 - b. Confirm whether they have any COVID-19 symptoms;
 - c. Confirm whether they have come into contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19;
 - d. Confirm that they have not entered a COVID-19 hotspot in the last 14 days; and
 - e. Confirm whether they have been in quarantine in the past 14 days.
- 7.9.4. Personnel who fail the temperature check, report contact with COVID-19 cases or quarantine, are experiencing or displaying symptoms, or are otherwise unwell, **will not be permitted entry**.
- 7.9.5. At all Entry Points to the Venue Zone, entering personnel must be briefed concerning the following:
- a. That the Match-Day Facility is a biosecurity controlled area and that care must be taken at all times to limit the risk of transmission of COVID-19, including following all instructions and Rules relating to Match-Day;
 - b. The location of the Clean Zone and that entry is **prohibited** without prior approval from the NRL and entry through the Assessment Point in accordance with Rule 7.12;
 - c. COVID-19 symptoms and the requirements that any sickness/feeling unwell be notified immediately.
- 7.9.6. All personnel entering the Venue Zone will be provided with a printed information sheet setting out the key measures which must be observed.
- 7.9.7. If the Club media manager referred to in Rule 3.2.1.a is on the Club's Apollo Protocol Register and is required to work from the Venue Zone, they shall:
- a. wear a surgical mask covering the nose and mouth at all times when in the Venue Zone;

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- b. wear disposable gloves on both hands at all times when in the Venue Zone;
 - c. maintain a distance of at least 1.5m from all other personnel in the Venue Zone **at all times**;
 - d. not at any time enter the Clean Zone.
- 7.9.8. If the measures in Rule 7.9.7 are strictly followed, the Club media manager will be permitted to remain on the Club's Apollo Protocol Register and have access to the Training Facility and the Match-Day Clean Zone at future Matches (subject to their being included in the 13 Club Officials approved for entry).
- 7.10. Entry to Venue Zone for Authorised Attendees**
- 7.10.1. All Authorised Attendees entering the Venue Zone must do so in accordance with the policy issued or endorsed by the NRL for access, which must comply with government regulations in the place where the Match-Day Venue is located (for example, a venue's COVIDSafe Plan).
- 7.11. Documentation of entry into the Venue Zone**
- 7.11.1. As personnel on the Match-Day Register are admitted to the Venue Zone, staff at the Assessment Point will record this against the Match-Day Register.
- 7.11.2. A copy of the Match-Day Register should be retained by the Home Club recording all information regarding access to the Venue Zone during Match-Day and provided to the NRL, if requested.
- 7.11.3. Authorised Attendees admitted to the Venue Zone in accordance with an Authorised Attendee policy (for example, ticketed spectators under a venue's COVIDSafe plan) must be recorded in the manner required by that policy.
- 7.12. Access to the Clean Zone for persons not observing Isolation Protocols**
- 7.12.1. In some limited cases it will be necessary for personnel who are not observing Isolation Protocols to enter the Clean Zone. For example, a SIS technician may need to enter the Clean Zone for a short period to fix a technical issue.
- 7.12.2. Personnel not observing Isolation Protocols but who require access to the Clean Zone must be identified on the Match-Day Register (see Rule 5.1) and pre-approved for access.
- 7.12.3. Personnel needing unanticipated or emergency access (excepting a medical emergency) must first obtain approval from NRL Match-Day Co-ordinator.
- 7.12.4. Unless otherwise advised by NRL Football Operations, all personnel who are not observing Isolation Protocols must observe the following when entering the Clean Zone who is not observing Isolation Protocols must:

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- a. enter the Clean Zone by the Assessment Point (or a custom Assessment Point placed within the Clean Zone as advised in the Match-Day Schedule) and complete and satisfy the requirements at Rule 7.4.3 including temperature checking;
- b. wear a surgical mask covering the nose and mouth at all times when in the Clean Zone;
- c. wear disposable gloves on both hands at all times when in the Clean Zone;
- d. maintain a distance of at least 1.5m from any NRL Player or Club Official at all times when in the Clean Zone;
- e. clean their shoes prior to entering the Clean Zone with the sanitising wipes provided, including diligently wiping down the sides and sole of each shoe.

7.12.5. In addition to the above, personnel not observing Isolation Protocols but whose role requires access to the Clean Zone (whether as part of their scheduled duties or in case of emergency) must at all times (including away from Match-Day):

- a. maintain a high level of hygiene at all times including washing hands and minimising face touching.
- b. Observe social distancing at all times (1.5 metres) and avoid unnecessary physical contact with others at all times.
- c. Where possible, travel alone to matches and avoid using public transport or ubers/taxis to travel to matches.

7.13. Persons feeling unwell

7.13.1. Any person who feels **in any way unwell** **must not** attend the Match-Day Venue and contact their relevant manager and medical officer for advice and escalation.

7.14. Bag searches

7.14.1. Bag searches will occur as per usual venue operations for all personnel entering the Match-Day Venue with a bag (Clean Zone and Venue Zone).

7.14.2. Security conducting bag searches must wear disposable gloves and maintain social distancing whilst conducting searches.

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7.15. Interaction with Fans

- 7.15.1. All personnel (including Players and Club Officials) must take all reasonable steps to avoid contact with fans when entering or exiting the venue. The NRL is working with each venue and Club to put the appropriate safeguards in place.

8. Team Lists**8.1. Team List processes from 2020 Operations Manual apply**

- 8.1.1. Teams must be selected and notified in accordance with the procedure set out in Rule 2 (Selection of Teams) of the 2020 NRL Operations Manual.

8.2. Teams must be selected from Club Apollo Register

- 8.2.1. Clubs may only select Players who are registered to that Club and who appear on their Club Apollo Register at the time of selection each Tuesday.

8.3. Applications to the NRL Head of Football for exemption

- 8.3.1. In any instance where a Club is genuinely unable to comply with the Team List restrictions in Rule 2 of the 2020 NRL Operations Manual, for example for reasons of a Player's outstanding test for COVID-19 or exclusion from training on bio-medical grounds, the Club must apply to the NRL Head of Football for exemption in accordance with the procedure set out in Rule 2.5 of the 2020 NRL Operations Manual.

- 8.3.2. In considering any application for exemption, the NRL Head of Football may have reference to whether the exclusion of a Player was the result of a wilful breach of the Apollo Protocols in determining whether an exemption is warranted.

9. Match-Day Operations**9.1. Arrival Timings**

- 9.1.1. All Clubs, Broadcasters and other personnel must present at the Clean Zone or Venue Zone Entry Points in the time slots allocated on the Match-Day Schedule.
- 9.1.2. It is important that these times and directions be followed to avoid bottlenecks and other problems around access to the Match-Day Facility. If a problem is anticipated in arrivals times, the affected person/Club/Broadcaster must immediately contact the NRL Match-Day Co-ordinator on the numbers provided on the Match-Day Schedule.

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9.2. Team Gear Bump-in

- 9.2.1. Clubs will be permitted access to the Match-Day Venue prior to the "Lockdown" period commencing (i.e. 3- hours and forty-five minutes prior to kick off) to deliver essential team equipment and gear into their allocated dressing room.
- 9.2.2. Clubs must ensure the staff who delivers the team equipment and gear is not on the Apollo Register i.e. they must not be a member of the "Apollo 55" or "Match-Day 34"
- 9.2.3. The official must depart the Match-Day Venue prior to the lockdown period commencing.
- 9.2.4. Gear stewards may prepare the dressing room for team arrival once the Clean Zone is opened to teams 3-hours and fifteen minutes prior to kick off
- 9.2.5. Prior to use on Match Day, the Club must clean and sanitise all team equipment which is to be taken into the venue.

