



LondonFA

RETURN TO FOOTBALL - GUIDANCE WITH Q&A

Clubs Webinar - 5th August 2020



For Your Info

- Recording in progress
- Slides available later
- Q&A opportunity at the end, with brief Q&A after each segment (time permitting)
- Any questions not covered will be followed up later
- We may not have all the answers today – but will take essential Q's back to The FA

For Your Action

- ✓ Please mute & turn cameras off
- ✓ Ask questions / add comments via the chat
- ✓ Use the 'hand up' function – the speaker will invite you to unmute to ask your question
- ✓ We want your feedback to help shape the Safe Return to Football



Agenda



- Overview of the Return to Football guidance, with customer service updates (*Paul Bickerton*)
- Practical application and considerations for returning to grassroots football (*Guest speakers*)
- Coach Education update (*Paul Bickerton*)
- Safeguarding Responsibilities in Open Age teams (*Jake Rosewell*)
- Q&A (*All*)



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Return to Football Guidance

Guidance available



- General guidance (inc. player code of conduct and safeguarding guidance)
- General guidance summary
- General guidance FAQs
- Specific risk assessment guidance & template
- Specific first aid guidance
- Specific facility provider guidance
- Specific national league & women's football (Pyramid Tiers 3-6) guidance
- Referee Guidance (grassroots football)
- Referee Guidance summary (grassroots football)
- Referee guidance (national league system)
- Legal risks and duties of care when returning to play (Sport England guidance)

RE-STARTING OUTDOOR COMPETITIVE GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL - SUMMARY

COVID-19 GUIDANCE



FOR CLUBS, PLAYERS, COACHES, CLUB OFFICIALS, CLUB WELFARE OFFICERS, MATCH OFFICIALS, LEAGUE OFFICIALS, VOLUNTEERS, PARENTS/CARERS SPECTATORS AND FOOTBALL FACILITY PROVIDERS - Published: 18 July 2020

This document outlines actions to be taken before, during and after all competitive grassroots football activity in England. It should be read in conjunction with the latest UK Government Covid-19 guidance available [here](#) and the more detailed guidance document produced by The FA, available [here](#).

In outdoor competitive training and matches, physical contact is now allowed, but for all other activity (e.g. warm-ups/cool-downs) the Government guidance on social distancing should be observed, read [here](#). Should Government guidance change in response to the current Covid-19 Alert Level, The FA guidance will be updated accordingly.

BEFORE ACTIVITY

- Everyone should self-assess for [Covid-19 symptoms](#) before every training session or match. If you are symptomatic or living in a household with possible or actual Covid-19 infection you must not participate or attend. You should stay home and follow the latest [Government guidance](#).
- Clubs/facility providers should appoint a Covid-19 officer and conduct a thorough [risk assessment](#) before re-opening or re-starting competitive activity. They should also follow current 'NHS test and trace' protocols, such as keeping an attendance register.
- Personal hygiene measures should be carried out by everyone and hand sanitisers brought and used at the training/match venue.
- The sharing of kit and equipment should be avoided, but where equipment is shared, it must be cleaned before use by another person.
- Goal posts and corner poles should be wiped down before matches, after matches and at half time.
- Follow Government guidance for travel, including minimising use of public transport.
- Active participants should arrive changed and ready to take part.
- Youth team coaches should re-acquaint themselves with all safeguarding policies and procedures.
- Meet-up times should be adjusted to avoid time spent congregating at a venue.
- Use of clubhouses, hospitality facilities, changing rooms and toilets must adhere to [Government guidance](#).

Anyone who is deemed vulnerable in respect of Covid-19 is reminded to follow the Government's guidance, only returning to football when it's right for them to do so.

DURING TRAINING & MATCH PLAY

- Competitive training can take place for all participants, in an outdoor setting provided this takes place in groups of no more than 30 (including coaches).
- Competitive match play is permitted, with social distancing in place before and after the session, and in any breaks in play.
- The sharing of kit and equipment should be avoided and participants should bring their own drinks or refreshments, in named containers.
- When the ball goes out of play, it should not be retrieved by non-participants and should be retrieved using the feet rather than the hands where possible.
- Participants must not spit and should avoid shouting or raising their voices when facing each other, as detailed in The FA Covid-19 Code of Behaviour.
- Set plays: players are encouraged to avoid unnecessarily long set-up or close marking. Other modifications apply to specific situations, such as goal celebrations being discouraged. Read more in The FA's more detailed guidance [here](#).
- Youth football coaches are encouraged to limit persistent close proximity of participants during match play and training.
- Observing rigorous hygiene standards, injuries can be treated. See full guidance [here](#).
- Spectator groups should be limited to six people per group and spread out in line with wider [Government guidance](#).
- Match fee payments should be cashless – consider using [The FA Matchday App](#).
- Small-sided football should include more regular hygiene breaks in activity and players discouraged from touching or tackling against boards.

