

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

MATCHDAY COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

Pre-Event

- Most venues booked by the league will be Private or Council run, it may be advisable for the coach in charge to arrive early on matchday to confirm risk assessments have been carried out and confirm suitable arrangements are in place for the match.
- All participants are required to follow the procedures for entry and exit at any venue and the safety procedures notified whilst on site.

Matchday

- **Game times being will be reduced for all games for the 20/21 Season. All U12 games will be 20 Minutes Each Way – U13 -U18 inclusive will be 30 Minutes Each Way.** This will allow for teams to clear the pitch area before the teams for the next match arrive. All teams should leave the pitch area promptly after their game is finished.
- Where games are arranged back to back at any venue the teams from any preceding game **MUST** have exited the pitch before the teams from the next match enter the pitch. Coaches who fail to have their team observe this process will be subject to disciplinary action.
- Each team should print and complete its own match card ahead of the game. A photograph of each team's card should be exchanged via what's app or other agreed media with the opposition team coach.
- Referees will be asked to take a photograph of the team's match cards ahead of the game and complete disciplinary reports via the website download forms.
- For the 20/21 season teams will not be required to produce photographic ID for their players but all players named on a match card on a match day must be duly registered on the IFA COMET registration system for that club.
- All coaches and players will be subject to disciplinary action if they are subsequently proven ineligible for any match.
- No scheduled match will be cancelled for any reason other than those affected by restrictions imposed by the NI Executive. In all other circumstance's matches will be forfeited by the team unable to fulfil the fixture.

- All players to arrive at each venue already wearing their playing kit.
- In the event of a kit colour clash it is the responsibility of the HOME or FIRST NAMED team to change. Where players have arrived in the first choice colours and subsequently required to change the HOME Club must provide their own players with a washed and sanitized kit suitable for that match to proceed.
- Each coach in charge will arrange an area to leave equipment and clothing, it will be their responsibility to ensure this is done using social distancing measures.
- Car sharing is not permitted, players should only travel to and from games with members of their household.
- Any person who has, or been in contact with any person who has, tested positive or been required to self-isolate within the past 14 days must not attend any venue.
- Any person that has returned from foreign countries now isolating should do so for the permitted time. (Please refer to PHA guidance and not attend any venue)
- Any person who is experiencing Covid-19 symptoms must not attend any venue until isolation period is completed.
- Each venue will have their own safety protocols in place. When arriving at a venue, each person should familiarise themselves with the safety protocols and social distancing measures that have been implemented at the venue. Each person must adhere to the safety protocols and social distancing measures for the duration of their time at the venue.
- All coaches and players to enter the pitch via any gate which has been designated as an entry gate, which should be jarred open at the beginning and end of each session.
- All coaches and players must use hand sanitizer supplied by your club when entering or exiting the pitch area.
- A Parent must not enter the pitch area.
- No spectators other than the parent of each child who is taking part in the session and they must maintain social distancing.
- All players must have their own drinks bottle, this must not be shared with any other person.
- No spitting at any time.

- No Shaking hands or high 5s.
- All coaches and players must use hand sanitiser during the half-time break.
- If a player requires First Aid, the team medical coach will assist the player and must wear protective gloves then remove and dispose of them immediately afterwards in the correct manner. The medical kit water bottles must not be used for drinks purpose.
- Each team should stand on opposite sidelines where practical. If dugouts are in use, then coaches should ensure social distancing is observed when in use.

After Event

- All coaches and players to exit the pitch via any gate which has been designated as an exit gate.
- A Parent must not enter the pitch area.
- Coaches are required to clean the team's footballs and equipment after each session.
- Parents should not congregate anywhere and should leave the venue as quickly as safely possible
- **COVID-19 Officers are required to spray disinfectant on the goal posts and markers cones at the end of each session. (How practical is this? Is there an alternative arrangement?)**
- Bearing in mind that changing facilities may not be available at venues parents are requested to arranging changing at their car and then ensure the player bathes/showers and their clothes washed/sanitised as soon as possible