9.3. Leaving the Match-Day Venue

- 9.3.1. All personnel must leave the Match-Day Venue expeditiously and no later than the time stated on the Match-Day Schedule. Compliance with these requirements is important to allow operational access to the Clean Zone following departure of those following Isolation Protocols.

9.4. Ground Managers

- 9.4.1. Ground Managers are appointed by the NRL.
- 9.4.2. The role of the Ground Manager is as set out in the 2020 NRL Operations Manual.

9.5. Sideline Injury Surveillance Manager

- 9.5.1. The Sideline Injury Surveillance may operate from the Clean Zone but must comply with the requirements listed in 7.11..

9.6. Biosecurity Liaison Officers

- 9.6.1. Biosecurity Liaison Officers are appointed by the NRL and must comply with Isolation Protocols.
- 9.6.2. Each Club's Biosecurity Liaison Officer shall accompany the team on all home and away Matches.
- 9.6.3. The Biosecurity Liaison Officer is responsible for:

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- a. Overseeing the team's compliance with Daily Health and Whereabouts Confirmation requirements in the NRL Check-up App;
- b. Overseeing the team's entry to the Clean Zone through the Assessment Point;
- c. Supporting the Club's Football Manager regarding compliance with all team bio-security Match-Day protocols;
- d. Acting as the interchange official for their team.

9.7. Captain's Run

- 9.7.1. Captain's Runs may not be permitted at stadiums which are used as a Home Venue by more than one Club. Any requests for a Captain's Run at these venues must be made in writing to the NRL Head of Football..

9.8. Ice Baths

- 9.8.1. Ice baths are permitted as per usual arrangements.

9.9. Jersey Allocation

- 9.9.1. Jersey Allocations will be circulated in the weekly logistics report sent by Football Operations each Monday.

9.10. Fan Interaction

- 9.10.1. It remains important to engage fans but for the time being engagement needs to be done differently such that physical contact does not occur, and physical distancing requirements are respected. Clubs are encouraged to consider clapping or acknowledging fans from the touchline as an alternative.
- 9.10.2. Players must not physically interact with fans. This means that Players must:
 - a. maintain a physical distance of at least 1.5m from fans at all times;
 - b. avoid handshakes, high fives and other close contact with the general public, particularly pre- and post-match;
 - c. avoid selfies or other 'close' photos; and
 - d. avoid taking items directly from the general public such as pens, cards, jerseys, etc.

10. Venue Operations

10.1. Venue Management and Emergency Services

- 10.1.1. Venue Management personnel will be required to manage and operate the venue on a match day and to ensure services are delivered to the NRL and Clubs as determined. Venue personnel includes but not limited to the following: Event Staff, Security, Catering, Cleaning, Grounds, Assets, Technology, Staffing, and sub-contractors such as Plumbers, Electricians and Lift technician.
- 10.1.2. A Venue Management representative, being the person appointed as the Venue Chief Warden, will be responsible for the operational response required in the case of an Emergency incident in a venue. This includes coordination of any Emergency Services (i.e. Police, Fire) required to attend a Match venue in response to an incident. This ranges from response to a Fire Alarm through to an act of terrorism.
- 10.1.3. In the case of a response to an incident in the Clean Zone Emergency Services personnel will be permitted to enter as deemed appropriate to undertake their response.
- 10.1.4. The Venue Operator will determine the level of Police or Fire Brigade presence required at each match at the venue it runs based on crowd levels and associated risks. Ambulance Service requirements are addressed in Rule 13.3.

10.2. Venue Grounds Staff

- 10.2.1. Venue Grounds staff will be required to prepare the Field of Play (FOP) to the appropriate standards for the staging of a Telstra Premiership Match, as outlined in the 2020 Telstra Premiership Operations Manual. This includes watering, mowing, application of line markings, installation of corner posts and other duties as applicable.
- 10.2.2. Venue Grounds staff will be required to have set the FOP in readiness for play by no later than 3 hours and 45 minutes prior to kick-off. Following this cut off time, Grounds staff will not be permitted to enter the FOP as it will be classified as part of the Clean Zone.
- 10.2.3. In the case of an unforeseen matter on the FOP that has to be addressed by a qualified Venue Grounds Staff member, a pre-determined representative from the Grounds Staff may access the Clean Zone via an Assessment Point (see Rule 7.12).

10.3. Security

- 10.3.1. Venue Contracted Security personnel will be deployed across the venue as determined and agreed with each Home Club (as the Hirer of the venue) and the Venue Operator to maintain the integrity of the venue in ensuring only

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approved persons gain access to the venue and identified key areas and Zones within the venue.

10.3.2. Security personnel will manage the venue entry process. This includes vehicle and pedestrian venue access points. Security will enforce the venue entry protocols as outlined in Section 7.9, 7.10 and 7.13.

10.3.3. Key Venue Perimeter access points for players, match officials and working personnel will be identified and manned as official venue entry points, being:

- a. 1-2 x Vehicle entry;
- b. 1 x pedestrian entry for Players, Team Management and Match Officials to be used as the **Clean Zone Entry Point**;
- c. 1 x pedestrian entry for all approved staff, contractors, executives to be used as the **Venue Zone Entry Point**.

Spectators accessing via an Event specific Ticket will enter front of house venue gates as directed by their Event Ticket.

10.3.4. Clean Zone areas will be required to be managed by Club Officials who are on the Apollo Protocol Register and observing this Protocol. This includes the following key points in the venue (NB: which would normally be manned by venue security):

- a. Players Tunnel entry point where the Assessment Zone is established;
- b. Each team dressing rooms access/entry point;
- c. Entry point at the junction of the FOP and the players tunnel.

10.3.5. Security staff will be deployed to manage the Field of Play in order to protect the integrity of the FOP and to respond in the case of unauthorised access to the FOP. This pre-determined number of security guards will be granted access to the FOP as per process outlined in section 7.11.

10.4. Cleaning

10.4.1. Cleaning staff will provide cleaning services ensuring the Clean Zone and all other areas of the venue utilised are conducted in accordance with cleaning standards issued/approved by NRL Medical and/or any Government Health guidelines.

10.4.2. Cleaning staff will need to ensure the Clean Zone has been thoroughly cleaned prior to the pre-determined time for lock down and activation of the Clean Zone.

10.4.3. To clarify, once cleaners have completed the task of sanitising and cleaning the team dressing rooms, players tunnel surfaces, FOP equipment and other as

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required, the Clean Zone will be locked down from that point onwards. No cleaning staff personnel will re-enter the Clean Zone following its activation.

- 10.4.4. Once lockdown is activated Club personnel permitted access to the Clean Zone (i.e. those on the Apollo Protocol Register and observing this Protocol) will be required to take responsibility for any spot cleaning needs and rubbish removal.
- 10.4.5. Appropriate cleaning equipment and supplies will be provided within the Clean Zone for their use.

