

Australian football

The planning considerations that are common to all curriculum activities can be found in the [CARA generic template](#). These must be considered as well as the activity-specific considerations outlined below.

Activity scope

This guideline relates to student participation in Australian football (AFL) as a curriculum activity, including skills development, training and competitions.

Mandatory requirements

Mandatory requirements must be met for the activity to be conducted.

- Refer to AFL Community for guidelines/codes of practice.
- Modified versions of AFL may include additional and/or alternate risks and equipment that should be considered in planning this activity.
- Competition games must be controlled by competent coaches and umpires. A referee who is currently a student of a participating school should not be appointed to umpire an unmodified game.
- Students must wear a mouthguard when participating in Australian football. The Department strongly recommends that students wear custom-fitted mouthguards. Schools are required to provide information about the different types of mouthguards to parents/carers to assist them make an informed choice for the student, for example, see the [Sport Medicine Australia - Dental Injuries](#) and the [Australian Dental Association](#) recommendations.
- Obtain parent/carer consent as part of the medical questionnaire/declaration required for participation in Australian football. The medical questionnaire/declaration must include the following statement:

I understand that mouth protection is mandatory in this sport. I have read the information provided to me about mouth protection and accept responsibility for the type of mouth protection I/my child will wear whilst playing this sport.

(Note: Students with a medical condition that may impact on their safety during participation in this activity must be cleared by a medical practitioner to participate in the activity).

- Establish and implement procedures for emergencies such as injury (e.g. [head injuries](#)) and first aid, resuscitation, communication, emergency service contact details and supervision/safety detail of students that are appropriate to the activity, location and conditions.
- Follow the school's [sun safety strategy](#).
- Refer to the [School Excursions and International School Study Tours](#) for mandatory travel requirements that may be associated with this activity when playing off site.

Risk level

- **Medium** risk: Teaching of modified games, adhering to the [AFL Sport Education in Physical Education Program](#) or other modified non-contact/minimal contact versions of AFL
- **High** risk: Teaching of AFL skills, training and competitions.



Supervision requirements

- Provide sufficient adult supervision to manage the activity safely (including emergency situations). Consider age, size, ability and maturity of students in this decision. Principals make decisions about the supervision requirements.
- Ensure supervisors are visible and easily identified and that all students are in sight of at least one adult at all times.
- During competition, a qualified first aid officer with cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR)/sports trainer should be readily accessible to the field(s) of play to provide immediate first aid assistance. There must be phone access to call an ambulance if required.
- Competition games must be controlled by competent coaches and officials. A referee who is currently a student of a participating school should not be appointed to referee an unmodified game.

Qualifications for supervisors

Medium risk level

- A registered teacher with competence (knowledge and skills) in the teaching of AFL.
OR
- A registered teacher or other activity leader (as appropriate for the age group) working under the direct supervision of a registered teacher with:
 - U/6 to U/11: [Level 1 \(Junior\)](#) coaching accreditation from AFL Queensland. This course may be undertaken through the [Get Active Queensland Accreditation Program](#) (GAQAP).
 - OR**
 - U/12 to U/17: [Level 1 \(Youth\)](#) coaching accreditation from AFL Queensland. This course may be undertaken through GAQAP.

High risk level

- An adult with Level 1 (Youth) coaching accreditation from AFL Queensland working under the direct supervision of a registered teacher. This course may be undertaken through GAQAP.

Requirements for facilities and equipment

- Readily available first aid equipment and consumable items (e.g. heat pack, ice pack) appropriate to the location and level of risk.
- Wear personal protective equipment (including footwear) appropriate to the playing surface and type of activity. It is recommended students wear body padding and headgear for full contact games appropriate to the age of participants.
- Clearly define playing area and establish a safety/spectator zone.
- An injury management procedure (including head injuries) in place. Refer to Queensland School Sport [Competition Procedures](#) concussion policy.
- Goal and behind posts padded as follows:
 - a minimum of 35mm thick foam padding, covered in canvas or painted
 - a minimum height of 2.5m from the bottom of each goal and behind post
 - a suitable width to allow the padding to be fixed around each goal and behind post
 - the padding must be securely attached around each goal and behind post.
- Footwear appropriate to the playing surface, type of activity (i.e. training or match) and age of participants.

Hazards and controls

Before the activity

Hazards	Control measures
Considering environmental conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess weather (Bureau of Meteorology) and environmental conditions.
Accessing facilities and using equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly define the playing and clearance areas prior to play commencing. AFL Queensland recommend a clearance of 5m surrounding the playing area. If the recommended boundary clearance is not met, provide instructions to the officials/supervisors and students about the limited clearance zone and the steps they could take to ensure safety, including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reduce the size of the playing field to achieve an adequate clearance zone remove spectators/dangerous obstacles within the clearance zone station supervisors near any obstacles within the clearance zone pad any obstacles located within the clearance zone. If one or more students are wearing footwear, ensure all students have footwear. Inspect boots before each match. Loose, sharp-edged or excessively worn studs and sharp-edged soles must not be worn.
Managing student considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adhere to AFL Next Generation Australian Football Match Policy for the conduct of the game for players under 18. Select students for on field position(s) on the basis of ability, size and suitability. Ensure students pass through the skills and knowledge areas associated with AFL before participating at a level governed by the full laws of the game.

During the activity

Considering environmental conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cease the activity if the weather is unfavourable (e.g. extreme temperatures, thunderstorms).
Accessing facilities and using equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continually monitor and enforce the correct use of all equipment.
Managing student considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforce rules regarding physical contact and dangerous play specific to the sport. Modify games to match the age, skill and fitness levels of students. Ensure drink breaks occur regularly (i.e. drink breaks are recommended every 30 minutes in conditions of extreme temperature) and drinks are available for individual players between drink breaks. Remove accessories (e.g. jewellery) before participating. Ensure fingernails, hair and clothing do not interfere with the activity.

After the activity

Accessing facilities and using equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean and store all equipment safely and securely when not in use.
--	--

Additional links

[Queensland School Sport Unit](#)
[Sports Medicine Australia Injury Fact Sheets](#)
[Sports Medicine Australia Hot Weather Guideline](#)
[Australian Dental Association](#)

Disclaimer:

This document is developed and distributed on this website by the State of Queensland for use by Queensland state schools.

Use or adaptation of, or reliance on, this document or information in this document by persons or organisations other than the State of Queensland is at their sole risk. All users who use, adapt or rely on this document or any information in this document are responsible for ensuring by independent verification its accuracy, currency and appropriateness to their particular circumstances. The State of Queensland makes no representations, either express or implied, as to the suitability of this document or the information in this document to a user's particular circumstances.

To the full extent permitted by law, the State of Queensland disclaims all responsibility and liability (including without limitation, liability in negligence) for all expenses, losses, damages and costs arising from the use or adaptation of, or reliance on, this document or any information in this document.

Links in this document to external websites are for convenience only and the State of Queensland has not independently verified the information on the linked websites. It is the responsibility of users to make their own decisions about the accuracy, currency, reliability and correctness of the information at these external websites.