



# Devon County

'Football For All'

## Coronavirus & How It Affects Football – Q&A

### **It was expected that football may stop but do not understand the foreseeable future comment, when the professional game has a specified date (30<sup>th</sup> April) ?**

The problem is that we now find ourselves in a rapidly changing situation and therefore the FA cannot commit to any dates at this stage. They don't want to set dates for them to be changed again.

### **Can We Still Charge Club Subscriptions Whilst All Football Is Postponed?**

This is a club decision. We would advise that you consult with players, parents and guardians on reaching a decision. Clubs who own / lease facilities will still have bills to pay and this should be explained. However, clubs should be mindful of people who are currently out of work as result of COVID-19 or have had their working hours reduced and may struggle to make payments.

Could you offer payment holidays for those in need?

Can you allow subscriptions to be paid in installments?

Would people be prepared to pay an advance on their subs to help the club out in the short-term if they are able to?

### **Is There Any Funding For Clubs During This Time?**

As things stand there is no football specific emergency grant funding available to support clubs. The FA are and will be in discussions with other football agencies including The Football Foundation and Government, as reduced income to clubs is a national-scale challenge. We would draw your attention to the measures announced by the Chancellor in response to COVID-19.

The Chancellor has set out a package of temporary, timely and targeted measures to support public services, people and businesses through this period of disruption caused by COVID-19.

### **This includes a package of measures to support businesses, including:**

- a statutory sick pay relief package for SMEs
- a 12-month business rates holiday for all retail, hospitality and leisure businesses in England
- small business grant funding of £10,000 for all business in receipt of small business rate relief or rural rate relief
- grant funding of £25,000 for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses with property with a rateable value between £15,000 and £51,000
- the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme offering loans of up to £5 million for SMEs through the British Business Bank
- a new lending facility from the Bank of England to help support liquidity among larger firms,

helping them bridge coronavirus disruption to their cash flows through loans

- the HMRC Time To Pay Scheme

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses>

## **Can Teams Still Train or Play Friendlies?**

Unfortunately, no. Individuals should not undertake any football related activity, and this includes training or organised friendly fixtures. The decision to suspend all football related activity has not been taken lightly, but Devon FA believes it is the right decision to help protect the safety of our “Football Family and loved ones”

## **Does the suspension of football include small sided leagues?**

Yes – the statement relates to all football affiliated to either Devon FA or nationally to The FA

## **Is Our Insurance Still Valid If We Choose To Train?**

If you have taken out insurance through Devon FA with SportsGuard your insurance will not be valid if you continue to deliver any football activities. If your insurance is with a different company you will need to contact them direct for information

## **What is the position and role of Referees during this period of suspension of no football?**

This suspension applies to all of our affiliated Referees who if approached should not referee any football activities during this challenging time.

## **Can we hold Club or League meetings? We have our monthly meeting to discuss important issues within our Club or League?**

The suspension in our opinion relates to all football related activity, which includes meetings where groups of people will come together, which is not encouraged by the Government to carry out. The whole purpose of the suspension is to reduce the number of times where groups meet, so in turn reduce the risk of cross-infection. This applies equally to Club and League Committee meetings. It also applies to other Club and League events such as Social evenings, Presentation Nights, and any other event organised by the Club or League.

## **Is My League Going To Finish? What About Cup Finals?**

There is no confirmation from The FA at this stage as to if, or when, any resumption of grassroots football will take place. The FA are looking at the Standard Code of Rules and the Standard Code of Rules for Youth Football. When any firm decisions have been made we will communicate these to leagues and clubs.

## **Can I Attend / Affiliate Summer Tournaments?**

All football is currently postponed. As a result of this Devon FA will not be sanctioning any tournaments until the suspension is lifted by The FA.

## **What Happens With My Club's Annual Charter Standard Health Check?**

Clubs already awarded for 2020 are unaffected. Clubs yet to submit or be re-awarded will have until the end of May to agree an action plan with Devon FA. Since it is likely Courses including First Aid, Coaching, and Safeguarding Children will be disrupted; action plans will look ahead to when football and courses generally resume. We will be able to award charter standard for 2020 combined through agreeing an action plan.

## **Can I Still Have My FA DBS Verified?**

As the Government is currently advising social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19 we are recommending that DBS verifications are put on hold for the time-being.

## **If A Coach's DBS Expires During This Time Can They Continue Coaching After The Season Restarts?**

All coaches must have an accepted DBS if they are working in regulated activity with young people under the age of 18. We are awaiting further advice from The FA in relation to the renewal of DBS checks for those that have expired.

## **When Will Coach Education Courses Resume?**

All courses are postponed until the end of April. When the current Government advice changes and we receive confirmation from FA Learning that courses can resume, they will.

## **When the suspension is lifted, and football resumes, how will the Devon FA deal with the impact that this causes to Leagues and Clubs.**

The Devon FA staff will be available to assist wherever possible to help Clubs and Leagues but as always will respect whatever decisions are made by Clubs and Leagues. Devon County 'Football For All'

## **How do we manage to discuss and cover the business of our Club and League?**

This is the time that many organisations will be hoping that Technology takes over and that software platforms such as Skype, Facetime and WhatsApp play their part and assist where possible to enable decisions to be made.

## **If A Coach's DBS Expires During This Time Can They Continue Coaching After The Season Restarts?**

We are awaiting further advice from The FA in relation to the renewal of DBS checks for those that have expired. We appreciate the position facing volunteers at this time and this will be taken into account looking ahead for when football resumes.