10.5. Catering, Drinks & Ice

- 10.5.1. **A critical requirement concerning service of food is that it is individually portioned and that there be no share food. It is very important that this be observed in every case as it is a requirement of Government approvals.**
- 10.5.2. Catering will be arranged, in conjunction with the venue caterers, to provide services as determined and in line with usual match day provision for players, referees, staff, media and other as applicable.
- 10.5.3. Food served should be individually packaged wherever possible. No finger food or shared food is permitted and individuals must not eat with their hands. For example, fruit and sandwiches must be provided in a bag with a wrapped sandwich for the individual – sandwich platters are not permitted. A single individual following precautions (sanitised hands, wearing a surgical mask) is permitted to prepare these individual packs from a platter prior to provision if required.
- 10.5.4. External food may be delivered for the teams post-match, however these foods must be served individually as per the arrangements in Rule 10.5.3. No shared pizzas, buffet style or finger food is to be served. **It is important that these Rules are followed strictly.**
- 10.5.5. Any Catering requirements for players, referees and staff in the Clean Zone, will be prepared and delivered by the Venue Caterers to the Assessment Zone. An appropriate representative from each Club, referees, other, are to collect and deliver the catering into their respective rooms within the Clean Zone.
- 10.5.6. Any Satellite Catering drops ordered by the Clubs are to be operated as per normal by the venue caterers to designated spaces within the Venue Zone for staff, media and other as may be required.
- 10.5.7. Clubs must order catering (including drinks and ice) directly with the Venue and each Club must pay for its own catering.

10.6. Player Facilities

- 10.6.1. Facility suitable to accommodate a Club's Players and Club Officials, to include areas suitable for massage, stretching, pre and post-game meals, relaxation. It

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should have direct access to toilet and wash facilities. The exact facilities will depend on each Match-Day Venue.

- 10.6.2. All Player/Club Officials facilities must be large enough to accommodate 1 person per 4 square metres.
- 10.6.3. Corporate facility should include (where possible):
- a. Televisions (4)
 - b. Couches and casual seating areas
 - c. Dining area and seating for 30
 - d. Access to venue catering services and equipment for pre and post meals and hydration
 - e. WiFi access suitable for team use
 - f. Three massage tables
 - g. 100 towels (are now to be provided by the visiting Club)
- 10.6.4. Facility to be available for use by the team as early as possible on game day, and no later than five (5) hours prior to the scheduled kick off time.
- 10.6.5. Catering: Team should be provided with individually packaged snacks and drinks on arrival, Pre-game meal as specified, and Post-match meal which may require packaging for consumption on the coach to the airport. Clubs are to liaise directly with stadiums to confirm details of availability. Each Club will be responsible for the cost of its own catering.

10.7. Gear Van access and parking

- 10.7.1. The NRL Events team will co-ordinate this for Clubs.

10.8. ASADA Drug Testing Facilities

- 10.8.1. An area within the Clean Zone will be designated for Doping Control. It must be sufficiently sized to allow the collection of samples by ASADA Doping Control Officers whilst observing social distancing of 1.5m.
- 10.8.2. ASADA Doping Control Officers are authorised to enter the Clean Zone subject to the following:
- a. Successful completion of the entry requirements at the Assessment Point for the Clean Zone;
 - b. ASADA DCOs will wear the following PPE at all times:

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- i. N95 mask;
 - ii. Disposable gloves.
- 10.8.3. Water must be available for the Anti-Doping Control Room (4 x individually sealed bottles of non-carbonated water per Player).

11. Field of Play

11.1. Field of Play is a Clean Zone

- 11.1.1. The Field of Play forms part of the Clean Zone and is accessible only to:
- a. Persons observing Isolation Protocols (such as members of an NRL Club's Apollo Register);
 - b. Persons identified in the Match-Day Register as requiring access to the Clean Zone, approved by the NRL Match-Day Co-ordinator and complying with the access requirements of Rule 7.12.2 (including wearing all required Personal Protective Equipment);
 - c. Medical personnel requiring access to the Field of Play in an emergency situation; and
 - d. Any other individuals approved by the NRL

11.2. Coaches Boxes

- 11.2.1. Coaches Box form part of the Clean Zone.
- 11.2.2. Security Guards (wearing PPE), Biosecurity Liaison Officers and/or a member of Team Management will act as escorts to and from the Coaches Box.
- 11.2.3. Coaches must remain within the Clean Zone. Coaches are not permitted to sit in other Venue Areas (such as the stands). These provisions will be reviewed over time.

11.3. Match Balls

- 11.3.1. Match Balls will be provided by the Home Club, being 8 balls to be in rotation during the Match in the following locations:
- a. Three on the far side of the field
 - b. Three on the side near the interchange area
 - c. Two in the spare ball buckets.
- 11.3.2. Spare ball buckets are the responsibility of the Home Club.

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- 11.3.3. Ball must be cleaned every ten minutes during the Match by Ball-Persons using the following processes (with equipment to be provided by the Home Club):
- a. one bucket (or esky) with a cleaning agent on each side of the field;
 - b. one bucket (or esky) with clean water on each side of the field;
 - c. extra towels to dry the balls on both sides of the field.
- 11.3.4. Spare Ball Buckets must be thoroughly cleaned prior to each Match.
- 11.3.5. Where a ball is kicked into a Venue Zone (the stands), the ball must be washed by the Ball Person **before** the ball is returned to play.
- 11.3.6. The disinfectant used should be one for which the manufacturer claims antiviral activity, meaning it can kill the virus (such as chlorine-based disinfectants, which are commonly used - see below). Ready-made disinfection products can be used, if available. Diluted bleach or disinfectants listed on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods that have virucidal claims can be used.

11.4. Ball-Persons

- 11.4.1. Player Number 20 or a Club Official (on the Match-Day Register and observing Isolation Protocols) for each team will act as the "Ball-Persons" during each Match.
- 11.4.2. One Ball-Person must stand on each side of the field wearing his Club's polo/jacket.
- 11.4.3. The Ball-Person must place the ball on the line if the ball is kicked into touch.
- 11.4.4. Each Ball-Person must clean the Match Balls in accordance with Rule 11.3.
- 11.4.5. Ball-Persons must not engage in barracking, coaching or issuing messages or instructions to Players or approach Match Officials for any matter unrelated to their tasks under this Rule.

11.5. Kicking-Tees

- 11.5.1. Kicking tees are to be managed by the three on-field trainers at all times.

11.6. Sideline Injury Surveillance (SIS)

- 11.6.1. The Sideline Injury Surveillance (SIS) tent and facility may be located in the Clean Zone, subject to the direction of the NRL.
- 11.6.2. The positioning of the SIS tent will allow for Club Medical Officers to request and review SIS footage whilst observing social distancing from the SIS operator.

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- 11.6.3. Requests from the Club Medical Officer to the Injury Surveillance Bunker must be communicated through the SIS operator/assistant. Headsets will not be available.

11.7. Numbers on field

- 11.7.1. Home Clubs are permitted to use the templates outlined in the Ops Manual
- 11.7.2. For venues with multiple matches across the weekend, we suggest following the same principal if this is practical. If not, please ask the NRL for approval of what colours you are planning on using.

11.8. Optional Interclub Scrimmage

- 11.8.1. Interclub Scrimmages are permitted in accordance with the guidelines issued by the NRL from time to time.

11.9. Match-Day Presentation Elements

- 11.9.1. Match-Day Presentation Elements will be permitted in accordance with the guidelines issued by the NRL from time to time.

12. During Play

12.1. Coin Toss

- 12.1.1. Coin toss will be facilitated one hour before kick-off as per normal. The coin should be sanitised and hands sanitised after.

12.2. Interchange Process

- 12.2.1. The following interchange process will be that set out in the 2020 NRL Operations Manual, with the following modifications:
- a. Interchange cards must be sanitised prior to and following each Match;
 - b. Each Club's Biosecurity Liaison Officer shall act as Interchange Official for each Club. The Biosecurity Liaison Officer will wear disposable gloves whilst performing this role.

