



LondonFA



Implications of latest COVID-19 restrictions and new Reporting process for grassroots football



Latest COVID-19 restrictions for grassroots football

- Return of 'non-elite' grassroots football from Wednesday 2nd December 2020:
 - Steps 3-6 of the National League System
 - Tiers 3-7 of the Women's Football Pyramid
 - Regional NLS Feeder Leagues
 - Barclays FA WSL Academy League
 - FA Girls Regional Talent Clubs
 - Indoor and outdoor youth and adult grassroots football
- Fixtures *and* training
- Outdoor football activity permitted across all three tiers
- Indoor football and Futsal permitted in Tier 1 (if rule of six is followed) and Tier 2 (if rule of 6 is followed and no household mixing)
- Exceptions for indoor disability football, sport for educational purposes and supervised sport and physical activity for U18s

UPDATED GUIDANCE FOR GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL IN THE THREE COVID-19 TIERS: A SUMMARY



EVERY PARTICIPANT MUST FOLLOW ALL FA AND GOVERNMENT ADVICE. THIS IS CRUCIAL TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF EVERYONE INVOLVED IN THE GAME, AND SO WE CAN CONTINUE TO PLAY. ANY INCIDENTS OF NON-COMPLIANCE WILL BE REPORTED TO THE RELEVANT COUNTY FA FOR ACTION.

FOR CLUBS, PLAYERS, COACHES, CLUB OFFICIALS, CLUB WELFARE OFFICERS, MATCH OFFICIALS, LEAGUE OFFICIALS, FIRST-AIDERS, VOLUNTEERS, PARENTS/CARERS, SPECTATORS AND FOOTBALL FACILITY PROVIDERS

Following the UK Government's announcements on Thursday November 26 regarding the three Covid-19-related Tiers, below is a summary of what the Tiers mean for grassroots football. To check which Tier you're in, see the Government guidance [here](#). The chart below gives guidance on protocols before, during and after competitive play, as well as training and any impact on spectators. Grassroots football can be played in all three tiers, but see travel restrictions below. Changing rooms can be used in all tiers, following strict protocols set out in FA guidance.

ALERT LEVEL	TIER 3: VERY HIGH ALERT	TIER 2: HIGH ALERT	TIER 1: MEDIUM ALERT
ALERT LEVEL SUMMARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor training, leagues and competitions is allowed in Tier 3 areas. No indoor football (including futsal) allowed. There are exceptions for indoor disability football, football with in educational settings (e.g. school/college/university) and supervised football for under-18s, which can take place with larger groups mixing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor training, leagues and competitions is allowed. Indoor football (including futsal) is only allowed if it is possible for people to avoid mixing with people they do not live with (or with whom they share a support bubble). There are exceptions for indoor disability football, football with in educational settings (e.g. school/college/university) and supervised football for under-18s, which can take place with larger groups mixing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor training, leagues and competitions is allowed. Indoor football (including futsal) is allowed, if the rule of six is followed. There are exceptions for indoor disability football, football with in educational settings (e.g. school/college/university) and supervised football for under-18s, which can take place with larger groups mixing.
COMPETITIVE PLAY IN LEAGUES AND COMPETITIONS – AT THE VENUE	<p>BEFORE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signage should be put up at all facilities/pitches to provide clear direction on protocols. Social distancing must always be adhered to on arrival and when not in play. The sharing of essential equipment is permitted. Strict hygiene protocols must be adhered to. NHS Test and Trace must be in operation at all grounds/facilities. <p>DURING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All substitutes and team officials should maintain social distancing. No celebrations or team huddles. <p>AFTER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No socialising at the ground/pitch after games. Bars, pubs, cafes and restaurants must be closed – they are only permitted to sell by takeaway/ click-and-collect. 	<p>Follow all Tier 3 protocols apart from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubs can serve food and beverages, in line with the Government guidance on hospitality and facilities located in Tier 2. 	<p>Follow all Tier 3 protocols apart from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubs can serve food and beverages, in line with the Government guidance on hospitality and facilities located in Tier 1.
TRAVEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You cannot travel in and out of Tier 3 to play grassroots football. There is an exemption for travel in Tier 3, for under-18s, disability teams, volunteers, match officials, guardians, wife players and those travelling for work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can travel across Tier 2 to play grassroots football. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can travel across Tier 1 to play grassroots football.
TRAINING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All participants (i.e. adult and youth) should minimise contact in training where possible, e.g. minimise tackles/any drills or practices that require close contact. All protocols on social distancing, hand sanitising, equipment sharing, facilities and NHS Test and Trace must be strictly adhered to. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor training can take place. All protocols on social distancing, hand sanitising, equipment sharing, facilities and NHS Test and Trace must be strictly adhered to. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor training can take place. All protocols on social distancing, hand sanitising, equipment sharing, facilities and NHS Test and Trace must be strictly adhered to.
IMPACT ON SPECTATORS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spectators are permitted, but must follow the rule of six and Government guidance on restrictions in certain tiers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spectators are permitted, but must follow the rule of six and Government guidance on restrictions in certain tiers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spectators are permitted, but must follow the rule of six and Government guidance on restrictions in certain tiers.

