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| **HighResNewLogo_45mm**  | Royal Air Force Football Association |
|  | Chairman – Gp Capt N A JonesTelephone: 07795 173440Email: neil.jones870@mod.gov.uk |
|  | Our reference: RAFFA-COVID19-RTF31 Jul 20 |

**RAF FOOTBALL – RETURN TO PLAYING**

Reference:

A. IBN 51/20 - RAF SPORT – RETURN TO PLAY ON DUTY – DDRS: 28 Jul 20

1. The Football Association, after Government agreement, has issued timelines and guidance for a return to grassroots football following the suspension of activities due to COVID-19. In turn, the Directorate of RAF Sport (DRS), on behalf of the Head of RAF Sport, has provided authority for football activities to resume; Reference A refers.

2. Given the need to mitigate against the COVID19 risk to satisfy both our NGB and the DRS the RAF FA has issued a set of guidelines, alongside timelines and requirements for our affiliated Leagues and Teams; this was agreed and at the RAF FA Board of Trustees meeting held on 29 Jul 20. Planning guidance, which must be administered alongside the direction laid out at Reference A, to run a football fixture is provided at Annex A. An addendum to the RAF FA Safety Management Plan will be issued within the next 7 days.

3. It should be noted that no individual or Team is being directed to resume training or play football and they should only do so if they feel safe to do so. It should also be noted that Heads of Establishments (Stn Cdrs) have final jurisdiction of activities on facilities under their command.

4. Any points of clarification should be directed, in the first instance, to the RAF FA Secretary at: vince.williams@royalairforcefa.com.



Annex:

A. RAF FA Return to Football – Planning Guidance

**ANNEX A TO**

**RAFFA-COVID19-RTF**

**DATED 31 JUL 20**

**Return to Football – Planning Guidance**

**Timelines**:

**From 1 Aug 20:**

Competitive training, with the overall group size (inclusive of coaches) being limited to 30 people;
Competitive matches to begin, for example pre-season friendly fixtures, festivals and small sided football competitions.

**From 1 Sep 20:**

All of the above plus completion, if possible, of outstanding 2019-20 RAF FA competitions i.e. Inter-Services and RAF Cup / Plate.

**From 1 Oct 20:**

2020-21 RAF FA affiliated Leagues and Representative fixtures to start.

**Pre-Match/Training**

* Admin Orders with specific COVID19 risk assessment, in addition to normal safety management regime to be submitted to the RAF FA County Secretary for all Association / DRS authorised fixtures and to the Responsible Person (RP) for Unit level authorised fixtures.
* It is suggested that Leagues issue fixture Admin Orders on a 3-month basis.
* For fixtures on non-military venues a copy of home side’s specific COVID-19 risk assessment must be obtained and submitted along with Admin Order.
* Clubs should keep a record of attendees at a match or training session, including contact details, to support NHS Test and Trace. This is to be retained for 21 days. A mechanism for updating the nominal roll at any event is to be in place.
* Social distancing in place
* Where possible, players, coaches and officials should arrive changed and shower at home. Use of changing and shower facilities must follow government advice on the use of indoor facilities and in line with HoE requirements
* Please note that at this stage, indoor football and futsal is not permitted

**During Match/Training**

* Ball handling should be kept to a minimum with most contact via a boot and the ball disinfected in breaks of play
* Social distancing in place during any breaks in play
* Goal celebrations should be avoided
* Equipment should not be shared, and goalkeepers should ensure they disinfect their gloves regularly in breaks in training or matches and thoroughly afterwards. Where possible, coaches should only handle equipment in training
* The FA has produced a detailed First Aid Guidance document for First Aid which can be found here

**Post-Match/Training**

* After training sessions and/or matches, participants must maintain government mandated social distancing for social interaction. This includes in any available changing rooms, showers, and any clubhouse facilities or other venue that participants may congregate in afterwards. Bars and restaurants, which includes any food or drink facilities inside a clubhouse, have been able to open since 4 July, in accordance with the latest Government guidance
* All match-official’s payments should, where possible, be made by Bank Transfer or, if not possible, payment made in an enclosed envelope

The above highlights some of the basic requirements, for the avoidance of doubt all aspects of the FAs COVID19 GUIDANCE ON RE-STARTING OUTDOOR COMPETITIVE GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL should be adhered to and can be found within the FA Guidance and Documents link below:

**Useful Links**

FA Guidance and Documents: [here](http://www.royalairforcefa.com/news/2020/jul/18/the-fa-issues-guidelines-for-the-return-of-outdoor-competitive-grassroots-football)

Latest Government guidance on COVID19: [here](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

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