



FOOTBALL ACTIVITY PHASE ONE COVID-19			
Version No.	001	Reference No.	COVID-19.1

In line with the latest FA guidance issued on Friday 17th July 2020¹, Cholsey Bluebirds FC are adopting the guidance below from 0800 on 25th July 2020, to inform all coaches, players, and parents/guardians.

Football activity can take place with necessary modifications in place to mitigate the transmission risk of COVID-19.

As the FA has recommended a phased return to competitive football activity in line with the below:

Until 31 July – When ready, you can begin competitive training, with the overall group size (inclusive of coaches) being limited to 30 people;

From August – Competitive matches to begin, for example pre-season fixtures, festivals and small sided football competitions;

From September – Grassroots leagues, men's National League System, Women's Football Pyramid tiers 3 to 6, and FA Competitions can commence.

Everyone involved in Cholsey Bluebirds FC, and other teams and supporters of other teams who interact with Cholsey Bluebirds FC, should, as is relevant to them, follow the guidance 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;
- Until further notice, players and parents/guardians cannot enter the clubhouse under any circumstances. Players/guardians cannot use the toilets or any other facilities in the clubhouse.
- Competitive training is permitted, with groups limited to a maximum of 30 people, including coaches. Social distancing measures must be in place before and after the session, and in any breaks in play. Competitive training sessions might include multiple groups of 30 but only if they can be appropriately socially distanced from each other; (*As per FA guidelines a coach should look after no more than 18 players.*)

¹ <http://www.thefa.com/news/2020/jul/17/grassroots-guidance-for-competitive-football-restart-in-england-170720>



- Competitive match play within training sessions is permitted, with social distancing in place before and after any competitive match play, and in any breaks in play;
- Players and officials should sanitise hands before and after a game as well as in scheduled breaks throughout a game or training session. Players and Coaches are advised to bring their own sanitiser to limit contact.
- Ball handling should be kept to a minimum with most contact *via* a boot and the ball disinfected in breaks of play;
- Youth football 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, coaches should only handle equipment in training;
- 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.
- Managers must keep a record of players and attendees at each training session, including contact details, to support NHS Test and Trace. Managers must keep these records safe and must be able to make them accessible to the Club officers and/or to the NHS within 24 hours of any request, in the event that tracing is required for anyone involved in training involving the Bluebirds.

To enable any of the above activities to be carried out the following **must** be implemented by the coach / manager and strictly adhered to whilst the session or match is active.

- All equipment, i.e. cones, poles, bibs, balls must be disinfected before and after use.
- It is recommended that each player be given a ball and bib which will be their responsibility for each session (this will limit handling). The coach / manager is responsible for disinfection control of the ball and equipment
- Strict social distancing of two metres must be enforced before and after a game or training session as well as any scheduled breaks throughout a game or training session.
- It is recommended that coaches set out a grid of cones which will help players visualise and maintain social distancing.
- Parents/carers are to remain at a safe distance and also adopt social distancing protocols. Attendance at training sessions by parents/carers and players siblings should be minimised as much as is practically possible.

Until further notice, no Cholsey Bluebirds FC managers will host competitive home matches (eg friendlies) unless specifically authorised to do so by the Chairman (Mark Toal) and the designated Covid-19 Safety Officer for the Club (Pete McAlistair). Anyone



who wishes to host home matches before this guidance is updated must contact the Club Chairman and Covid-19 Safety Officer with a request.

This policy will be kept under review in light of any further official COVID-19 guidance from the FA in relation to grassroots football.

<u>Document Control Record</u>			
<u>Date of Issue</u>	<u>Version Number</u>	<u>Reason for Re-issue</u>	<u>Person Amending</u>
20/07/20	001	Draft	PSM