

# UPDATED GUIDANCE FOR GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL IN THE THREE COVID-19 TIERS: A SUMMARY



**EVERY PARTICIPANT MUST FOLLOW ALL FA AND GOVERNMENT ADVICE. THIS IS CRUCIAL TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF EVERYONE INVOLVED IN THE GAME, AND SO WE CAN CONTINUE TO PLAY. ANY INCIDENTS OF NON-COMPLIANCE WILL BE REPORTED TO THE RELEVANT COUNTY FA FOR ACTION.**

## FOR CLUBS, PLAYERS, COACHES, CLUB OFFICIALS, CLUB WELFARE OFFICERS, MATCH OFFICIALS, LEAGUE OFFICIALS, FIRST-AIDERS, VOLUNTEERS, PARENTS/CARERS, SPECTATORS AND FOOTBALL FACILITY PROVIDERS

Following the UK Government's announcements on Thursday November 26 regarding the three Covid-19-related Tiers, below is a summary of what the Tiers mean for grassroots football. To check which Tier you're in, see the Government guidance [here](#). The chart below gives guidance on protocols before, during and after competitive play, as well as training and any impact on spectators. Grassroots football can be played in all three tiers, but see travel restrictions below. Changing rooms can be used in all tiers, following strict protocols set out in FA guidance.

ALERT LEVEL	TIER 3: VERY HIGH ALERT	TIER 2: HIGH ALERT	TIER 1: MEDIUM ALERT
<b>ALERT LEVEL SUMMARY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outdoor training, leagues and competitions is allowed in Tier 3 areas.</li> <li>No indoor football (including futsal) allowed.</li> <li>There are exceptions for indoor disability football, football within educational settings (e.g. school/college/university) and supervised football for under-18s, which can take place with larger groups mixing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outdoor training, leagues and competitions is allowed.</li> <li>Indoor football (including futsal) is only allowed if it is possible for people to avoid mixing with people they do not live with (or with whom they share a support bubble).</li> <li>There are exceptions for indoor disability football, football within educational settings (e.g. school/college/university) and supervised football for under-18s, which can take place with larger groups mixing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outdoor training, leagues and competitions is allowed.</li> <li>Indoor football (including futsal) is allowed, if the rule of six is followed.</li> <li>There are exceptions for indoor disability football, football within educational settings (e.g. school/college/university) and supervised football for under-18s, which can take place with larger groups mixing.</li> </ul>
<b>COMPETITIVE PLAY IN LEAGUES AND COMPETITIONS – AT THE VENUE</b>	<p><b>BEFORE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signage should be put up at all facilities/pitches to provide clear direction on protocols.</li> <li>Social distancing must always be adhered to on arrival and when not in play.</li> <li>The sharing of essential equipment is permitted. Strict hygiene protocols must be adhered to.</li> <li><b>NHS Test and Trace</b> must be in operation at all grounds/facilities.</li> </ul> <p><b>DURING:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All substitutes and team officials should maintain social distancing. No celebrations or team huddles.</li> </ul> <p><b>AFTER:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No socialising at the ground/pitch after games.</li> <li>Bars, pubs, cafes and restaurants must be closed – they are only permitted to sell by takeaway/click-and-collect.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Follow all Tier 3 protocols apart from:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clubs can serve food and beverages, in line with the <b>Government guidance</b> on hospitality and facilities located in Tier 2.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Follow all Tier 3 protocols apart from:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clubs can serve food and beverages, in line with the <b>Government guidance</b> on hospitality and facilities located in Tier 1.</li> </ul>
<b>TRAVEL</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You cannot travel in and out of Tier 3 to play grassroots football.</li> <li>There is an exemption for travel in Tier 3, for under-18s, disability teams, volunteers, match officials, guardians, elite players and those travelling for work.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You can travel across Tier 2 to play grassroots football</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You can travel across Tier 1 to play grassroots football</li> </ul>
<b>TRAINING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All participants (i.e. adult and youth) should minimise contact in training where possible, e.g. minimise tackles/any drills or practices that require close contact.</li> <li>All protocols on social distancing, hand sanitising, equipment sharing, facilities and <b>NHS Test and Trace</b> must be strictly adhered to.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outdoor training can take place.</li> <li>All protocols on social distancing, hand sanitising, equipment sharing, facilities and <b>NHS Test and Trace</b> must be strictly adhered to.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outdoor training can take place.</li> <li>All protocols on social distancing, hand sanitising, equipment sharing, facilities and <b>NHS Test and Trace</b> must be strictly adhered to.</li> </ul>
<b>IMPACT ON SPECTATORS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spectators are permitted, but must follow the rule of six and <b>Government guidance</b> on restrictions in certain tiers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spectators are permitted, but must follow the rule of six and <b>Government guidance</b> on restrictions in certain tiers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spectators are permitted, but must follow the rule of six and <b>Government guidance</b> on restrictions in certain tiers.</li> </ul>

### DISCLAIMER:

This guidance is for general information only and does not constitute legal advice, nor is it a replacement for such, nor does it replace any Government or PHE advice; nor does it provide any specific commentary or advice on health-related issues. Affected organisations should therefore ensure that they seek independent advice from medical practitioners, or healthcare providers, prior to implementing any re-opening plan, as required. Independent legal advice

should be sought, as required and depending on your, or relevant circumstances. While efforts have been taken to ensure the accuracy of this information at the time of publication, the reader is reminded to check the Government website to obtain the most up-to-date information regarding social distancing and any other Government measures.