12.3. Water Bottles

- 12.3.1. Wherever possible, Players must use their own individual water bottles and other receptacles during Matches.
- 12.3.2. Water bottles should be clearly marked so that Players can easily identify their bottle.

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- 12.3.3. Where a trainer administers water to a Player from a single drink bottle during the run of play for hydration purposes, the water must be squirted directly into the Player's mouth without any direct contact between the water bottle and the Player's mouth. The lid and spout of the bottle must be sanitised after each use.

12.4. Team support staff

- 12.4.1. Team support staff (such as trainers) should clean their hands (wipes or sanitiser) during the Match before and after coming into contact with a Player(s).

12.5. Post-Match FOP Training/Recovery is not permitted

- 12.5.1. Players, Club Officials and Match Officials are not permitted to use the field of play for training or recovery purposes after a Match.
- 12.5.2. This prohibition will be regularly reviewed by the NRL.

12.6. Post-Match Gatherings

- 12.6.1. Informal gatherings outside of the Match-Day Venue between Players, Club Officials and persons who are not observing Isolation Protocols are not permitted and gatherings should take place only in accordance with the Apollo Club and Player Protocols (e.g. as visitors at a Player or Club Officials' residence).
- 12.6.2. Players, Club Officials and others observing Isolation Protocols must maintain social distancing from members of the public at all times when leaving the Match-Day Venue. Autographs, selfies and other fan interactions requiring close contact are not permitted.

13. Medical

13.1. Club Doctors

- 13.1.1. Each Club must provide a Chief Club Medical Officer (CMO) for each Match.
- 13.1.2. The Home Club must provide a Second Match-Day Doctor. This doctor will act as a shared resource between the two teams if the away team does not provide their own Assistant CMO (second doctor).
- 13.1.3. The away team has the option to also provide their own Assistant CMO (second doctor).
- 13.1.4. The Second Match-Day Doctor is not required to be on Isolation Protocols, but must wear ground shoes, tracksuit, N95 mask, double disposable gloves and

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eye protection as required by NRL Medical (please refer to the Apollo Medical Handbook for further details).

13.2. Where a COVID-19 positive is detected/suspected

- 13.2.1. Refer to the Incident Response Plan in the Appendix.
- 13.2.2. Medical staff should note the implementation of screening measures are designed to reduce the risk that sudden sickness presenting once inside the venue is likely to be COVID-19 related. Where a Player presents with stress reaction symptoms (e.g. performance anxiety or anticipatory autonomic reaction – e.g. vomiting, shortness of breath, vasovagal reaction) after entering the Clean Zone they should be escorted by medical personnel to a private area of the dressing rooms for assessment. Where symptoms resolve quickly as would be expected in a stress/anxiety response a player is most likely to return immediately to pre-match preparation or play. If symptoms persist then the Player will undergo further assessment. Preparations or play is not required to stop unless the attending doctor is convinced the case may represent a symptomatic COVID-19 case or other significant risk to players or officials. A second opinion should be sought from the 2nd doctor where there is doubt. If there are persistent concerns, the attending team doctor and 2nd doctor is to discuss with the NRL Match-Day Co-ordinator first with the NRL Head of Football regarding their findings and a decision made. Specialist advisers to the Apollo project may also be urgently consulted by telephone or video-teleconference to assist with any final decision.

13.3. Player Dedicated Paramedics & Ambulance

- 13.3.1. Private paramedics or state-based paramedics (including at least one Intensive care paramedic) as per normal protocols within 2020 NRL Operations Manual.
- 13.3.2. Paramedics must adhere to NRL screening protocols on arrival to the venue and enter through the Venue Zone Assessment Point.
- 13.3.3. Paramedics will be stationed with their equipment/medications in the Clean Zone area (wearing appropriate PPE and observing entry requirements for the Clean Zone) with adequate view of the playing surface and only enter the field of play or medical rooms when required for emergencies and called by the CMOs using prearranged hand/arm gestures or other methods as agreed to prior to each match
- 13.3.4. Paramedics must observe all of their own company/state service policies with regards to PPE including the use of eye protection, gloves and facemasks (+/- gowns or other protective outerwear)
- 13.3.5. Paramedics should wear appropriate clean company/state service uniforms

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- 13.3.6. Paramedics may utilise the ground MediCab if they are appropriately qualified to drive it, are satisfied with its working status and the ground has performed the appropriate cleaning protocols for it
- 13.3.7. Potential shortages of essential emergency medications (e.g. adrenaline) are reported; all private/state paramedics companies must confirm that they have adequate supply for emergencies
- 13.3.8. State Ambulance for transport availability when required as per current protocols.
- 13.3.9. Ambulance, Paramedics and Medical Staff may access the Clean Zone as required to attend to a serious injury. When accessing the Clean Zone personnel must wear surgical mask, safety goggles and disposable gloves. Medical staff may wear higher levels of protection if they deem that the situation requires it.

13.4. Head Injury Assessment

- 13.4.1. The normal Head Injury Assessment procedures from the 2020 NRL Operations Manual will be followed, subject to the following amendments:
 - a. CSx/SCAT5 assessments: There should be no exchange of the device (phone/iPad/tablet) being used by the CMO to the Player when undertaking these assessments at this time.
 - b. CMOs should consider wear appropriate PPE (e.g. surgical masks) when conducting any assessments in close proximity to Players' faces.

14. Officiating

14.1. Match-Officials

- 14.1.1. The Referee Technical Support person (observing Isolation Protocols) must access the Clean Zone via the Assessment Point in Rule 7.4.
- 14.1.2. Following the completion of the Match, Match Officials may remain on the field to complete recovery practices and cool down. Communications vests may be removed on-field and given to the Referee Technical Support person.

14.2. Match Day Coach

- 14.2.1. The Match Day Coach shall remain in the Match Day Coach's Box for the duration of the Match.
- 14.2.2. The Match Day Coach must not enter the Match-Officials changing rooms on Match Day.

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- 14.2.3. Any communications between the Match Day Coach and on-field Match-Officials shall occur using the communications equipment provided.

14.3. Physios

- 14.3.1. The Match-Officials may utilise the services of their regular physiotherapists (one per match) at NRL matches with the following provisions:
- a. Physiotherapists used must have their practices screened by the NRL independent medical Independent Medical Officer
 - b. The match officials' physiotherapist must self-screen with game day temperature, symptom and household health check (as per the Apollo Daily symptom checklist). A "Daily Health Confirmation for Match Day" single sheet document is available. The physiotherapist will complete this, keep a record and present this on arrival at the venue. The symptoms are listed as per the Apollo Medical Handbook.
 - c. The physiotherapist is not required to follow the ongoing daily screening of squad members but must comply with current State and Territory Government COVID-19 health guidelines.
 - d. The physiotherapist must complete the Australian Government's online training module on COVID-19 infection control prior attending any matches. The training module can be accessed at:
 - e. <http://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-infection-control-training> and the NRL General Manager of Elite Officiating must keep a record of the completion of the training module by each Match-Official physiotherapist.
 - f. The physiotherapist will be able to work at the match using the following PPE (personal protective equipment) and attire:
 - g. N95 face mask (these have a 3-hour functional capacity). These must be worn at all times whilst in the clean zone and treating Match-Officials.
 - h. Eye protection when treating Match-Officials.
 - i. Double gloving except when performing massage or taping duties (with removal and replacement of outer layer following personal contact with each Match-Official).
 - j. Shoes that are cleaned on entry to the "clean" zone using NRL supplied wipes or alternatively, change into "clean" ground shoes.
 - k. Cleaned outer attire, which has been washed and dedicated for game day. This may be in the form of an NRL Match-Official's tracksuit which may cover lighter layered clothing.

