

FOOTBALL AND FUTSAL UNDER THE RED SETTING OF THE COVID-19 PROTECTION FRAMEWORK

The following is based on information provided by [COVID19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz) and [Sport NZ](https://www.sportnz.govt.nz). All information is subject to change.

COVID-19 Protection Framework Settings Overview

The new COVID-19 Protection Framework (CPF) allows football and futsal to take place at all stages, with different restrictions at the Red, Orange, and Green settings to make sure it is the safest possible environment for all participants.

Under the CPF, restrictions are different for activities that do or do not use My Vaccine Pass (MVP).

At Red, we need to take action to protect our vulnerable communities and our health system from COVID-19.

At Orange, there will be community transmission of COVID-19, with increasing risks to vulnerable communities, and pressure on the health system.

At Green, there is limited community transmission, and our health system is ready to respond. Learn what we all need to do.

Public Health Measures

As with the previous Alert Level system, under the CPF football and futsal are subject to a range of public health measures in order to take place:

- **Stay home if you're sick** and do not take part in sport or recreation. Self-isolate at home and get tested immediately.
- **The NZ COVID Tracer app must be used** by everyone involved in, or attending, your activity. If participants don't have access to the app, you need to make sure that any alternative method used for contact tracing protects people's privacy, and that you only use the information they provide for contact tracing.
- **Facemasks** are encouraged and must be worn inside public venues or facilities, including clubrooms apart from when eating and drinking. Facemasks are not required when playing.
- **Surfaces and equipment must be regularly cleaned and disinfected.**
- **Good personal hygiene practices should be followed.** Wash and dry your hands for at least 20 seconds, or use hand sanitiser, before and after activities. Cough into your elbow and don't touch your face.
- **People at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 should take additional precautions** when undertaking physical activity, particularly older people and those with existing medical conditions.
- **Business premises, including clubrooms, must by law display the NZ COVID Tracer app QR code**, and meet the relevant workplace requirements, to allow them to be open for staff and customers.
- Read more at [COVID19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz).

Football and Futsal under the Red setting of the COVID-19 Protection Framework

Overview:

Under the Red setting of the COVID-19 Protection Framework, community football and futsal competitions, matches and trainings are classified as Gatherings and require a [My Vaccine Pass](#) (MVP) for all participants aged over 12 years and 3 months. This is to ensure that the game remains compliant with the COVID-19 Protection Framework and can be played in the safest possible environment.

All players, coaches, team officials, match officials and those involved in New Zealand Football and federation run football and futsal competitions, matches and trainings over 12 years and 3 months old must hold a valid MVP to participate.

12 years and 3 months is the age dictated by the Ministry of Health. The criteria is based participants turning 12 years of ages, and becoming eligible for a MVP, plus a three month grace period.

Community football and futsal competitions, matches and trainings will operate under Sport NZ's [organised community sport Gathering guidelines](#). Gatherings refer to private groups where attendees are generally known to each other.

Vaccination is strongly recommended for participants from 5-11 years old, but it is not required. Participants aged 5-11 can still be involved in football and futsal at all stages of the COVID-19 Protection Framework without needing to hold a MVP.

All other workshops, education training and events hosted by New Zealand Football and the federations will also require participants to hold a MVP.

Guidance For Participants

1. Player Registration

New Zealand Football has worked with existing registration systems providers to offer a seamless solution for participants aged 12 years and 3 months and over to provide proof of their My Vaccine Pass at the point of registration.

Participants registering via MyComet/Comet will be sent a unique link that allows them to upload their MVP. The system will verify the pass based on their last name and DOB as well as record the MVP expiry date. A how to guide for participants will be available on our website from 14 February 2022.

Participants registering via alternative registration systems, such as Friendly Manager or Sporty, will be able to upload their MVP for verification during the registration process.

Only the participant name, DOB, and MVP expiry date information will be stored by New Zealand Football in order to validate a MVP against participant registration.

For participants who become 12 years and 3 months during the season, clubs will have to sight their MVP as soon as they reach that age. This is to ensure that football and futsal competitions, matches and trainings they are part of meet the requirements of the CPF.

2. Competitions, matches & trainings

All competitions, matches and trainings will operate as My Vaccine Pass Gatherings.

Red	<p>OPEN, GATHERINGS LIMITED, 100 PEOPLE CAPACITY IN MOST CASES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All organised community football and futsal competitions, matches and trainings should follow the rules for Gatherings• The maximum number of people allowed at a community football or futsal Gathering (competitions, matches or training) is 100• Capacity is decided by the size of the venue based on one person being permitted per square metre (i.e. if a venue is 50sq metres, 50 participants are permitted)• For indoor events at a private recreation centre use and implementation of My Vaccine Pass will be at the sole discretion of the respective facility owner or provider• This capacity limit includes children aged under 12 years and 3 months, although they do not have to be vaccinated• Vaccination is strongly recommended for participants from 5-11 years old, but it is not a requirement• There are no requirements for physical distancing while participating in organised football or futsal• Multiple groups (of up to 100 people each) can participate in football and futsal matches and trainings as long as they are kept as separate Gatherings with a defined space of at least 2 metres between them. This might include the players, coaches and match officials being one Gathering with spectators separated as another Gathering• For junior football and futsal, participants and spectators should be counted as one single Gathering and have to be limited to the 100 person capacity. Guidance on how to operate junior football and futsal under the Red setting will be available on our website from 14 February 2022• To help manage Gathering sizes clubs may wish to suggest limiting attendance to one parent or guardian in the junior football framework
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Guidance for Managing Spectators

All football and futsal competitions, matches and trainings are classified as a Gathering and operate using a My Vaccine Pass at Red. The Gathering will include players, coaches, management and support staff that come into contact with each other in the course of the activity.

