

Norfolk County FA Bulletin

March 2021



WELCOME

Welcome to the latest edition of the Norfolk County FA bulletin and the third of 2021. As always, we aim to provide you with all the latest information as we look forward to the return to grassroots football being played across the County.

FA ISSUES GUIDANCE ON THE RETURN OF GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL

The FA has provided an update on the return of outdoor grassroots football and support available to clubs across the local football community. Read more by [clicking here](#).



The FA has made social media assets and printable signage available for leagues and clubs to download and use across their channels and facilities to support a safe return. To view all of the assets please [click here](#).

THE FA AND MCDONALD'S GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL AWARDS 2021

The FA and McDonald's Grassroots Football Awards are for people who make a positive difference. It's our way to celebrate the fantastic individuals who put their heart and soul into the grassroots game across England - and say a huge thank you to the incredible volunteers who inspire us.

The awards are split into categories, anybody can nominate people into the category through the online nomination portal. You can find out more information and nominate now by [clicking here](#).



The Categories are as follows: Coach of the Year for adults, Project of the Year, Coach of the Year for youth, Rising Star of the Year, Club of the Year, Match official of the Year, League of the Year, Grounds Team of the Year,

Volunteer of the Year and The Spirit of Grassroots Football Award.

THE FA LAUNCHES NEW LONG-TERM GRASSROOTS STRATEGY

The Football Association has launched an ambitious new strategy for grassroots football in England, providing clear direction for the next four seasons and addressing the short, medium and long-term challenges to serve and lead the game for the many millions that play nationwide.



The strategy, titled 'Survive. Revive. Thrive.', outlines seven transformational objectives through to 2024:

- Male participation
- Female participation
- Club network
- Facilities
- Grassroots workforce
- Digital products and services
- Positive environment

You can read more by [clicking here](#).

FA PROVIDES UPDATE ON TIERS 3-6 OF THE WOMEN'S PYRAMID

The 2020/21 Season for tiers 3-6 of the Women's Football Pyramid will be curtailed with immediate effect and declared incomplete, with no further league fixtures taking place this season. There will also be no automatic promotion and relegation between these tiers for the 2020/21 season, including no promotion from tier 3 into tier 2 and no relegation from tier 6 into tier 7.



Teams can apply for promotion to certain tiers if they meet specific criteria, or voluntary relegation. To read more please [click here](#).

Norfolk County FA Bulletin

March 2021



GAVIN, DI & MATT – DISCUSSION ON HOMOPHOBIA IN FOOTBALL

Norfolk FA Director of Inclusion, Di Cunningham hosted an open conversation with Norfolk FA Chief Executive Gavin Lemmon & Thetford Town FC Player/Manager Matt Morton. Matt came out in 2018 and speaks of his experience as the highest level openly gay male footballer in England.



You can watch the full interview by [clicking here](#).

KICK IT OUT – TAKE A STAND

Kick It Out are excited to announce the launch of their new campaign, Take A Stand. It is a call to action initiative, encouraging people across the football community to take an action or make a pledge, in the fight against discrimination.



The initiative marks a new chapter in the fight against discrimination in football, which will give fans the confidence, the tools and the means to confront discrimination and make a change. Kick It Out want 'Take A Stand' to be an advocate for change - it is a movement which everyone can play a part in. To read more please [click here](#).

SIGN UP FOR EASYFUNDRAISING

Keeping funds coming in for your club is hard during these unusual times so we wanted to remind you about easyfundraising. It's a way that your supporters can raise money for you safely and easily from home, just by shopping online.



To find out more and sign up please [click here](#).

NORFOLK FA & ANGLIAN COMBINATION ANNOUNCE RETURN TO #NORFOLKFOOTBALL

We announced the confirmation of a return to football competition starting on Saturday 3 April, in conjunction with the [Anglian Combination League](#) and [Offside Trust](#).



Norfolk based teams in the Anglian Combination League were asked if they would like to enter an end of season cup competition and an impressive 68 teams registered their interest, allowing for three competitions to be formed. Furthermore, the competitions will be run in conjunction with Norfolk FA's Official Community Partner, The Offside Trust, an organisation dedicated to supporting survivors of sexual abuse. To read more please [click here](#).

ONE PLAYER. TWO JOURNEYS. THREE LIONS.

