



## BRIMSDOWN FOOTBALL CLUB COVID 19 RISK ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES

### 1. Risk assessment guideline with Youth Team U6-U18

Club officials and coaches should keep the below five steps in mind at all times to ensure the safety of participants. Clubs should review the measures implemented in response to these regularly, particularly when Government advice or guidance changes.

1. Keep up to date with Government and FA guidance. Please ensure that they are followed at all times and communicate the guidelines to all individuals connected with your club.

Please see the latest FA Guidance on Permitted Grassroots Activity During Covid-19 for more details click [here](#).

2. Contact the club's insurance provider to ensure that your club is suitably covered to undertake activities in the current public health crisis. See additional notes below.
3. Undertake regular risk assessments of the club's activities, ensuring that each one is named, signed and dated by those completing and approving it – see below for more details. Risk assessments are 'living documents' and should be updated and reviewed regularly and kept in active use to mitigate any new or changing risks. Undertake specific employee/volunteer risk assessments for anyone undertaking high-risk roles or tasks.
4. Adapt activities and update the club's policies in light of steps 1-3. Policies to be updated include: Health and Safety Policy; and Data Privacy Policy to cover the handling of data where clubs capture data about attendees at sessions to aid the NHS Test and Trace service.
5. Ensure that everyone – board/committee members, coaches, first aiders, volunteers, parents and players – is aware of the club's Covid-19 protocols.
6. Do not undertake an activity if the club has any concerns about the safety of club officials and/or participant

## 2. COMMUNICATIONS WITH PARENTS/CARERS RE ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN

1. Communication with parents and carers is key when resuming the coaching of children.
2. Gaining informed written consent for involvement in any activity.
  - a. Where a child is aged 15 years or younger then parents/carers must give informed written consent via a consent form or e-mail trail, before their child can take part in football activity. Clubs need to decide how they retain a record of those parents who have given consent (e.g. retain email, log consent form). NB: While The FA supports informed written self-consent from those aged 16 and 17 years of age – in these unusual times clubs may wish to seek parent/carer consent for these two age groups as well.
  - b. Clubs needs to ensure that parents/carers are fully informed about any football activity being considered and the measures that are in place to ensure that the activity follows current Government guidance. Identify how the club will do this e.g. by providing written information to parents/carers outlining the activity being offered and measures being taken to manage risks via and inviting permission via a consent form (see **FA safeguarding Guidance Notes 8.2**)
3. Parents should be told to ensure that their child has their own water bottle, hand sanitiser, sun cream and any necessary medication (e.g. inhaler). All items belonging to their child should be labelled with their name and should not be used by anyone else.
4. The period of isolation may have caused some children to become anxious or unsure about resuming activity. Clubs should only support their return to football when they and their parents/carers feel confident for them to do so. Clubs should offer to speak to parents of children about potential issues if needed and make gradual introductions if needed, particularly when needing to incorporate new protective measures.

## VENUE

### Key considerations for clubs when drafting a risk assessment:

#### 1. ARRANGEMENTS REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING

- If the venue is open to the public, consider how this will be managed in relation to the Club activity to maintain social distancing;
- Signage to direct the flow of people to assist social distancing;
- Ground markings to remind people of social distancing;
- Reduce congestion at entrances and exits;
- Access to and from toilet facilities;
- One-way systems in/out;
- Consider how parking arrangements will be affected.

## 2. FACILITIES

- Clubs should ensure that they provide accessible facilities and comply with health and safety legislation;
- Ensure access is still provided to accessible toilets, accessible parking bays and accessible access into facilities;
- Changes to toilet facilities, their location and accessibility including access to hand-washing facilities. Consider the possibility that individuals may not be able to access a toilet to wash their hands and what alternative access to clean water could be put in place;
- Ensure participants arrive changed and ready to exercise and leave immediately after the activity.

