

MACQUARIE FOOTBALL LIMITED  
153

A.C.N. 050 293

NEWCASTLE FOOTBALL LIMITED  
163

A.C.N. 052 054

HUNTER VALLEY FOOTBALL INCORPORATED

## **INFECTIOUS DISEASES POLICY**

Issued by the Joint Board of Directors of Macquarie Football Limited, Newcastle Football Limited and Hunter Valley Football Incorporated.

Issued            **February 2018**  
Review            January 2019

**POLICY ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

## **1.0 APPLICATION**

- 1.01 In framing this policy, it is important to consider the types of contagion that might be applicable in the normal environment that applies to the sport of football. The primary consideration is that football is a contact or collision sport.
- 1.02 It is strongly recommended that all contact and/or collision sports team physicians, other sports medicine staff, coaches, referees, team managers, administrators, players and their parents be made aware of this policy and adopt the commonsense recommendations contained herein.
- 1.03 A number of blood borne infectious diseases can be transmitted during body and collision sports. The more serious include HEPATITIS and HIV (AIDS) infections.  
These diseases may be spread by contact with:  
Blood  
Saliva (not HIV)  
Perspiration (not HIV)  
Other bodily fluids  
The recommendations in this policy statement will reduce the risk of disease transmission.

## **2.0 OPEN CUTS (WOUNDS, ABRASIONS)**

All open cuts and abrasions shall be reported and treated immediately to preclude blood contamination of any item.

The Zone Association recognizes this as an area of principal concern given that the skin can be broken very easily by contact with players and facilities and equipment.

## **3.0 PLAYERS**

### **3.01 PERSONAL HYGIENE**

It is the responsibility of the player to maintain strict personal hygiene, as this is the best method of controlling the spread of infectious diseases.

### **3.02 VACCINATIONS**

It is strongly recommended that all participants involved in football and playing under adult rules shall be vaccinated for HEPATITIS B.

### **3.03 PLAYER MEDICAL CLEARANCES**

Players with prior evidence of these diseases shall obtain medical clearances from a doctor prior to participation in football.

## **4.0 TEAM AREAS**

### **4.01 RESPONSIBILITIES**

It is the responsibility of this Zone Association and its Member Clubs to ensure that all Change Rooms are clean and tidy. Particular attention shall be paid to hand basins, toilets and showers. Adequate soap dispensers, paper hand towels or air dryers, brooms and disinfectants etc shall be available at all times.

### **4.02 COMMUNAL BATHING**

Communal bathing areas eg spas shall not be used.

### **4.03 SPITTING AND URINATING**

The practices of spitting and/or urinating in team areas shall not be permitted.

### **4.04 CONTAMINATED ARTICLES**

All clothing, equipment and surfaces contaminated by blood shall be treated as potentially infectious and must be treated accordingly.

### **4.05 SHARING ARTICLES**

Sharing of towels, face washers and drink containers shall not occur.

### **4.06 VACCINATIONS**

It is strongly recommended that all personnel working in team areas shall have been vaccinated for HEPATITIS B.

### **4.07 TRAINING**

In all training areas, open cuts or abrasions shall be reported to the team coach or other suitable personnel and treated immediately.

## **5.0 REFEREES AND OTHER MATCH OFFICIALS**

### **5.01 BLEEDING PLAYERS**

Players shall be sent from the field of play immediately that an open bleeding wound is obvious to the Referee or other Match Officials.

### **5.02 REPORTING**

Officials and players shall report all open cuts and abrasions at the first available opportunity to the Referee of the Match.

### **5.03 VACCINATIONS**

It is strongly recommended that all Match Officials shall be vaccinated for HEPATITIS B.

### **5.04 CONTAMINATED ARTICLES**

All contaminated clothing and equipment shall be replaced prior to the player being allowed to resume play.

**5.05 RECURRENT BLEEDING**

If bleeding should recur, the above procedures shall be repeated.

**5.06 NON CONTROLLABLE BLEEDING**

If bleeding cannot be controlled and the wound securely covered, the player shall not be allowed to continue in the game.

**6.0 GENERAL**

If a player or official or Club or Zone Association staff member is found to be suffering from HEPATITIS or HIV, then that person shall not resume training or play, nor be involved in any team or match, until cleared to do so by his/her medical practitioner or the team medical practitioner.

**7.0 EDUCATION**

There shall be an obligation upon this Zone Association and its members to provide suitable information on the associated risk factor and prevention strategies of HEPATITIS B and HIV to all Member Clubs and players.

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