Have you always dreamed of playing for England? **The dream is on.**



Norfolk County FA Bulletin

March 2021

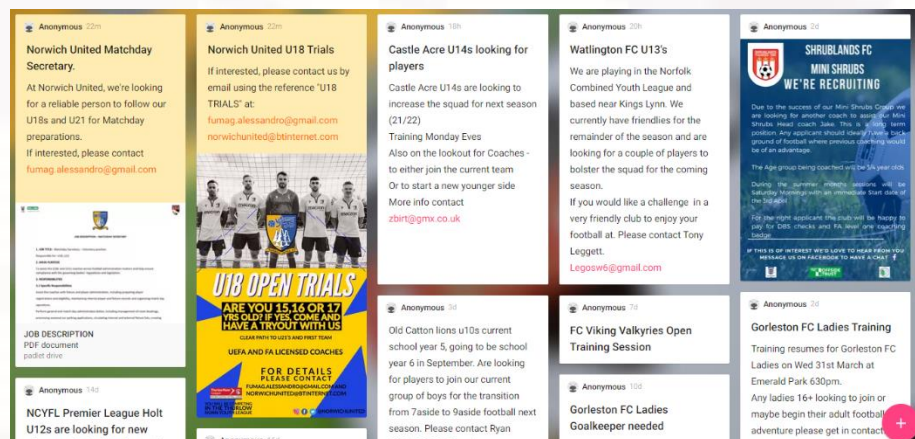


England wants to give more players with specific impairments the opportunity to play for their England Para Teams and get them on the England Para Talent Pathway. We're looking for those with Cerebral Palsy, Visual or Hearing Impairments who have the skills and a dream, to step up and play for their country. To read more please [click here](#).

THE NORFOLK FA NOTICEBOARD

The [Norfolk FA Noticeboard](#) is where you can post content related to #NorfolkFootball such as advertising for players, coaches or volunteers.

We are using an improved platform for the 2020-21 season. Using Padlet, you are now able to post opportunities or advertisements on the noticeboard without the need to contact Norfolk FA directly. Posts can include hyperlinks such as email addresses and websites, not to mention graphics and photos.



The Noticeboard will be regularly monitored by Norfolk FA staff and we reserve the right to remove unsuitable or inappropriate posts.

THE FA'S RESPONSE TO CLIVE SHELDON QC'S REPORT

Norfolk County FA welcomes the publication of Clive Sheldon QC's Report into non-recent child sexual abuse in football, published by The FA.



The review was commissioned by The FA in December 2016, following the disclosures of abuse in the media by former footballers. You can read more by [clicking here](#).

NEW ONLINE GUIDE TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME

Whatever your role in football, the Guide will help improve your understanding of the Laws of the Game (and the variations for youth football) and it is available free of charge.



If you want to become a referee in local grassroots football, then you must complete this learning before then attending the FA's new face to face training course, which will be available as soon as Government guidance allows. To complete the course and find out more please [click here](#).

Thinking of becoming a Referee? [Register your interest](#) with our Referee Department to find out more about upcoming courses in the 21/22 season.

STATEMENT: 20/21 COUNTY CUPS

The intention of Norfolk County FA is to complete all 10 of our County Cup competitions this season.



Football Services Manager, Matt Carpenter said: **"Completing our County Cup competitions in the very tight timescales we are having to work to will be a real challenge for everyone involved, but with the support and co-operation of the clubs within our County, we are very hopeful that come the end of the season we will have been able to crown ten new County Cup winners."**

To read more about the Norfolk County cups and see the remaining fixtures please [click here](#).

Norfolk County FA Bulletin

March 2021



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN FOOTBALL VIDEO

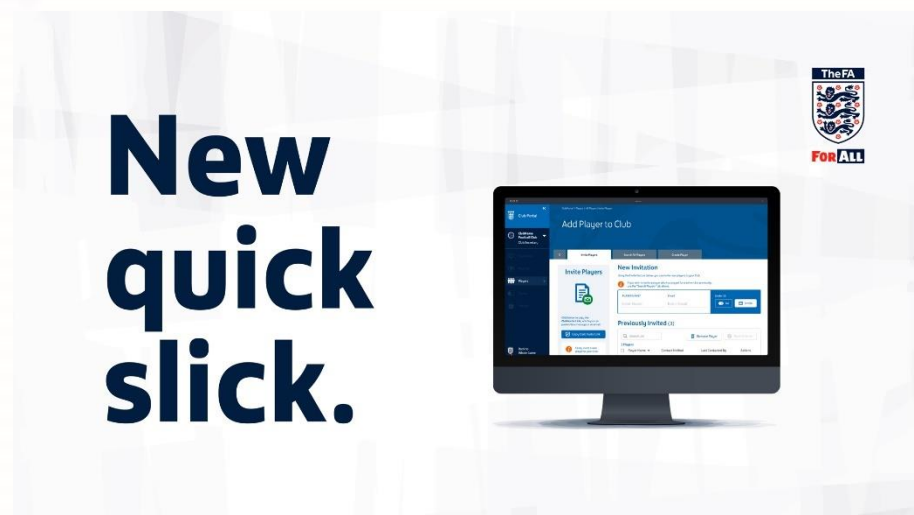
The FA is asking every parent/carer with a child involved in football to take a few minutes to watch a new online video. The short video outlines what you should expect from your club and how you can play your part in safeguarding your child.