AFTER ACTIVITY

- Hands should be washed at the earliest opportunity and personal equipment should be wiped down with a disinfectant.
- Unless absolutely necessary, participants should take their kit home and wash it themselves, or by family members. Post-activity showers should be taken at home.
- Everyone must continue to maintain [social distancing](#) including in any facilities where groups of people congregate (e.g. clubhouses).
- Everyone should leave following the traffic-flow system the club or facility provider has put place.
- Anyone who becomes infected after training/matches should report this to the [NHS test and trace system](#).

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.

THANK YOU! NOW LET'S GET OUR GREAT GAME GOING AGAIN – SAFELY.

Key points to note

BEFORE

- COVID-19 symptoms self-screen checks
- COVID-19 officer for each club
- COVID-19 specific risk assessment completed
- Follow track and trace guidelines

DURING

- Social distancing at all times, except in competitive match play
- Limit persistent close proximity during the game
- New Code of Behaviour for participants

AFTER

- Social distancing at all times (changing, socialising, etc)
- Players wash their own kit



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Personal hygiene
measures, traffic flow,
communications

Adapted safeguarding measures

SHERIDANS



Legal risks and duties of care when returning to play

Guidance note in the context of coronavirus

Published June 2020

sportengland.org



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Summary of guidance:

- Demonstrate you have taken all reasonable steps to follow government and public health authority guidance
- Demonstrate you have taken all reasonable steps to follow the bespoke National Governing Body guidance
- Evidence that a full and proper COVID-19 risk assessment has been carried out

www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/coronavirus/return-play#legalsupport

London FA customer service changes



- Website audit & rebuild:
 - New support portal (www.londonfa.freshdesk.com/support/solutions)
 - Grassroots Football Latest (www.londonfa.com/news/2020/mar/04/coronavirus-update)
- Shift from phone operating system to email management system
 - www.londonfa.com/about/contact
- Extensive communications
 - Social media
 - Fortnightly newsletter
 - Regular webinars

Parkwood Rangers Men's, Youth, Ladies, Vets

Gavin Davies



Anita Russell

Doverhouse Lions Youth, Disability, Adults, & Girls

Parkwood Rangers FC

Gavin Davies
Parkwood Rangers Secretary





Challenges – COVID-19

- Lockdown - no football
- Infection risk / player safety
- Loss of income / subs
- Sponsors
- Engaging with coaches
- Venue closed



Answers – COVID-19

- Electronic registration 2020/21 (GDPR)
- Phased return risk assessments
- Subs Donations
- Sponsor deals two years
- Engaging with coaches (digital media)
- Venue open (indoors and out) with Social distancing measures in place
- Track and Trace

COVID 19 – GUIDANCE ON RE-STARTING FOOTBALL ACTIVITY

Amended Guidance
Published 18th July 2020



COVID 19 – GUIDANCE ON RE-STARTING FOOTBALL ACTIVITY

Our Journey so far – Phase 1

- Friday 5th June 2020
 - Following an [update from the FA](#) on permitted grassroots football during COVID-19 on 1st June 2020, Doverhouse Lions FC compiled a document on key considerations and a plan to safely restart Football Training.
 - The proposal identified what was/is expected of the club, team managers/coaches, players and parents.
 - All club members attending a training session and accepted their responsibilities in order to comply with the [FA guidance](#) before returning to football training.
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COVID 19 – GUIDANCE ON RE-STARTING FOOTBALL ACTIVITY

