

# SPORTSREACH FOOTBALL LEAGUE - RETURN TO FOOTBALL PROTOCOLS: MANAGER GUIDANCE



Produced on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020. Guidelines produced using FA guidance. Subject to change over time.

## **Return to football:**

From August – competitive training and friendly matches can take place

From September – football league matches can resume

## **Co-vid guidelines for returning to competitive football**

**If anyone is uncomfortable with returning to train or play, then please feel under no pressure to do so. No judgement will be made against anyone choosing not to return at this time.**

In order to safely return to playing football, managers need to ensure they act sensibly and carefully to ensure they do all they can to keep players safe as they return. This can be done by following the guidelines here, which are as follows:

1. Follow all advice given by the SportsReach Football League Exec.
2. Complete the SFL risk assessment, which will then be approved by the Exec before training and matches begin.
3. As per Government advice, you 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.
4. Illness – if you feel/fall ill during training, you must go home or be taken home immediately
5. If a player becomes ill in the days following training or a match, they must inform you as manager.
6. If a player has a confirmed positive Covid-19 case, their team and the team they have played against in a competitive match, **MUST** isolate for 14 days, as per Governmental guidelines.
7. If a player does show symptoms, then it is their responsibility to get tested.
8. Players who have come into contact with a player self-isolating, must self-isolate for 14 days or until a test result is delivered.
9. Managers are expected to and have the right to ask players to leave a training session or match if a player is showing symptoms of COVID-19.
10. Clubs and managers should ensure that their facility provider is compliant with current Government legislation and guidance related to COVID-19.
11. Competitive training is now permitted, with groups limited to a maximum of 30 people, including coaches. Do not allow any more than 30 to come to a training session.
12. Competitive match play is permitted, with social distancing in place before and after the match, and in any breaks in play.

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13. Players and officials should sanitise hands before and after a game as well as scheduled breaks throughout a game or training session.
14. Teams are expected to provide hand sanitiser for players to use.
15. Ball handling should be kept to a minimum with most contact via a boot and the ball disinfected in breaks of play. We recommend using [Neutradol Relaxing Cotton One Disinfectant Spray](#) to disinfect balls and equipment.
16. Goal celebrations should be avoided.
17. Equipment should not be shared and where possible, coaches only should handle equipment in training.
18. Goalkeepers should ensure they disinfect their gloves regularly in breaks in training or matches and thoroughly afterwards.
19. 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.
20. Players must bring their own water bottles.
21. Players should refrain from spitting. If they need to sneeze or cough, they are encouraged to do so into a tissue or upper sleeve and advised to avoid touching their face. Ensure any tissues are disposed of in a sealed bin as soon as possible.
22. In addition, chewing gum is to be banned as it is often spat out or rolled into a ball in a hand before being thrown.
23. 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. Car sharing should be actively discouraged by managers.
24. A register must be kept for each training session and match that takes place, with each player providing contact details, to support NHS track and trace.
25. This register is sent each week to the SportsReach Football League exec within 24 hours of said session or game.
26. If a player contacts a manager to tell them they are isolating or have had a confirmed test; it is the managers responsibility to contact other team members who were present at the training session. If it was following a match, then it is also the managers responsibility to inform the referee and opposition team manager of this.
27. Players are expected to adhere to these protocols. Managers have the right to ask players not doing so to leave training sessions or games and they may not be permitted to attend future sessions.
28. If any spectators come to watch a match, they are expected to keep 2 meters away from the players. If they want to come closer than 2 meters, spectators would be required to give their details to go onto the register.
29. Devotions – players are to keep socially distant when the devotion takes place.
30. If you have substitutes, they should social distance, keeping 2 meters from play and spectators.

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This guidance must be adhered to. If the Executive have reason to believe these guidelines aren't being followed, they have the right to stop training sessions and matches from taking place, until training and matches will be guideline compliant.

For more information please see FA guidelines:

<http://www.thefa.com/news/2020/jul/17/grassroots-guidance-for-competitive-football-restart-in-england-170720>

These guidelines have been produced by James Rosendale via the FA Return to Football guidelines. This guidance has been approved by the SportsReach Executive.

Signed:

Mick Lund (Chairman)

Will Marsden

Richard Sutton

Rob Tomkins

Jim Ellershaw

James Rosendale

As a SportsReach Football League manager, I agree to follow these guidelines.

Name:

Team:

Signed:

Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_