

## LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

### TIER 3 UPDATE ON COVID-19 - USE OF LOCAL AUTHORITY FOOTBALL FACILITIES - 21 OCTOBER 2020

The government has now published the guidance which accompanies the additional local lockdown measures that were recently announced for the Liverpool City Region (LCR) when entering Tier 3, this includes Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St. Helens and Wirral. Furthermore, the Government announced plans to simplify Covid-19 restrictions by categorising all Local Authorities or boroughs as:

- Medium – Tier One
- High – Tier Two
- Very High – Tier Three

Whilst the focus of government guidance is primarily concerned with the closure of venues and mixing within households, we feel it important to draw attention to where we now foresee changes in the use of our football pitches and ancillary facilities.

The following guidance applies to Grassroots Football including NLS Feeder Leagues (Step 7) and below, which applies to the following County FA areas of Manchester, Cheshire, Lancashire and Liverpool, Westmorland and Cumberland.

#### **Adult Football (including Step 7 and below)**

- ✓ With immediate effect based on guidance currently provided ADULT clubs and individuals CANNOT move IN or OUT of a VERY HIGH (Tier 3) region to participate. This refers to the LCR area only. For example, adult clubs may travel within the LCR area i.e. from Liverpool to Halton and vice-versa but cannot travel to Lancashire or Manchester and vice-versa.

#### **Youth Football (U18s)**

- ✓ With regards to youth football (U18s) Players and teams can play across TIER's. **There are no new restrictions at present.**

***Please note there maybe other local restrictions per Local Authority which supersede any FA guidance.***

We cannot stress enough the critical importance of ALL involved in the game doing their level best to allow the grassroots game to continue in these challenging times.

The key guidance remains as follows:

- ✓ Social distancing wherever possible for players, and always in the case of spectators
- ✓ Robust hygiene standards as per risk assessments but including the wearing of masks in toilet blocks
- ✓ Effective registering of attendees primarily via the NHS Test and Trace QR system
- ✓ All spectators discouraged to attend adult games

- ✓ Only one spectator per child at youth games i.e. u18's
- ✓ Provide local fixtures within your catchment area where possible
- ✓ Travel in separate cars to games

We know these additional government restrictions will cause further disruption to individuals in clubs and leagues, however we remain able to play football to a significant extent albeit under licence. We are reliant on each and everyone of us complying fully with the current restrictions.

### **Note for all clubs at Levels 3- 6 of National League System**

The FA have requested clarity from the UK Government on travel into or out of areas with VERY HIGH local COVID levels by players in step 3 – 6 of the NLS. DCMS have confirmed in collaboration with The FA that player travel is permitted in to and out of VERY HIGH areas.

***We ask that spectators follow Government guidance and DO NOT travel INTO or OUT of VERY HIGH (Tier 3) areas.***

### **GENERAL RULES**

The view taken by the LCR area is that stricter controls are necessary for spectators at our football pitch sites. A number of council's have carried out inspections of football pitch sites, which identified groupings of unmasked spectators at touchlines. This creates an increased and unacceptable risk of transmitting Covid-19. Therefore;

- We ask that no spectators accompany players to adult fixtures.
- We ask that only 1 parent or carer, from the same household/support bubble as the child, attends at junior fixtures.
- Spectators to junior fixtures must socially distance, we advise face coverings are worn and that a distance of 2m is made from the touchline.
- People should seek to attend at fixtures within 15 minutes of kick off – not sooner, please do not arrive too early, as your attendance may conflict with other teams seeking to leave the venue, and would increase the chances of contact with others/ infection.
- All visitors, including spectators are asked to register your attendance using the QR codes on display at the entrance to changing rooms. These remain open only for officials and toilets.
- We ask leagues/clubs to ensure they have updated Risk Assessments as per the guidance provided by your National Governing Body (the Football Association). It will be important to keep these 'live' as the situation evolves.

Where practicable, we ask local leagues to be flexible in which pitches are used at a site, for example by playing on pitches not in use which will help teams to maintain greater distance from each other.

We would also ask leagues/teams to consider amending time slots, if this will discourage large groups of people arriving at the same time. This is not always possible but where it can be achieved, our aim is to minimise groups of people congregating, whilst being able to keep fixtures going.