Our Journey so far – Phase 1

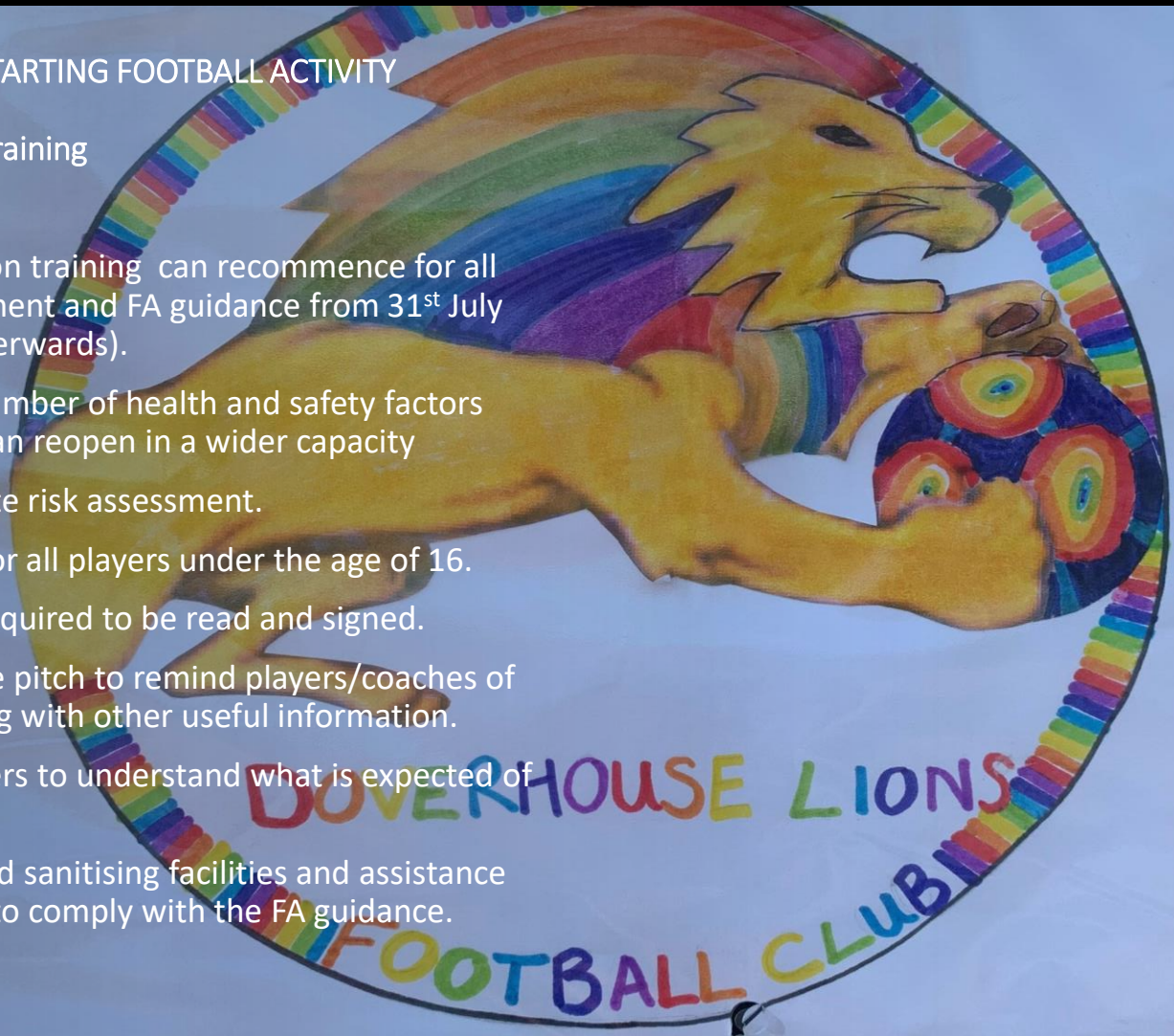
- Excellent support from the local council in relation to training facilities
 - The mental and physical health of young people in the community has been supported and improved
 - Provisions put in place to support – Covid 19 & Black Life's Matter
 - Implementation of risk assessment
 - Venue training restrictions - 1 hr sessions
-



