



Issued, Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Clubs and Leagues,

The effects of coronavirus have touched every corner of society, and our own community in grassroots football is no different.

I have had the good fortune to work with Manchester's football community for well over a decade now, and it is no surprise to me that many of the extraordinary individuals within the community are working or volunteering throughout this crisis.

I have also noted with great pride the work that many of Manchester's clubs have carried out in the past month. From donations to foodbanks, to those working in the NHS Royal Voluntary Service, to digital challenges being set for players across the city: our community, and our city, has pulled together and will continue to do so in the weeks and months ahead. Those working in emergency services and other critical roles continue to work to keep us all safe and this week we have begun to share via social media some of your club volunteers from the grassroots community that are all heroes.

We all have one eye on the return of the grassroots game that we all love and we at Manchester FA are working on the options available to support our member Clubs and Leagues to return safely. The first phase of our Manchester FA strategy has been to '**Protect and Serve**' Grassroots football, we now move into an important phase which for us and for grassroots will be '**Plan & Prepare**'. We are all expecting this weekend an update from the Government, which I am sure will be followed by guidance from The FA centrally in relation to the next steps for grassroots.

I am currently working with the team on the financial options that are available to us to support our member clubs and leagues. I do note that other County FA's have recently provided their affiliation / membership fee updates for season 20/21. However, I do ask that you bear with us, as we fully consider the important government advice in the coming weeks, that will enable us to understand what grassroots team sports will look like and when they are likely to return. This critical information will guide and inform us to ensuring our financial support to you is the most appropriate.

Manchester FA can be contacted by email on [info@manchesterfa.com](mailto:info@manchesterfa.com), or by calling 0161 225 1966. We would encourage you to contact us with any enquiries.

Football will return – but only when the time is right. For now, we are all on the same team, and we must all play our part.

We remain committed to supporting the grassroots football community in Greater Manchester through these unprecedented circumstances.

Yours sincerely

Colin Bridgford  
Chief Executive Officer  
Manchester FA



STAY HOME SAVE LIVES