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- i. Match-Officials must wear a surgical face mask whilst being treated by the physiotherapist for massage, taping and assessment of injuries.

14.3.2. Game Day Process for the referees' physiotherapist

- a. Upon arrival to the venue the Match-Officials' Physiotherapist will contact the appointed ground manager by telephone.
- b. An 'NRL Screener' will meet the physiotherapist at the assessment point. The physiotherapist will have their completed "Daily Health confirmation for Match Day" document successfully completed. This can be sent by SMS, email or a hard copy may be presented at that time. This is a required part of the NRL records for that Match.
- c. The physiotherapist will have their temperature checked by the designated 'NRL Screener'.
- d. On entry to the clean zone, the physiotherapist would remove their outside shoes, put on the outer attire and ground shoes, with hand sanitation/washing before and after. Alternatively, they can wear the same pair of shoes after thorough cleaning using the NRL provided sanitising wipes. The N95 mask would be fitted and also double gloves worn.
- e. The physiotherapist will be seated in the proximity of the players' race (tunnel) in the "clean zone" or wherever the ground manager believes appropriate with appropriate social distancing from the teams enforced (recommended at least 5 m from either team bench to avoid any contact with either team's players and staff).
- f. The removal of ground outer attire, PPE and shoes (if applicable) will be on exit of the clean zone.

- 14.3.3. The Home Team Club physiotherapist will be requested to apply strapping required by Match-Officials where the location of the Match does not allow for the presence of the Match-Official physiotherapist or the Match-Official physiotherapist is unable to attend for any other reason.

14.4. Timekeepers

- 14.4.1. Timekeepers are not required to comply with Isolation Protocols.
- 14.4.2. Timekeepers will operate from an area within the Venue Zone.

15. Broadcast Operations

15.1. Guiding Principle: Essential access only to the Clean Zone

- 15.1.1. The Clean Zone at the Match-Day Venue is an extension of clean/controlled areas established across other operational elements of the NRL (for example, each Club's Training Facility). Most of the personnel (Players, Club Officials etc) who are present in the Clean Zone are observing comprehensive Isolation Protocols.
- 15.1.2. It is critical that broadcast personnel who are not observing Isolation Protocols but require access to the Clean Zone for essential operational reasons observe all requirements for entry set out in Rule 7.12.
- 15.1.3. Broadcast personnel requiring essential access must be identified on the Match-Day Register as submitted in Rule 5.1 to allow for approval prior to Match-Day. Ad hoc requests must be kept to a minimum and reserved for emergency/unexpected situations as approval for access may take time.
- 15.1.4. Requested access which is deemed non-essential by the NRL will **not be permitted**. This is for the safety of all working in the Match-Day environment and to protect the competition as a whole.

15.2. Placement of Broadcast Equipment

- 15.2.1. Broadcast equipment must be placed as indicated on the Match-Day Venue Plan.
- 15.2.2. Venue Zone demarcation to include up to LED fence line at venues, where possible. NRL will consider each venue on a case-by-case basis. In the event the demarcation up to the LED fence is not possible, those that require field access to undertake their broadcast role will need to be enter the Clean Zone as set out in Rule 7.12.
- 15.2.3. A dedicated Venue Entry Point will be implemented for all working staff including broadcast personnel to access the Venue (match day). This will be managed by the Home Club and Venue personnel. 2020 NRL Telstra Premiership accreditation pass will be required to access the venue.
- 15.2.4. All camera equipment is to be sanitised once installed at the venue. If production equipment can remain in a venue as opposed to being bumped in and out each week, this is encouraged.

15.3. Broadcast Commentary/Hosting

- 15.3.1. Hosting positions may be available in designated areas within the Clean Zone. Requests for a hosting position within the Clean Zone must be submitted to the NRL at least three (3) days prior to the Match. If approved, the NRL will establish a set hosting position with sufficient distancing from Players, Club

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Officials and Match-Officials. This will be managed on a case-by-case basis, and will be location and venue specific. The NRL will advise Fox Sports of a pre-game interview area at simulcast matches.

If approved, the relevant broadcast partner must comply with any specific requirements as notified by the NRL, this may include timings and the specific positioning of any hosting position of

- 15.3.2. Sideline Commentary Positions will be positioned in the Venue Zone. The NRL will work with each broadcast partner to ensure an appropriate area in the Venue Zone is secured for sideline commentary..
- 15.3.3. All personnel entering the Clean Zone must follow the process set out in Rule 7.12 above.

15.4. Bump In

- 15.4.1. Host broadcaster may install their equipment in venue (including in the Clean Zone) with no restriction up until 3 hours 45 minutes prior to kick off (**Clean Zone Period**). This will allow for suitable cleaning between the commencement of the Clean Zone Period and player arrival in the Clean Zone.
- 15.4.2. Complete bump-in is to be completed by no later than 2 hours prior to scheduled kick off.
- 15.4.3. Once the Clean Zone Period is in effect a broadcast staff member who enters the Clean Zone are unable to go back and forth between zones. NRL will determine a Clean Zone bathroom for use by Clean Zone personnel.

15.5. Broadcast Personnel

- 15.5.1. Host broadcaster to nominate to NRL as part of Match Day Register:
 - a. Venue Zone:
 - i. All staff who will require access to the Venue Zone (only).
 - b. Clean Zone:
 - i. All personnel who will require access to the Clean Zone which may include (depending on Match-Day Venue composition):
 - A. Floor Manager (1);
 - B. On field camera operators including portable (+ cable runner) and Steadicam (+ spotter);
 - C. Corner post cameramen (4) if this area is in the Clean Zone at the Match-Day Venue;

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- D. Cable/Sound technicians (up to 2 per sideline, may be dependent on jurisdiction), if required;
- 15.5.2. Access to the Clean Zone is at the discretion of the NRL and requires the prior approval of the NRL Match-Day Co-ordinator.
- 15.5.3. Host broadcaster is encouraged to install alternative audio/sound in the Venue Zone where possible to limit the requirement for Cable/Sound technicians in the Clean Zone.
- 15.5.4. Those approved to access the Clean Zone will be provided with an additional ACR supplementary device for entry.
- 15.5.5. Procedures will be issued to broadcast partners which are to be strictly adhered to for those broadcast personnel who are to access the Clean Zone.
- 15.5.6. On-field cameramen may access the field of play only to capture try scorers and goal kicks. Cameramen must maintain a minimum distance of **3m (5m in Victoria)** from any Player or Match Official when accessing the field of play. No shots of cameramen on the field of play are permitted for broadcast.
- 15.6. Bump Out**
- 15.6.1. Host broadcaster can commence bump-out immediately in the Venue Zone.
- 15.6.2. Host broadcaster can only commence bump-out in the field of play Clean Zone after all Players and Club staff have exited the field of play.
- 15.6.3. Host broadcaster can only commence bump-out in any tunnel or dressing room once all Players and Club Staff have departed the venue. The NRL may allow earlier access if all personnel performing bump-out operations are able to maintain a minimum of 2 metres distance from any remaining Player, Club or Match Official.
- 15.7. No access to dressing rooms or tunnel**
- 15.7.1. There is no access to the dressing rooms or tunnel for any reason after three hours 45 minutes prior to kick off.
- 15.7.2. The team song will be captured on the dressing room cameras. The Biosecurity Liaison Officer will liaise with the broadcast floor manager to arrange audio capture of the team song observing NRL requirements.
- 15.8. Cameramen/Audio Capture**
- 15.8.1. All cameramen in the Venue Zone to stay a minimum of two metres from all players, coaches, club personnel and match officials. Those with access to the Clean Zone are to avoid, where possible, being any closer than two metres to players, coaches, club personnel and match officials.