COVID 19 – GUIDANCE ON RE-STARTING FOOTBALL ACTIVITY

Proposal for restarting football training Phase 2

- Our intention is that pre season training can recommence for all age groups in line with Government and FA guidance from 31st July 2020 (or as soon as possible afterwards).
- The plan is dependent on a number of health and safety factors being satisfied before the site can reopen in a wider capacity
- We will review our detailed site risk assessment.
- Parental consent is required for all players under the age of 16.
- Player code of conducts are required to be read and signed.
- Temporary signage around the pitch to remind players/coaches of the need to social distance along with other useful information.
- Coaches/Parents/Carers/Players to understand what is expected of them.
- We will provide adequate hand sanitising facilities and assistance to managers/coaches for them to comply with the FA guidance.
- COVID19 Officer



BEFORE ANY FOOTBALL ACTIVITY TAKES PLACE

Phase 2 – The Venue

- Club should consider further mitigations to ensure safe measures at venues – Wandsworth Council
- In line with current Government guidance, all participants (players, coaches, club and match officials, volunteers, spectators etc.) should check for symptoms of Covid-19.
- If an individual is symptomatic and/or living in a household with a possible Covid-19 infection they should remain at home and follow Government guidance.
- In addition, any participants who have been asked to isolate by NHS Test and Trace because they are a contact of a known Covid-19 case,
- Clear signage (e.g. for one way systems) to manage general movement around the venue which ensure social distancing can be maintained.



COVID 19 – GUIDANCE ON RE-STARTING FOOTBALL ACTIVITY

Proposal for restarting football training Phase 2 – COVID19 Officer

- All clubs must identify a Covid-19 officer who will be responsible for developing a Covid-19 plan and risk assessment prior to the restart of any activity.
- The Covid-19 officer should continually monitor how compliance is being observed within the club.
- The Covid-19 officer should consider establishing a Covid-19 group to be responsible for producing and implementing the Covid-19 risk assessment and to oversee the safe return to play.
- The Covid-19 officer at each club will be responsible for clearly communicating all relevant guidance to its players, coaches and volunteers.
- **Each Team will be required to nominate a COVID19 officer for match days**



COVID 19 – GUIDANCE ON RE-STARTING FOOTBALL ACTIVITY

Phase 2: What are the expectations of players?

- Handling footballs at anytime is not permitted.
- The ball must be kept below knee height. This means heading the ball is not allowed.
- If the ball leaves the field of play it should be retrieved using feet where possible
- A reusable drinks bottle should be brought to training or matches where possible and be kept within the player's individual area.
- **No drinks should be shared or sprayed.**
- No equipment such as cones should be picked up or moved. The coach will collect all equipment at the end of a session after players have departed.
- Dustbins will be available so any rubbish must be disposed of.
- **NO SPITTING ON THE FIELD OF PLAY – INSTANT MATCH BAN**
- **Players must come prepared to train and match days– forgotten essentials EG, shin pads, goal keeper gloves will mean no participation in the game**



COVID 19 – GUIDANCE ON RE-STARTING FOOTBALL ACTIVITY

Phase 2: What are the expectations of Coaches?

- Multiple groups of 30 can train but must be appropriately socially distanced from each other.
- Continue staggering start times and allowing cleaning time between change-overs.
- In all settings before and after the session, and in any breaks, all players should practise social distancing, in line with Government guidelines on two metres or 'one metre plus'.
- Any spectators at training sessions (including parents and carers) must be restricted to discrete six-person gathering limits and spread out, in line with wider government guidance, ensuring space for official's, coaches and substitutes
- The sharing of equipment is not permitted between teams
- **Shouting There is an additional risk of infection in close proximity situations where people are shouting or conversing loudly. If possible, managers and coached should refrain from shouting or raising their voices**



COVID 19 – GUIDANCE ON RE-STARTING FOOTBALL ACTIVITY

Phase 2: What are the expectations of Coaches?

- Pre-match handshake should not happen. players will be asked to hand-sanitise before kick-off;
- Team talk huddles should not take place.
- Team talks can take place, as long as social distancing is observed and player stations rules applied
- Warm-ups/cool-downs should always observe social distancing;
- Set plays – free kicks: referees and coaches should encourage players to get on with the game and not unnecessarily prolong set play set-up, such as defensive walls;
- Set plays – corners should also be taken promptly to limit prolonged close marking and goal posts should be wiped down before matches , after matches and at half time.
- Goal celebrations should be avoided;
- Small-sided football should be modified to provide more regular hygiene breaks in activity.
- Youth football coaches are encouraged to limit persistent close proximity of participants during match play (where young participants may be more likely to cluster around the ball) and provide regular hygiene breaks in activity.



