



Green Sefton

Ainsdale Discovery Centre
Promenade
Ainsdale-on-Sea
PR8 2QB

0151 934 2961 

Greensefton@sefton.gov.uk 

Dear Sir / Madam

5th October 2020

UPDATE ON COVID-19 - USE OF OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

The government has now published the guidance which accompanies the additional local lockdown measures that were recently announced for the Liverpool City Region, this includes Sefton.

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 facilities and sports pitches.

Sports Fixtures

The government has continued to allow sports fixtures on our playing fields where the sport is controlled by a National Governing Body with published guidelines, for example the Football Association.

You can continue to take part in organised sporting or licensed physical activity in groups of more than 6 outdoors. However, Government guidance now focuses on spectators and states, *“We advise that you should not attend amateur or professional sporting events as a spectator in the affected local areas. If you do attend, you must remain socially distanced and groups of no more than 6 when outdoors (and if indoors, only with your household or support bubble).”*

The view we take is that stricter controls are necessary for spectators at our playing pitch sites.

Prior to the announcement of further restrictions being necessary, inspections by the Council of playing pitch sites showed groupings of unmasked spectators at touchlines which creates an unacceptable risk of transmitting Coronavirus.

Sefton Council have now revised our policies further and ask that the following be adhered with:

RULES FOR SPECTATORS

- **We ask that no spectators accompany players to adult outdoor sports 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 sports 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 toilets. Where there are no changing rooms, registration for track and trace will be made by officials on site, in accordance with National Governing Body guidance.

Amateur Football

We have asked local leagues to move around pitch use on site if other pitches are not in use, if that helps teams to maintain greater distance from each other. We have also asked them 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, we want to minimise the assembly of people whilst keeping fixtures going.

Risk Assessments

We would ask that leagues/ clubs please ensure they have updated Risk Assessments as per any guidance provided by your National Governing Body (e.g. the Football Association). It will be important to keep these 'live' as the situation evolves.

More information on Coronavirus can be found on our website at:

<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/coronavirus>

And, specific to the current Local Lockdown, on the government website here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/merseyside-halton-and-warrington-local-restrictions>

Thank you in advance for supporting efforts to keep everyone safe from the risk of infection. If you have further queries, please contact us at greensefton@sefton.gov.uk

Yours Sincerely



Mark Shaw
Service Manager – Green Sefton