



SPORTY STRETCH

7m 05s

This is a fantastic stretching routine to do before or after playing sport. Quality warm up and cool down routines are beneficial for preventing sporting injuries, reducing muscle soreness and improving flexibility.



Movement	Seated modifications	Other modifications	Progressions	Watch points
Peacock Pose	Lean forward from your hips with your back straight. Clasp your hands behind your back. Lift your arms as high as you can (with back straight and chest proud).		Try doing the Peacock Pose balancing on one foot	* Standing tall (chest upright) * Shoulders down and neck relaxed
Meerkat Mission	Massage the top of your legs with your elbows.	* Do Meerkat Mission while holding a sturdy desk or wall to help you balance. * Lie on your side with straight legs and knees together. Bend your top knee and pull your foot up towards your bottom. If it's too tricky to balance, do this stretch lying on your tummy instead.	Try Meerkat Mission with your eyes closed, to challenge your balance	* Standing up tall, like a meerkat * Neck and shoulders relaxed * Bottom tucked under * Knees together



Movement	Seated modifications	Other modifications	Progressions	Watch points
Orangutan Stretch	Reach your left arm up above you and lean your upper body over to the right. Push your left hip down and away from your left arm if you can. Hold for 5 deep breaths and switch sides.	Stand with feet hip-width apart on the floor and do the upper body part of the Orangutan Stretch.		* Hips, shoulders and arm facing straight ahead (not leaning forwards) * Bottom hand pushing into your leg
Emu Explore	Wriggle forward in your chair. Lean forward with a straight back. Move one foot forward and do the Emu Explore in your chair.		Standing beside a wall or step: 1. Place your front foot upright against the wall or step 2. Straighten your front leg 3. Lean forwards to feel a stretch in your lower leg 4. Bend your front knee to feel the stretch lower down near your ankle	Back knee bent
Toad Sit	Lift your left foot onto your chair. Use your left elbow to push your left knee outwards until you feel a stretch. Bend forwards from your hips, keeping your back straight and strong. Place your elbows on the insides of your knees and push your knees outwards. Hold for 5 deep breaths		Do the Toad Sit with your arms... - Straight out in front of you - Pointing up to the sky in front of you	* Feet wider than hips * Chest upright and back straight * Shoulders down and neck relaxed



Movement	Seated modifications	Other modifications	Progressions	Watch points
Downward Dog	Bend your body forward over your legs. Reach your arms out in front of you.		Do Downward Dog with your legs straight and feet flat on the floor.	* Knees as straight as possible * Head and neck relaxed, looking towards your feet
Pigeon Pose	Same as the standard Pigeon Pose		Try Pigeon Pose on the floor... 1. Step your right foot back and lunge down to kneel on your right knee 2. Slide your left foot to the right, and place your hands on the floor in front of you 3. Slide your right leg back as far as you can 4. Lower your left knee and hips towards the floor	* The front leg ideally parallel with the pelvis (hip bones) * Pelvis (hip bones) facing straight forwards * Back leg in a straight line behind you