COVID 19 – GUIDANCE ON RE-STARTING FOOTBALL ACTIVITY



Phase 2: What are the expectations of parents?

- If you choose for your child to take part, you will need to give your written consent to the club and or coach. Ensure you are comfortable with the club's Covid-19 planning arrangements before doing so.
- You may already be aware that the period of isolation may have resulted in your child becoming anxious or unsure whether to resume previous activities, such as football. Please only support their return to football activity when they feel confident to do so and you feel the activity is safe and right for them.
- Your child must arrive changed and ready to exercise.
- Ensure your child takes their own water bottle and their own hand sanitiser, both clearly marked with their name. They must not share these with anyone else.
- Please ensure your child/children know how to maintain good hygiene
- Young children may struggle to maintain social distancing. Please continue to do your best to help your child recognise what two metres or 'one-metre plus' look and feel like – for example, related them to arm spans or standing jumps for example;

Would you consider being the COVID19 representative for your child team ?

Support your club to ensure a safe environment for ALL

COVID 19 – GUIDANCE ON RE-STARTING FOOTBALL ACTIVITY

Phase 2: What are the expectations of First aiders?



- If a player gets injured, a member of their household can assist if present and appropriate, but others (including match officials and teammates and coaches) will still need to socially distance unless a life- or limb-threatening injury necessitates emergency care.
- If there is a first-aider or other medical personnel present, they should be equipped with the appropriate PPE (including face coverings) to protect themselves and others if they need to compromise social-distancing guidelines to provide medical assistance.
- After contact with an injured participant, the person who has administered first aid should clean their hands thoroughly with soap and water or alcohol hand sanitiser at the earliest opportunity.
- This advice is applicable to all situations, regardless of whether there was close contact or social distancing was maintained.
- The first aider should also avoid touching their mouth, eyes and nose.
- A record of injuries and those administering any level of first aid requires completion by the team manager and should be retained for 21 days.

COVID 19 – GUIDANCE ON RE-STARTING FOOTBALL ACTIVITY

Phase 2: Are We Ready !!!

Each team has been allocated:-

Own training equipment – Standard Club Practice

No sharing of equipment will be permitted until further notice

Each team will require :-

- X3 Match day balls – Two balls remain sanitised at all times
- X1 Bucket – to be used for training and matchdays
- Disinfectant solution for cleaning balls and equipment
- Supply of Hand sanitiser for home and away matches
- Player allocated their own bibs
- Managers – PPE (Disposable mask, apron, gloves)



COVID 19 – GUIDANCE ON RE-STARTING FOOTBALL ACTIVITY

The Challenges of Implementing the Guidance

- COVID19 Officer – Expectations of the role
- Compliance– will there be sanctions for clubs not adhering or implementing the guidance
- Managing numbers of spectators
- Uniform approach to track and trace
- Venue – Council run - out of the hands of the hirer



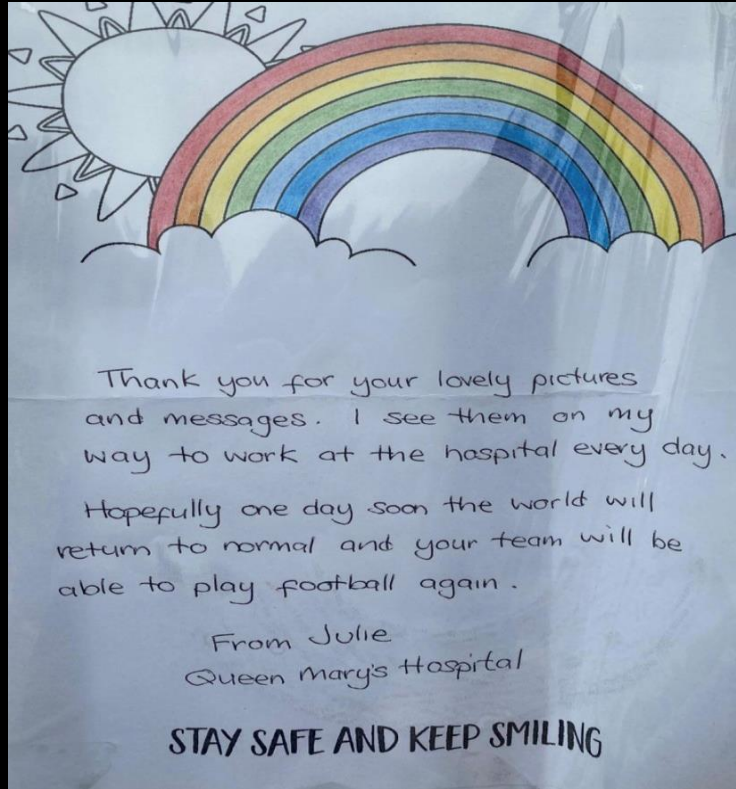
COVID 19 – GUIDANCE ON RE-STARTING FOOTBALL ACTIVITY

