

From: [Jeannette Young](#)
To: [Kate Coehn](#)
Subject: Re: Relocation of 11 NRL teams to Queensland
Date: Monday, 12 July 2021 7:56:43 AM

Perfect thank you Kate

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Kate Coehn [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 7:53:58 AM
To: Jeannette Young [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Relocation of 11 NRL teams to Queensland

Hi Jeannette

Today we should have finalised reviewing the NRL highest level of protocols to be sent to you for approval. They are already operating under these in other states.

In addition, I will attend the meeting DG Lee has set up and just wanted your opinion on the requirement for a quarantine management plan for the 11 NSW teams relocating to QLD. Given they have all been and live in the COVID hotspots in NSW (excl NZ Warriors but unclear where they have been based) I was proposing that in addition to the protocols mentioned above they should be under 14 days quarantine style arrangements in the hotels they are using with the appropriate security etc with exemptions to train and play matches. Once the 14 days is up they can continue then to operate under the NRL protocols as long as they don't leave QLD

Is this in line with your thinking?

Thanks

Kate

From: Jeannette Young [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 11 July 2021 5:24 PM
To: LEE John [REDACTED]@dtis.qld.gov.au>; Steve Gollschewski [REDACTED]@police.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Kate Coehn [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; SLY Andrew [REDACTED]@dtis.qld.gov.au>; ANDERSON Chad [REDACTED]@dtis.qld.gov.au>; EFFENDY Vonny [REDACTED]@dtis.qld.gov.au>; Ben Marczyk [REDACTED]@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; John Persley [REDACTED]@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Jim Murphy [REDACTED]@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Relocation of 11 NRL teams to Queensland

Happy to meet with you John. My diary currently has a 730am briefing on Covid with the Minister and others, followed by an 830am precabinet briefing with the minister, then a 9am briefing with the Premier that may or may not be followed by media depending on what is happening

It might be best to speak to Kate Coehn who I know has been working on a plan for the NRL and also one for the AFL. She is across both. I don't see that there are any problems but of course I am happy to work through any issues that may be of concern.

There may be a bit of time before the 830 am meeting but we will probably go straight from one meeting into the next.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: LEE John <[REDACTED]@dtis.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, July 11, 2021 4:47:30 PM
To: Jeannette Young <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Steve Gollschewski [REDACTED]@police.qld.gov.au>

Cc: Kate Coehn <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; SLY Andrew <[REDACTED]@dtis.qld.gov.au>; ANDERSON Chad <[REDACTED]@dtis.qld.gov.au>; EFFENDY Vonny <[REDACTED]@dtis.qld.gov.au>; Ben Marczyk <[REDACTED]@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; John Persley <[REDACTED]@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Jim Murphy <[REDACTED]@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Relocation of 11 NRL teams to Queensland

This email originated from outside Queensland Health. DO NOT click on any links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dr Young and Deputy Commissioner,

With the evolving situation in NSW, we have been approached this afternoon by the NRL seeking advice on relocating all 11 NSW based NRL teams (including the NZ Warriors) to QLD for the foreseeable future of the competition.

At a very high level, the NRL is proposing to establish three exclusive use quarantine hotels in South East Queensland to transition the 11 NSW based teams and referees into QLD. The NRL proposes to exclusively use each of the Novotel Surfers Paradise, Mercure Gold Coast and Novotel Twin Waters that were used by the NRL during the height of the lockdown last year. The NRL proposes to also establish three exclusive use training facilities for the quarantining teams to utilise for training during the quarantine period.

As always, an approved security and health overlay would be required as would charter flights and testing regimes etc that could all be worked through similar to the protocols in place last year.

I note that the NRL has been operating under increased protocols for a number of weeks.

There is likely to be some media on this later tonight or early [tomorrow morning](#) once the NRL convenes a meeting with the NSW based teams [tonight at 6pm](#).

Is it possible for us all to catch-up prior to your meeting with the Premier [at 9am tomorrow morning](#) or otherwise before your [10am](#) stand up for us to brief you and to seek your guidance and advice on how we might be able to make this work and what will need to be worked through with your teams?

My office will arrange a meeting invite with all of us including Mark Cridland if you could let me know your availability. Potentially for 8.20am?

Regards

John

Sent from my iPad

The information in this email together with any attachments is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential and/or privileged material. There is no waiver of any confidentiality/privilege by your inadvertent receipt of this material.

Any form of review, disclosure, modification, distribution and/or publication of this email message is prohibited, unless as a necessary part of Departmental business.

If you have received this message in error, you are asked to inform the sender as quickly as possible and delete this message and any copies of this message from your computer and/or your computer system network.

From: Gollschewski.StephanW[STHQLD]
To: [Jaymes Boland-Rudder](#); [ANDERSON Chad](#); [Kate Coehn](#); [Jeannette Young](#); [LEE John](#)
Subject: RE: Thank you
Date: Monday, 12 July 2021 12:20:50 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image003.jpg](#)

Thank you Jaymes.

Regards,

Steve Gollschewski APM

Deputy Commissioner, Southern Queensland
 State Disaster Coordinator

Wk: (07) | M:

[Queensland Police Service](#)

From: Jaymes Boland-Rudder <>@nrl.com.au>

Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 11:37

To: ANDERSON Chad <>@dtis.qld.gov.au>; Kate Coehn <>@health.qld.gov.au>; Jeannette Young <>@health.qld.gov.au>; LEE John <>@dtis.qld.gov.au>; Gollschewski.StephanW[STHQLD] <>@police.qld.gov.au>

Subject: Thank you

Hi Dr Young, Deputy Commissioner, John, Kate and Chad

Thank you for your time this morning

Confirming we are working on:

1. Movement of all NSW and ACT based teams (12 in total) to Queensland on private charter flights on Wednesday
2. Teams will be based across Novotel Twin Waters, Novotel Southbank and Mercure Gold Coast
3. We need to have a Quarantine Management Plan for each hotel facility we are using – we will submit these ASAP
4. We will engage 24/7 private security services at each facility
5. Any movements from hotels to training and playing must be on an Endorsed Transport Provider.
6. Training facilities must be exclusive use. Queensland Academy of Sport has a new high performance gym that we could utilise if needed.
7. Match venues must have a clear “clean zone” and “dirty zone” with measures to confine quarantining groups to the clean zones
8. Matches can have crowds
9. We must Test on Day 2, Day 14 and Day 16.

Thank you also for the advice in relation to families. We will plan based on the following:

1. Families should quarantine separately from players/staff and can then be reunited after 2 weeks (similar to what the AFL did)
2. NRL should look at securing an additional hotel/s for the family members to utilise as a quarantine facility
3. NRL would need to provide additional support services for families whilst in the 2 weeks of quarantines
4. We will work with teams to finalise plans for movement of families based on the above

We will keep working with Chad and Kate to put the above into action

JBR

Jaymes Boland-Rudder
 Head of Partnerships



National Rugby League Ltd

t [redacted]
m [redacted]
e [redacted]@nrl.com.au
w nrl.com.au

Rugby League Central, Driver Ave
Moore Park NSW 2021



The Australian Rugby League Commission acknowledges the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia. We pay our respects to the Elders past and present.

