



**SURREY FA**

**Meadowbank Football  
Ground  
COVID-19  
OPERATIONAL POLICY  
& TRAINING  
PROTOCOL**

## Policy Brief and Purpose

### General Overview

On 16 March 2020, the Government and The FA announced a strict lockdown across the country as a direct result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. This meant all football matches and training was cancelled. Now the Government has given approval for outdoor competitive grassroots football and training sessions to re-start from the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2020. (Additional guidance for clubs with teams competing in the men's National League System and/or the Women's Football Pyramid tiers 3 to 6 can be found [here](#).) This detailed policy provides guidance on how we can all return to using Surrey FA's Meadowbank Ground as a football facility.

This policy includes the measures Surrey FA (SFA) are actively taking to mitigate the spread of coronavirus and has been introduced in response to the Government announcement and FA guidelines.

You are kindly requested to follow all these rules diligently, to sustain a healthy and safe football ground and workplace in this unique environment. It's important that we all respond responsibly and transparently to these health precautions. SFA will always treat your private health and personal data with the highest confidentiality and sensitivity.

This guidance is intended to introduce consistent measures throughout Meadowbank Football Ground in line with Government recommendations of social distancing and [The FA's Guidance on Restarting Outdoor Competitive Grassroots Football](#). These are exceptional circumstances and Surrey FA must comply with Government advice.

This coronavirus (COVID-19) policy is subject to change with the introduction of additional government and FA guidelines. If so, we will communicate updates as soon as possible.

Surrey FA's COVID-19 Operational Policy is:

- Agreed by the SFA Board and Chief Executive Officer
- Communicated to all users and members of staff

Andrew Dickinson  
**Club COVID Appointed Officer**

Sally Lockyer  
**Chief Executive Officer**

Les Pharo  
**Chair**

<b>Revision</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Publication/Revision Date</b>	<b>Author</b>
1.0	Created	7 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	Andrew Dickinson
2.0	Revised	18 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	Andrew Dickinson
3.0	Revised	20 August 2020	Andrew Dickinson
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Revised</b>	<b>25 August 2020</b>	<b>Andrew Dickinson</b>

## Scope

The FA confirmed that the Government approved its plan for the return of outdoor grassroots football late last night, Friday 17 July 2020.

The government updated this guidance on 19<sup>th</sup> Aug to include spectators.

As a result, the grassroots football community now has the opportunity to return to football and prepare for the start of the new 2020/21 season and have spectators present at steps 3-6 NLS and Tiers 3-4 WFP along with feeder leagues for both (please see appendix 8 at the end for full guidance)

The FA prepared detailed guidelines for the safe return of grassroots football and, following Government approval, these are now published [here](#).

Football activity can take place with necessary modifications in place to mitigate the transmission risk of COVID-19.

Surrey FA will follow a phased return to competitive football based on The FA guidelines:

- Until 31 July – When ready, you can begin competitive training, with the overall group size (inclusive of coaches) being limited to 30 people;
- From August – Competitive matches to begin, for example pre-season fixtures, festivals and small sided football competitions;
- From September – Grassroots leagues, men’s National League System, Women’s Football Pyramid tiers 3 to 6, and FA Competitions can commence.

### Spectators

Please note that the football ground must be made aware of any plans to have spectators present, you should include this in your Risk Assessment and approval should be granted by Surrey FA. Spectators must also follow any ground guidelines and rules.

#### Stage One:

- From 22 August 2020 to 30 August 2020, spectators are permitted to attend fixtures at Steps 3-6 of the NLS and Tiers 3-4 of the WFP, providing that their number does not exceed 15% of the minimum ground grading capacity at these levels or respective figures set out within The FA’s updated guidelines;

- If a club at these levels does not play any fixtures during this period, it must have played at least one pre-season or competitive fixture in accordance with its respective level of spectators before moving on to Stage Two.

Stage Two:

- From 31 August 2020, clubs at Steps 3-6 of the NLS and Tiers 3-4 of the WFP will be permitted to allow spectators to attend fixtures provided that their number does not exceed 30% of the minimum ground grading capacity at their level or the respective figures set out within The FA's updated guidelines. However, they must be satisfied that they have been able to comply with the Government's guidance on the return to recreational team sport and The FA's updated guidelines.

Clubs, players, coaches, match officials, league officials, volunteers, parents/carers, spectators and football facility providers should read [The FA's full guidelines](#) in addition to the latest [Government guidance on COVID-19](#).

A return to competitive football will only be permitted at Meadowbank once clubs and users of the site have completed and submitted the necessary risk assessments and comprehensive plans. Surrey FA will need to see and approve these before you can commence training/match play at Meadowbank.

A summary of key points to consider from The FA's guidelines are listed for ease below:

- 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;
- Clubs and facility providers should ensure that their facility is compliant with current Government legislation and guidance related to COVID-19;
- Competitive training is now permitted, with groups limited to a maximum of 30 people, including coaches;
- Competitive match play is permitted, with social distancing in place before and after the match, and in any breaks in play;
- Players and officials should sanitise hands before and after a game as well as scheduled breaks throughout a game or training session;
- Ball handling should be kept to a minimum with most contact via a boot and the ball disinfected in breaks of play;
- Youth football coaches are encouraged to limit persistent close proximity of participants during match play and training;
- 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;
- 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;
- Participants should follow best practice for travel including minimising use of public transport and walking or cycling if possible. People from a household or support bubble can travel together in a vehicle

- Clubs should keep a record of attendees at a match or training session, including contact details, to support NHS Test and Trace;
- Clubs should ensure they are affiliated with their County Football Association.

