



LondonFA

RETURN TO FOOTBALL - GUIDANCE WITH Q&A

Leagues Webinars - 5th/6th 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)
- 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)*
- County Cups update *(Jamaal Horne)*
- 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



SPORT
ENGLAND



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

Woolwich and Eltham Sunday Football Alliance

Jase & Jenny Verrillo

Non-central venue

Adult male



Central venue

Youth male & female

Michael Cole

**Hackney Marshes Saturday Youth Football
League**

Changes

Guidance issued to member clubs:

- ✓ Covid Awareness A5 handout
- ✓ Risk Assessment shared with all clubs
- ✓ Clubs to conduct pre-match Safety Briefings

League adaptations:

- ✓ SGM on 10/08
- ✓ Potential for extended KO times
- ✓ Full season of fixtures, to be adapted as necessary

Covid-19 Guidelines

Some guidelines to help keep us safe during this pandemic. These guidelines have been given to us by the government and the FA.

1. Participants should self-assess. If you have symptoms stay at home and self-isolate.
2. Travel to and from the game should follow government guidelines, only travelling with household bubble, limiting public transport.
3. All participants should arrive changed and ready to play. Changing rooms/showers are not to be used.
4. All equipment should be sanitised before a game and time given during breaks in the game. A match ball should be changed when going out of play for the first ball to be sanitised.
5. Goal celebrations should be kept to a minimum.
6. Clubs should keep a record of all participants for track and trace NHS, with contact details,
7. Equipment should not be shared, bibs etc. Supporters should not touch the ball when it goes out of play except with their feet.
8. There should be no spitting or shouting in other people's faces.
9. Participants and spectators should follow social distancing guidelines around the pitch, before during and after the game.
10. Kits should be taken home and washed by the player, if all the kit is being taken home by one person to wash, precautions must be taken, i.e. wearing gloves and a facemask.

Be Smart, Be Safe



Challenges!

- Members clubs spread across 70+ venues
- Venue Risk Assessments
- Referees guidance/equipment
- Cash & match cards



Hackney Marshes Saturday Youth Football League

(HMSYFL) 2020/21



HMSYFL 2020/21

- **55 Member Clubs**
- **180 Teams**
- **U8 - U17**
- **18 Divisions**
- **Over 2000 registered players**

What Does Restart Mean to the HMSYFL.... **An Inclusive Plan.**

- **Clear communication**
- **Mode of communication**
- **Multi directional**
- **Guidance and support**
- **Reasonable/Complies/Practical**

Stages of Plan

Understand and establish League's responsibilities



Produce Information (e.g. RA/Match Day)



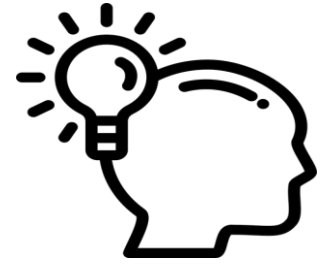
Disseminate and Explain



Virtual Meetings (SGM/ GLL/ Referees)



What Plan Includes

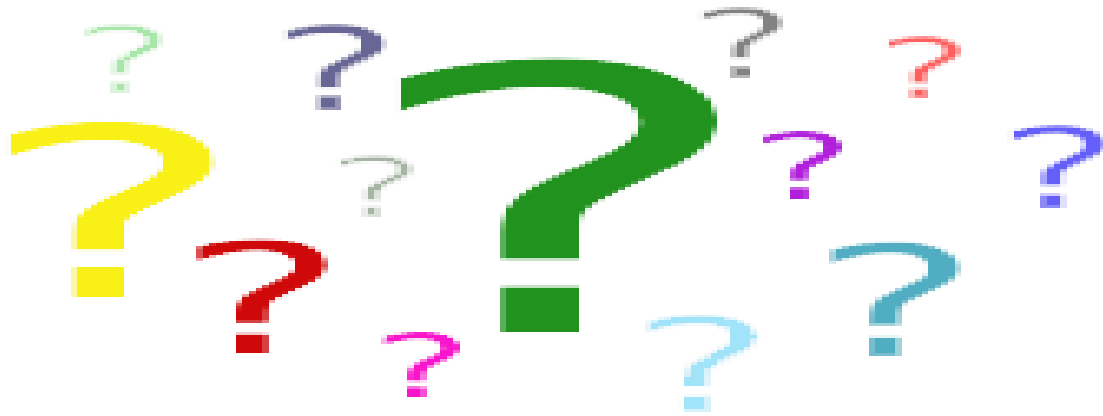


Whole Game System and FA Full Time



Track and Trace

Everyone will still have lots of



C U P S



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www.londonfa.com

Jamaal Horne
London FA



ENTER THE LONDON CUP



SUPREME
TROPHIES & ENGRAVING



Post Lockdown 2019/20 London FA Cup Finals

<u>Cup</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>KO</u>	<u>Home</u>	<u>Away</u>
London Sunday Junior Cup	Wednesday 19 Aug	Haringey Borough FC	19:45	Sporting Continental	Muswell Hill
Champions Cup - U16	Saturday 22 Aug	Haringey Borough FC	14:00	Buckhurst Hill	Wingate & Finchley
London Senior Trophy	Friday 28 Aug	Fisher FC	18:30	AFC Cubo	Peckham Town
Champions Cup - U15	Saturday 29 Aug	Fisher FC	10:00	Most Wanted Elite	Glebe FC
London Saturday Junior Cup	Saturday 29 Aug	Fisher FC	13:00	HFSP Ten Em Bee	FC Hamlets
London Veterans Cup	Saturday Aug 29	Fisher FC	16:00	Johnson & Phillips	Interwood Vets
London Sunday Challenge Cup	Wednesday 2 Sept	Haringey Borough FC	19:45	Gower	Lambeth All Stars
London U17 Sunday Cup	Sunday 6 Sept	Haringey Borough FC	14:30	Athletico DFZ	Hitchin Town
Champions Cup - U12	Sunday 6 Sept	Haringey Borough FC	17:00	London Elite Futsal Youth	Bromley FC Ravens
London Sunday Trophy	Sunday 6 Sept	Haringey Borough FC	19:45	AFC Hammersmith	A.C. United

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