CONFIDENTIALITY: The information contained in this electronic mail message and any electronic files attached to it may be confidential information, and may also be the subject of legal professional privilege and/or public interest immunity. If you are not the intended recipient you are required to delete it. Any use, disclosure or copying of this message and any attachments is unauthorised. If you have received this electronic message in error, please inform the sender or contact 1300ITPSBA@psba.qld.gov.au. This footnote also confirms that this email message has been checked for the presence of computer viruses.

RTI RELEASE

CHO COVID

From: CHO COVID
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 10:37 AM
To: Jeannette Young
Cc: Kyle Fogarty; CHO COVID
Subject: HPE CM: FOR APPROVAL - C-ECTF-21/10742 - CD 12 JUL 2021 - COVID-19 - CHO BA - NRL Apollo Player & Club and Match-Day Protocols 2021 – Level 4
Attachments: CHO BA - NRL Apollo Player & Club and Match-Day Protocols 2021 - Level 4.DOCX; Attach 1 - Player Club Apollo Protocol - Level 4 - Release 2.0 (2021).PDF; Attach 2 - Match-Day Apollo Protocol - Level 4 - Release 1.0 (2021).PDF; Attach 3 - Approval Letter.DOCX
Categories: CHO FOR APPROVAL

Good morning Dr Young

Please see attached CHO brief for your review and approval.
 Reviewed by Rachel Hoffman, CHO COVID.

Do you approve the brief and use of your e-signature?

Thank you.

Kind regards
 Amanda



Amanda Dagger

Senior Correspondence Officer

Executive Correspondence and Liaison

CHO COVID

Office of the Chief Health Officer | Queensland Health

P (07) [REDACTED]
E [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au
W health.qld.gov.au
A Level 7, 33 Charlotte Steet, Brisbane 4000

**CLEAN HANDS
 SAVE LIVES**

Wash your hands regularly to stop the spread of germs



Queensland Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land across Queensland, and pays respect to First Nations Elders past, present and future.

SUBJECT: National Rugby League Apollo Player & Club and Match-Day Protocols 2021 – Level 4

<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	Signature...../...../..... Date...../...../..... Dr Jeannette Young PSM, Chief Health Officer Comments:
<input type="checkbox"/> Not approved	
<input type="checkbox"/> Noted	
<input type="checkbox"/> Signed (correspondence)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Further information required (see comments)	

ACTION REQUIRED BY COB Tuesday 13 July 2021 to support the National Rugby League's application to relocate the remainder of the 2021 season to be played at stadia across Queensland, commencing with Round 18 fixtures, Friday 16 July 2021 at Cbus Super Stadium, Gold Coast.

RECOMMENDATION It is recommended the Chief Health Officer:

- **Approve** the National Rugby League Apollo Player & Club and Match-Day Protocols 2021 – Level 4 (Attachments 1 and 2).
- **Sign** the attached approval letter (Attachment 3), addressed to Mr Jaymes Boland-Rudder, Head of Partnerships, National Rugby League Ltd.

ISSUES

1. On 5 February 2021 the Chief Health Officer approved the National Rugby League Ltd (NRL) Professional Sporting Code COVID Safe Plan for the NRL Apollo games to proceed from 20 February 2021.
2. The Approved Professional Sporting Code COVID Safe Plan includes Levels 1, 2 and 3 Protocols, each level constituting escalating public health measures to be implemented by the NRL in response to situations of escalating public health risk.
3. The current submission *Apollo Player & Club and Match-Day Protocols 2021 – Level 4* (Protocols) constitute tighter public health controls for implementing in situations of further escalating public health risk, such as community transmission of COVID-19.
4. The NRL monitors public health risks associated with COVID-19 and proposes to be able to move between Protocol levels independently and pre-emptively, as deemed appropriate to mitigate any risk that disease transmission might interrupt the NRL season.
5. The NRL has been operating under Level 4 Protocols in force for all teams, as approved by other Australian jurisdictions, since midnight on Monday 28 June 2021.
6. The Protocols have been assessed and determined to provide public health controls to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 between the NRL and the Queensland community.
7. The following conditions are also recommended:
 - 7.1. NRL must notify COVID-19 Compliance via email at [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au which Protocol Level NRL clubs are operating under, within two business days of this Approval.
 - 7.2. NRL must notify COVID-19 Compliance, within one business day of any decision to change the Protocol Level NRL clubs are operating under.
 - 7.3. The Cleaning Protocols state that high contact items and high touch point areas must be cleaned every 3 hours, amend to state that high contact items and high touch point areas must be cleaned every 1-2 hours.
 - 7.4. Additional requirements are outlined in the approval letter.
 - 7.5. The Protocols must not be amended without the prior approval by the Chief Health Officer. Any amendments to the Protocols should be because of significant change within the community whereby the Protocols must be updated to ensure the continued safety of the players, staff and officials and the Queensland community. All amendments must be clearly highlighted in the Protocols, include a summary of the changes in a covering email and allow for at least 21 business day assessment time frame.
 - 7.6. Where inconsistencies exist between the Protocols and the Chief Health Officer approved conditions, the Chief Health Officer approved conditions take precedence.

BACKGROUND

8. The *Restrictions on Businesses, Activities and Undertakings Direction* (No. 21) (the Direction) was published on 28 June 2021 and effective from 6am AEST 28 June 2021.
9. The Direction states that professional sporting codes, elite sport, and elite athletes must operate in compliance with an Approved COVID Safe Professional Sporting Code Plan.

RESULTS OF CONSULTATION

10. The Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport has coordinated engagement with the National Rugby League on behalf of the Queensland Government

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11. There are no resources implications associated with this brief.

SENSITIVITIES/RISKS

12. The continuation of professional sports is an agreed whole-of-government priority to support Queensland's recovery from the social and economic impacts of COVID-19.

ATTACHMENTS

13. Attachment 1. Apollo Player Club Protocol – Level 4 – Release 2.0 (2021)
Attachment 2. Apollo Match-Day Protocol – Level 4 – Release 1.0 (2021)
Attachment 3. Approval Letter

Author Name: Andrea Henning Cruickshank Position: Senior Public Health Officer Unit: COVID-19 Compliance Team Tel No: [REDACTED] Date Drafted: 13/07/2021	Cleared by (Dir/Snr Dir) Name Chris Wold Position: Team Leader Unit: COVID-19 Compliance Team Tel No: [REDACTED] Date Cleared: 13/07/2021 <i>*Note clearance contact is also key contact for brief queries*</i>	Content verified by (Exec Dir) Name: Kate Coehn Position: Executive Director Branch: COVID-19 Compliance Team Tel No: [REDACTED] Date Verified: 13/07/2021
---	--	--



Apollo Player & Club Protocol 2021

LEVEL 4

Message to all Players & Club Officials

These Protocols have been developed to safeguard our people and our competitions during the COVID-19 pandemic. They are to protect the health of you, your teammates and colleagues, and those in the community around you. It is very important that you keep up-to-date with what is required of you under these Protocols and that you strictly comply with them.