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- 15.8.2. No cable is to run through tunnels unless there is no other option and in which case the cable must be installed at least five hours before scheduled kick off and all cables must be sanitised.
- 15.8.3. Access routes from the OB Compound to other areas in the Venue Zone are to avoid the Clean Zone entirely. Only broadcast personnel who have Venue Access can enter the broadcast compound. No guests will be allowed in the broadcast compound or commentary boxes.

15.9. Post-Match Interviews

- 15.9.1. Post-Match interviews will take place in a pre-determined position at each venue which will be confirmed by the NRL. Only a sanitised microphone stand in a pre-determined position or a boom pole will be allowed (no ear pieces, headphones, clip on microphones). A wet weather location will also be considered.

15.10. Radio sideline

- 15.10.1. Radio sideline positions will be positioned in the Venue Zone. Post-Match radio interviews will take place in a pre-determined position at each venue which will be confirmed by the NRL. Only a sanitised microphone stand in a pre-determined position or a boom pole will be allowed (no ear pieces, headphones, clip on microphones). A wet weather location will also be considered.

15.11. Referee Audio

- 15.11.1. MTA will supply the referee microphones. The broadcasters will still use their own receivers to pick up the Referee microphones. Broadcast technician to arrange interconnections prior to five hours before scheduled kick off.

15.12. Post-Match Press Conference

- 15.12.1. Post-match press conferences will take place in a suitable room (i.e. big enough to allow social distancing requirements) which will be easily accessible by coaches. Press Conference room will be divided into Clean (Coach) and Venue Zones (Media). Cameras to be pre-set (where possible).
- 15.12.2. All Press Conferences must be held in facilities large enough to accommodate 1 person per 4 square metre.

15.13. Match Vision

- 15.13.1. Broadcasters Partners may not choose to provide the end-on camera during Matches. In this situation, Clubs may use a Club Official in the Venue Zone to capture the end-on angle with their own equipment on the strict condition that this footage is used only for coaching and analysis purposes.

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- 15.13.2. Club Officials performing this role who are on the Club's Apollo Protocol Register observing Isolation Protocols shall observe the requirements in Rule 7.9.7 and 7.9.8 for access to the Venue Zone whilst on Isolation Protocols. Club Officials on the Club's Match-Day Register for access to the Clean Zone must not performed this role.
 - 15.13.3. Clubs should note that the NRL's travel policy will not be amended to accommodate the additional Club Official.
 - 15.13.4. For Matches where Fox Sports is the Broadcast Partner, the angle of Eagle Cam will be reduced. Clubs wishing to utilise a regular Eagle Cam must contact the NRL to discuss options.
- 15.14. Match-Day Management Plan**
- 15.14.1. NRL will issue a Match Day Management Plan to include key contacts (NRL & Networks), CAD of Clean/Venue Zones (to include camera positions), allocation of spaces including interview positions and press conferences, and match day meeting time/point.

16. Media

16.1. No access to Clean Zone

- 16.1.1. Media will not be permitted access to the Clean Zone (with the exception of Print Photographers who may access the field of play area in accordance with Rule 16.3).

16.2. Match Day Attendance

- 16.2.1. Entry and exit for all attending media will be via the Venue Zone Access point (an alternative entry point to the Player/Club staff entry).
- 16.2.2. Media will be accommodated in allocated media facilities in the Venue Zone, away from Club staff/players.
- 16.2.3. Media must remain a minimum of 1.5 metres away from Players, Coaching staff and other Club officials at all times.
- 16.2.4. Media Accreditation should be managed by Clubs as per normal arrangements for NRL Telstra Premiership fixtures. Clubs should provide the NRL Media Department with a list of registered and approved Media attending.
- 16.2.5. Media not approved and registered will not be allowed entry into venues.

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16.3. Print Photographers

- 16.3.1. Up to a maximum of four print photographers will be approved by the NRL media department and will be permitted into venues on Match Days. The exact number of photographers permitted access may vary between jurisdictions. .
- 16.3.2. Print photographers will be allocated positions by NRL which may be within the Clean Zone around the field-of-play. Where photographers are positioned within the Clean Zone, they must comply with the access requirements of Rule 7.12.2 (including wearing all required Personal Protective Equipment).

16.4. Media access – Match-day

- 16.4.1. Approved and accredited broadcast staff and up to four still photographers may be permitted on the field of play.
- 16.4.2. No media will be permitted inside dressing rooms or the tunnel area.
- 16.4.3. Approved and accredited broadcast staff can facilitate post and pre game interviews outside on the field of play. These staff must remain a minimum 1.5 metres from Players.

16.5. Post-match

- 16.5.1. Post-match press conferences will take place in a suitable room (i.e. big enough to allow social distancing requirements), easily accessible by coaches. Press Conference room will be divided into Clean (Coach) and Venue (Media). Cameras to be pre-set (where possible).
- 16.5.2. Journalists must remain behind the marked area in the media conference room or behind the fence perimeter of the stadium and minimum 1.5 metres from coaches and players.
- 16.5.3. All media must observe social distancing (minimum 1.5m) at all times, especially when in a group environment (press-conference etc).
- 16.5.4. All Press Conferences must be held in facilities large enough to accommodate 1 person per 4 square metres. Backdrops/signage must either be bumped in prior to the clean zone designations commencing (four hours pre-kick off) or be installed by a Club official who has access to the clean zone areas.
- 16.5.5. Post-match interviews with Players are to be conducted in the allocated Media Conference room or alternatively outside, after Broadcast commitments and Official Press Conferences and in a manner which complies with social distancing and the separation of Venue Zone and Clean Zone personnel.
- 16.5.6. All players should be available to speak to media if requested, as per current Media Rules