Separate guidance has been developed for clubs with teams competing in the men's [National League System \(NLS\)](#) and the [Women's Football Pyramid tiers 3 to 6](#). This will support these Clubs on the safe return of paying spectators and also the applicability of the guidance to facilities under Ground Grading conditions, to ensure the safe return of competitive matches.

The full guidance documents can be found [here](#), along with a [short summary](#) for all those involved in restarting activity.

## Policy Elements

The basic principles underling this protocol are as follows:

- To minimise the risk FOR ALL
- To minimise the risk to safety of all the staff who come into contact with users of the facility
- To minimise the risk to safety of players and their immediate families
- To minimise the risk to safety of coaching staff
- To minimise the risk to safety of spectators and anyone else not mentioned above

The resumption of training at Meadowbank is divided into three phases and lays out the procedure for a return to training and playing matches.

The established phases are as follows:

- 1) BEFORE ANY FOOTBALL ACTIVITY TAKES PLACE
- 2) DURING ALL FOOTBALL ACTIVITY
- 3) AFTER ALL FOOTBALL ACTIVITY

In order to comply with the above, Surrey FA Staff will ensure that:

- A list of facilities staff, whose presence is essential, is established and maintained (Appendix 6)
- We will carry out cleaning/disinfection and logistical tasks onsite
- We will disinfect all equipment used during training at the end of each day in line with advice issued by relevant health authorities
- We will provide suitable resources to ensure that spaces and work areas are properly cleaned and disinfected, paying particular attention to frequently touched surfaces such as railings, doors, push buttons etc
- All doors will be kept open where possible (i.e. not a security or fire risk)
- We will remove all rubbish regularly and dispose of used PPE daily

This is in line with some mandatory general rules that must be complied with at all times:

- Maintain social distancing (over 2 metres)
- Wash hands frequently (using the soap/water and alcohol hand sanitisers provided)
- Keep as many doors / gates open as possible to avoid contact with doorknobs/door handles/keypads

- Staff will use the appropriate PPE which will be replaced at the end of a session or in the case of masks when they become moist or soiled

**If anyone feels unwell and believes they may have coronavirus like symptoms at any time, please DO NOT come to Meadowbank Football Ground.**

## BEFORE ANY FOOTBALL ACTIVITY TAKES PLACE AT MEADOWBANK

The FA's guidance for 'Providers of outdoor football facilities, including clubs', is available [here](#).

- **Affiliate** - Clubs/teams should ensure they are affiliated to Surrey FA for the 2020/21 season.
- **Be ready** - You must only return to football when you are ready and have the appropriate measures in place as developed by The FA and general Government guidance in relation to recreational sport.
- **Check your booking** – all users should make sure their booking is confirmed before attending site.
- **COVID-19 Officer** - All clubs must identify a COVID-19 officer who will be responsible for developing a COVID-19 plan and risk assessment prior to the restart of any activity. The COVID-19 officer should continually monitor how compliance is being observed within the club.
- **Risk Assessment** - The FA has produced guidance on conducting a risk assessment, which includes a template for self-completion. It is available [here](#). The COVID-19 officer should consider establishing a COVID-19 group to be responsible for producing and implementing the COVID-19 risk assessment and to oversee the safe return to play.
- **Self-Assessment** - All players, officials, volunteers and spectators must undergo a self-assessment for any COVID-19 symptoms. This check should be done before each training session and must be recorded in regular risk assessments and it is important to note that no training session should take place without this having been done.
- **Track & Trace** – All clubs should gather contact details of all participants at each match or training session and store this securely for 21 days.
- **Check Insurance** - Clubs should also check the insurance policies they have in relation to all football activities (e.g. personal accident and public liability), specifically any changes to insurance provider's advice and guidance on returning to competitive play, ensuring full compliance with its terms.
- **Communicate** - The COVID-19 officer at each club will be responsible for clearly communicating all relevant guidance to its players, coaches, volunteers, supporters and parents.

*Please note: if you have teams that play in the men's National League System or the Women's Football Pyramid tiers 3 to 6, The FA has produced additional and specific guidance for these environments. It is available here for [NLS](#) and here for [WFP](#).*

### COVID-19 Self-assessment

All players, officials, volunteers and spectators must undergo a self-assessment for any COVID-19 symptoms. No-one should leave home to participate in football if they, or someone they live with, has any of the following:

- A high temperature (above 37.8°C);
- A new, continuous cough;

- A loss of, or change to, their sense of smell or taste.

This check should be done before each training session and must be recorded in regular risk assessments and it is important to note that no training session should take place without this having been done.

Some clubs may wish to have this completed in the form of an online or paper questionnaire at the start of sessions. If symptoms are checked at the start of a session rather than in advance, this should be completed on arrival before the player mixes with others, so that if they have symptoms there is no chance of others being affected.

Should an individual have demonstrated any such symptoms, they must not participate. Instead they should follow NHS and PHE guidance on self-isolation available [here](#).