The ARL Commission and the NRL appreciate the sacrifice that these Protocols demand of you and those around you, and thank you for your co-operation and commitment to ensuring that our Game can continue through these difficult times.

If you have any questions about these Protocols or what you have to do under them, or suspect that you have been at an Exposure Site, please contact your Club COVID Co-ordinator or the Apollo team at apollo@nrl.com.au.

Most importantly, **IF YOU FEEL UNWELL** – even slightly – do not see your team-mates or come into the Club. Isolate yourself at home and call your Club Doctor **IMMEDIATELY**.

1. Preliminary.....	4
1.1. Purpose & Enforcement	4
1.2. Who must comply with this Protocol?	5
1.3. Apollo Protocol Register.....	5
1.4. Club COVID Co-ordinator	7
1.5. Applications for Exemptions under this Protocol.....	7
2. Prevention, Education & Communication	7
2.1. General.....	7
2.2. Club Education & Training	8



NRL Apollo Player & Club Protocol 2021 – Level 4

2.3.	Personal Hygiene Procedures	9
2.4.	Communication of Protocol changes & Apollo Alerts.....	9
3.	When away from Training - Home Isolation Protocols	10
3.1.	General.....	10
3.2.	Illness Reporting.....	10
3.3.	Home Isolation and Interaction with the Community.....	11
3.4.	Public Exercise or Training.....	12
3.5.	Social Distancing.....	13
3.6.	Private Travel	13
3.7.	Secondary employment or Training and Education Activities.....	13
4.	Assessment of Apollo Protocol Register personnel	14
4.1.	Household Screening.....	14
4.2.	Pre-Training Health Assessment.....	15
5.	Daily Monitoring	15
5.1.	Immediate Reporting for illness/COVID-19 symptoms.....	15
5.2.	Daily Health Confirmation.....	17
5.3.	Daily Whereabouts Confirmation.....	17
5.4.	Failure to submit Health or Whereabouts Confirmations.....	18
5.5.	Audits and Checks	18
5.6.	Provision of False and/or Misleading Information.....	19
6.	Club Premises & Training Facility	20
6.1.	Club Premises	20
6.2.	Training Facility	20
6.3.	Single Access Point to Training Facility (Assessment Point)	21
6.4.	Staffing at Assessment Point.....	22
6.5.	Procedure for Entry to Training Facility	22
6.6.	Where an individual does not pass admission assessment.....	23
6.7.	Off-Site Assessment	24
6.8.	Cleaning Requirements for Training Facility	24

NRL Apollo Player & Club Protocol 2021 – Level 4

7. Training Requirements	25
7.1. Hygiene Procedures at Training.....	25
7.2. Laundering of Training Gear/Clothes	25
7.3. Limitations on Training Practices.....	26
7.4. Food/Meals at Training	26
7.5. Shared Facilities	27
8. Medical/Physio	27
8.1. Clinicians working in higher risk areas.....	27
8.2. Consultations only to take place at the Training Facility.....	28
8.3. Management of Illness, Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 Cases.....	28
8.4. Testing and Quarantine	29
9. Travel & Accommodation	29
9.1. General travel/travel to Training Facility.....	29
9.2. Plane Travel	29
9.3. Non-Selected Players and Supernumerary Officials	30
9.4. Interclub Scrimmage required approval from NRL Apollo.....	30
10. Media	31
11. Other Club Activities	31
12. Non-NRL Matches.....	31
Appendix A: Apollo Protocol Register 2021.....	32
Appendix B: Household Screening Questions 2021	34
Appendix C: Pre-Season Health Assessment 2021	39
Appendix D: Health Confirmation Questionnaire	41
Appendix E: Cleaning Protocols.....	42
Appendix F: Project Apollo Protocols – Media Access 2021.....	43
Appendix G: Apollo Medical Officer’s Handbook	44

1. Preliminary

1.1. Purpose & Enforcement

- 1.1.1. The Apollo Protocols are intended to regulate the conduct of Clubs, Players, Club Officials, Match Officials, Game Participants and other personnel in order to deliver the 2021 NRL Competition and other competitions and events during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Apollo Protocols serve as the NRL's Professional Sporting Code COVIDSafe Plan.
- 1.1.2. The Apollo Protocols include this *Apollo Player & Club Protocol*, the *Apollo Match-Day Protocol* and other associated materials described as forming part of the Apollo Protocols.
- 1.1.3. The Apollo Protocols are issued as an enforceable Guideline to the *NRL Rules*.
- 1.1.4. Any Player, Club Official or other person that is entered on the Club's Apollo Register is bound by the Apollo Protocols and must comply with them, including this *Apollo Player & Club Protocol*.
- 1.1.5. All Clubs:
- a. must comply with the Apollo Protocols;
 - b. must ensure that all Players, Club Officials and other personnel entered on that Club's Apollo Register are educated on their obligations under the Apollo Protocols, including promptly advising and educating on changes to the applicable protocols;
 - c. must actively monitor the compliance of its Players, Club Officials and other personnel with the Apollo Protocols;
 - d. consistent with Rule 8(3) of the *NRL Rules*, is responsible for any breaches of the Apollo Protocols by its Players, Club Officials and other personnel and a breach by any of those persons shall be deemed to also be a breach by the Club of the relevant provision.
- 1.1.6. The Protocols will be regularly reviewed for effectiveness and alignment with new public health advice.
- 1.1.7. A breach of any of the provisions of the Apollo Protocols by a Club, Player or Club Official 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.
- 1.1.8. Where any breach proceedings are commenced in relation to an alleged breach of this Protocol, the Player(s) or Club Official(s) involved shall immediately be provisionally suspended from having access to secure areas under this Protocol

NRL Apollo Player & Club Protocol 2021 – Level 4

(including each Club's Training Facility and Match-Day Facilities) unless expressly permitted by the NRL.

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

1.2. Who must comply with this Protocol?

- 1.2.1. The *Apollo Player & Club Protocol* establishes a controlled environment in which training and matches can occur.
- 1.2.2. All Clubs, and all Players and Club Officials who are seeking to access Club premises and training and match-day in secure areas must observe this Protocol.
- 1.2.3. Club staff who are not required to have regular access to these personnel or training 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. It is strongly recommended that all Club staff observe the personal hygiene requirements of the Protocol for their own and others safety.
- 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 (BLOs) where necessary, and the NRL Integrity & Compliance Unit. Compliance will also be monitored by relevant State Government authorities.
- 1.2.6. Clubs are also responsible for the active monitoring of compliance by their Players, Club Officials and personnel with these Protocols. 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. Where a Club, Player or Club Official becomes aware of a reasonably suspected breach of this Protocol, they are required to **immediately report the matter to NRL Apollo** via apollo@nrl.com.au.

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:
- a. full name;
 - b. the date on which they commenced compliance;
 - c. contact details (address, phone number including a mobile contact number, email address)

NRL Apollo Player & Club Protocol 2021 – Level 4

These details will be kept by the NRL for at least 30 days and up to 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. Some exceptions may apply from time to time. When persons enter the Training Facility the date and time period of their visit must be recorded (see Rule 6 generally for details)
- 1.3.3. Each Club must ensure that the NRL Football Department and NRL Apollo 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 limited under this Level 4 Protocol to:
- a. A maximum of **55 person** for access to the Training Facility, comprising:
 - i. 36 Players; and
 - 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 2021 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 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.

