

Developing football for everyone.

ESFA COVID-19 Protocols

The following protocols that ESFA will apply when determining outcomes following COVID-19 related disruptions to teams and ESFA competitions and the process by which Clubs may apply for a deferral of a match whereby the team is impacted by COVID-19:

- a. All Clubs, players, coaches, managers, volunteers, and spectators must abide by the NSW Government's Public Health Order relating to COVID-19.
- b. Subject to the Public Health Order, teams must participate in all premiership matches despite the unavailability of players, coaches, managers and volunteers.
- c. As per ESFA Competition Rules (Item 14.7 (A)) a minimum number of seven (7) eligible players are required to field a team. Teams can borrow players based on ESFA Competition Rules.
- d. Exponential minimum squad numbers are as follows (Under 13s onwards):

Eligible Squad Numbers	COVID (Minimum Player Unavailability's)
13	5
14	6
15	7
16	8

- e. Based on the above table, if a team has a minimum number of its squad unavailable due to testing positive to COVID-19, the affected team's Club may, no later than 24 hours prior to match kick-off, apply to ESFA to have the match deferred and be made using a Match Amendment JotForm. E.g., if the team has 13 eligible squad members, then a minimum of five (5) players tests positive to COVID-19, a match deferment application may be made.
- f. In the application to have the match deferred, the Club must state why the Club is unable to field a team, including why it is not possible for the Club to select players from lower grade team(s) as per ESFA Competition Rules.
- g. ESFA will consider an application for a match to be deferred submitted based on COVID-19 restrictions and communicate its decision as soon as possible. Any decision made on this is at the absolute discretion of ESFA and is final and binding on all parties and is not subject to challenge or appeal.
- h. Please note that by reviewing an application for a match deferment based on point d., ESFA may require a Club to provide further evidence of the impacts of COVID-19, including test results. If ESFA reasonably concludes that false evidence has been provided by the Club, then that particular team will have forfeited the match and items 14.7 and 14.8 as per ESFA Competition Rules will take effect. ESFA may also take action against the Club and relevant individuals as per the ESFA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

- i. If the Club has a team that has the minimum COVID-19 positive cases as per point d., and does not apply to ESFA to have the match deferred at least 24 hours prior to match kick-off or does apply within the specified timeframe, but approval is denied by ESFA then the team must participate in the match as per scheduled kick off or forfeit the match.
- j. If the Club has a team that does not meet the minimum number of COVID-19 positive cases as per point d., but subsequently additional positive cases are diagnosed taking the number of positive cases to or above the specified minimum cases within the specified 24 hour notification period to apply for a match deferment, then the affected team must participate in the match, if necessary by selecting players from lower grade team(s) as per ESFA Competition Rules or forfeit the match. If a team cannot draw players from a lower team due to the Club not having one, then ESFA will make a decision and communicate this as soon as possible. This decision is final and at the absolute discretion of ESFA and binding on all parties and is not subject to challenge or appeal.