Anyone who has already been instructed to self-isolate by a health care practitioner or PHE should continue to follow this advice and may not participate.

Clubs will make relevant participants aware of any increased risk associated with taking part in activity, based on the risk assessment undertaken by the club. Everyone should comply with public health restrictions and avoid high-risk behaviour outside the football setting to reduce the risk to fellow participants and other attendees.

#### Travel to the ground

**If anyone feels unwell and believes they may have coronavirus like symptoms at any time, please DO NOT come to Meadowbank Football Ground.**

All participants (players, coaches, match officials, league officials, volunteers, parents/carers, spectators and football facility staff) should follow best practice for travel, including travelling by themselves and minimising use of public transport. Participants should walk or cycle if possible. People from a household or support bubble can travel together in a vehicle. If participants do have to travel with people outside their household or support bubble they should try to:

- Share the transport with the same people each time;
- Keep to small groups of people at any one time;
- Open windows for ventilation;
- Face away from each other;
- Clean the car between journeys using standard cleaning products – including door handles and other areas that people may touch;
- Ask the driver and all passengers to wear a face covering;
- Consider seating arrangements to maximise distance between people in the vehicle – this may mean using more than one coach or minibus if possible, and the wearing of face coverings on coaches or minibuses;
- Require regular hand sanitisation by passengers on a coach or minibus;
- Limit the time spent at garages, petrol stations and motorway services;
- Keep distance from other people and if possible, pay by contactless;
- Wash hands for at least 20 seconds or sanitise hands often, and always when exiting or re-entering the vehicle;

- When finishing the journey participants should wash their hands for at least 20 seconds or sanitise their hands as soon as possible.

#### Arrival at Meadowbank

- All participants (players, coaches, match officials, league officials, volunteers, parents/carers, spectators and football facility staff) must adhere to the strict arrival times that they have been given and park in designated bays in the Surrey FA car park (coaches and staff only) or use the public car park (all other users) as indicated in Appendix 1
- Training groups will be staggered throughout the day so arrival times will be spread out to avoid contact/interaction with other players and staff. We will trial a 10 minute turnaround which will consist of finishing your session 10 minutes earlier than normal.
- If you arrive early, you must wait in your car until your start time.
- All participants should enter via ramp and head to turnstile 2 by following the floor decals to follow the one-way system as indicated in Appendix 2.
- All participants must have completed a symptom checklist questionnaire (Appendix 7) each time they attend Meadowbank Football Ground. If these checks highlight any concerns, then individual should be not attend site.
- There is a one-way system for flow of movement in place and must always be strictly followed by all participants - Appendix 2.
- All players, coaches, match officials, league officials, volunteers and football facility staff will be asked to use hand sanitiser prior to starting training.
- All players, coaches, match officials, league officials, volunteers and football facility staff will arrive in their training kit and wash this themselves each day.
- Strappings will be carried out by players themselves on the pitches.
- The treatment room is only available on request and absolutely essential and you must follow FA and Government Guidelines.
- All first aid treatment will be provided if needed by users of the site following [The FA guidelines](#)
- All players, coaches, match officials, league officials, volunteers and football facility staff to take all personal items to pitch side in their own bag/travel case.

#### DURING ALL FOOTBALL ACTIVITY

All coaches should be aware of the return to [football guidelines](#) a summary of which is below

- 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).
- Sessions might include multiple groups of 30 but only if they can be appropriately socially distanced from each other.
- Competitive match play is now permitted, however, in all settings before and after matches all participants should practise social distancing. In competitive football activities the COVID-19 officer of each club must ensure a safety briefing is provided before the commencement of any fixture. This briefing will remind both sets of players and officials about their responsibilities in complying with the Code of Behaviour set out in Appendix 1 to this guidance.
- 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.
- 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](#).
- If emergency assessment or treatment is needed, PPE equipment must be used and disposed of after each person. Gloves/aprons should be replaced after each treatment
- Care should be taken when our site is busy to maintain social distancing especially at entrances to Meadowbank and the football pitch.
- Clubs should determine the appropriate ratio of coaches to participants, following the relevant FA safeguarding policy outlined in [safeguarding guidance notes 5.5](#).
- In all settings before and after the session, and in any breaks, all participants should practise social distancing, in line with Government guidelines on two metres or 'one metre plus'. You can read these guidelines [here](#).
- Any spectators at training sessions (including parents and carers) must be restricted to discrete six-person gathering limits and spread out, in line with wider government guidance, ensuring space for officials, coaches and substitutes. To best do this please use the seats marked with yellow tape in the seating stand.
- 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.

