

SCOTTISH FA

COVID PROTECTION LEVEL UPDATE

FACILITY / ACTIVITY PROVIDER PROTOCOL

MONDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2020



INTRODUCTION

- For clarity, these guidelines are specifically relevant to:
 - Football facility operators across all sectors e.g. local authorities/leisure trusts, 5 and/or 7 a side operators and private health & leisure clubs with outdoor pitch facilities as part of their operations.
 - Any business, company or voluntary organisation letting such facilities to support the delivery of any football-related activity such as recreational football, e.g. 5 & 7 a side, training, coaching clinics/schools etc.
- All facility operators and activity providers **MUST** follow all Scottish Government COVID guidance related to sports and leisure facilities found here:<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-sport-and-leisure-facilities>.
- In addition to the above, all facility operators and activity providers **MUST** follow **sportscotland's** latest sports facility guidance release available here:<https://sportscotland.org.uk/covid-19/getting-your-facilities-fit-for-sport/>
- As with previous phases, we continue to work closely with the national agency for sport to ensure consistency and clarity across our respective guidance and key messaging.
- These specific protocols are in accordance with current Scottish Government COVID guidelines and **MUST** be implemented in conjunction with Scottish FA Phase 3 guidance found here:<https://www.scottishfa.co.uk/football-development/return-to-football-hub/>
- This document compliments all of the above guidance. **It should not be read in isolation.** The specific focus on football facility operators and activity providers across all sectors will hopefully assist them in delivering as safe a return to the variety of football activities they provide across the various formats and elements of the game.

FOOTBALL ACTIVITY SPECIFICS

- **PLEASE REMEMBER:** this guidance applies to **OUTDOOR FOOTBALL ACTIVITY ONLY**.
- All Maximum Player/Coach numbers and Player to Coach ratios, as outlined in the Scottish FA Return to Training guidance for both Children & Youth and Adults, **MUST** be adhered to whether that activity takes place in a club or recreational setting.
- Please note that in the context of recreational 5 & 7 a side activity, a 5 a side pitch equates to 1/4 pitch and a 7s pitch equates to 1/3 pitch as outlined in the Return to Training guidance. Again, all associated maximum numbers and ratios must be applied.
- Scottish FA return to training guidelines currently recommend that participants should not participate in formal league activity.*
- Facility operators and activity providers **MUST** also apply the guidance for indoor sport - in this case all formats of indoor football activity - when this is released.
- Football operators and activity providers must also adhere to the Scottish FA's Matchday protocols.
- It is the responsibility of facility operators and activity providers to follow all guidelines that enable any football activity to take place in as safe a manner as possible. They must visit and understand all relevant guidance available on the Scottish FA 'Return to Football Hub' at <https://www.scottishfa.co.uk/football-development/return-to-football-hub/>
- Child Wellbeing and Protection is at the core of all children and youth football activities. Please ensure that all related guidance in this area is fully implemented (see following page for further detail).
- During this phase and to assist with planning and communication, we recommend that outwith the football-related activity itself, **all participants MUST observe 2 metre physical distancing in and around the facility/venue**. This helps to further anchor current Scottish Government advice in this regard.

*Any exemption to this needs to be approved by Scottish Government/sportscotland.

CHILD WELLBEING & PROTECTION

Child wellbeing and protection must be at the forefront of planning **ANY** football related activity. As a minimum this should include:

- Have a child wellbeing & protection policy in place that is easily accessible to those who require it
- All staff/coaches/volunteers in regulated work have been appointed following a 'safe' recruitment procedure.
- All coaches/staff/volunteers undertake relevant child wellbeing & protection training and agree to a Code of Conduct.
- All activities must be fully risk assessed in advance including ensure the appropriate adult:child ratios are in place.
- Have a point of contact for any child wellbeing & protection matters should anyone need to report any concerns
- A procedure for managing any concerns that arise must be in place.

The Scottish FA Wellbeing and Protection Department can offer support in this area.

Please email us at childrenswellbeing@scottishfa.co.uk with any questions relating to Child Wellbeing & Protection.

PLAN & PREPARE

- Facility operators and activity providers must appoint a [COVID Co-ordinator](https://www.scottishfa.co.uk/media/6480/covid-co-ordinator-role-description.pdf) as described here - <https://www.scottishfa.co.uk/media/6480/covid-co-ordinator-role-description.pdf> or equivalent to ensure all 'best practice' guidance is followed by all users/participants, promoting a safe return to football.
- Activity leaders, whether coaches or otherwise are responsible for the safety of all participants and should be fully aware of their own organisation's policies and those of any facilities used.
- Online payments for sessions should be taken if possible. If not, alternative measures should be put in place. Where possible avoid handling cash.
- Scottish FA return to training guidelines for Adults, currently recommend that participants should not exceed 3 training sessions per week for no more than 90 minutes per session.*
- Communicate with all participants to ensure they feel safe and ready to return to football activity.
- Complete risk assessments for all activities to be undertaken
- Liaise with your insurers to check that you're covered for all activity.
- Communicate with all staff and participants to ensure they all understand the new procedures to keep everyone safe.
- Ensure that child wellbeing and protection is at the forefront of planning ANY football related activity
- All staff/coaches/volunteers in regulated work have been appointed following a 'safe' recruitment procedure and have undergone relevant child wellbeing & protection training and have agreed to a Code of Conduct.

*Any exemption to this needs to be approved by Scottish Government/[sportscotland](https://www.sportscotland.gov.uk/).

TEST AND PROTECT

- If you have COVID symptoms, contact the NHS to arrange to be tested at 0800 028 2816 or www.nhsinform.scot
- If someone who has attended your facility or activity develops symptoms of COVID, they should be directed to follow the Scottish Government's 'test and protect' guidelines, which can be read on www.nhsinform.scot
- Ensure an accurate register, including contact details, is kept for EVERY activity session. This register should be held by those individuals with a responsibility for all COVID-related issues and the session coach FOR THE DURATION OF LOCKDOWN.
- Ensure all members of staff are aware of who their relevant COVID Co-ordinator is, should they have to pass on their details to a member of the NHS Scotland Test & Protect team.
- It is not the responsibility of the facility operator or activity provider to inform others if anyone at a facility or activity has tested positive for COVID. This will be done by the NHS Scotland Test & Protect team. An individual's right to privacy must be observed.
- The facility operator and/or activity provider will be expected to be able to pass on contact details of all attendees should they be asked by a member of the NHS Scotland Test & Protect team.
- Data protection guidance should be followed at all times and personal details not held for any longer than is necessary.

ROLE OF COVID CO-ORDINATOR

The nominated person should:

- Follow the COVID Co-ordinator role profile here - <https://sportscotland.org.uk/media/5950/sportscotland-covid-officer.pdf>
- The Scottish FA strongly recommends you participate in sportscotland's COVID Officer training. More information can be found here - https://rise.articulate.com/share/LIEWUj-o23H_4gC1AF002jdxdrCucQC0#/
- Understand and apply Scottish Government, sportscotland and Scottish FA guidelines in relation to COVID **AT ALL TIMES**.
- Complete a safe appointment and selection process (including a valid PVG Scheme membership).
- Encourage everyone to take collective responsibility and ensure all guidelines are adhered to.
- Retain all session registers for their allocated groups and act as first point of contact for NHS Scotland Test & Protect staff in the event of any reported positive tests.



Visit: scotfa.co/ReturnToFootball