To watch the video please [click here](#).

GET READY FOR THE RETURN - ADMIN REMINDERS

With the recent announcement from The FA confirming that football will be returning on 29th March, and with many league fixtures, cup fixtures and friendlies taking place, there are a number of things to remind Clubs of before a ball can be kicked.



The areas covered are as follows:

- Player Registrations
- Discipline
- County Cups
- Referee Appointments
- Staffing

To read all the advice and help please [click here](#).

FA TALENT ID WORKSHOP - FREE!

This free CPD workshop is taking place on Wednesday 7 April and is open to all those who could be involved in the identification of talented disability footballers.



The role of mainstream coaches cannot be underestimated in the process of identifying talented disability footballers. There are an estimated 6% of players within mainstream leagues that are eligible for an England Disability Team. Who knows there may be a future England International currently playing in your team that currently doesn't know about the opportunity to represent their country.

To find out more and book on please [click here](#).

SETTING THE STANDARD FOR EQUALITY

We are delighted to confirm that we have been successful in obtaining the Preliminary level of the Equality Standard for Sports, building upon achieving the Foundation level in 2019.



The Equality Standard is a framework for assisting sports organisations to widen access and reduce inequalities in sport and physical activity from under represented individuals, groups and communities. It is based around two broad themes: developing the organisation and developing the services it provides.

To read more please [click here](#).

Norfolk County FA Bulletin

March 2021



COUNTY 5IVES IS RETURNING

Norfolk's most popular small-sided football leagues are returning this April.



County 5IVES provides a fun and competitive way to have a kick about with your mates. Playing 5 or 6-a-side football once a week is a great way to get active, increase skill, and socialise with friends - welcomed benefits having been in lockdown for so long!

New 5-a-side and 6-a-side leagues are due to begin on the week commencing Monday 12 April. Fixtures costs £30 per team, with a squad of eight players paying less than £4 each for a game of high-intensity, competitive football.

To read more or enter a team please [click here](#).

VEO PARTNERSHIP RENEWED UNTIL 2025

We are delighted to announce a partnership renewal with Veo Technologies in an agreement that will see the Danish sports-tech giants continue to support grassroots football in Norfolk until 2025.



The partnership renewal will see Veo become the exclusive Video and Analysis Partner to Norfolk FA for the next four seasons and official supporter of the recently formed Norfolk FA Coaches Club. Norfolk clubs can benefit from discounted pricing whilst Coaches Club members can

benefit from priority access to free trials with the cameras held at Norfolk FA's local headquarters.

To read more please [click here](#).

CSN GETS THE GREEN LIGHT FOR CHARTER STANDARD

One of Norfolk's most prominent adult leagues, the Central & South Norfolk League, has been given the green light by the FA in their bid to become an FA Charter Standard League.

The FA Charter Standard League status is an accreditation that sets an operational benchmark for FA sanctioned leagues. It is awarded to leagues which can demonstrate their commitment to provide well organised football in safer, more inclusive environments.



Central & South Norfolk League Secretary, John Turner said: **"The Central & South Norfolk League is delighted to have been accredited as a Charter Standard League by the FA."**

"It has long been an ambition of the Management Committee to achieve this award and, with fantastic backing from our clubs (over 90% in favour of making an application), and tremendous support and encouragement from Norfolk FA, we now intend to build on this achievement to make the league and our clubs ever stronger by embracing the opportunities that accreditation brings."

To read more please [click here](#).

AND FINALLY

We will continue to do our best to offer support and guidance throughout the return to grassroots football, and we ask that everybody continues to pull together and support one another as much as possible.

Best wishes,

Norfolk County FA