NRL Apollo Player & Club Protocol 2021 – Level 4

1.4. Club COVID 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 (**Club COVID 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 NRL Apollo (apollo@nrl.com.au).
- 1.5.2. Any application for exemption must:
- Be in writing;
 - Identify the provision(s) of the Protocol from which exemption is sought;
 - 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 NRL Head of Football:
- Will consider the application, including if necessary seeking the input of the Apollo Committee, Chair of the NRL Medical Advisory Panel or such other expert/individual as the Head of Football may consider necessary;
 - Take into consideration the requirements of the relevant Government authorities and where necessary consult the State or Territory's Chief Health Officer;
 - 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 & Communication

2.1. General

- 2.1.1. The NRL's biosecurity strategy is based around prevention of transmission of coronavirus. The dissemination of vaccinations to treat COVID-19 remains in-progress, and it is critical that Clubs, Players and Club Officials strictly observe the procedures in this Protocol around:

NRL Apollo Player & Club Protocol 2021 – Level 4

- a. Strict hygiene;
 - b. Temperature screening;
 - c. Symptom monitoring;
 - d. Home isolation or quarantine (where required);
 - e. Regular and target 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.
- 2.1.3. The NRL strongly encourages all persons complying with these Protocols to be vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine when the COVID-19 vaccine is available to them, in accordance with Australia's COVID-19 vaccine national roll-out strategy.

2.2. Club Education & Training

- 2.2.1. Clubs must provide regular and updated education and training on:
- a. hygiene processes;
 - b. reducing the risk of contraction/transmission of coronavirus; and
 - c. the requirements of the current Apollo Protocols applying to personnel at the Club.
- 2.2.2. The content of this education must be confirmed with:
- a. NRL Apollo and
 - b. the Club Medical Officer
- prior to dissemination.
- 2.2.3. In addition to the above, all Club Officials must have completed the Australian Government's online training module on COVID-19 infection control in the past 12 months. The training module can be accessed at:
- <http://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-infection-control-training>
- 2.2.4. Each Club must keep a record of the completion of the training module by each Club Official.

NRL Apollo Player & Club Protocol 2021 – Level 4

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:
- Washing hands properly and often, with soap and water;
 - Using alcohol-based hand sanitiser when hand washing is unavailable;
 - 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:
- Before and after eating
 - Before and after using the bathroom;
 - After training or matches
 - Between use of gym equipment
 - 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.
- 2.3.4. Gym equipment must be sanitised with an antiseptic wipe before and after its use by each Player.
- 2.3.5. Players and Club Officials are required to wear face masks when indoors in public spaces and in other spaces where it is difficult to maintain adequate social distancing. Players should use a KN95 mask in the first instance. In the event that no KN95 masks are available a standard blue surgical mask should be used. Cloth masks should not be used.
- 2.3.6. Detailed hygiene protocols can be found in the Appendices.

2.4. Communication of Protocol changes & Apollo Alerts

- 2.4.1. Whilst under Apollo Protocols, Clubs will receive alerts and updates from NRL Apollo concerning changes in the local biosecurity outlook, exposure sites and other important information relating to the COVID-19 situation in Australia.
- 2.4.2. Each Club must:
- nominate to NRL Apollo the Club Official responsible for receiving, reviewing and disseminating Apollo alerts and update to all members of

NRL Apollo Player & Club Protocol 2021 – Level 4

the Club's Apollo Protocol Register (this will usually be the Club's COVID Co-ordinator but another Club Official may be nominated if required);

- b. design and document a procedure for immediately disseminating alerts and updates from NRL Apollo, which must include the following minimum standards:
 - i. a method of sending instant group messages to every member of the Club's Apollo Protocol Register and recording read receipts (for example, WhatsApp or similar messaging service);
 - ii. a process of following up communications with members of the Club's Apollo Protocol Register for whom receipt has not been confirmed;
 - iii. a register of communications sent to members of the Club's Apollo Protocol Register, including the form of communication, the date it was sent, the list of recipients and a copy of the content of the communication;
 - iv. a point of contact for members of the Club's Apollo Protocol Register to ask questions concerning their obligations.

2.4.3. Each Club's communication protocol must be available for review by NRL Apollo on request.

3. When away from Training - Home Isolation Protocols

3.1. General

3.1.1. Players and Club Officials who are nominated to access training and match-day environments must observe these self-isolation protocols. Only Club Officials who are essential to training and/or delivery of Match-Day should be nominated and included on the Club's Apollo Register.

3.1.2. Breaches of the self-isolation protocols may result in disciplinary action under the NRL Rules. The breaching individual may also be immediately excluded from further participation in training or match-day until assessed and cleared by the Chair of the NRL Medical Advisory Panel and/or the NRL Independent Medical Officer.

3.2. Illness Reporting

3.2.1. Any Player or Club Official who becomes unwell, or otherwise displays any of the symptoms identified in Rule 5.1.1, must immediately self-isolate in their home and contact the Chief Club Medical Officer for instructions. The Chief

NRL Apollo Player & Club Protocol 2021 – Level 4

Club Medical Officer must immediately notify NRL Apollo as described in Rule 3.2.2. Where a Player or Club Official shows symptoms at the Club or training facilities they should be removed from the site as soon as practical and self-isolate at home.

- 3.2.2. For all notifications under Rule 3.2.1, the Club Medical Officer must notify NRL Medical immediately via apollo@nrl.com.au. This is for auditing purposes and at this time Clubs are expected to manage illness within the Club (apart from exceptions as per Rule 8.3).
- 3.2.3. All Players and Club Officials must also complete and submit a Daily Health Confirmation – see Rule 5.2.

3.3. Home Isolation and Interaction with the Community

3.3.1. Staying at the designated residence

All Players and Club Officials must stay within the residence nominated in the Club Register (see Rule 1.3) unless attending the Club premises for training or match-day, or performing essential tasks as permitted by this Rule 3.3.

3.3.2. Visits to non-resident family members

Visiting other households is not permitted under this Protocol.

Under exceptional circumstances (in accordance with State and Territory restrictions) Players or Club Officials may be permitted to visit non-resident family members such as parents. This is particularly the case for Players or Club Officials who reside alone. Approval must be sought from NRL Apollo by submitting a QER to apollo@nrl.com.au outlining the planned visit. Details about the individuals who will be present during the visit are required, including an assessment of their vulnerabilities.

3.3.3. No isolation within a household is required

Subject to any additional restrictions placed by the NRL Medical, NRL Apollo or the Club Medical Officer, it is not necessary for Players or Club Officials to isolate from other members of their household (“household” being the persons who usually reside at that address).

3.3.4. Players and Club Officials must only leave home for essential household needs

Players and Club Officials are permitted to leave their residence for essential household, family or medical needs only. This must be reserved for exceptional circumstances and only undertaken if these tasks cannot be performed by another member of the household. This does not include recreational or social activities, which are not permitted at this time.

