# Actioning Club Communication – disability or low English literacy

Welcome back to sport. As we all work to bring sport back to our playing fields and courts Inclusive Sport SA, in partnership with the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing have developed The Return to Sport Accessible Communication material to promote health literacy and positive hygiene practices and assist sport deliverers administer a smooth and safe return to sport.

The following information outlines best practice guidelines regarding communication for State Sporting Organisations (SSOs), Associations and Clubs when transferring and imparting significant return to sport guidelines, requirements and government COVID-19 restrictions to players/athletes who may have cognitive and/or learning disability, low literacy or English as a second language, and their families/caregivers.

Seek Committee and Coach Feedback

Ensure to talk through and listen to your coaches if they foresee issues or challenges regarding communicating this health and safety information. Club committees must continually seek open discussion and feedback with their coaches who are passing on COVID-19 requirements and hygiene messages for training and competition to their teams and families.

It is advised that committees make time to regularly ask for feedback and in particular identify challenges or issues in actioning and relaying this type of information to players. If an activity isn’t working for everyone, adapt it. Develop solutions to navigate around these with coaches and pursue clarification and ideas from players. *\*Inclusive Sport SA may be able to offer practical guidance and support if challenges have been identified.*

Share and practice restrictions at team trainings

Training sessions are important for sharing information with players and caregivers, and are a great opportunity to practice these swift changing guidelines in preparation for the return of competition. Some sports who host competitive teams or programs from marginalised groups do not train weekly. This poses challenges for coaches and potential risks for clubs in actioning and practicing current COVID-19 guidelines and requirements.

Encouraging team training at the same time as other club team trainings (whilst observing current guidelines and social distancing) will help with relaying information to teams/athlete groups as well as making sure all club teams are included in club activities and communications.

Recommendations

* Within a club
  + Team trainings to introduce and practice the most update restrictions and guidelines.
  + Conduct regular catch ups or meetings (in person or via video) with coaches to discuss and identify main concerns and challenges.
* Association or State Sport Organisation
  + Schedule a meetings (in person or via video) with committee member or coach from an inclusive team to discuss progress and challenges and how information will be communicated to coaches, teams and players.
* Develop resources that support learning and overcome identified challenges to better present and share information. *\*Inclusive Sport SA may be able to offer practical guidance and support with the development of resources. Contact our offices for more information.*

More Information

For further guidance on inclusive communication see the Inclusive Sport SA Communication & Engagement Guides series on the Inclusive Sport SA website - <https://inclusivesportsa.com.au/sport/best-practice/>

* Communication & Engagement Guide – Impairment and Disability
* Communication & Engagement Guide – Assisting in Social Interaction
* Return to Sport - Writing Tips for Club Communication