## 3.

### PROMOTE GOOD HYGIENE AND REGULARLY CLEAN FACILITIES

- Facilities and equipment must be kept clean – if the club has its own venue, ensure regular daily cleaning of the facilities. In particular, identify high contact touch points for which should be cleaned on multiple times across the day more regular cleaning (e.g. door handles, grab rails and vending machines). Follow the Public Health England guidance for cleaning in non-healthcare settings and if a Covid-19 case is reported at the facility;
- Direct people to where they can wash their hands;
- Provide signage to remind people of the importance of washing their hands thoroughly;
- Players should be informed that spitting should be avoided, as the main mode of transmission of the virus is in respiratory secretions. In addition, clubs should consider enforcing a complete ban on chewing gum, as it is either spat out or rolled into a ball and taken out and thus poses a high risk of cross contamination. Club officials may wish to put a disciplinary measure in place in relation to spitting and chewing gum;
- Ensure participants bring their own named hand sanitiser for when soap and water is not available (use alcohol-based hand sanitiser);

- Provide paper towels for drying hands and sealed bins for placing paper towels and tissues in. If there is any concern that someone may have had symptoms of, or been infected with Covid-19, ensure these are double-bagged in line with Government guidance;
- If hiring a facility, ask for details on how the facilities are compliant with the Government's guidance and ensure club officials are familiar with the procedures that should be followed.

#### 4. TRAVELLING TO AND FROM THE VENUE

- Encourage socially-distant forms of transport (e.g. cycling and walking). All other forms of transport should be considered before public transport;
- Government guidance should be followed at all times;
- Adults and children should only travel with a member of their household or someone within their 'support bubble'. Please note that separated parents, living in different households and those in 'support bubbles' announced by Government on 10 June 2020, can also car share.

#### 5. PARENTS ATTENDING

- Discuss with club officials and parents the options of how best to manage social distancing amongst parents who bring their children to the activity, e.g. staying in their own cars, or in separate social- distancing 'gatherings' of up to six people.

##### Arrival at the venue

Coaches at the club should check that each participant completed the self-screen check list before attending and if so, if the self-screen checks were negative for all participants. Ensuring everyone understands the importance of this simple process being completed before travelling is essential to avoid potential transmission.

If a participant says they forgot to self-check before their arrival, then the coach should ask them the health check questions before they join any group at the facility. If they answer 'yes' to one or more of the questions, participants must not take part in the activity and should be told to safely return home.

##### During the session

Please refer to The FA First Aid guidance, for how to manage the situation if anyone appears to be symptomatic during the session.

#### 2. INJURIES

If a player gets injured, a member of their household or support bubble, can aid them if for example they are watching from their car, but others will still need to socially distance

unless a life threatening, or serious injury necessitates compromising guidelines to provide emergency care.

In all cases, NHS guidance on further management should be followed.

### **3. INSURANCE**

- Clubs must ensure that the relevant Insurance provisions (public liability and personal accident cover) are in place and that there is suitable cover for training sessions and other football activities taking place during the Covid-19 pandemic. See footnote 1.

– Even with the insurance cover, clubs must still follow Government guidance, to ensure that they do not risk invalidating their insurance cover.

## **PLANNING TRAINING SESSIONS AND OTHER FOOTBALL ACTIVITIES**

### **1. EQUIPMENT**

Please refer to the 'Useful information' section below for

Government guidance on cleaning in non-health care settings.

Key considerations for clubs:

- Clean equipment between uses:
  - – Identify who will regularly maintain the equipment  
hygiene e.g. balls, cones, goalposts and bibs;
  - – Thoroughly clean the equipment e.g. balls, cones, goalposts, etc.;
  - – Bibs should not be used unless they can be washed between sessions.
- Limit sharing of equipment where possible:
  - – Ensure equipment is handled as little as possible by  
as few people as possible;
  - – Each participant should bring to training their own water bottles, sun cream and medication each of which should be clearly labelled with their name.
- Have strict hand hygiene:

– If individuals are going to share equipment, including balls, always ensure the individuals' hands are thoroughly cleansed using alcohol-based hand gel, if clean running water and soap are not available, before and after use.

### **2. FOOTBALL AND TRAINING ACTIVITY**

- Keep a register of anyone attending sessions, to help manage 'NHS test and trace', if an infection is reported to someone present.

- Clubs should carefully plan each training session or football activity and ensure that they are structured to ensure that the Government guidance are maintained.
- Consider whether pitch markings or cones can be put in place to ensure that social distancing is maintained.