Takeaway food and drink must be ordered remotely (e.g. online or by phone) and picked up whilst observing hand hygiene, **wearing a mask** and observing

NRL Apollo Player & Club Protocol 2021 – Level 4

social distancing requirements and consumed in your residence. Pick-up of food should only be undertaken if this task cannot be undertaken by another member of the household.

QR Codes or other check-in processes must be completed any at place a Player or Club Official attends for essential reasons.

3.3.5. No visitors permitted at home

Players and Club Officials must not allow visitors at their residence. The only exceptions are for persons who are a care-giver to a member of the household and non-resident children who travel between households pursuant to a pre-existing child-sharing/custody/access arrangements. Social visits are prohibited at this time. Players and Club Officials who have non-resident partners are advised to consider incorporating that partner into their household while these rules are in force.

3.3.6. Keeping records of who is visiting

Players and Club Officials must keep a record of the identity of any exceptional visitors (names, telephone numbers) to their residence and disclose this as part of Daily Reporting (see Rule 5.3).

3.3.7. COVID-19 Hotspots

The NRL will continue to monitor public health authority advice for COVID-19 Hotspots and Clubs, Players and Club Official must follow any advice from NRL concerning measures related to COVID-19 Hotspots.

All Players and Club Official must not travel to any declared COVID-19 Hotspots without the pre-approval of NRL Apollo.

3.4. Public Exercise or Training

3.4.1. Exercise and training must be undertaken only:

- a. at the Player or Club Official's home;
- b. at the Club's Training Facility.

3.4.2. Essential household tasks such as walking the dog or taking children outside or to the park (in accordance with State and Territory restrictions) are permitted. Where taking children to a park, Players and Club Officials must avoid touching playground equipment.

3.4.3. Recreational activities such as golf, surfing and so on are **not permitted at this time.**

NRL Apollo Player & Club Protocol 2021 – Level 4

3.5. Social Distancing

- 3.5.1. Social distancing is a critical tool in the NRL's risk-mitigation strategy around COVID-19.
- 3.5.2. **All persons bound by this Protocol must maintain a distance of 1.5m from other people, unless they are with members of their household, at the Club's Training Facility or during matches.**
- 3.5.3. Players and Officials must maintain social distancing from fans and members of the public as far as practicable – no hugs, high-fives, selfies or other close contact is permitted.

3.6. Private Travel

- 3.6.1. Players and Club Officials must travel only essential purposes. Other than for an essential purpose, private travel will be limited to that between the Player or Club Official's residence and the Training Facility.
- 3.6.2. Travel should be in the Player or Club Official's own car. In cases of exceptional need, two (but no more than two) persons may share a car, but each must wear an approved face mask (currently KN95, and if that unavailable a surgical mask. Cloth masks not to be worn). Hard surfaces in the car (steering wheel, gear selector etc) should be wiped down regularly with disinfectant wipes.
- 3.6.3. Any requests for variations on 3.6.2 must be raised through the Club Medical Officer to the Chair NRL Medical Advisory Panel (email apollo@nrl.com.au)
- 3.6.4. Use of public transport is not permitted at this time.
- 3.6.5. Taxis or ride-sharing (Uber, Ola etc) is permitted in exceptional circumstances only and must be pre-approved by NRL Apollo. Requests must be submitted to apollo@nrl.com.au and approval received before the trip is undertaken. Appropriate respiratory protection (i.e. currently KN95, and if that unavailable a surgical mask. Cloth masks not to be worn) must be worn at all times and the traveller should sit in the backseat on the passenger side. Social distancing, hand-hygiene and contamination avoidance must also be adhered to.
- 3.6.6. For travel to and from matches, see Rule 9.

3.7. Secondary employment or Training and Education Activities.

- 3.7.1. **Players or Club Officials may wish to undertake secondary employment, or participate in training and education activities, with the approval of their Club and in accordance with this Rule 3.7.**
- 3.7.2. Certain kinds of secondary employment and training and education activities are associated with higher levels of COVID-19 risk.

NRL Apollo Player & Club Protocol 2021 – Level 4

- 3.7.3. Where possible secondary employment, training and education activities should be conducted online or by distance education where this is feasible.
- 3.7.4. Where this is not feasible, specific approval must be sought through the Project Apollo team by submitting a QER to apollo@nrl.com.au). Requests for approval must include detailed information about the nature of the activity, what risk mitigations are already planned, the timings of the activities and any other relevant information.

4. Assessment of Apollo Protocol Register personnel

4.1. Household Screening

- 4.1.1. The Club Medical Officer must perform Household Screening for each Player and Club Official on the Apollo Protocol Register in the form set out in the Appendix B: Household Screening Questions 2021. The assessment must be completed before an individual is permitted to join a Club's Apollo Protocol Register. The Household Screening will assess matters such as:
- Whether there are members of the Player or Club Official's household who are at high risk in relation to COVID-19;
 - Whether consideration should be given to relocating persons to alternative accommodation, or to implementing additional precautions to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19 to vulnerable individuals.
- 4.1.2. The Chief Club Medical Officer should take responsibility to ensure that all Household screenings have been completed appropriately (including when any change of residence occurs) and appropriate action undertaken based on the findings.
- 4.1.3. Household screenings for in-season living arrangements must be performed (as per Rule 4.1.2. and must be provided to NRL Medical and/or Apollo if requested. For these screenings, the following applies:
- Identified issues of concern must be prioritised by the Chief CMO of each Club and may be discussed with Apollo for assistance and potential intervention if required.
 - If a Player or Club Official has a partner or other person not residing in their household, but they will be regularly visiting or staying at the Player or Club Official's household, the non-residing partner and their household must be screened following the same process as described above.

NRL Apollo Player & Club Protocol 2021 – Level 4

4.2. Pre-Training Health Assessment

- 4.2.1. Prior to commencing training for the Season or the introduction of new members to the Club Apollo Protocol Register, the Club Medical Officer must undertake a Pre-Training Health Assessment of each Player and Club Official on the Apollo Protocol Register in the form set out in the Appendices (Pre-Training Assessment) as a minimum. All Players and Club Officials returning to the Club for Pre-Season 2021 must undergo a new Pre-Training Assessment. For Players or Club Officials that were part of an NRL ‘bubble’ in 2020 and have had no change to their household, this may be completed by the Club Medical Officer confirming with the individual that each entry in their 2020 Health Assessment form remains accurate and up-to-date for the 2021 season. For the avoidance of doubt, where this is unable to occur for any reason, the individual must complete a new Pre-Training Assessment in-full for the 2021 season.
- 4.2.2. The Pre-Training Health Assessment must include appropriate documentary confirmation from the Player or Club Official of their status for the following vaccinations:
- Influenza vaccination status; and
 - Pneumococcal vaccination status (Indigenous Players and Club Officials) as per State or Territory Immunisation schedules.
- 4.2.3. At present, these vaccinations are recommended for members of the Apollo Protocol Register. This advice may change as the biosecurity outlook and government requirements change over time.
- 4.2.4. The results of each Household Screening including the Health Assessment must be provided to the NRL Independent Medical Officer via [NRL Apollo apollo@nrl.com.au](mailto:apollo@nrl.com.au) as soon as practicable upon completion, and identified issues discussed and resolved with the NRL Independent Medical Officer prior to entry into the Club “bubble”.

