Dear Parent / Guardian,

**Return to Football:**

Firstly, on behalf of Gadlys Rovers Juniors Football Club, we hope that you and your families are all keeping well after what has been a very difficult few months.

As you are aware from the various WhatsApp messages that the I have sent out recently, following announcements by the Welsh Government, the Football Association of Wales (FAW) has confirmed that football can return at a grassroots level. This is great news and we hope that your children are looking forward to being able to start training and eventually playing again.

The FAW has however confirmed that in allowing grassroots football to return, this will only be on a phased approach basis and providing strict guidelines and protocols are followed by each club.

Consequently, we have been working hard to make sure that we are able to meet all the requirements and ensure that football training is introduced in a manner which is compliant with all the necessary Health & Safety and FAW advice and guidelines.

Some of the measures we have had to put in place include:

* I will be the club’s Covid-19 Compliance Officer. I will act as the club’s single point of contact for communications with the FAW, Aberdare Valley Football League, R.C.T. Council and when games can recommence the opposing teams;
* completion of a Covid-19 checklist which had to be submitted to the FAW before training can recommence;
* completion of a Covid-19 Risk Assessment for both the AVFL & R.C.T. Council, prior to permission to restart training for all age groups of the club, outdoors;
* confirming with RCT council details of the training facilities allocated to us for the season ahead;
* providing details of the FAW’s Safer Return to Training with players, parents / guardians, coaches / helpers and RCT Council; and
* preparing information for all coaches, volunteer helpers and parents / guardians with details of the protocols that will have to be followed when training resumes.

**Phased Approach to return to football:**

The FAW has introduced a phased approach to the return to football which is as follows:

**Phase 1** -small groups of 5 players to every one coach / helper with the focus being on improving fitness and skills. There is to be a maximum of 30 people on a full-size pitch and there is to be no contact for example no tackling. This is the current position.

**Phase 2 –** this is likely to mean that larger groups can train and tackling can resume in training. It is hoped that phase 2 will commence beginning of August, therefore as a club we have decided to return to training during this phase as it will be safer to manage.

**Phase 3** – this is likely to be where certain matches can be played

**Phase 4** - this will be where there are no restrictions and football can resume more in line with the way things were before the Covid-19 outbreak.

The dates for moving to phases 3 and 4 are yet unknown and will obviously depend on the government’s success in keeping the virus under control.

As we move from phase to phase, we are required to comply with and adhere to all FAW safeguarding policies and procedures. We will keep you informed of the key changes to these policies and procedures as they develop.

Provided below are some of the key matters that we as a club feel that you need to beware of in respect of Health & Safety and Training facilities.

**Health & Safety self-checks prior to attending training:**

Everyone will be required to undertake self-check prior to attending training as these will be important to prevent transmission among people who are unaware that they are carriers of the virus.

So, your child should not attend training if

* they have a high temperature (above 37.5oC);
* they have developed a new continuous cough
* they have shortness of breath or sore throat
* they have a loss of or change in normal sense of taste or smell
* they are feeling unwell;
* you or your child are showing symptoms of the virus or have been in contact/living in a household with someone displaying symptoms within the last two weeks

**At Training Facilities:**

At the training facility only the players, coaches and helpers will be allowed onto the training pitch. Parents will not be allowed to enter the training pitch.

All players and coaches / helpers will be provided with hand sanitiser as they enter and leave the pitch.

We will be required to compile a register of all players and coaches / helpers at each training session. This to aid the contact tracing process should that be required.

All balls / cones will be sanitised before and after use

We will not be using bibs in the next few weeks.

Please ensure that your child has their own water bottle which is clearly labelled. They will not be permitted to share this with others.

Please can I remind you, that returning to training is optional for all members of the club, if you as a parent, guardian or player do not feel comfortable in returning, please contact your child’s coach or me directly. There is no pressure to return for anyone.

**New Season Registration of Players:**

Prior to the commencement of the new season the FAW requires that all players are registered on the FAW Comet system. Consequently, we would be grateful if you could confirm whether your child intends to return to play with GRJFC ASAP so that the coaches of each team can pass onto myself and Danny so they can be re-registered.

There is a charge of £5 to re-register each player. If your child is not registered by the end of August 2020, they will be unable to take part in any further training sessions or matches when they resume until their registration is updated. (due to insurance purposes)

***We have decided that all those players who paid cons in March will not have to pay the £5 registration fee and we as the club will pay this as there wasn't a lot of football played during March.***

***Players who did not pay the March Cons will be required to pay the registration fee.***

***We will contact all those who are required to pay this.***

**New Season Contributions:**

As a club we have decided Contributions will resume in September, therefore Standing Orders must be set up on the 1st September for £10 and will continue for 10 months until June 2021.

The club has a new bank account and details will be circulated in all age groups WhatsApp groups prior to September.

Please be mindful it is a time-consuming exercise of checking Cons on a monthly basis, so therefore please when setting them back up, can you make sure you put your child’s full name and age group as reference.

For those who did not cancel your standing orders over the last few months, the amount over paid will be refunded to you at the start of the season by myself.

The club will no longer be accepting Cash for Cons and Standing Orders are mandatory for all members of the club, in line with the club’s policies and procedures and must be paid on the 1st of each month.

We look forward to seeing you and your child as soon as possible but should you have any questions feel free to contact the coach of your child’s team or myself at any time.