



Covid-19 Risk Assessment – Hersham FC

As part of our return to football planning, the FA asked every club to carry out a risk assessment specific to Covid-19. The potential risks and the club's actions around those risks are included below. If you have any queries around these, please contact either Dave Bradford (db@hershamfc.com) who is Hersham FC Covid-19 Officer.

With all training currently taking place outdoors, these are fairly straightforward and in line with the current FA guidance on football activity.

This Risk Assessment applies to both Youth & Adult players

Specific Risks & Actions to Reduce Risks

Risk: Transmission of Covid-19 through touching shared equipment

Actions:

- All participants will be asked to read the current FA guidelines thoroughly before attending any football activity.
- All participants will be asked to bring their own hand sanitiser and to use it in line with FA guidelines.
- Coaches will have read the FA guidelines and ensure equipment is not shared unnecessarily and that any shared equipment is sanitised before and after all football activity, as well as during activity if required, in line with FA guidance.
- Participants will be asked to store personal items, kit and drinks separately from other participants.
- Coaches will follow the FA guidelines on the sharing of equipment. For the sake of being able to separate players into teams at training and when substituted off the pitch during matches, the club recommends each player is given a training bib, These should not be shared between players and it will be the responsibility of each individual to wash their own bib between sessions and ensure they bring it to all football activity. If a coach does not have enough bibs to assign one to each player, the club will provide these. Please speak to Dave Bradford about this.
- When using external 3G facilities or other facilities with access gates, please ensure all handles, locks and other surfaces that have been touched are sanitised before and after use.
- If there is a shared bench that substitutes are using, please ensure this is sanitised before and after use.

Risk: Transmission of Covid-19 through close contact with others, either during football activity or in the car park before / after.

Actions:

- All participants will be asked to read the current FA guidelines thoroughly before attending any football activity.
- All participants will be asked to maintain social distancing, in line with the current FA and government guidance, when not on the field of play (i.e. during warm-ups, team discussions, drinks breaks and before and after sessions).
- Sessions involving different groups will be staggered so that one group has time to leave before the next group arrives.
- In line with the current FA guidance, group sizes will remain at 30 or under for all sessions.
- In line with the current FA guidance, the type of activity organised will not deviate from the timeline that has been published by the FA for the return of grassroots football.
- Participants will be encouraged not to car share with those outside their family or "bubble" and to follow the [latest government guidance on travel and the use of public transport](#).
- If using external 3G facilities, please ensure that if there is a risk of overcrowding, that players, coaches and parents wait outside the "cage" until the previous group have left.

Risk: Participants do not understand or have not read the current Covid-19 guidance

Actions:

- Before any team may begin contact training or playing matches, each parent will be asked to sign and return, by e-mail, a consent form that states they are happy for their child to return to contact training / match play, that they have read and understand the latest FA and government guidance. Links to the guidance will be provided for all parents to read before signing the consent form, this applies to ALL players aged 15 and under, albeit it would be best practice that ALL YOUTH teams adopt this policy.
- Coaches will be encouraged to reinforce the guidance in person to the whole group before the first session and participants will be encouraged to ask any questions if they are not sure, either directly to their coach, or to the club's Covid-19 Officer – Dave Bradford.
- If there are language issues or learning difficulties that make it difficult for an individual to understand what is being asked of them, this should be mentioned to the club's Covid-19 Officer and the individual in question's coach so the club can help in the best way they can for that individual.

Risk: Someone exhibits Covid-19 symptoms before football activity, has tested positive for Covid-19 or is asked to self-isolate due to potential contact with Covid-19.

Actions:

- All parents will need to provide a contact phone number to their child's coach prior to the first session. Special care should be made by coaches with regard to any new players who may be trialling for their team, whose details they may not already have.
- Coaches should ensure that the Track & Trace register is completed of who attended **each** session, along with a contact number for each participant (or their parent / carer if under 18). Remember to include officials and coaches etc and place the completed form in the collection point contained within the refreshment hut, this is also required when training outside of the clubs' facilities at an external venue.
- All participants should be encouraged to report any Covid-19 symptoms, positive Covid-19 test results or any contact from the health services to ask that they self-isolate due to potential contact with Covid-19 to their child's coach immediately. This should also be reported to the club's Covid-19 Officer immediately (Dave Bradford) who will contact the health services and take advice from them immediately.
- Participants should be reminded that nobody with symptoms that may indicate they have Covid-19 or who has been contacted by the health authorities to self-isolate due to potential contact with Covid-19 should attend any football activity.

Risk: A participant exhibits Covid-19 symptoms during football activity.

Action: The participant in question should be kept socially distant from others, in line with government guidance, whilst all other safeguarding criteria are met. If a parent or guardian is not present, they should be informed immediately and asked to collect their child at the soonest possible time.

Risk: Children feel pressured into returning to football before they are ready.

Action: Coaches should make it clear to parents and players that they are under no pressure to return to football if they do not feel it's safe. It is entirely their decision and that decision will be respected by the club and supported fully. Equally, if a coach does not feel ready to return at this stage, they are under no pressure to do so and under no obligation to provide training sessions at this stage.

Risk: Participants may have health conditions that make them particularly at risk from Covid-19

Action: It is individual parents' responsibility to make their coaches and the club aware of any health conditions any participant may have that may put them at higher risk from Covid-19 and those same parents' responsibility to decide whether they are comfortable with their child attending football activities, based on the guidelines we have in place.

DB – August, 2020