### Facilities

There will be STRICTLY no entry to the following areas:

- Surrey FA Offices
- Player changing rooms – NB. exceptions may be made where safety and safeguarding measures require their use. For example, to supporting players with disabilities, or when a child needs a change of clothing etc. – See note below on possible opening of changing rooms
- Medical room (other than for emergency/essential treatment)
- Public toilets except the disabled toilet

### Changing Rooms

We would encourage all attendees to arrive at Meadowbank in sports kit and where possible to travel home to change/shower. Use of changing rooms and showering facilities should in general be avoided where possible, although there are exceptions in place to support young players or those players with disabilities. Changing rooms can only be used under the following conditions and with prior approval from Surrey FA:

- Only home or away changing room to be used at any one time
- Masks to be worn into and out of the changing area
- Max of 8 people allowed in the changing area at one time – all to enter at the same time observing social distancing rules. Only once the last person has left can the next 8 enter.
- Only groups of 4 people at a time in the shower area – one per cubicle. Once all four have finished, the next 4 can start.
- Windows to be opened before use and closed no earlier than 30min after use
- No music allowed or raised voices in change rooms

- Hand sanitiser to be used on entry and exit
- All doors marked open should remain open

#### **Officials Change rooms –**

- Masks to be worn into and out of the changing area
- Max of 1 person allowed in each changing area at one time
- Hand sanitiser to be used on entry and exit
- All doors marked open should remain open
- Please do not adjust the ventilation fans

#### **Medical room (other than for emergency/essential treatment)**

The medical room can only be used with prior approval from Surrey FA. If treatment rooms are utilised, social-distancing guidance must be followed. Do not allow players to congregate in the treatment area, and clean to PHE standard after each time a different individual is treated in the room<sup>6</sup>. Manual therapy treatment of players (including soft tissue therapy and massage) prior to, or after training, are not to be conducted unless it is absolutely essential and ideally approved by a qualified doctor/senior graduate therapist in advance. If any member of the therapy staff is performing essential physiotherapy or soft tissue treatment, they must wear appropriate PPE throughout. At present Government guidance indicates that this should include (as a minimum):

- Fluid-resistant surgical mask (FRSM type IIR);
- Disposable gloves;
- Disposable plastic apron/long sleeved fluid repellent gown or coveralls;
- Goggles/eye protection (for injuries above shoulder level).

It is not recommended to manage any players in medical rooms at training grounds, thus no guidance is being provided for designated separate AGP and non-AGP rooms (depending on Covid-19 risk) as all emergency procedures should be undertaken by the emergency services on arrival at the training ground.

#### **Nourishment**

- Please ensure you make other provisions and bring your own water bottle (2 Litre) and post-training snacks and/or shake.

#### **Player Changing Facilities and Showering**

- NO PLAYER CHANGING FACILITY AVAILABLE UNLESS YOU HAVE APPROVAL FROM SURREY FA WHICH SHOULD BE OBTAINED IN ADVANCE OF ARRIVAL. ARRIVE READY IN TRAINING KIT.
- TOILET FACILITIES AVAILABLE IN PUBLIC TOILET BLOCK – DISABLED TOILET ONLY TO BE USED - Appendix 2

#### **Staff Changing Facilities and Showering**

- NO STAFF CHANGING FACILITY AVAILABLE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.
- TOILET FACILITIES AVAILABLE IN PUBLIC TOILET BLOCK – DISABLED TOILET ONLY TO BE USED - Appendix 2

## AFTER ALL FOOTBALL ACTIVITY

- Once the session has finished, players are to make their way to their cars following the player and staff one-way flow plan as soon as possible taking all personal belongs with them - Appendix 2
- Unless absolutely necessary, participants should take their kit home and wash it themselves, or by family members that day on minimum 40°C wash cycle
- Hands should be washed at the earliest opportunity and personal equipment should be wiped down with a disinfectant.
- 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, entrances etc).
- Everyone should leave as quickly as possible, following the one-way traffic-flow system as shown in Appendix 2.
- Anyone who becomes infected after training/matches should report this to the [NHS Test and Trace system](#).

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Surrey FA will ensure that:

- Every member of SFA staff using machinery or touching equipment (goals) uses gloves and disposes of them in the medical bin.
- All used PPE items are disposed of in a medical bin, which is removed from the training ground as often as possible but no longer than every 14 days.
- Hand sanitiser dispensers are freely available throughout the training ground, handwashing facilities are clearly signposted and soap dispensers are always adequately filled.
- Providing social distancing measures are carried out there should be no requirement for any additional staff members to wear PPE.

## Players and Staff Code of Conduct - CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

COVID-19 is a highly infectious and dangerous disease. A resumption of contact play is only achievable if those involved create and maintain a controlled environment that minimises the threat of infection.