5. Daily Monitoring

5.1. Immediate Reporting for illness/COVID-19 symptoms

- 5.1.1. Any Player of Club Official who becomes sick or experiences any of the below symptoms must not attend any Training facility or Club activity/function AND immediately contact the Club Medical Officer and follow their instructions:
- a cough
 - a sore throat
 - a tickle in your throat or a scratchy throat

NRL Apollo Player & Club Protocol 2021 – Level 4

- d. a runny nose
 - e. any shortness of breath or difficulty breathing;
 - f. any pain on swallowing
 - g. any chills
 - h. any generalised muscle aches or pain which you haven't had before
 - i. any headache
 - j. any loss of taste or smell
 - k. any gastro symptoms (off food, vomiting, diarrhoea, stomach cramps)
 - l. any other symptom listed in the Daily Health Confirmation (see below).
 - m. a fever; any temperature recorded above 37.2 degrees (i.e. 37.3 and higher)
- 5.1.2. The Club Medical Officer must be contacted immediately if **any member of the Player or Club Official's household** experience symptoms or become sick as per 5.1.1.
- 5.1.3. The Club Medical Officer must be contacted immediately if a non-residing partner, or any member of the Player or Club Official's household experiences symptoms or become sick.
- 5.1.4. In any case where the Club Medical Officer is advised under this Rule³, they must:
- a. immediately send the Player/Club Official for COVID-19 testing (within 24 hours) notify NRL Medical/the NRL Independent Medical Officer and immediately isolate the Player/Club Official until a negative COVID-19 result is obtained (**at this time only one negative test is required**), and symptoms have resolved, or
 - b. if a household member/recent contact is involved, organise testing for them (household member/recent contact) subject to their consent within 48 hours and receive the result within 72 hours of symptom onset, otherwise the Player /Club Official must be isolated and NRL Medical notified and the NRL Independent Medical Officer consulted on a course of action (note: if the result is COVID-19 positive then the Player/Club Official must also be immediately isolated and NRL Medical/the NRL Independent Medical officer notified immediately), and

³ 5.1.4 only applies if the temperature is recorded at or above 37.5 unless other symptoms are present or the CMO decides that further investigation is warranted

NRL Apollo Player & Club Protocol 2021 – Level 4

- c. notify NRL Medical/ NRL Independent Medical Officer immediately of all results of testing prior to the individual being released from isolation.

5.2. Daily Health Confirmation

- 5.2.1. Every Player and Club Official observing this Protocol must complete a **Daily Health Confirmation no later than 2pm** in the form set out the Appendices (Daily Health Assessment). The confirmation must be made using the NRL Check-Up App. It should be checked upon entry to the Club Facility and before Club transport to matches. A permanent record of this submission for every Player will be kept by the NRL, and accessible to the NRL Independent Medical Officer.
- 5.2.2. As part of the Daily Health Confirmation, each Player and Club Official must:
 - a. Declare whether they have experienced any of defined range of COVID-19 related symptoms in the past 24 hours, including fevers, respiratory or gastrointestinal symptoms;
 - b. Provide a temperature reading using an approved or provided thermometer;
 - c. Declare whether any member of the Player or Club Official's household has been sick, or experienced symptoms or an elevated temperature, in the last 24 hours.
- 5.2.3. The Daily Health Confirmation must be completed submitted at the time notified by NRL Apollo Committee.

5.3. Daily Whereabouts Confirmation

- 5.3.1. Every Player and Club Official observing this Protocol must complete a **Daily Whereabouts Confirmation** in the form set out the Appendices (Daily Whereabouts Confirmation) **no later than 2pm**. The confirmation must be made using the NRL Check-Up App.
- 5.3.2. As part of the Daily Whereabouts Confirmation, each Player and Club Official must:
 - a. Detail their whereabouts during the past 24 hours;
 - b. Declare that they have not visited a declared COVID-18 hotspot or exposure site;
 - c. List the persons with whom they have interacted within the past 24 hours;
 - d. Provide the details of who visited their household.

NRL Apollo Player & Club Protocol 2021 – Level 4

5.4. Failure to submit Health or Whereabouts Confirmations

- 5.4.1. Compliance with the Daily Health and Whereabouts Confirmations are a critical part of the delivery of the Apollo Protocol.
- 5.4.2. Any Player or Club Official who fails to correctly complete and submit the Confirmations on time:
- a. May be refused entry to the Training Facility or Match-Day until independently assessed and approved by NRL Independent Medical – depending on the circumstances this may be a significant period of time due to biosecurity requirements; and/or
 - b. Be issued with breach proceedings under the NRL Rules.
 - c. May put their Club in a position of liability or risk in relation to Work, Health and Safety requirements.

5.5. Audits and Checks

- 5.5.1. Compliance and assurance is an essential component to managing the risks to the NRL and to Clubs. Information provided by Players and Club Officials must be complete and accurate to their knowledge.
- 5.5.2. Both the NRL and Clubs will be responsible for various aspects of compliance and assurance activities in relation to Project Apollo. These will include:
- a. Periodic and random auditing and checking on Players and Club Officials to ensure compliance, including compliance with isolation or quarantine measures (if applicable) and provide documentary evidence of compliance to regulators. This may be as often as daily and may include attendance at the Player or Club Official's stated whereabouts residence.
 - b. Checking and auditing Clubs to ensure compliance with operational level risk controls, such as fencing requirements, social distancing systems, cleaning implementation and other requirements.
 - c. Consolidating documentary evidence of training and education activities.
 - d. Regularly reviewing the effectiveness and completeness of risk management strategies and the compliance and assurance activities.
- 5.5.3. Clubs must follow any directions from the NRL in relation to auditing, monitoring and reporting compliance with this Protocol.
- 5.5.4. Reports relating to compliance and assurance activities may be provided, confidentially, to regulatory agencies in order to meet requirements for the conduct of the 2020 season.

NRL Apollo Player & Club Protocol 2021 – Level 4

- 5.5.5. It is a condition of each Player and Club Official being entered on a Club's Apollo Protocol Register that the individual consents to the provision of information obtained, when each of the following is required under the protocols, during the Daily Health Confirmation, Daily Whereabouts Confirmations and the audit processes above to the NRL, its advisers and such regulatory agencies as the NRL in its absolute discretion considers necessary. Clubs must ensure that each Player and Club Official on its Apollo Protocol Register is aware of this essential condition.

