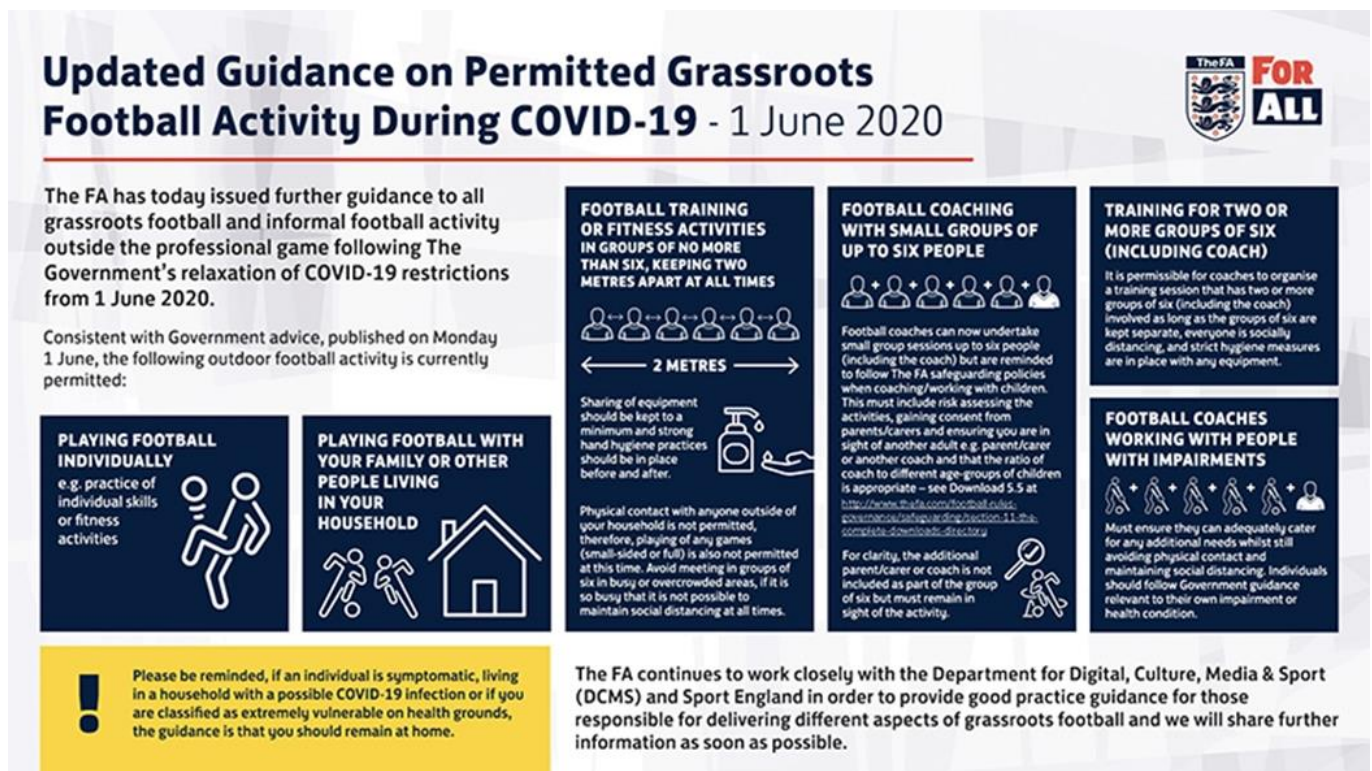


**RAF Football Association – Chairman Statement
Group Captain Neil Jones**

Current State of Play

The RAF Football Association continue to take direction from Government, The FA and RAF Directorate of Sport with regards to football activities during the current Covid-19 restrictions.

Whilst all RAF Sport remains suspended the latest guidance below for informal football activity should be adhered to.




Updated Guidance on Permitted Grassroots Football Activity During COVID-19 - 1 June 2020


The FA has today issued further guidance to all grassroots football and informal football activity outside the professional game following The Government's relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions from 1 June 2020.

Consistent with Government advice, published on Monday 1 June, the following outdoor football activity is currently permitted:


PLAYING FOOTBALL INDIVIDUALLY
e.g. practice of individual skills or fitness activities



PLAYING FOOTBALL WITH YOUR FAMILY OR OTHER PEOPLE LIVING IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD




FOOTBALL TRAINING OR FITNESS ACTIVITIES IN GROUPS OF NO MORE THAN SIX, KEEPING TWO METRES APART AT ALL TIMES



Sharing of equipment should be kept to a minimum and strong hand hygiene practices should be in place before and after.

Physical contact with anyone outside of your household is not permitted, therefore, playing of any games (small-sided or full) is also not permitted at this time. Avoid meeting in groups of six in busy or overcrowded areas, if it is so busy that it is not possible to maintain social distancing at all times.

FOOTBALL COACHING WITH SMALL GROUPS OF UP TO SIX PEOPLE




Football coaches can now undertake small group sessions up to six people (including the coach) but are reminded to follow The FA safeguarding policies when coaching/working with children. This must include risk assessing the activities, gaining consent from parents/carers and ensuring you are in sight of another adult e.g. parent/carer or another coach and that the ratio of coach to different age-groups of children is appropriate – see Download 5.5 at <http://www.thefa.com/football-cultures/governance/safeguarding/section-5.5-the-compliance-downloadable-directory>

For clarity, the additional parent/carer or coach is not included as part of the group of six but must remain in sight of the activity.

TRAINING FOR TWO OR MORE GROUPS OF SIX (INCLUDING COACH)

It is permissible for coaches to organise a training session that has two or more groups of six (including the coach) involved as long as the groups of six are kept separate, everyone is socially distancing, and strict hygiene measures are in place with any equipment.

FOOTBALL COACHES WORKING WITH PEOPLE WITH IMPAIRMENTS



Must ensure they can adequately cater for any additional needs whilst still avoiding physical contact and maintaining social distancing. Individuals should follow Government guidance relevant to their own impairment or health condition.

Please be reminded, if an individual is symptomatic, living in a household with a possible COVID-19 infection or if you are classified as extremely vulnerable on health grounds, the guidance is that you should remain at home.

The FA continues to work closely with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) and Sport England in order to provide good practice guidance for those responsible for delivering different aspects of grassroots football and we will share further information as soon as possible.

The Association is currently holding monthly Board of Trustees meetings to assess and assist with the monitoring and dealing of the on-going COVID 19 situation and the impact it is having on our sport. All our business areas are developing plans to provide the best foundation to assist a return to football as soon as is practicable once the restrictions are further relaxed and eventually lifted. Our priorities will be to get back to playing football on our stations, the delivery of inter-station leagues and completion of the 2019-20 RAF Cup; finally, we will be looking for a swift reinstatement of our Representative Team fixtures. We will keep you informed at every opportunity and look forward to getting back to playing football as soon as possible; stay safe.

Yours in Football