DISCLAIMER:

This guidance is for general information only and does not constitute legal advice, nor is it a replacement for such, nor does it replace any Government or FA advice, nor does it provide any specific commentary or advice on health-related issues. Affected organisations should therefore ensure that they seek independent advice from medical practitioners, or healthcare providers, prior to implementing any re-opening plan, as required independent legal advice

should be sought, as required and depending on your, or relevant circumstances. While efforts have been taken to ensure the accuracy of this information at the time of publication, the reader is reminded to check the Government website to obtain the most up-to-date information regarding social distancing and any other Government measures.

Travel

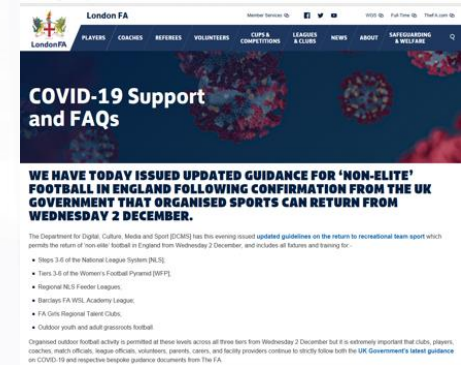
- Travel across Tier 1 and Tier 2 areas permitted
- Travel into and out of Tier 3 areas not permitted
- Exemptions for U18s, disability teams, volunteers, elite players and those travelling for work
- Players and essential club staff at steps 3-6 of the NLS, tiers 3-6 of the Women's Football Pyramid, the Barclays FA WSL Academy and Regional Talent Clubs can travel into and out of tier 3 areas

Spectators

- Spectators across Tier 1 and Tier 2 areas permitted:
 - Tier 2 – 50% capacity, or 2,000 spectators outdoors or 1,000 spectators indoors (whichever is lower)
 - Tier 1 – 50% capacity, or 4,000 spectators outdoors or 1,000 spectators indoors
- Spectators in Tier 3 areas not permitted
- Applies to clubs at Steps 3 – 6 of the NFL and WFP
- Regional NLS feeder leagues, Step 7 of WFP and outdoor grassroots football can accommodate some spectators provided they follow rule of 6 and wider government guidance

Information

- www.londonfa.com/covid-19-support-and-fags
 - Football Activity Guidance (1st Dec 2020)
 - Football Activity Guidance Summary (1st Dec 2020)
 - Football Activity Guidance for providers of football (1st Dec 2020)
 - Women's Football Pyramid Guidance (1st Dec 2020)
 - National League System Guidance (1st Dec 2020)
 - Guidance for Parents & Carers (1st Dec 2020)
 - First Aid Guidance (1st Dec 2020)
 - Risk Assessment Template (1st Dec 2020)
 - FAQs (1st Dec 2020)



The screenshot shows the London FA website with a navigation menu at the top: PLAYERS, COACHES, REFERIES, VOLUNTEERS, CUPS & COMPETITIONS, LEAGUES & CLUBS, NEWS, ABOUT, and SAFEGUARDING & WELFARE. The main content area features a dark blue background with a red and white virus-like graphic. The headline reads "COVID-19 Support and FAQs". Below this, a bold statement says: "WE HAVE TODAY ISSUED UPDATED GUIDANCE FOR 'NON-ELITE' FOOTBALL IN ENGLAND FOLLOWING CONFIRMATION FROM THE UK GOVERNMENT THAT ORGANISED SPORTS CAN RETURN FROM WEDNESDAY 2 DECEMBER." A sub-headline states: "The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has this evening issued updated guidelines on the return to recreational team sport which permits the return of non-elite football in England from Wednesday 2 December, and includes all fixtures and training for:"

- Steps 3-6 of the National League System (NLS)
- Tiers 3-6 of the Women's Football Pyramid (WFP)
- Regional NLS Funder Leagues
- Barclays FA WSL Academy Leagues
- FA City Regional Team Clubs
- Outdoor youth and adult grassroots football

Organised outdoor football activity is permitted at these levels across all three tiers from Wednesday 2 December but it is extremely important that clubs, players, coaches, match officials, league officials, volunteers, parents, carers, and facility providers continue to strictly follow both the UK Government's latest guidance on COVID-19 and respective league guidance documents from The FA.

FA Covid-19 Guidance Compliance Breach

[CLICK HERE
TO REPORT
A BREACH OF
COVID-19
GUIDANCE](#)

London FA to write to the club at each stage

Stage 1 – London FA will write to the club informing them of concerns and requirements to comply with FA Guidance (*First warning and the league to be informed*)

Stage 2 – London FA will write to the club again but also informing the league of the club's second warning (*Final warning with league informed*)

Stage 3 – London FA will liaise with the league and club to create an action plan and withdraw fixtures for the offending team until compliance can be demonstrated (Last resort)