



NORTH EAST HANTS YOUTH LEAGUE COVID-19 GUIDANCE

With the new Covid variant Omicron spreading rapidly, everyone involved in grassroots football needs to realise and accept their responsibility to exercise all reasonable precautions to not only protect themselves but others as well.

The following is to remind everyone of the current League and FA protocols that must be followed and to clarify what is now to happen with competitive fixtures not played by reason of Covid. In saying the following the league fully understands & appreciates the reticence that some parents, players, managers & coaching staff may feel in the current Covid climate and as a result elect not to play one or more fixtures.

The league needs to draw a line in the sand on this and we must follow both county FA guidance & FA rules which means that where a competitive game¹ does not go ahead directly or indirectly due to Covid

- a. ***The team that withdraws will be charged with failing to fulfil a fixture (there will be no fine), the game will not be rescheduled but awarded to the opponents.***
- b. ***If both teams withdraw the fixture will not be rescheduled and neither team will receive any points or proceed further where the game was a fixture in a knockout cup competition***
- c. ***Where both teams withdraw from a knockout cup fixture, the two losing teams from the previous round will be reinstated and promoted to play the now empty fixture in the competition draw.***

¹ ***a 'competitive game' includes all the younger age group festival games***

Suggestion – to get games played where one side has a limited number of players available there's nothing to stop both teams agreeing to play the match with the less but equal numbers of players

FA Guidance

This updated guidance which covers Steps 3-6 of the National League System (NLS), Tiers 3-6 of the Women's Football Pyramid and grassroots football (including Regional NLS Feeder Leagues), came into effect on Monday 19 July.

The full guidance documents can be downloaded below and should be referred to for further details. The summary key points are:

1. On field adaptations for playing football are no longer required.
2. No limits of how many people can meet.
3. One metre plus rule removed.
4. Individuals who are double-jabbed or under-18 no longer need to self-isolate after being identified as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case, even if that person is within the same household. However, they are strongly advised to get their own free PCR test as soon as possible.
5. Face coverings no longer required by law, but recommended in crowded indoor settings and may be mandated by some clubs or facility providers.
6. Changing rooms can be used, however participants should use their own judgement and minimise use where possible to avoid close contact in a crowded area for a prolonged time.
7. No capacity limits for spectators but good practice is encouraged.
8. Hospitality is permitted without restrictions.
9. NHS Test and Trace QR codes not required by law but encouraged.
10. Free NHS lateral flow testing is available to clubs and we encourage clubs to take this up.
11. No domestic travel restrictions. Participants should continue to follow Government advice on international travel for any fixtures/ tournaments.

This guidance document applies to all youth and adult football and Futsal, including all formats of the game, both indoors and outdoors.

League Guidance

12. All clubs must nominate one or more COVID-19 Officer(s) and those people will take responsibility for their club's COVID-19 risk management and control measures. Having a COVID-19 Officer is a mandatory requirement - failure to do so may render the club being fined, unable to participate in any fixtures (including friendlies) and/or being reported to their parent County FA
13. All COVID-19 Officers **must** register themselves in Membermojo
 - a. If you already have a record on the NEHYL Contacts System sign in online here https://membermojo.co.uk/nehyl/signin_email, if not register here <https://membermojo.co.uk/nehyl>
 - b. Select 'Yes' on the field 'I have a committee role' which will activate the 'Club COVID-19 Officer' role at the bottom of the form - tick this to be included in a group for the league to email you in relation to COVID-19 communications
 - c. Ensure that the directory consent is ticked so that opposition managers, COVID-19 Officer and/or Club Secretaries can contact you if required
14. **Sharing the COVID-19 Officer details for NHS Test & Trace**

Club COVID-19 Officers MUST share their details (by all means possible) with all their team managers, coaches, parents, players – perhaps recommend that people store the details in their smart phone, so it is always with them. This will enable the COVID-19 Officer's contact detail to be passed on to NHS Test & Trace in the event of someone testing positive for the COVID-19 virus
15. **Risk Assessments**
 - a. All clubs must complete and retain and distribute on request) a risk assessment for each ground/facility they use for training or matches. There is a link to a Risk Assessment template at the foot of this document

