

## PART D – HEALTH & SAFETY

### What is the purpose of Part D?

- Part D aims to promote a healthy and safe environment within Australian Football. It sets out requirements around injury management, the use of protective equipment and key considerations for Player health and safety including concussion management, managing extreme weather, the importance of ensuring protection from the sun and ultraviolet (UV) light, playing whilst pregnant or post-partum and managing active bleeding.

## 15. Injury management

### 15.1 AFL statement on injury management

- (a) The AFL expects that Matches at all levels are played in a safe environment. To ensure the prevention of, and prompt attention to, injuries in Australian Football, it is important that adequate and timely first aid is delivered. First Aid Providers play a key role in player preparation and safety at all levels.
- (b) It is important that First Aid Providers are trained in the first aid needs relevant to Australian Football at the level at which they are involved.
- (c) A First Aid Provider involved with a Club should have a clear understanding of the role and importance of emergency and injury management in Australian Football and injury prevention.
- (d) A First Aid Provider must read and understand [The Management of Sport-Related Concussion in Australian Football](#).

### 15.2 Minimum requirements for matches and training

- (a) Unless otherwise notified by the AFL, each Controlling Body and Club must ensure that at each Match or training session:
  - (i) at least one First Aid Provider with Appropriate Minimum Qualifications (see Section [15.3](#)) for the relevant level of Australian Football is in attendance;
  - (ii) a first aid kit and adequate sport-specific rescue/transport equipment (e.g. stretcher) are available; and
  - (iii) there is marked venue access for emergency vehicles.
- (b) Where the minimum requirements specified in Section [15.2\(a\)](#) are not met, the Match or training session may be postponed, rescheduled or cancelled and must not commence until such time as the minimum requirements are met.
- (c) In addition to the minimum requirements, the AFL strongly recommends that at each Match and training session:
  - (i) each Club has access to an automated external defibrillator (AED); and
  - (ii) each First Aid Provider in attendance is easily identifiable (e.g. by wearing a vest or armband).

### 15.3 Appropriate Minimum Qualifications

- (a) Unless otherwise notified by the AFL, for the purposes of this Policy Handbook, **Appropriate Minimum Qualifications** means the minimum qualifications set out in the following Table:

<b>Level</b>	<b>Tier 1 Competition (e.g. State League)</b>	<b>All Other Competitions</b>
Recommended	AFL Level 2 Sports Trainer or Qualified Medical Professional	AFL Level 1 or Level 2 Sports Trainer or Qualified Medical Professional
Minimum	AFL Level 1 Sports Trainer or Qualified Medical Professional	AFL First Aider or Qualified Medical Professional

- (b) The terms specified in Table 1 have the following meanings:

- (i) **AFL First Aider** means a person who has:

- (A) obtained a nationally accredited first aid and CPR qualification which is current and up-to-date and includes assessed competencies HLTAID011 (Provide First Aid) and HLTAID009 (Provide Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation); and
- (B) has completed the AFL First Aid and Concussion Management online module within the previous 24 months.

*[Guidance note: HLTAID011 (Provide First Aid) remains valid for 3 years after completion. HLTAID009 Provide Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation remains valid for 1 year (and must be renewed annually).]*

- (ii) **Level 2 Sports Trainer** means a person who has:

- (A) completed a Controlling Body-approved Level 2 Sports Trainer Course which is current and up to date; and
- (B) has completed the AFL First Aid and Concussion Management online module within the previous 24 months.

*[Guidance note: HLTAID011 (Provide First Aid) and HLTAID009 Provide Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation are both prerequisites for a Level 2 Sports Trainer Course. HLTAID011 (Provide First Aid) remains valid for 3 years after completion. HLTAID009 Provide Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation remains valid for 1 year (and must be renewed annually).]*

- (iii) **Level 1 Sports Trainer** means a person who has:

- (A) completed a Controlling Body-approved Level 1 Sports Trainer Course which is current and up to date; and
- (B) has completed the AFL First Aid and Concussion Management online module within the previous 24 months.

*[Guidance note: HLTAID011 (Provide First Aid) and HLTAID009 Provide Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation are both prerequisites for a Level 1 Sports Trainer Course. HLTAID011 (Provide First Aid) remains valid for 3 years after completion. HLTAID009 Provide Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation remains valid for 1 year (and must be renewed annually).]*

- (iv) **Qualified Medical Professional (QMP)** means a person who:

- (A) is a qualified and AHPRA registered medical practitioner, paramedic, physiotherapist, or nurse with appropriate first aid competencies (including or equivalent to HLTAID011 (Provide First Aid) and HLTAID009 (Provide Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation)); and
  - (B) has completed the AFL First Aid and Concussion Management online module within the previous 24 months.
- (c) A First Aid Provider must hold a current working with children check (or equivalent) or otherwise meet the working with children requirements in their State or Territory.

## **15.4 Registration of First Aid Providers**

- (a) To register as a First Aid Provider, a person must complete registration on PlayHQ by accurately and honestly completing the relevant registration form.
- (b) Following completion of the registration process set out in 15.4(a), the AFL may, based on the information provided, request additional information from the applicant including a current National Police Check.
- (c) If information (including any National Police Check) provided to the AFL discloses that a First Aid Provider has been convicted of, or is charged with, a Serious Criminal Offence the AFL may revoke that Person's registration and notify that person's Club.

## **16. Protective equipment**

### **16.1 Laws of the Game**

- (a) Law 9 of the Laws of the Game regulates the management and use of Protective Equipment in Australian Football.
- (b) Section [16](#) is supplementary to Law 9 of the Laws of the Game and aims to assist Controlling Bodies to apply Law 9 of the Laws of the Game and regulate the use of Protective Equipment.

### **16.2 Categories of Protective Equipment**

- (a) Protective Equipment will be categorised as follows:
  - (i) Category 1 Protective Equipment;
  - (ii) Category 2 Protective Equipment; and
  - (iii) Category 3 Protective Equipment.
- (b) The three categories of Protective Equipment are defined in [Appendix 5](#).

### **16.3 Using Protective Equipment**

- (a) During a Match, a Player may use:
  - (i) Category 1 Protective Equipment: no prior notification, inspection or approval is required;