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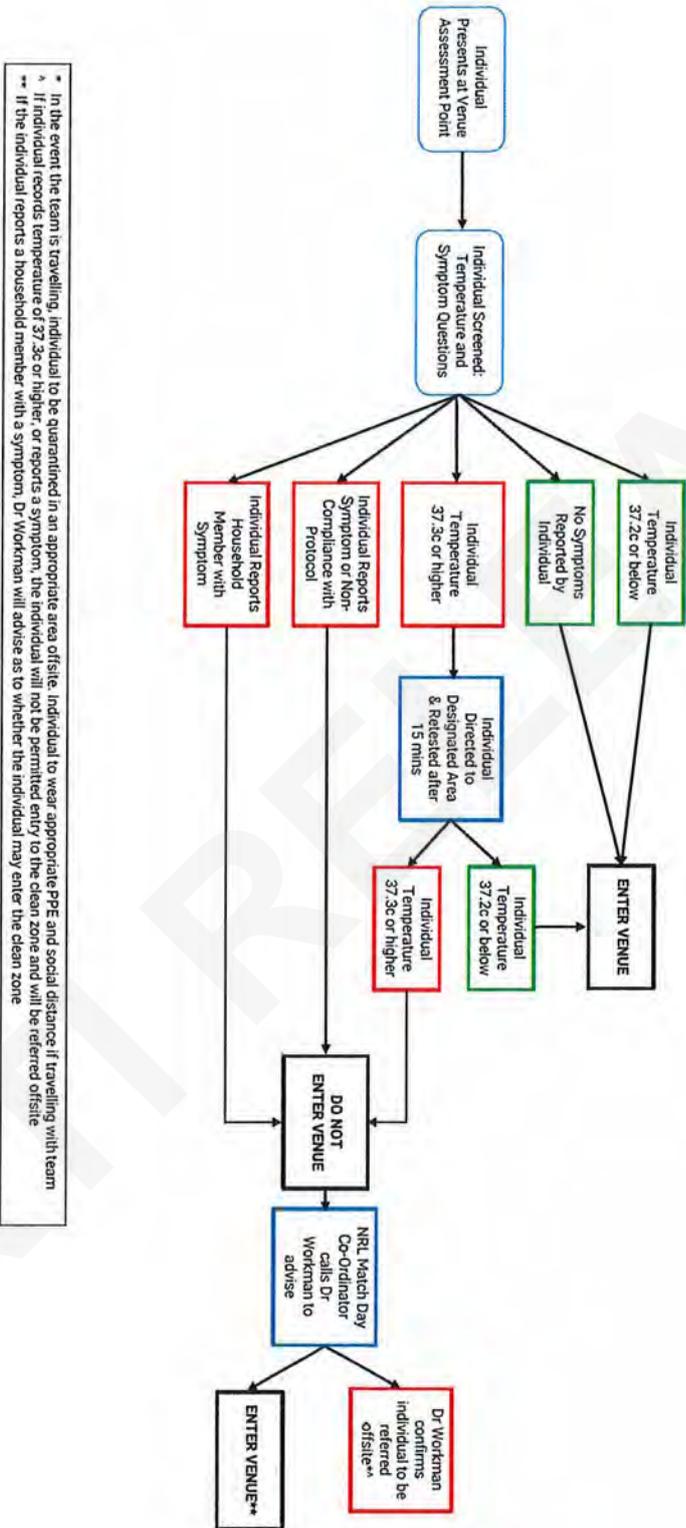
- 16.5.7. Players can also be arranged to speak to print journalists on mobile phone if possible
- 16.5.8. Media and Club media managers will be distributed with audio from official game day press conferences.

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Appendix: Assessment Process

Process Flow at Venue



* In the event the team is travelling, individual to be quarantined in an appropriate area offsite. Individual to wear appropriate PPE and social distance if travelling with team
 * If individual records temperature of 37.3c or higher, or reports a symptom, the individual will not be permitted entry to the clean zone and will be referred offsite
 ** If the individual reports a household member with a symptom, Dr Workman will advise as to whether the individual may enter the clean zone



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Appendix: Match-Day Schedule

 Match Day Schedule - Key Event Timings			
Round / Date	Kick Off Time	Game	Venue
6 / Friday 19th June	6.00pm	Rabbitohs v Warriors	Bankwest Stadium
Match Day			
Hours/Minutes pre/post KO	Time of day	Activity	Responsibility
KO -10 hours	8.00am	Venue Zone Vehicle Entry Operational (NB: Time may vary)	Security
KO -8 hours	10.00am	Venue Zone Entry Open for Staff, Contractors	Security
KO -3 hours 45 minutes	2.15pm	Clean Zone Partial Activation enforced to allow for final clean of the areas/spaces	NRL/Club Events
		Final pre-clean of Clean Zone commences	Cleaners
		Grounds staff - FOP Preparation complete	Venue Management
		Broadcast Production Install in Clean Zone Complete	Broadcast
KO -3 hours 15 minutes	2.45pm	Final Pre Event clean complete	Cleaners
		Clean Zone Full Activation enforced	Security / NRL
		Assessment Area Operational	NRL / Club Football / Security
		Venue Clean Zone Entry Open for Players, Match Officials, others adhering to Protocols	Security
KO -2 hours	4.00pm	FOP Sign Off	Ground Manager
		Press Box Open	Club/NRL Media
		Team arrivals at the Stadium (Team bus or Cars) (NB: Will vary pending travel schedules)	NRL / Club Football
KO -1.5 hours	4.30pm	Match Officials arrive at the Stadium	NRL / Club Football
		Match Day Medical Staff arrive at the Stadium	NRL / Club Football
KO -1 hour	5.00pm	Match Day Player dedicated paramedics arrive at the Stadium	NRL / Club Football
		Drug Test Draw	ASADA / Team Rep
KO -1 hour	5.00pm	Coin Toss	Ground Manager / Match Referee
KO -40 minutes	5.20pm	Teams warm up on FOP commences	Club Football rep
KO -10 minutes	5.50pm	Teams warm up on FOP concludes	Club Football rep
KO -4 minutes	5.56pm	Two minute Bell	Ground Manager
KO -2 minutes	5.58pm	Away team enters Field of Play	Ground Manager
KO -1 minutes	5.59pm	Home team enters Field of Play	Ground Manager
0:00:00	6.00pm	KICK OFF - RABBITOHS V WARRIORS	Ground Manager / Match Referee
KO +45 minutes (approx)	6.45pm	HALF TIME (approx) - 14 minutes	Match Referee
KO +59 minutes (approx)	6.59pm	Teams return to field of play	Ground Manager
KO +60 minutes (approx)	7.00pm	SECOND HALF COMMENCES (approx)	Ground Manager / Match Referee
KO +100 minutes (approx)	7.40pm	FULL TIME (approx)	Match Referee
Full Time +25 minutes	8.05pm	Losing Coach Press Conference	Club/NRL Media Ops
Full Time +35 minutes	8.15pm	Winning Coach Press Conference	Club/NRL Media Ops
Full Time +1.5 hours	9.10pm	Teams depart Stadium	NRL / Club Football
Full Time +2.5 hours	10.10pm	Venue Close	Security

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NRL APOLLO CLUB PROTOCOL
QUEENSLAND



NRL: Apollo Club Protocol

Queensland

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NRL APOLLO CLUB PROTOCOL QUEENSLAND

1. Preliminary

1.1. Purpose & Enforcement

- 1.1.1. The Apollo Protocols are issued as an enforceable Guideline to the *NRL Rules*.
- 1.1.2. The Apollo Protocols are intended to regulate the conduct of Clubs, Club Officials, Match Officials and Players in the process of re-starting and conducting the 2020 NRL Competition. The Apollo Protocols serve as the NRL's Professional Sporting Code COVIDSafe Plan.
- 1.1.3. The Apollo Protocols includes this Apollo Club Protocol, the Apollo Player Protocol and the Apollo Match-Day Protocol and other associated materials described as forming part of the Apollo Protocols.
- 1.1.4. The Protocols will be regularly reviewed for effectiveness and alignment with new public health advice.
- 1.1.5. A breach of any of the provisions of the Apollo Protocols may be enforced by the imposition of a penalty or penalties pursuant to Part 2 of the NRL Rules if a contravention of any of these provisions is found to have occurred.
- 1.1.6. Where any breach proceedings are commenced in relation to an alleged breach of this Protocol, the Player or Club Official shall immediately be provisionally suspended from having access to secure areas under this Protocol (including each Club's Training Facility and Match-Day Facilities) unless expressly permitted by the NRL.