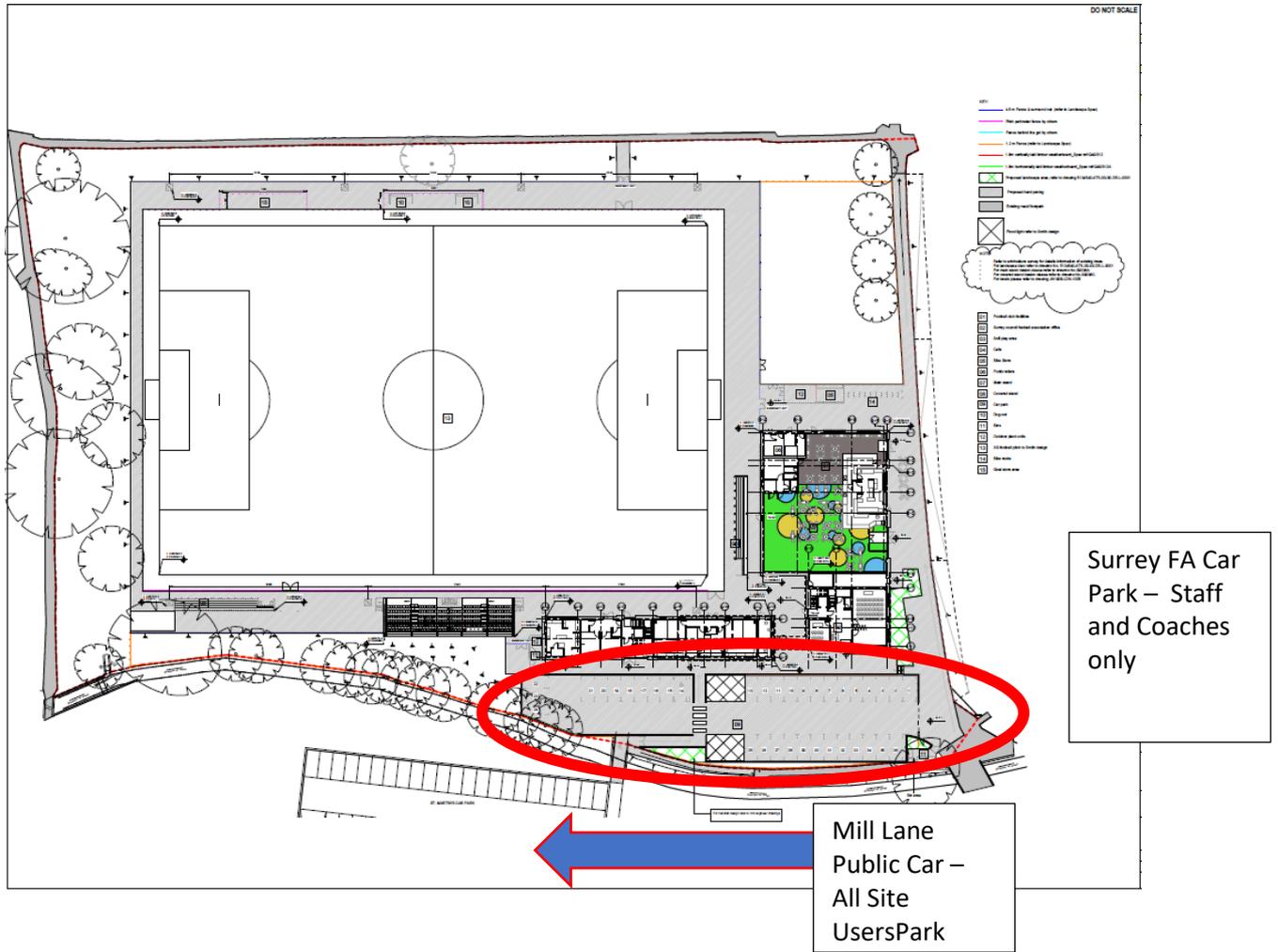
Risk in sport cannot be completely eradicated but with caution and care these risks can be reduced.

Each player will need to decide when to return to contact football, based on their own circumstances and the arrangements that have been put in place for a safe return. This is particularly the case for players from BAME communities or those with underlying health conditions.

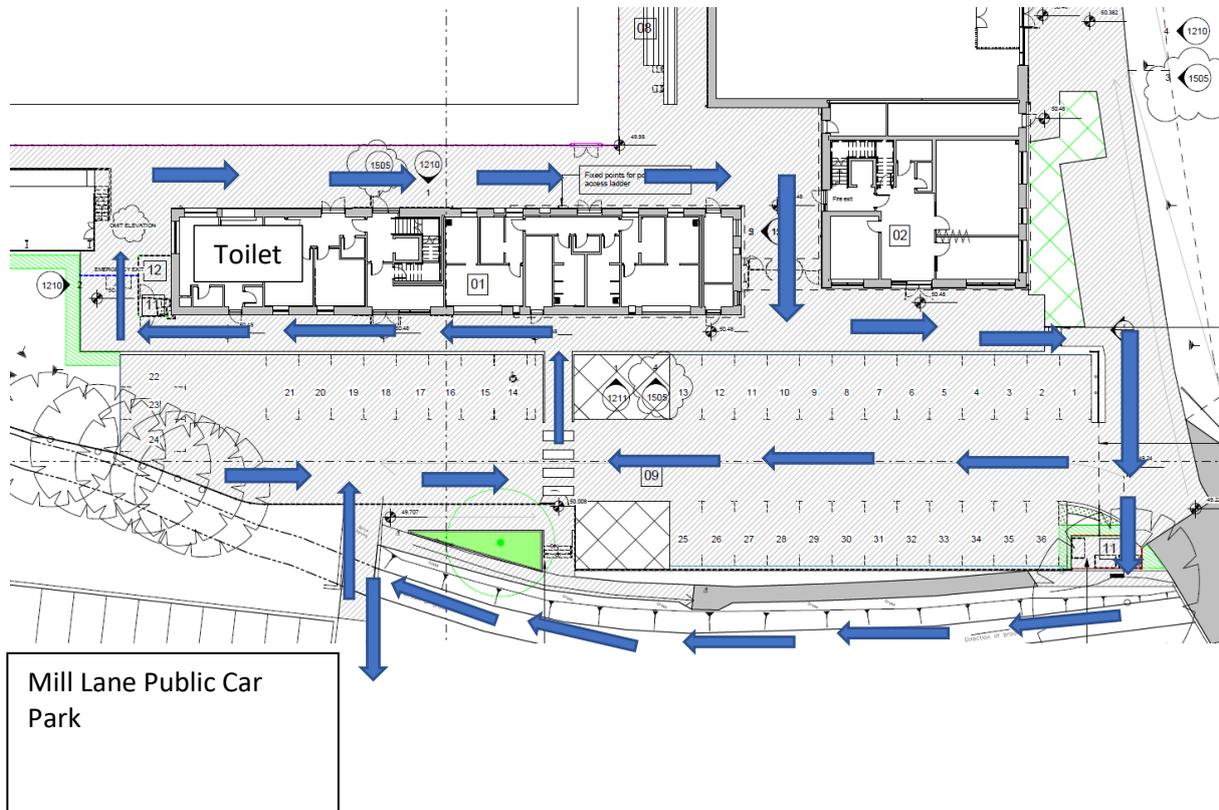
All those returning to competitive grassroots football must adopt the following code of behaviour:

