



COVID AND SAFEGUARDING RISK ASSESSMENT

Ballymena United Youth Academy

RETURN TO COMPETITIVE TRAINING/MATCHES

Completed by: Cathy Lorimer, COVID Officer for Ballymena United Youth Academy & Michael Watterson, Committee Member for Ballymena United Youth Academy

Date of Completion: 15 June 2020 (Updated 26 April 2021)

Review Date: Review regularly in particular as and when guidance is updated from the Government and/or the IFA

When completing this document please be mindful of the following guidance from the Government (latest update 15 April 2021):

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-regulations-guidance-what-restrictions-mean-you#toc-13>

Further, the latest update from the IFA regarding the resumption of grassroots football on 19 April 2021:

<https://www.irishfa.com/news/2021/april/covid-19-irish-fa-update>



A summary of key points to consider from our guidelines are listed for ease below:

- Everyone 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;
- Clubs and facility providers should ensure that their facility is compliant with current Government legislation and guidance related to COVID-19;
- Competitive training is now permitted;
- Competitive match play is permitted, with social distancing in place before and after the match, and in any breaks in play;
- ALWAYS follow the League's advice and guidance for matches which will be circulated to all coaches;
- Participants and officials should sanitise hands before and after a game as well as scheduled breaks throughout a game or training session;
- Ball handling should be kept to a minimum with most contact via a boot and the ball disinfected in breaks of play;
- Coaches are encouraged to limit persistent close proximity of participants during match play and training;
- Goal celebrations should be avoided;
- Equipment should not be shared, and goalkeepers should ensure they disinfect their gloves regularly in breaks in training or matches and thoroughly afterwards. Where possible, only coaches should handle equipment in training;
- Where possible, participants, 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;
- 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
- Clubs should keep a record of attendees at a match or training session, including contact details (of own team), to support NHS Test and Trace;



RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX

Risk ratings:

Red (serious issues and risk/interventions needed immediately)

Amber (some issues/being managed/needs monitoring)

Green (on track).



What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed?	RAG Rating before control measures imposed	Existing control measures to allow for football related activity to take place	Planned, additional control measures if required	Who is responsible for enacting these measures	When will they be completed by?	RAG Rating after control measures imposed
SAFEGUARDING/CONSENT							
Data Privacy Policy/Notices updated to cover data handling of attendees to aid NHS Test and Trace	All Participants		Ensure Club adheres to its Data Privacy Policy etc regarding handling of data.	Ensure Club keeps written record of attendees for all football related activities, in particular in order that it is available for use if required for submission to NHS Test and Trace.	Club Secretary/ Coach	Ongoing	
COVID-SPECIFIC							
COVID-19 Protocols briefings	All participants		Information cascaded from Club Committee down to Managers who in turn are to ensure all participants are aware of the latest guidance.	Coaches to ensure that participant are reminded at regular intervals of the current guidance in place.	Club Secretary/Coach	As and when Guidance changes and regular intervals to ensure all are reminded of current guidance	
COVID-19 Self-Screen Protocols	All participants		All Coaches to be supplied with Self Screen template and ensure they are used prior to every football-related activity	Coaches are to ensure that all Participants confirm in writing via text or in person they have completed the self-screen questions and are cleared to play	Coach	Ongoing	



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Close contact with others causes virus to spread throughout families	All Participants could contract COVID-19		<p>Each Participant must complete the Club's Self-Screen Checklist to ensure they are permitted to attend.</p> <p>Each session/match will begin and end with 20 seconds handwashing using alcohol based hand wash. Coach is to monitor quality and direct if needed. This should also take place during breaks.</p> <p>Social distancing of 2m (or 1m+) at all times before and after training sessions/matches and during breaks.</p> <p>During warm-ups and cool down Participants should adhere to social distancing as above.</p> <p>Management and Substitutes should adhere to social distancing as above.</p> <p>There should be regular breaks during Training Sessions/Matches to reduce the risk of transmission.</p> <p>Participants are not to engage with pre or post-match handshake or Team huddles</p>	<p>The coach will brief Participants prior to any training session/match to reiterate the importance of adhering to social distancing before, after and during breaks. The coach will remind Participants throughout the session/match.</p> <p>If there are incidents of Participants <i>purposely</i> breaking the social distancing rule before, after sessions/matches and in breaks; the player will be told to sit out of training/match and parents/carers asked to take them home and ensure full understanding.</p> <p>Any spectators <i>purposely</i> breaking the social distancing rule will be asked to leave.</p> <p>Keep up to date with Government and IFA Guidance.</p>	Coach	During all Football Related Activity Sessions (e.g. training, matches)	