- b. There is also Government/HSE requirement for the owner/operator of these facilities to produce their own risk assessment for the users of their facilities – clubs should request a copy of these as a matter of course.
16. **All Matches & Friendlies** - The League is recommending the following protocols are adapted again,
- Team Sheets must be exchanged by email (and an electronic acknowledgement received) between the MMJO registered admin people and/or managers of both sides before kick-off. Ideally the email exchange will take place the evening before the game.
 - Team sheets will act as the player's portion of the COVID-19 'Test & Trace' list in case a player or someone who attended the game subsequently develops COVID-19 symptoms in the 14 day period following the game
 - The Respect handshake is not going to take place before or after the match, instead a centre spot line up is to take place with 3 cheers from each team
 - Pre-Match ID Parades are to take place in all Competitive Age Group games & Development Age Group **Festival** games with everyone stood at a safe distance. The Squad list with photos should be shown to the opposition manager in, **as far as possible**, a touchless fashion. where paperwork or phones have to be physically exchanged, it is strongly recommended that both managers hand sanitise before the parade and again immediately afterwards
 - Development Age Group **Non Festival** games – there is no requirement for an ID parade
 - Rule 2D iii – Where the number of spectators at the match make it necessary, the league is to relax this rule to allow spectators to stand along the whole length of the pitch on the opposite side to the Managers/coaches. The League recommends this must be in group/bubbles of no more than 6 people and socially distanced.
 - A line is to be marked (by training cones or spray) 5 metres either side of the halfway line on the manager's side of the pitch to designate the end of the technical box – no player or manger is to cross over this line

17. All Matches, Friendlies and Training Sessions

Ideally at least one parent/guardian/person from the household support bubble per child should, (if possible), be present for the duration of all games and training sessions and be responsible for their child, including (if appropriate) acting as the first responder in the event of an on pitch injury to their child

18. Referee Payments should be made before kick-off and the method of payment agreed in advance with the match official. Ideally payments will made by electronic transfer but failing all else cash may be given.

19. TEST & TRACE

Referee, Coaches, Managers, Players, Parents & Spectators;

- Should not attend any match or training session if in the 14 day period prior to the match/session they have developed or have come into contact with anyone who has any COVID-19 symptoms. They should seek to get themselves and/or their immediate family tested for the virus but in any event self-isolate.
- If following their attendance at a game they develop COVID-19 symptoms they should immediately notify their club's COVID-19 Officer and their team's admin person or manager. The COVID-19 Officer should immediately contact the opposition's COVID-19 Officer
- CRUCIAL** - If anyone develops symptoms, they MUST arrange to take a COVID-19 test without delay. If that test returns a positive result, that person will be required to give their details to the NHS Test & Trace people (usually done at the time of the test). The NHS Test & Trace people will then need to rapidly contact everyone at the same event/match/session and the easiest method for them to achieve that will be for them to liaise with or speak to the club(s) COVID-19 Officer(s) - so please give those contact details to the NHS Test & Trace people. When contacted the club's COVID-19 Officer will be able to provide their own attendee details and the oppositions COVID-19 Officer contact details who can then provide the contact details of their attendees
- Clubs may well benefit from introducing and using a pre-match/pre-session COVID-19 declaration form/system to be completed by parents/guardians of the players attending

20. First Aid Kit - Minimum COVID-19 Requirements

- a. Hand Sanitiser, Sanitising wipes, Face Masks, Latex Gloves & Hazardous Waste disposal bags (Orange or Yellow) should be in everyone's medical bag. Whoever looks after the medical bag between games or training sessions will be responsible for safe disposal of any 'used' materials
- b. In addition to (8a) above Clubs may elect to keep goggles, aprons and/or face shields in their first aid kits which would be suitable/appropriate in cases of someone having an SCA (sudden cardiac arrest), coughing fit, sneezing fit, choking episode, violent epileptic fit or any other incident involving increased or explosive lung, nasal or mouth aerosol release

21. All clubs/parents/managers should adhere to the Pre-Game/training check lists issued by the FA – see resource list below (a, b & c)

- a. [FA COVID-19 Parents Check List.pdf](#)
- b. [FA COVID-19 Coaches Check List.pdf](#)
- c. [FA COVID-19 Clubs Check List.pdf](#)

22. Other online resources and information;

- a. <https://www.thefa.com/news/2021/jul/16/20210716-non-elite-football-update-step-4-government-covid-19-roadmap>