- Be aware of your own personal health. If you show any of the Covid-19 symptoms you must stay at home, inform NHS Test and Trace and seek medical advice.
- Be responsible. Read the guidance provided by The FA and by your club so that you are aware of the changes to the game and what is expected of you. This will include things like being prepared to wash your own kit, bringing your own labelled water bottle and being aware of changes to meet-up times.
- Practise good hygiene. Wash your hands regularly and before, during and after a game.
- Where possible maintain social distancing. This won't always be possible in a competitive match environment (for example when tackling an opponent) and that is acceptable. However, before, and after a game you should maintain social distancing.
- Support NHS Test and Trace. You're likely to be asked to provide your details so that in the event of a Covid-19 outbreak those potentially infected can be traced. This is to everyone's benefit so please cooperate.
- Do not spit. Spitting and the rinsing out of mouths is now a recognised risk to health and must not be done.
- Avoid shouting or raising your voice if face to face with other players.
- After the game. Be aware that other users may be waiting to use the facilities. Changing rooms and showers are likely to be closed and any socialising must follow the Government's guidance on social distancing.

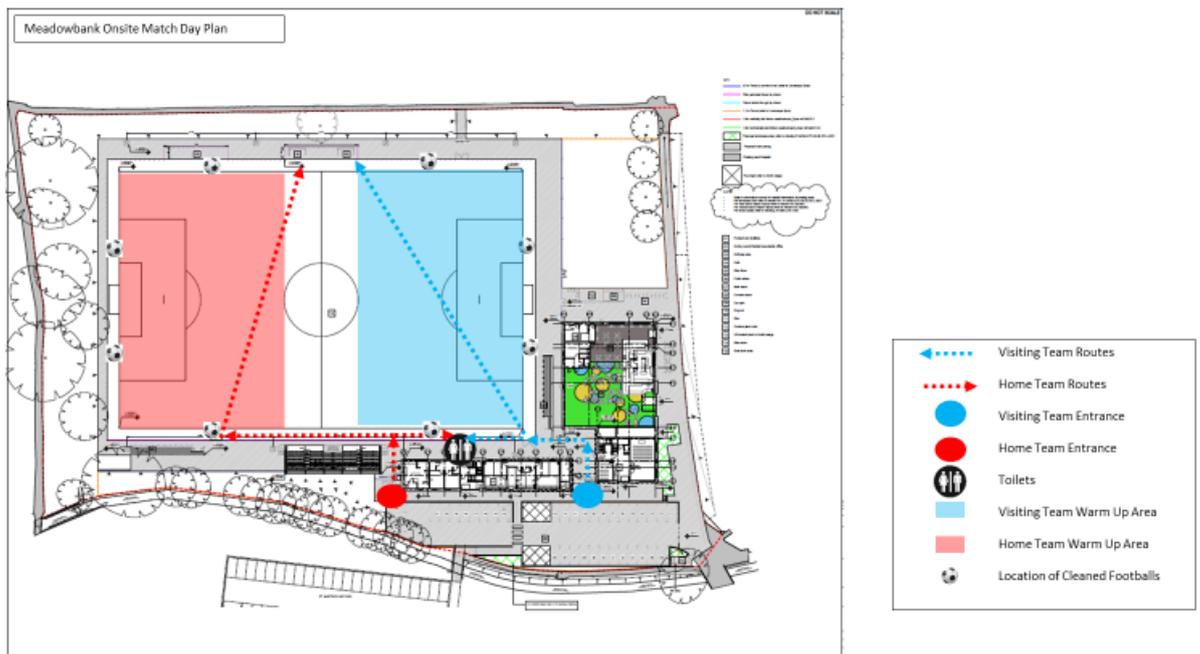
# Appendix 1. Player and Staff Parking at Meadowbank



## Appendix 2. Meadowbank Movement Plan and Facilities



## Appendix 2b. Meadowbank Matchday Plan and Facilities



**CORONAVIRUS**  
**WASH YOUR HANDS**  
**MORE OFTEN**  
**FOR 20 SECONDS**

**Use soap and water or a  
hand sanitiser when you:**

Get home or into work

Blow your nose, sneeze or cough

Eat or handle food



For more information and the Government's  
Action Plan go to [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)



HM Government



## Coronavirus

**Wash your hands with soap and water more often for 20 seconds**



**1**  
Palm to palm



**2**  
The backs of hands



**3**  
In between the fingers



**4**  
The back of the fingers



**5**  
The thumbs



**6**  
The tips of the fingers

Use a tissue to turn off the tap.  
Dry hands thoroughly.