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<p>Close contact with others causes virus to spread throughout families (Continued)</p>	<p>All Participants could contract COVID-19</p>		<p>Limit amount of time spent in training on in-game scenarios to avoid close proximity and physical contact.</p> <p>Participants are not to spit or chew gum and will be reminded regularly.</p> <p>Participants are to endeavour to not raise their voices or shout in order to limit risk of transmission of droplets.</p> <p>Participants are not to celebrate goals etc in close proximity to others</p> <p>Participants are to use the named water bottles provided by the club / provide their own named water bottles. These should be placed where marked out by coach and remain 2m apart from another individual's items.</p> <p>Participants are to arrive at training sessions/matches in clean training/match day clothes.</p> <p>Spectators are to adhere to social distancing rules.</p>	<p>The coach will brief Participants prior to any training session/match to reiterate the importance of adhering to social distancing before, after and during breaks. The coach will remind Participants throughout the session/match.</p> <p>If there are incidents of Participants <i>purposely</i> breaking the social distancing rule before, after sessions/matches and in breaks; the player will be told to sit out of training/match and parents/carers asked to take them home and ensure full understanding.</p> <p>Any spectators <i>purposely</i> breaking the social distancing rule will be asked to leave.</p> <p>Keep up to date with Government and IFA Guidance.</p>	<p>Coach</p>	<p>During all Football Related Activity Sessions (e.g. training, matches)</p>	



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Transmission of COVID-19 from touching equipment	All Participants could contract COVID-19		<p>Equipment used during the session will be minimal to avoid transmission.</p> <p>Any cones or other equipment used will be set out and collected in by the coach removing the need for Participants to touch equipment with their hands.</p> <p>All equipment used will be wiped down with disinfectant before and after the training session/match and in breaks (when required) – this includes goalposts and corner flags poles in matches.</p> <p>Club to provide every Team with cleaning sanitiser and hand sanitiser for use by coaches.</p> <p>Participants and coach should avoid where practical, picking up the ball. Non-participants should refrain from picking up the ball</p> <p>When thrown-ins are to be taken the ball must be sanitised prior to being thrown in.</p>	<p>Coach will remind all Participants of the need to avoid touching/picking up the ball. Any persistent instances of touching the ball the player(s) will be told to sit out of training/matches and parents asked to take home and ensure full understanding.</p> <p>Keep up to date with Government and IFA Guidance.</p>	Coach	During all Football Related Activity Sessions (e.g. training, matches)	



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Transmission of COVID-19 from touching equipment (Continued)	All Participants could contract COVID-19		<p>If goalkeeping practice or matches are undertaken, the goalkeeper must wear goalkeeper gloves when handling the ball and these should be sanitised before and after sessions/matches, and during breaks.</p> <p>Payments should be made cashless if requested (e.g. payment to referee).</p>	<p>Coach will remind all Participants of the need to avoid touching/picking up the ball. Any persistent instances of touching the ball the player(s) will be told to sit out of training/matches and parents asked to take home and ensure full understanding.</p> <p>Keep up to date with Government and IFA Guidance.</p>	Coach	During all Football Related Activity Sessions (e.g. training, matches)	
Suspected case of COVID-19 during Training/Matches	All Participants could contract COVID-19		<p>If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or loss of taste or smell they must be sent home and advised to follow the COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance.</p> <p>PPE should be worn by any adult caring for the player while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained such as an injury.</p> <p>In an emergency call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. Do not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital.</p>	Keep up to date with Government and IFA Guidance	Coach	During all Football Related Activity Sessions (e.g. training, matches)	