It is recommended that for junior football and futsal, spectators such as parents and/or caregivers form part of the Gathering and count towards the Gathering limit as they will be interacting with players in the course of the activity.

For all other football and futsal, people not part of the Gathering (e.g. spectators, members of the public or anyone without a MVP) must remain at least 2m away from the Gathering and adhere to public health guidelines.

1. When spectators do form part of the Gathering (competitions, matches or trainings)

It is the club's responsibility to regularly communicate with its members and manage spectators at its venues as best as reasonably practicable.

It is a requirement to sight and/or scan My Vaccine Passes at your Gathering or facility. To check the vaccine passes of spectators you can use the [NZ Pass Verifier](#) app.

Clubs are required to take all reasonably practicable steps to do this. However, where impractical a sample could be verified through spot checking.

Where possible My Vaccine Pass information should be recorded in advance, meaning it does not need to be continually checked.

2. When spectators do not form part of the Gathering (competitions, matches or trainings)

Where spectators do not form part of the Gathering (e.g. competitions, matches and trainings taking place at an uncontrolled location, such as a public park, where participants and spectators may move around a venue), the designated home club and/or team should:

- Ensure QR codes are readily available at all entry and exit points where possible
- Consider what they can reasonably do to manage the spectators - this means they might consider how they organise spaces around the venue, if possible, to encourage distancing of spectators or use signage to remind people to keep their distance from one another while watching
- Take steps to keep spectators separate to ensure that people not part of your Gathering do not intermingle with your Gathering
- Have specific controlled areas where only registered participants and volunteers can go (e.g. the field of play and/or changing rooms) to reduce risks at high traffic areas

3. When spectators are managed as a separate Gathering

The below table relates to where clubs operate spectators as separate Gatherings from the participants. The two must remain separate with defined spaces in between i.e. a football pitch or futsal court is one Gathering and a spectator Gathering is another. The two Gatherings must be separated by at least two metres.

At certain settings capacity is decided by the size of the area based on one person being permitted per square metre (i.e. if an area is 50sq metres, 50 participants are permitted).

At all settings of the CPF venue staff do not count towards the Gathering limit.

Spectators under 12 years and 3 months do count towards the Gathering limit but are not required to be vaccinated.

	With My Vaccine Pass	Without My Vaccine Pass
Red	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The maximum number of people allowed as part of the Gathering is 100 people based on allowing 1m² per person • Multiple groups of up to 100 people can each participate in football and futsal activity if they can be separated by a defined space of at least two metres. This might include the players and coaches being one Gathering, and having spectators separated as other Gatherings • Facemasks encouraged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The maximum number of people allowed as part of the Gathering is 25 people based on allowing 1m² per person • Multiple groups of up to 25 people can each can participate in football and futsal activity if they can be separated by a defined space of at least two metres. This might include the players and coaches being one Gathering, and having spectators separated as other Gatherings • Facemasks encouraged

4. Capacity limits for spectators indoors (at a private venue)

For indoor football and futsal activity at a privately owned venue, use and implementation of My Vaccine Pass for entry will be at the sole discretion of the respective facility owner or provider.

5. Contact Tracing

The [NZ COVID Tracer app](#) should be used by everyone involved in, or attending, football or futsal activity, including spectators.

For participants unable to access the NZ COVID Tracer app organisers need to make sure that an alternative record keeping method is implemented. This must protect people's privacy and can only be used for contact tracing purposes. Alternative recording systems require more care to keep them safe and secure. This information should be quickly accessible if needed by public health authorities at all times for contact tracing purposes up to four weeks after the contact was recorded.

Guidance for Facilities

New Zealand Football recommends that facility owners, including football clubs, use My Vaccine Pass at their venues.

When using My Vaccine Pass, it is a requirement for clubs/facility owners to sight and/or scan My Vaccine Passes for access to venues, such as club rooms. To check the vaccine passes of spectators you can use the [NZ Pass Verifier app](#).

If a club does not wish to use My Vaccine Pass it will have to operate under stricter limits on capacity and space requirements. Facilities may need to close in Orange and/or Red settings.

1. Clubrooms, Bar & Food Services

The clubroom bar and food facility must by law display the NZ COVID Tracer app QR code. If food or drink is being served [hospitality restrictions apply](#).

1a. Club rooms without hospitality – classed as Gathering

Red with MVP	Red without MVP
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Up to 100 people per Gathering (based on allowing 1m² of space per person).Facemasks are recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Up to 25 people per Gathering (based on allowing 1m² of space per person).Facemasks are recommended

1b. Club rooms with hospitality – classed as Hospitality

Red with MVP	Red without MVP
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Up to 100 people based on allowing 1m² of space per person, seated and separatedFacemasks are recommended at all times when not eating and drinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Contactless only

2. Changing rooms and toilets

Facilities such as changing rooms and toilets can be used, subject to the same capacity limits as for Gatherings where one person is permitted per square metre.

Where multiple Gatherings are taking place in one location, care should be taken to avoid the intermingling of groups as much as possible. Queuing or congregating around facilities should be avoided and masks should be worn in common areas.

Further information and resources

The Unite Against COVID-19 website has many signs that can be used to communicate that a Gathering or event is MVP only. There are many free downloadable posters at [COVID19.govt.nz](https://www.unite.co.nz/covid-19).

See MBIE's [website](#) for more information on public facilities.

Download the NZ Government pass verifier app from [health.govt.nz](https://www.health.govt.nz).