**CORONAVIRUS**

**PROTECT  
YOURSELF  
& OTHERS**

## Appendix 5.

# Employers and businesses guidance

If you have a



new and  
continuous cough

or



high  
temperature

**stay at home for 7 days**, if you live alone

**stay at home for 14 days**, if you live with others, including all household members

Only use **NHS 111** if your symptoms get worse or are no better after home isolation

## Stop the spread of coronavirus



**Wash your hands more often and for 20 seconds**

Use soap and water or a hand sanitiser when you:

- Get home or into work
- Blow your nose, sneeze or cough
- Eat or handle food



Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze and throw the tissue away straight away



**Businesses and workplaces should encourage their employees to work at home, wherever possible**



Frequently clean and disinfect objects and surfaces that are touched regularly, using your standard cleaning products



**Employees will need your support** to adhere to the recommendation to stay at home to reduce the spread of coronavirus to others

Those who follow advice to stay at home will be eligible for **statutory sick pay (SSP) from the first day** of their absence from work

**Employers should use their discretion** concerning the need for medical evidence for certification for employees who are unwell. This will allow GPs to focus on their patients

If someone becomes unwell in the workplace with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, **they should be sent home**

Employees from **defined vulnerable** groups should be strongly advised and supported to stay at home and work from there if possible

## Appendix 6.

### Meadowbank Staff List & Contact Details

Ground Staff Name	Mobile Phone Number	Email Address
All General Enquiries		Meadowbank@SurreyFA.com
Andrew Dickinson	07748 295508	Andrew.Dickinson@SurreyFA.com
Jamie McGregor		Jamie.McGregor@SurreyFA.com
Dominic Fairhurst		Dominic.Fairhurst@SurreyFA.com

### Key Contact details

#### Surrey FA COVID Appointed Officer

Andrew Dickinson      Mobile: 07748 295508

Email: [Andrew.Dickinson@SurreyFA.com](mailto:Andrew.Dickinson@SurreyFA.com)

#### Other Surrey FA COVID Officer

Jamie McGregor  
Dominic Fairhurst

#### Chief Executive Officer

Sally Lockyer      Mobile: 07985 379487

Email: [Sally.Lockyer@SurreyFA.com](mailto:Sally.Lockyer@SurreyFA.com)

## Appendix 7.

### SELF-CHECKS BEFORE ATTENDING A PLANNED TRAINING SESSION

Self-checks are very important in identifying who has possible symptoms of Covid-19 infection, as this helps reduce those with the infection attending football activity and transmitting the infection to others. This quick check should be done before each training session so those who trigger a positive answer, can stay away to protect everyone else. Some clubs may wish to have this completed in the form of an online or paper questionnaire (see Table 1). Where it has not been possible for this to be completed prior to the session, it must be done at the start of the session before contact with any other player or staff member.

TABLE 1: SELF-SCREENING CHECK LIST PRIOR TO EACH TRAINING SESSION

<b>EACH PARTICIPANT SHOULD SELF-SCREEN PRIOR TO ARRIVAL AT TRAINING TO ENSURE THEY DO NOT HAVE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS (CONFIRMED BY A PARENT FOR THOSE UNDER AGE 18), AS THESE ARE POTENTIAL INDICATORS OF COVID-19 INFECTION.</b>	<b>CHECK NEGATIVE</b>	<b>CHECK POSITIVE</b>
A high temperature (above 37.8C) <i>Some clubs may include on-site temperature checking of participants as part of their SOP, this is more relevant to clubs who employ medical staff.</i>		
A new continuous cough.		
Shortness of breath.		
A sore throat.		
Loss of or change in normal sense of taste or smell.		
Feeling generally unwell.		
Persistent tiredness		
Been in close contact with/living with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 in the previous two weeks.		

## Appendix 8. Spectator Guidance

The DCMS has now clarified its guidance on the return to recreational team sport and clubs at Steps 3-6 of the NLS and Tiers 3-4 of the WFP are permitted to accommodate a phased and limited return of spectators to fixtures. However, they must follow the UK Government's guidance in relation to Covid-19 and The FA's updated guidelines for the NLS or WFP respectively.

In addition, Regional NLS Feeder League clubs and clubs at Tiers 5-6 of the WFP are permitted to accommodate socially-distanced spectators in line with The FA's guidelines for grassroots football.

All clubs at Steps 3-6 of the NLS and Tiers 3-4 of the WFP are required to have a designated Covid-19 Officer; complete and publish bespoke risk assessments and action plans; and arrange support for Track and Trace efforts before implementing the following:

All clubs must have completed a risk assessment and clearly uploaded this on to their website before they can stage a game - with or without spectators. Leagues will monitor compliance that the risk assessments of their member Clubs are uploaded to their websites.