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Suspected case of COVID-19 during Training/Matches (Continued)	All Participants could contract COVID-19		<p>If a player develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 10 days.</p> <p>Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days.</p> <p>Where a player or coach tests negative, they can return to training and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.</p> <p>Where a player or coach tests positive and social distancing has not been adhered to so that there has been contact (within 2metres for 15mins or more), the rest of the team will be advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of the Participants do not need to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms</p>	Keep up to date with Government and IFA Guidance	Coach	During all Football Related Activity Sessions (e.g. training, matches)	



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Poor Communication means that Participants do not follow the Guidance	All participants not being aware of the guidance leading to risk of transmission of COVID-19		<p>The Club will provide all documents including this risk assessment to all managers for them to forward to their parents.</p> <p>Each Participant (parent/carer where applicable) is required to confirmation in writing (by text, email etc) to the Manager that they can answer "Check Negative" to all the questions on the Self-Screen Checklist.</p> <p>Event Participant will sign up to the Player Code of Behaviour document.</p>	Should it be required virtual online training will be made available.	Coach Parents/Participants	During all Football Related Activity Sessions (e.g. training, matches)	
HEALTH & SAFETY/FIRST AID							
Transmitting or coming into contact with COVID-19 when administering first aid	All Participants		<p>Club to provide all Teams with additional PPE (e.g. goggles, aprons, masks, CPR face shields).</p> <p>First aid is to be administered by the Participant or Parent/Carer if at all possible, with supervision by coach remaining 2m (1m+) unless situation is life-threatening or limb-threatening. If Participant is unable to or Parent/Carer is not in attendance coach/first aider is to administer first aid using appropriate PPE in line with IFA Guidance.</p>	<p>Club to ask all parents/carers of Participants aged 12 and under to attend all training sessions/matches (unless express permission is given due to unforeseen circumstances – not to be regular occurrence or the venue being used does not allow spectators to attend).</p> <p>Coaches will make dynamic risk assessments if there are any injuries weighing up the risk of harm if untreated with the risk of transmitting COVID-19.</p>	Coach Parents/Participants	During all Football Related Activity Sessions (e.g. training, matches)	



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Emergency Contact Details/Medical Information			Club will ensure all emergency contact details and medical information/allergies are on file for all registered players.		Club Secretary	Pre-Season or when a player registers	
Emergency Evacuation Procedures	All Participants		Coach to ensure they are aware of the Emergency Action Plan of any venue they hire. Coach will make dynamic risk assessments when attending a venue to ascertain best evacuation protocol etc when using a public area.		Coach	Before and During all Football Related Activity Sessions (e.g. training, matches)	
MISCELLANEOUS							
Site Boundaries e.g. Public Access, Roads, Location of Facilities, Drop-off points and access to pitches and training areas	All Participants (additional risk in particular to youth players or players with impairment)		Coach to dynamic risk assess but also find out the venue's process and procedures in respect of entering, exiting, if there is a one-way system etc.	Keep up to date with Government and IFA Guidance together with Venue's Risk Assessments and Procedures.	Coach	Before and During all Football Related Activity Sessions (e.g. training, matches)	
Access to toilets/changing areas e.g. supervision, handwashing facilities	All Participants (additional risk in particular to youth players or players with impairment)		Coach to find out from venue if there is any access to toilets, changing rooms etc and any procedures that need to be followed to use them.	Keep up to date with Government and IFA Guidance together with Venue's Risk Assessments and Procedures.	Coach	Before and During all Football Related Activity Sessions (e.g. training, matches)	



Version History

Version Number	Date of Version	Drafted/Amended by (Name and Club Role)	Checked by Club Committee Member
1	15 June 2020	Michael Watterson, Committee Member, Ballymena United Youth Academy	Cathy Lorimer, COVID Officer, Ballymena United Youth Academy
2	19 July 2020	Michael Watterson, Committee Member, Ballymena United Youth Academy	Cathy Lorimer, COVID Officer, Ballymena United Youth Academy
3	16 October 2020	Michael Watterson, Committee Member, Ballymena United Youth Academy	Cathy Lorimer, COVID Officer, Ballymena United Youth Academy
4	10 December 2020	Michael Watterson, Committee Member, Ballymena United Youth Academy	Cathy Lorimer, COVID Officer, Ballymena United Youth Academy