1.1.7. Any breach to quarantine requirements must be immediately reported to the NRL. The NRL will report the breach to Queensland Health for investigation. Queensland Health and/or Queensland Police may take enforcement action where there is non-compliance.

- 1.1.8. For clarity, a reference in this document to "this Protocol" is a reference to the Apollo Club Protocol, unless otherwise indicated.

1.2. Who must comply with this Protocol

- 1.2.1. The Apollo Club Protocol establishes a controlled environment in which training and matches can occur.
- 1.2.2. Players and Club Officials who are seeking to access Club premises, training and match-day in secure areas must observe this Protocol.

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- 1.2.3. Club staff who are not required to have access to these personnel or secure premises are not required to comply with this Protocol, however they must not have in-person contact with those Players and Club Officials complying with this Protocol, unless in the manner expressly provided below. Specific exemptions to this Rule 1.2.3 may be made by the NRL in order to facilitate the orderly conduct of Match-Day activities in certain venues.
- 1.2.4. For convenience in this Protocol, "Players" and "Club Officials" refers to those Players and Club Officials who have agreed to be bound by this Protocol and are entered on the Club's Apollo Protocol Register (see below).
- 1.2.5. Compliance with these Protocols will be actively monitored by the NRL, including through use of compliance officers and the NRL Integrity & Compliance Unit. Compliance will also be monitored by relevant State Government authorities.
- 1.2.6. All Players and Club Officials, whether observing this Protocol or not, must do all things necessary to give effect to it and ensure that they are not breached.

1.3. Apollo Protocol Register

- 1.3.1. Each Club must keep a register of the persons who are complying with these Protocols (the **Apollo Protocol Register**), including the date on which they commenced compliance. Contact details (name, address, phone number, email address) must be collected for all persons complying with the Protocols. The Apollo Protocol Register must also describe how the Player or Club Official will quarantine and confirm that adequate education and guidance is provided to the person about how to implement effective quarantine arrangements. These details will be kept by the NRL for 56 days after the expiration of the Protocols for the purposes of contact-tracing. A pro forma of the Apollo Protocol Register appears in the Appendix.
- 1.3.2. Only persons who are listed on the Apollo Protocol Register and actively complying with this Protocol shall be permitted to access the Training Facility and Match-Day (see below). When persons enter the Training Facility or Match Day venue the date and time period of their visit must be recorded.
- 1.3.3. Each Club must ensure that the NRL Football Department and NRL Chief Medical Officer are provided with an up-to-date copy of the Club's Apollo Protocol Register, and any additions or removals of personnel from the Register must be advised immediately.
- 1.3.4. Each Club's Apollo Protocol Register is at the time that this protocol is released limited to:
- a. A maximum of **55 person** for access to the Training Facility, comprising:
 - i. 36 Players; and

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- ii. 19 Club Officials, including the Chief Club Medical Officer¹ and a club masseuse²;
 - b. A maximum of 55 persons for access to Match-Day, comprising:
 - i. 21 Selected Players;
 - ii. Up to 13 Club Officials essential for Match-Day activities;
 - iii. Up to 15 back-up Players (who may be utilised in accordance with the provisions of the 2020 NRL Operations Manual and the Apollo Match-Day Protocol);
 - iv. up to 6 back-up Club Officials; and
 - v. An additional 2nd doctor (ACMO) for one or both clubs (as a permissible 56th person).
- 1.3.5. The composition and size of the Apollo Protocol Register may change from time to time on the advice of the Project Apollo specialist advisers, and due to changes in COVID-19 circumstances in Australia or elsewhere. These changes, subject to the consent of relevant regulatory bodies, will be released as interim protocol update for a specified period of time and supersede the relevant sections (i.e. 1.3.4).

1.4. Club Apollo Co-ordinator

- 1.4.1. Every Club must appoint a Club Official on its Apollo Protocol Register to act as a single point of contact (**Apollo Co-ordinator**) to liaise with NRL and provide such information as is required by NRL concerning his or her Club's obligations under this Protocol are being observed.

1.5. Applications for Exemptions under this Protocol

- 1.5.1. Any Player, Club Official or Club seeking exemption from compliance with one or more provisions of this Protocol must apply through their Club to the Project Apollo team through the Project Apollo Incident Response Coordinator (AIRC).
- 1.5.2. Any application for exemption must:
 - a. Be in writing;
 - b. Identify the provision(s) of the Protocol from which exemption is sought;

¹ Or such other Club Medical Officer as has been approved by NRL, noting that the Chief Club Medical Officer must be involved in all important medical decisions.

² A Club may choose to have more than one masseuse but any additional masseuses will need to be part of the allocated group of officials.

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- c. Provide full reasons for the request for exemption, including supporting medical or other information where necessary.
- 1.5.3. Upon receipt of an application for exemption, the Head of Football:
- a. Will consider the application, including if necessary seeking the input of the Apollo Committee, NRL Medical or such other expert/individual as the Head of Football may consider necessary;
 - b. Take into consideration the requirements of the relevant Government authorities and where necessary consult the State's Chief Health Officer;
 - c. Advise the applicant in writing, through his or her Club, as to whether the application is approved in part or in full, denied or if other alternative arrangements are acceptable to NRL.
- 1.5.4. For the avoidance of doubt, any Player, Club Official or Club seeking an exemption under this Protocol must continue to comply with all aspects of the Protocol until in receipt of a written exemption from the NRL Head of Football.

2. Prevention & Education

2.1. General

- 2.1.1. The NRL's biosecurity strategy is based around prevention of transmission of coronavirus. Any vaccination or medication to treat COVID-19 may be 12 months away or more, and it is critical that Clubs, Players and Club Officials strictly observe the procedures in this Protocol around:
- a. Strict hygiene;
 - b. Temperature screening;
 - c. Symptom monitoring;
 - d. Home isolation;
 - e. Regular testing; and
 - f. Social distancing.
- 2.1.2. Below are key messages around hygiene procedures. For a full description of hygiene protocols, refer to the Apollo Medical Handbook in the Appendices to this Protocol.



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2.2. Club Education & Training

2.2.1. Clubs must provide its Players and Club Officials with regular and continuing education and training on hygiene processes and reducing the risk of contraction/transmission of coronavirus. The content of this education must be confirmed with the Chief Club Medical Officer prior to dissemination.

2.2.2. In addition to the above, all Club Officials must complete the Australian Government's online training module on COVID-19 infection control prior to the commencement of training. The training module can be accessed at:

<http://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-infection-control-training>

2.2.3. Each Club must keep a record of the completion of the training module by each Club Official.

2.2.4. Clubs must undertake an education session with its Players, Club Officials and any family members who are required to undertake home or hotel quarantine to ensure they understand their obligations.

2.3. Personal Hygiene Procedures

2.3.1. Coronavirus is most easily spread by breathing in droplets from someone coughing or sneezing, or by touching a contaminated surface and then touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

2.3.2. Persons can best protect against this by:

- a. Washing hands properly and often, with soap and water;
- b. Using alcohol-based hand sanitiser when hand washing is unavailable;
- c. Covering sneezes and coughs with the elbow or a tissue, then washing or sanitising hands and discarding the tissue.

2.3.3. Players and Club Officials must wash/sanitise hands:

- a. Before and after eating
- b. Before and after using the bathroom;
- c. After training or matches
- d. Between use of gym equipment
- e. after touching any surface in a public space or at Club premise, avoiding direct skin contact wherever possible with high contact surfaces like lift buttons, door handles, light switches etc.