- Clubs will need to put in place measures to support NHS Test and Trace for spectators. Further details are contained within the NLS Guidance.
- The guidance will see clubs have an initial 15% capacity for pre-season games increasing, as long as each Club is comfortable, to 30% for the start of the competitive season. At this time, this will be a percentage of the ground grading capacity at the Step the host club plays at. We will provide further guidance if this can be extended further as and when we are able. It is likely that any first review would be in October.
- The gradual return of spectators is set out below as a reminder, no club should permit spectators without completing and publishing their Risk Assessment:

### Stage One:

- From 22 August 2020 to 30 August 2020, spectators are permitted to attend fixtures at Steps 3-6 of the NLS and Tiers 3-4 of the WFP, providing that their number does not exceed 15% of the minimum ground grading capacity at these levels or respective figures set out within The FA's updated guidelines;
- If a club at these levels does not play any fixtures during this period, it must have played at least one pre-season or competitive fixture in accordance with its respective level of spectators before moving on to Stage Two.

STAGE 1	STEP GROUND GRADING CAPACITY	STAGE 1	CAPACITY	DATES
Step 3	Min 1950	15% capacity	300	Aug 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Aug 30 <sup>th</sup>
Step 4	Min 1350	15% capacity	200	Aug 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Aug 30 <sup>th</sup>
Step 5	Min 1000	15% capacity	150	Aug 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Aug 30 <sup>th</sup>
Step 6	Min 1000	15% capacity	150	Aug 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Aug 30 <sup>th</sup>

### **CLUBS MUST NOT PROGRESS TO STAGE TWO UNLESS COMPLETED SATISFACTORY STAGE ONE**

### Stage Two:

- From 31 August 2020, clubs at Steps 3-6 of the NLS and Tiers 3-4 of the WFP will be permitted to allow spectators to attend fixtures provided that their number does not

exceed 30% of the minimum ground grading capacity at their level or the respective figures set out within The FA's updated guidelines. However, they must be satisfied that they have been able to comply with the Government's guidance on the return to recreational team sport and The FA's updated guidelines.

STAGE 2	STEP GROUND GRADING CAPACITY	STAGE 2	CAPACITY	DATES
Step 3	Min 1950	30% Capacity	600	Aug 31 <sup>st</sup> onwards
Step 4	Min 1350	30% Capacity	400	Aug 31 <sup>st</sup> onwards
Step 5	Min 1000	30% Capacity	300	Aug 31 <sup>st</sup> onwards
Step 6	Min 1000	30% Capacity	300	Aug 31 <sup>st</sup> onwards

The Capacity or ground usage may be impacted by local restrictions or, if a Club is found to repeatedly ignore the measures outlined by The FA supported by Government, The FA could ask a Club to reduce their maximum capacity.

- Clubs must have staged a match under Stage One in order to progress to Stage Two.

You will note that the decision was taken not to permit spectators until Saturday 22 August. Whilst we are in no doubt that Clubs will seek the return of spectators at the earliest opportunity, this affords Clubs an acceptable window in order to make any modifications to their Risk Assessments based on a spectator presence. If Clubs feel that they require more time beyond this coming Saturday in order to update these documents before admitting spectators, that is in the gift of each Club.

Leagues and Clubs of the NLS have faced significant challenges in the past but we are in no doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic has and will continue to present many challenges throughout the 20/21 season. Now is a time where the NLS leagues and clubs will need to support each other and we would ask that everyone pulls together between now and the end of May in order that we can complete the 2020/21 season

The phased and limited return of spectators at these levels will be kept under constant review in line with the UK Government's guidelines and will be amended accordingly as required.

Please see The FA's updated guidelines for the NLS, WFP and grassroots for further information here: <http://bit.ly/NLS-SFA>

#### **Specific requirements are as follows**

All clubs using Meadowbank must update their risk assessments and action plans to consider and mitigate the risk posed by permitting spectators to attend fixtures. In particular, clubs should show how they intend to minimise transmission rates and ensure that spectators comply with social distancing.

The risk assessment should focus on:

1. How the club intends to ensure that spectators maintain social distancing whilst at the ground (on arrival, during and after the match and on departure). Clubs may wish to consider:

- marking queues with tape on the floor at 2m intervals wherever possible, but a minimum of 1m+ if not (i.e. at turnstiles and takeaway food areas);
- markings for spectator standing;
- reducing the availability of seats within covered accommodation;

- crowd management processes, i.e. barriers at pinch points and/or introducing a one way flow within the ground; and
- advance purchase ticket schemes, allowing clubs to manage walk ups.

2. How the club intends to maintain appropriate hygiene in spectator areas, including toilets, entrances and exits.

3. How the club intends to inform clubs of any new policies or procedures which will be in place. Clubs may wish to consider signage and use their communication channels to encourage spectators to follow the guidance.

4. Whether the club wishes to implement any COVID-19 screening measures for spectators attending fixtures. If so, what are these measures and how will they be implemented.

5. Whether the club intends to amend its usual refreshment facilities for spectators.

6. What medical provisions the club has in place if spectators fall ill and how this can be provided in accordance with current government guidance.

7. How the club intends to monitor compliance with its risk assessment and action plan and the steps it intends to take if spectators are found to be breaching social distancing measures or increasing the risk of transmission.

Arrangements should also be put in place to support track and trace efforts by collecting sufficient written information from spectators to allow NHS Test and Trace to contact them if necessary.

More information can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/maintaining-records-of-staff-customers-and-visitors-to-support-nhs-test-and-trace#information-to-collect>

## **Appendix 9. Meadowbank Risk Assessment**

See separate document