

# BALLERS<sup>®</sup>

F O O T B A L L

# ACADEMY

## Covid-19 Risk Assessment (March 2021)

**Playing conditions/training risk assessment:** Following the restart of Organised sport (March 29<sup>th</sup> 2021) this assessment looks at how the club will potentially manage the risk of COVID-19 when training/playing organised games. All Government Guidelines will be followed. All previous Risk Assessments compiled are still available and in certain aspects still validated. This Assessment stands as an overview for the restart.

### **People Exposed**

Players & Officials, Parents, Colleagues, Visitors / Guests, Members of the Public, Others

### **Hazards:**

- ***Spreading COVID-19 amongst members*** by having no additional controls in place then the risks of someone bringing in the disease and spreading it further is possible.
- ***Spreading COVID-19 to the wider public community*** by having no controls in place this will allow COVID 19 to enter the facilities and not be controlled and will spread around the local community and possibly further. This uncontrolled hazard will potentially lead to civil and criminal investigation, claims and prosecutions.

### **Control Measures**

All participants will support track and trace efforts by giving their written information on participants at all matches/training prior to arrival at the ground or in special circumstances on arrival. This must be detailed enough to allow NHS Test and Trace to contact all participants if a player becomes ill with COVID-19. The NHS QR code Readers are the preferred method to sign in and will be stationed at each entrance to the facility. Anyone not in possession of a mobile phone will be expected to 'Sign in' with details at the respective entrance. These records must be kept for 21 days.

### **Pre-attendance official symptom check**

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

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss of, or change to, their sense of smell or taste

***Should an individual have demonstrated any such symptoms, they must follow NHS guidance on self-isolation***

Participants will be made aware of any increased risk associated with taking part in activity, based on the assessment undertaken by the governing body. ***They should also be strongly advised to comply with public health restrictions and avoid high risk behaviour outside the sports setting to reduce the risk to their fellow participants when they do attend.***

### **Travel to matches/training**

- Participants are encouraged to follow best practice for travel including minimising shared or group travel wherever possible and minimising use of public transport and limiting car sharing.
- Walk or cycle if you can.
- People from a household or support bubble can travel together in a vehicle.
- Travel as individual support groups where possible.
- Face coverings should be worn if sharing transport.
- ***Consider seating arrangements to maximise distance between people in the vehicle e.g. a standard family car no more than 3-4 persons to include driver, front seat Passenger and One or Two rear seat passenger's depends on the size individuals and vehicle. See the government's safer travel guidance for passengers for further information.***

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F O O T B A L L

# ACADEMY

## Arrival at venues

Clubs should strictly limit the time spent congregating at a venue before activity begins. Meet-up times should reflect this.

**Ensure social distancing at all times.**

Signage should be put up at all facilities/pitches to provide clear direction on protocols.

## Players and officials

- All teams and officials will be advised on Covid 19 plans prior to entering the ground by a club representative.
- **No changing rooms are to be used, all players and Match officials should come changed ready to play and return home to have a shower/ bath.**
- All kit taken home (in particular senior teams) must be made readily available after washing (as soon as reasonably possible) in case that kit is required by the manager of that team.
- Facilities may be provided to shelter your belongings from Inclement weather. Social Distancing Must be adhered to.
- Facilities will be monitored by a club member (marshal)
- These facilities should not be used as meeting points. Manager briefings to be conducted outside.
- Only in certain emergency situations will entry be allowed into any indoor facility including changing rooms and will be at the desecration of an executive club member together with the club Covid representative.

## Social distancing in play

All sports must adhere to social distancing throughout warm-ups and avoid equipment sharing.

Avoid unnecessary breaking of social distancing such as pre-game handshakes, huddles, face-to-face confrontation with opponents and officials, spitting and scoring celebrations.

## Social distancing during breaks and post-game

All participants must remain socially distanced during breaks in play with spaced areas for equipment and **refreshment storage for each individual including officials and substitutes.**

Coaching staff and substitutes, should, for example, spread out and **avoid sharing a dug out or bench if social distancing cannot be observed.** Chairs will be provided outside of the dug outs for social distancing.

**Water bottles or other refreshment containers should in no circumstances be shared.**

Participants are advised to bring their own, in a labelled or highly distinguishable container.

## Spectator / Junior football

One parent or guardian can attend Junior games, children under the age of 18 can attend at these games, however they MUST Observe social Distancing outside of their 'bubble' and be under the control of the attending Parent / Guardian.

