

## COVID-19 “Competitive matches” (including friendlies)

The following are the steps being taken by the club to implement the FA and government COVID guidance to minimise risk of infection to players, club officials and spectators;

**RISK ASSESSMENT** – Culcheth Athletic JFC has completed a Comprehensive Risk Assessment to implement government and FA guidance which is published on club website. **All players, coaches, parents and carers must comply with the guidance detailed, which is summarised here for competitive matches (including friendlies).**

**HOME MATCHES** – New procedures will be in place at the Oaks including a one way system for entering and leaving field, provision of sanitizer, introduction of safety briefings and new infection control procedures. **All players, coaches, parents and carers must comply with the guidance issued.**

**AWAY MATCHES** - Opposition teams are responsible for conducting risk assessments for their venues, without evidence of COVID compliant risk assessment in advance matches will **not take place. All players, coaches, parents and carers must comply with the guidance and procedures provided by the opposition.**

**CONSENT TO PLAY MATCHES –COMPLETE ONLINE ‘CONSENT FORM’** - Before your first competitive match informed consent must be given.

**SYMPTOMS** – If you or someone in household has had COVID symptoms in last 2-weeks, however mild you **MUST stay at home & follow nhs advice, plus notify team manager.** As a reminder the symptoms are - a high temperature, a new continuous cough, a sore throat or shortness of breath, a loss of or change in normal sense of taste or smell or are feeling unwell.

Players (via Parents/carers) will be required to self assess against the symptoms prior to matches. A message will be sent by the coach via text/whatapp but the coach will also just check with participants as a collective.

**ATTENDANCE REGISTERS** - Coaches are required to maintain an accurate register of those attending matches, so that they may be passed on for “NHS Test and Trace” requirements should any infection spread be reported amongst participants. Arrangements are the responsibility of the home team to collect information for their venue and they must comply with data protection rules and destroy after 21 days.

**TRAVELLING TO MATCHES** – According to government guidance at this stage you can only travel with someone from your own household, **so nobody can be offered a lift in a friend’s car.**

**ARRIVAL**– Each player should arrive and **remain 2m apart from each other until match commences** and will be encouraged to do so by coaches.

**PHYSICAL CONTACT** – Before, at half time and after matches **players are to be kept 2m away from everyone** –no hand-shakes, high-fives or group goal celebrations.

**DRINKS, INHALERS, SUNCREAM (if necessary)** - Bring your own drink (water), inhaler, suncream (if needed), preferably labelled with your name on it and **place in your designated area** as directed by your coach.

**WASHING HANDS/SANITIZER** – It is now being advised that each player brings their own hand sanitizer (labelled with their name on it) - wash hands and apply sanitizer before, during and after each matches

**SPECTATORS** – Should maintain 2m social distancing from people from other households at all times, as per current COVID government guidance.

**FIRST AID** – Should first aid be required, in the first instance someone from the same household as the injured player should administer treatment, but if a life-or limb-threatening injury then the coach, wearing suitable PPE (mask, gloves, etc) shall intervene or in absence of household member too for minor injuries. This applies to matches too, but will be managed by referee.

**EQUIPMENT (including footballs, cones)** - Will be collected in by the coach and disinfected after each match. The ball is also to be cleaned in regular breaks in play. The process is determined by home teams. If ball goes ‘Out of play’ only to be retrieved by participants with feet. Handling of footballs to be minimised.

**HYGIENE BREAKS** –Small sided games to have regular hygiene breaks but this is to be agreed with referee and league. For friendlies it is advised that such breaks take place regularly.

**SPITTING / SHOUTING** – No spitting, as spreads viruses, and shouting to be minimised, particularly when **facing** each other.

**FREE-KICKS / SET PLAYS** – Avoid lengthy time to set up and also reduce time when close-marking.

**HALF-TIME IN MATCHES** – Disinfect all equipment, corner poles, goals and footballs – players to remain 2m apart.

**END OF MATCH** – All to be advised to use sanitizer (or wash hands immediately when home), and to avoid touch face, mouth and leave promptly at the end, safely maintaining 2m distance

**ANY CONCERNS** – Please raise with Child Welfare Officer and/or Club Secretary.