5.6. Provision of False and/or Misleading Information.

- 5.6.1. All Player and Club Officials must at all times provide complete and accurate information in relation to any obligations under this Protocol. This includes an obligation to volunteer information which is relevant to the proper operation of these Protocols.
- 5.6.2. A failure to provide complete and accurate information, or the provision of false or misleading information in relation to the requirements outlined in this section or any other obligation or requirement in this Protocol, is a breach of this Protocol and may have other consequences for the individual and his or her Club. Examples of such conduct would include:
- a. Deliberately failing to disclose or report symptoms consistent with coronavirus as outlined in this Protocol;
 - b. Failing to disclose significant personal health information relating to coronavirus risk, such as a significant vulnerability to coronavirus;
 - c. Providing false or misleading information in relation to pre-season medical evaluation;
 - d. Providing inaccurate or misleading information on the various questionnaires, surveys and data collection tools part of Project Apollo policy;
 - e. Providing false information regarding whereabouts or other information required in this protocol;
 - f. Either individually, or colluding with others, to knowingly and deliberately circumvent or undermine the measures and requirements outlined in the Project Apollo strategy.
- 5.6.3. Any Player or Club Official who knowingly fails to provide complete and accurate information, or who knowingly provides false or misleading information in relation to Project Apollo operations:
- a. May be refused entry to the Training Facility or Match-Day until independently assessed and approved by the NRL Independent Medical Officer and/or Chair of the NRL Medical Advisory Panel – depending on

NRL Apollo Player & Club Protocol 2021 – Level 4

- the circumstances this may be a significant period of time due to biosecurity requirements; and/or
- b. Be issued with breach proceedings under the NRL Rules.
- c. May put their Club in a position of liability or risk in relation to Work, Health and Safety requirements.
- d. May be subject to other legal action by the NRL or other bodies.

6. Club Premises & Training Facility

6.1. Club Premises

- 6.1.1. Club premises must observe all current Government regulations and advice concerning COVID-19, including facilitating social distancing.
- 6.1.2. Where possible, Club staff not observing this Protocol should work remotely and limit their contact with the Club premises.
- 6.1.3. Couriers and other deliveries are not permitted inside Club premises. Couriers/delivery drivers should be directed to leave packages outside for pick-up. Where goods are to be signed for, electronic acknowledgment of goods requiring no-touch is preferred.

6.2. Training Facility

- 6.2.1. Every Club must designate an area within its Clubs premises which is the Training Facility.
- 6.2.2. Training (including recovery sessions) must only occur within designated Training Facility areas.
- 6.2.3. Training in public areas such as beaches, outdoor grassed, adventurous or open areas **are not permitted at this time.**
- 6.2.4. Outdoor gym equipment must not be utilised if it is being utilised at the same time by the general public. Outdoor gym equipment handles and bars must be wiped down with a disinfectant (e.g. Clorox wipe) prior to use and after use by the group.
- 6.2.5. Clubs are required to declare to the Apollo Project team by submitting a QER to apollo@nrl.com.au what additional areas outside of the Training Facility they are proposing to utilise for training.
- 6.2.6. The Training Facility must include:
 - a. the Club training field;

NRL Apollo Player & Club Protocol 2021 – Level 4

- b. the area housing the Club's gym;
 - c. medical rooms and facilities for conducting medical assessments, physiotherapy, massage and other
 - d. the Players' common room/dining facilities;
 - e. sufficient space for Club Officials to perform their duties, including for coaches and high performance staff.
- 6.2.7. Access to the Training Facility must be **limited only to those Players and Club Officials who are entered on the Apollo Protocol Register** (see Rule 1.3) and observing this Protocol during the times that the team will be training. If the Training Facility is being shared with other teams, codes or the public, then sharing can only occur at times separate to NRL training and with the approval of NRL Apollo.
- 6.2.8. Where these areas are spread across a Club's premises, the Club must put in place measures to ensure that the Training Facility areas are not accessible to other staff or members of the public **at the time that the training is occurring**. Access to the Training Facility must be limited to a single access point (see Rule 6.3 below) during these times.
- 6.2.9. **Players and Club Officials** observing this Protocol must not access those areas of the Club premises that are not designated part of the Training Facility.
- 6.2.10. Clubs must ensure that all team rooms and common areas within the Training Facility have hand washing facilities (water and soap) or hand sanitiser available (hand washing facilities are preferred).

6.3. Single Access Point to Training Facility (Assessment Point)

- 6.3.1. Each Club must ensure that the Training Facility is accessible by a single entry point only. All other access points to the Training Facility areas must be permanently locked.
- 6.3.2. At the single entry to the Training Facility, the Club shall establish an Assessment Point. The Assessment Point will allow the Club to:
- a. Prevent entry to the Training Facility by persons not on the Club's Apollo Protocol Register;
 - b. Screen authorised Players and Club Officials before every entry to the Training Facility (see Rule 6.5 below).
- 6.3.3. The Assessment Point must be located immediately outside the physical entry point to the Training Facility – it is not permissible to have the Assessment Point elsewhere within the Training Facility.
- 6.3.4. Each Club may design an Assessment Point to best fit its Training Facility. It is suggested that an Assessment Point include:

NRL Apollo Player & Club Protocol 2021 – Level 4

- a. Coverage sufficient to allow assessments to take place in wet weather;
 - b. Table/tables for Club Officials manning the Assessment Point;
 - c. other requirements to be advised by Chair of the NRL Medical Advisory Panel.
- 6.3.5. The Assessment Point must 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.

6.4. Staffing at Assessment Point

- 6.4.1. During training hours, the Assessment Point must be attended by two Club Officials (who are on the Apollo Protocol Register and observing this Protocol) who have been trained and approved by the Chief Club Medical Officer in administering entry assessments.
- 6.4.2. Club Officials at the Assessment Point must wear protective clothing (including either a KN95 mask or, if one is unavailable, a blue surgical mask) as prescribed by the Chief Club Medical Officer and Chair of the NRL Medical Advisory Panel.
- 6.4.3. If staff are otherwise engaged in other activities, the entry/assessment point must be secure so as to not allow unauthorised entry. A contact number may be left at the entry point with instructions for those wishing to enter to wait until attended by screening personnel.

6.5. Procedure for Entry to Training Facility

- 6.5.1. Player and Club Officials entering the Training Facility must be assessed before being permitted to enter beyond the Assessment Point.
- 6.5.2. Each Club may design its own procedure for processing Players and Club Officials at the Assessment Point. Any procedure must be approved by the Chief Club Medical Officer and Chair of the NRL Medical Advisory Panel and include:
 - a. Directions for all individuals to proceed directly from their transport to the Assessment Point for assessment;
 - b. The maintenance of social distancing during assessment or waiting for assessment – this may include a procedure where individuals are directed to wait in their cars upon arrival at the Club and only approach the Assessment Point when called via text message etc. to avoid bottlenecks at the Assessment Point.