## Advance Information for junior teams.

- If you choose for your child to take part, you will need to give your written consent to the club and or coach. Ensure you are comfortable with the club's Covid-19 planning arrangements before doing so.
- You may already be aware that the period of isolation may have resulted in your child becoming anxious or unsure whether to resume previous activities, such as football. Please only support their return to football activity when they feel confident to do so and you feel the activity is safe and right for them.
- Your child should arrive changed and ready to exercise.
- Ensure your child takes their own water bottle and their own hand sanitiser, both clearly marked with their name. They must not share these with anyone else.
- Please ensure your child/children know how to maintain good hygiene and hand washing.
- Young children may struggle to maintain social distancing. Please continue to do your best to help your child recognise what two metres or 'one-metre plus' look and feel like – for example, related them to arm spans or standing jumps for example.

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F O O T B A L L

# ACADEMY

- Despite the changed circumstances the organiser of the activity still has a responsibility to implement The FA's safeguarding requirements. Anyone involved in activity directly with children (anyone aged under 18), must have an in-date DBS Check, is responsible for ensuring the environment is safe and should have completed some FA safeguarding training.
- Coaches must ensure the ratio of coaches to children is appropriate.
- Coaches / Managers are not considered as a parent/guardian in terms of playing / training conditions, therefore another adult from that family/ bubble can attend.

## Use of equipment

The sharing of equipment must be avoided where possible.

Where equipment is shared, equipment must be cleaned before use by another person.

**Participants should take their kit home to wash it themselves**, rather than have one person handling a large quantity of soiled materials.

**Where kit absolutely must be shared or kept together** (for example last minute stand-in players, shortage of kit, or an essential club function), each person handling it must wash or sanitise their hands immediately after.

## Ball transfer

Based on the fomite (bacteria/virus) transmission risk assessment for ball sports where a common ball needs to be handled by multiple players, a plan to reduce this risk to include but is not exhaustive:

- Every opportunity should be taken to use a sanitised ball.
- When a ball has gone out of play and has been touched by non-participants hands, then another ball shall be used until the original has been sanitised.
- Extra Sanitised balls shall be made readily available.

## Match officials, medics and coaches

Match officials should observe the governing body guidance in the same way as participants are required to.

Match officials must remain socially distanced from players where possible during play.

Should match officials not be able to remain socially distanced due to their role in the sport, their sport should conduct a dynamic risk assessment to see if other mitigations may be necessary.

## Injury treatment

Injuries during play should still be treated as participant wellbeing is utmost.

The best way to protect yourself and others is through rigorous cleaning, personal hygiene and regular hand hygiene.

An increased frequency of cleaning and disinfection of all surfaces and equipment, using standard household cleaning and disinfection products, is recommended.

Face coverings Must also be worn when undertaking treatment.

After contact with an injured participant, clean your hands thoroughly with soap and water or alcohol hand sanitiser at the earliest opportunity.

This advice is applicable to all situations, regardless of whether there was close contact, or the minimum social distancing was maintained.

Avoid touching your mouth, eyes and nose.

Physios or their equivalent, should keep a record of each participant they have come into contact with for track and trace purposes.

## Training

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F O O T B A L L

# ACADEMY

The same principals as above apply to training. Permission must be sought from the facility's Responsible persons.

All participants should minimise contact in training where possible, e.g., minimise tackles/ any drills or practices that require close contact.

- All protocols on social distancing, hand sanitising, equipment sharing, facilities and NHS Test and Trace must be strictly adhered to.
- No indoor football (including futsal) is allowed.
- **No changing rooms are to be used, all attendees should come changed ready to take part and return home to have a shower/ bath.**
- Care should be taken on busy sites with limited access points to ensure safe play.
- Facilities should consider staggering start times and allowing cleaning time between changeovers.
- Clubs should determine the appropriate ratio of coaches to participants, following the relevant FA safeguarding policy outlined in safeguarding Guidance Notes 5.5.
- 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.

**WITHOUT CONTROLS 5x5 = HIGH RISK**

**SEVERITY 5**  
**LIKELIHOOD 5**

**WITH CONTROLS 5x2 = MINOR RISK**

**SEVERITY 5**  
**LIKELIHOOD 2**

| Risk Level                       | Likelihood Score |              |              |            |                    |
|----------------------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------------|
|                                  | 1 = Rare         | 2 = Unlikely | 3 = Possible | 4 = Likely | 5 = Almost certain |
| <b>Catastrophic:<br/>Level 5</b> | 5                | 10           | 15           | 20         | 25                 |
| <b>Major:<br/>Level 4</b>        | 4                | 8            | 12           | 16         | 20                 |
| <b>Moderate:<br/>Level 3</b>     | 3                | 6            | 9            | 12         | 15                 |
| <b>Minor: Level 2</b>            | 2                | 4            | 6            | 8          | 10                 |
| <b>Negligible:<br/>Level 1</b>   | 1                | 2            | 3            | 4          | 5                  |