The Challenges of Implementing the Guidance

DO WE NEED A -



And... Why are we going to do this properly...



Coach education update



- Major transformation programme - more efficient digital delivery
- FA centralising the delivery of coach education
- County FA's to take on a coach development role
- New digital courses to be ready in first half of 2021
- Courses remain postponed: awaiting FA guidance for programme restart



Open Age – Adult Teams

(Inc. Disability teams)

Safeguarding Responsibilities

OPEN AGE FOOTBALL



For the avoidance of doubt every open-age adult club is required to safeguard under 18s and where there are adult disability teams to promote safeguarding adults, across every aspect of the club.

These changes will come into effect this season and will have sanctions if not completed from 21/22 season.

Clubs with under 18s in open-age adult teams (including disability teams) are required to:



1. Adopt and adhere to Affiliated Footballs Safeguarding Children Policy

<http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-1-footballs-safeguarding-framework>

View section 1: 1.4 Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures Club Template

2. Identify which teams have 16 and/or 17 year old players

3. Identify the coaches/managers (including assistant coaches/managers) and medics for these teams and list them on The FA's Whole Game System alongside the registered team. This can be done by the club secretary, assistant secretary or if the club has a youth team by the Club Welfare Officer (Youth Teams).

4. Support coaches/managers (including assistant coaches/managers) and medics working with 16 and/or 17 year olds to complete an FA DBS

<http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-3-safer-recruitment-and-dbs-checks>

View section 3: 3.1 Safer recruitment of volunteers 3.5 Eligibility of roles 3.7 DBS FAQs

5. Provide 16 and 17 year old players with safeguarding information

<http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-7-children-and-young-people-under-18s>

View section 7: 7.1 Know your rights in football

FAQs



DOES OUR PHYSIO/DOCTOR/FIRST AIDER NEED A DBS CHECK?

YES, individuals require a check where their primary role with the club is that of a First Aider with teams that include 16/17-year-old players. If the club has a physio and/or doctor they must also have an accepted in-date Enhanced FA DBS Check.

I'M AN ASSISTANT COACH FOR OUR OPEN-AGE ADULT TEAM. THE COACH HAS AN FA DBS CHECK, DO I STILL NEED TO HAVE ONE?

YES, all coaches/managers and assistant coaches/managers must have an accepted in-date Enhanced FA DBS Check.

FAQs



WE ONLY HAVE ONE UNDER-18 PLAYER IN OUR OPEN-AGE ADULT TEAM, DOES THE COACH STILL NEED A DBS CHECK?

YES, the coach has a responsibility for the player and must therefore have an accepted in-date FA Enhanced DBS Check.

CAN WE DBS CHECK ALL OF OUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS?

NO, not in their capacity as committee members as this is not a 'regulated' role and therefore there is no eligibility to check them. If a committee member has another role that is 'regulated' e.g. CWO (Adult Teams) or physio they must complete an Enhanced FA DBS Check for that 'regulated' role.

FAQs



COST?

DBS - £10 (Admin fee)

HOW LONG VALID FOR?

Three Years

What about CWO for Open Age Teams?



There is currently no requirement for Open Age Adult Clubs to have a CWO.

You may find that some clubs will already have a CWO in place as they also have youth teams.

It is advised that any clubs with under 18's in adult football implement a CWO as this will also be a future change.

Questions/Concerns...



If you have any queries/issues in relation to open age football or any other safeguarding concerns, feel free to contact London FA DSO's – Nikeeta Patel (Nikeeta.Patel@londonfa.com) & Jake Rosewell (Jake.Rosewell@londonfa.com)

Please also visit the safeguarding section on our website for more info – <http://www.londonfa.com/safeguarding-and-welfare>





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THANK YOU