NRL Apollo Player & Club Protocol 2021 – Level 4

- 6.5.3. At the Assessment Point, Players and Club Officials must undergo an admission assessment, under which they must:
- a. Confirm that neither they nor any member of their household have experienced any of the specified symptoms in the preceding 24 hours;
 - b. Confirm that they have observed the home isolation and other protocols, including checking that the NRL Check-up App confirmations have been completed;
 - c. Submit to and pass an individual temperature check (administered in accordance with instructions from the Chief Club Medical Officer) which records a temperature of 37.2c or less;
 - d. Declare whether they have travelled overseas or been within a COVID-19 hotspot or visited a designated exposure site (either as advised by public health authorities or by the NRL) within the last 14 days;
 - e. Declare whether they are positive for COVID-19 to their knowledge; and
 - f. Declare if they have been in close contact with a person who is positive for COVID-19 to the best of their knowledge.
- 6.5.4. Players and Officials who pass these requirements will be granted immediate access to the Training Facility.
- 6.5.5. Players and Officials who are positive for COVID-19, have been in close contact with a person who is positive for COVID-19 or travelled overseas in the last 14 days will not be permitted to access the Training Facility.

6.6. Where an individual does not pass admission assessment

- 6.6.1. There may be many reasons why a Player or Club Official 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.
- 6.6.2. Each Club must design a procedure for managing individuals who do not meet the criteria for immediate entry to the Training Facility. This procedure must be approved by the Chief Club Medical Officer and Chair of the NRL Medical Advisory Panel and include the following:
- a. **Individuals recording a temperature of between 37.3c and 37.4c** must be directed to return to their car (alone) or another designated safe area 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 may **NOT** be admitted to the Training Facility but must be temperature tested by the Club again in 24 hours – regardless of

NRL Apollo Player & Club Protocol 2021 – Level 4

whether training is schedule within that period.

Individuals whose temperature records as 37.2c or less may be admitted to Training Facility as per normal procedures.

If the Player or Team Official has shared transport and one of the occupants fail temperature testing under (a) above, individual arrangements for transport home for each individual will be made by the Team.

- b. **Individuals recording a temperature of 37.5c or above**, either initially or following a re-test, must be denied access to the Training Facility and immediately sent to off-site assessment by the Club Medical Officer in accordance with the procedure set by the Chair of the NRL Medical Advisory Panel, and the NRL Independent Medical Officer must also be notified.
- c. **Individuals who report symptoms personally or within their household**, or otherwise report non-compliance with home isolation must be immediately sent to off-site assessment.

6.7. Off-Site Assessment

- 6.7.1. Any individual who is referred for off-site assessment must go directly to the designated place – they must not return home or have any contact with others (including members of their households) until they have successfully completed the off-site assessment process and any associated testing.
- 6.7.2. Where the off-site assessment of an individual includes testing for COVID-19, the individual must self-isolate until cleared by the NRL Independent Medical Officer.

6.8. Cleaning Requirements for Training Facility

- 6.8.1. All areas of the Training Facility must be cleaned and disinfected daily. Any cleaning staff/services must conduct this work outside of training hours (i.e. when no one on the Club's Apollo Protocol Register is present). Cleaning staff requiring access to the Training Facility must not have any symptoms of COVID 19 in the preceding 24 hours.
- 6.8.2. Particular care must be taken with gym equipment and other shared surfaces.
- 6.8.3. Players and Club Officials must not share clothing or towels. All clothing and towels must be treated as single-use and washed after use in accordance with requirements advised by the Chair of the NRL Medical Advisory Panel.
- 6.8.4. Cleaning must be conducted in accordance with cleaning protocols issued by NRL Medical as outlined in Appendix F.

7. Training Requirements

7.1. Hygiene Procedures at Training

- 7.1.1. Clubs **MUST** ensure that strict hygiene policy is followed within the Training Facility, including:
- No sharing of towels, clothing, water bottles, boots, headgear, guards etc;
 - No sharing of personal items such as sunscreen and lip balm;
 - No spitting in communal areas.
- 7.1.2. Water bottles and water/sports drink dispensers should be regularly cleaned. Where possible, Clubs should provide single-use paper cups for Player use.
- 7.1.3. Any shared training gear/clothing (e.g. bibs or singlets etc) must be stored at the Club and washed by the Club after each training session in accordance with infectious disease protocols to be issued by NRL Medical; including the requirement that it must be collected by Club Officials using gloves, transported in disposable or washable (cloth) bags and washed in accordance with this Rule, observing good hand hygiene;

7.2. Laundering of Training Gear/Clothes

- 7.2.1. Where possible, Players and Club Officials should launder their clothes/training gear at home. Clubs must ensure that Players and Club Officials are aware of these provisions and follow them.
- 7.2.2. Players and Club Officials should change out of their training gear at the Club and take their clothing home in a bag, preferably a plastic bag which can then be thrown away or a cloth bag which can be laundered along with their clothing.
- 7.2.3. Normal washing detergents and supplies are sufficient for laundering clothes and uniforms.
- 7.2.4. Clothes should be washed and dried separately from others in the household.
- 7.2.5. Match-Day gear (clothing, uniforms, towels etc) must be collected by Club Officials using gloves, transported in disposable or washable (cloth) bags and washed in accordance with this Rule, observing good hand hygiene.

NRL Apollo Player & Club Protocol 2021 – Level 4

7.3. Limitations on Training Practices

- 7.3.1. On 01 May 2020 the Australian Institute of Sport released guidelines on the “reboot” of professional sport in Australia in the COVID-19 situation⁴. While the States and Territories in Australia have ultimate authority in regards to the level of COVID-19 restrictions in their jurisdictions, it has been clearly signalled that all sporting activities nationwide should be compliant with the AIS guidelines. This includes Project Apollo.
- 7.3.2. The AIS guidelines lay out a phased approach to return to full competition, including guidance on the kinds of training and gameplay activities that are acceptable at each phase. The phases are designated A, B and C. It is a requirement that any professional sporting enterprise move through Phases A to C in a deliberate and considered way at an “appropriate” pace depending on COVID-19 community prevalence and other factors.
- 7.3.3. The NRL Competition is currently operating under Level C of the AIS guidelines. This allows full sporting activity that can be conducted in groups of any size including full contact (competition, tournaments, matches). Wrestling, holding, tackling and/or binding (e.g. rugby scrums) permitted. For larger team sports, consider maintaining some small group separation at training. For some athletes full training will be restricted by commercial operation of facilities.
- 7.3.4. Additionally, the Project Apollo protocols, and related policies, meet the broader requirements as outlined in the AIS guidelines at all phasing levels.
- 7.3.5. **Spectators and Patrons.** The question of community spectators in relation to the AIS guidelines, as outlined in the Phased approach, is a separate question to the phased and controlled return to normalised sporting activities. The NRL will decide separately on decisions relating to spectators at NRL games or at training and must take into consideration a broad range of issues ranging from current restrictions on mass gatherings, through to logistics and the interactions over time of large people within potentially confined or restricted physical locations. **At this time no community spectators are allowed in the context of Project Apollo training or matches unless approved by the NRL executive in accordance with government restrictions.** See the Apollo Match-Day Protocol for more information on spectators and patrons on Match-Day.

7.4. Food/Meals at Training

- 7.4.1. Food prepared and provided by the Club must be served within an appropriate area of the Training Facility in accordance with relevant State Government Food Industry COVIDSafe plans requirements. Each Club is required to certify through their Chief Executive Officer that the Club is in accordance with the relevant Food Industry COVIDSafe requirements.

⁴ The Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) framework for rebooting sport in a COVID-19 environment, 01 May 2020, and summary guide.