

FAQ UPDATES – OCTOBER 2020

Q. What is the impact of local areas being placed into Tier Three in terms of Covid restrictions?

- Based on the guidance currently provided, adult clubs and individuals **cannot** move in or out of a 'Very High', Tier Three region or local authority to participate. This also means players cannot move from one Tier Three area to another Tier Three area eg Lancashire to Liverpool
- Tier One and Tier Two adult clubs or individuals should not travel into Tier Three and vice versa.
- With regards to youth football (Under 18s) the updated FA guidance of 23rd September with its strict conditions remains in place. At this present time there are **no new restrictions** on movement of youth teams and players irrespective of which Tier you are in.
- U18's in adult football are classed as adults, and therefore should not travel between Tier Three to Tiers One and Two and vice versa.
- Clubs in the National League System (NLS) and referees are exempt from the above.

Q. Are there any limitations on spectator attendance in football?

- Whilst there are no official limits in grassroots football our advice is clear that adult clubs should **actively discourage** all spectators from attending fixtures
- In youth football we ask that **one** adult family member or carer per child attends the games to reduce the overall numbers present
- Spectators must observe social distancing at all times, utilise hygiene provision and ensure all attendees are logged for Test and Trace purposes
- Clubs in the NLS system are exempt from the above

Q. What if a player or coach tests positive for Covid?

- If a club member tests positive, they must from that point self-isolate (or if they have symptoms, from the moment of symptoms) and NHS Test and Trace will pick up from this point. The club member should contact NHS 111. The Club can carry on, but be mindful to ensure all the guidelines are strictly followed. If Test and Trace contacts them, they must provide the details and then, if deemed necessary, other members need to isolate on their instruction.

Q. What if a recent opponent reports a positive Covid case

- Match play is not considered 'close contact' so no action is needed unless individuals experience symptoms, in which case they must self-isolate from that point as per Government guidance.

Q. What if a child is sent home from school to self-isolate due to a positive test in their "bubble?"

- The child has to remain in isolation for fourteen days irrespective of whether they may return a negative test given the virus can lay dormant. They must not participate in any football activity during this period

Q. Can we use changing rooms as normal currently?

- Changing rooms are an area of increased risk of transmission. It is important that social distancing is maintained in changing rooms and showers and that they are **only used if absolutely essential**, such as for participants with disabilities or special needs. All venues should encourage attendees to arrive at the facility ready changed and where possible to travel home to change/shower. If changing rooms are to be used for the above reasons, users should enter and vacate as quickly as possible and ensure robust hygiene standards.

Q. Does our club have to participate in the NHS Test and Trace programme?

- Facility providers are expected to **fully support** the Government's Test and Trace system. This involves displaying NHS QR posters at your venue to offer a quick, simple and secure way for visitors to register that they've been to your venue. You must register for an official NHS QR code and display your official NHS QR poster at entrances to your venue, in places that are easy for visitors to see and access such as your car park and entrances to your pitches and clubhouse. The same poster should be printed and displayed multiple times to avoid queuing and congestion when visitors are registering. For those who cannot access this system a manual register should be taken.

Q. Can we play or train indoors, or play futsal?

- Indoor football can take place for adults provided the rule of six pertains. This means a maximum of 3v3 and only if those six people can distance sufficiently from previous or later occupants of the court.
- There are no restrictions for under-eighteen players but spectators should be minimised and socially distanced at all times

GENERAL REMINDERS

- Different conditions, where imposed by local authorities or boroughs, supersede FA and county FA guidance at all times. Clubs should keep abreast of their own local authority position and rules.
- The overarching guidance is taken from the FA document of July 18th found [here](#)
- The Covid Tier areas represent current county boundaries and not traditional county FA boundaries
- Elite football and National League System football are governed by different rules and guidance
- Every venue should have a Covid risk assessment and each club should have a Covid officer
- It is the responsibility of each person to abide by the guidance to keep football playing
- Please be aware of the huge workload faced by club and league volunteers currently in ensuring risk mitigation is in place to enable adults and children to keep playing
- Insurance may be void if clubs and players do not comply with county FA or Government guidance