19/07/2020

Dear Team Managers, Parents/Guardians and Players,

I hope you and your families are all well? I just wanted to send you a club update to let you know when Beacon’s Football Club can return to football activity.

**Great news from the FA….**

James Kendall, Director of Football Development at the FA, has said: “We're delighted that the Government has given the go-ahead for competitive grassroots football to return. The past few months have been some of the most challenging times not just for football, but across society, and today’s news will be welcomed by the grassroots football community all over the country.”

Now that we are able to look ahead to the new season, it’s crucial that we continue to do all we can to follow safety measures, both as advised by the government and specifically for football.

There can now be a phased return to competitive football activity as follows:

* Until 31 July – When ready, you can begin competitive training, with the overall group size (inclusive of coaches) being limited to 30 people;
* From August – Competitive matches to begin, for example pre-season fixtures, festivals and small sided football competitions;
* From September – Grassroots leagues, men’s National League System, Women’s Football Pyramid tiers 3 to 6, and FA Competitions can commence.
* Clubs and facility providers should ensure that their facility is compliant with current Government legislation and guidance related to COVID-19.
* A return to competitive football should only happen once clubs and facility providers have completed the necessary risk assessments and comprehensive plans are in place.

**Beacons FC Return to Training**

Following the government’s updated advice and new FA guidance, we will return to training starting Saturday 1st August 2020 at the times of 9.00am – 12.00 noon, (please speak to your individual team managers for your teams allotted training times).

**Fee’s**

For the month of August, players fee’s will be reduced to £20 for the month per child, all payments will have to be made by cashless payments as a transfer to the following account:

**Beacons F.C.
HSBC UK Bank PLC
Sort Code: 40-01-21
Account number: 71375873**

When making payments to the bank account, please do make the relevant manager aware of payments made and use a suitable online reference (e.g. U16 D\_SMITH AUGUST SUBS).

**Changes to Training/Games**

Although the return to football is great news, we must still all follow the FA guidance on how training and matches can go ahead. I have provided simplified guidance below for everyone, on how our activities will change to ensure that we are compliant with this guidance and to also ensure we do all we can to reduce the risk of the transfer of COVID – 19.

**What we have to do before any training/games**

**General Advice**

* **Everyone should self-assess for Covid-19 symptoms before every training session or match. If you are symptomatic or living in a household with possible or actual Covid-19 infection you must not participate or attend. You should stay home and follow the latest Government guidance.**
* Personal hygiene measures should be carried out by everyone and hand sanitisers brought and used at the training/match venue. **(Hand Sanitisers will be supplied by Beacons FC)**
* Please be advised that hand shaking, or other physical greetings should not be used between the players, coaches, spectators or parents/guardians etc
* Follow Government guidance for travel, including minimising use of public transport.
* Use of clubhouses, hospitality facilities, changing rooms and toilets must adhere to Government guidance.
* Anyone who is deemed vulnerable in respect of Covid-19 is reminded to follow the Government’s guidance, only returning to football when it’s right for them to do so.
* Meet-up times should be adjusted to avoid time spent congregating at a venue.

**Managers Guidance**

* **All Managers** to attend 15 mins before all training sessions/games to ensure correct set up of allocated area and cleaning stations
* **All Managers** must follow the ‘NHS test and trace’ protocols, such as keeping an attendance register. Please could you do this by typing a list of attendees on your phone and emailing this with Manager Name, Team Name and Date of Training to beacons.secretary@outlook.com who will keep these registers as a backup centrally. We are asking this to be completed this way to reduce contact.
* Goal posts and corner poles should be wiped down before matches/training, after matches/training and at half time. **(Cleaning Materials will be supplied by Beacons FC)**
* Youth team coaches should re-acquaint themselves with all safeguarding policies and procedures.
* The sharing of kit and equipment should be avoided, but where equipment is shared, it must be cleaned before use by another person.

**Player Guidance**

* Active participants should arrive changed and ready to take part.
* Participants should follow best practice for travel including minimising use of public transport and walking or cycling if possible. People from a household or support bubble can travel together in a vehicle

**What we have to do during training and match play**

**General Advice**

* Players, coaches and officials should arrive changed and shower at home.
* Competitive training can take place for all participants, in an outdoor setting provided this takes place in groups of **no more than 30 (including coaches).**
* Competitive match play is permitted, with social distancing in place before and after the session, and in any breaks in play.
* When the ball goes out of play, it should not be retrieved by non-participants and should be retrieved using the feet rather than the hands where possible.
* Players and officials should sanitise hands before and after a game as well as scheduled breaks throughout a game or training session;
* Each team including coaches, players and spectators should keep within their allocated area – this is to uphold social distancing guidelines

**Managers Guidance**

* Youth football coaches are encouraged to limit persistent close proximity of participants during match play and training.
* Observing rigorous hygiene standards, injuries can be treated.
* Small-sided football should include more regular hygiene breaks in activity and players discouraged from touching or tackling against boards.
* Training Sessions should use as little equipment as possible, if equipment is used, this must be disinfected before and after each use, where possible, coaches should only handle equipment in training.
* Ball handling should be kept to a minimum with most contact via a boot and the ball disinfected in breaks of play;
* Equipment should not be shared, and goalkeepers should ensure they disinfect their gloves regularly in breaks in training or matches and thoroughly afterwards.

**Player Guidance**

* Participants must not spit and should avoid shouting or raising their voices when facing each other, as detailed in The FA Covid-19 Code of Behaviour.
* The sharing of kit and equipment should be avoided and participants should bring their own drinks or refreshments, in named containers.
* Set plays: players are encouraged to avoid unnecessarily long set-up or close marking.
* Group Goal celebrations should be avoided;
* Equipment should not be shared, and goalkeepers should ensure they disinfect their gloves regularly in breaks in training or matches and thoroughly afterwards.

**Parent/Guardian Guidance**

* We ask if possible, all parents/guardians to remain in cars when collecting and dropping off children, any that wish to stay during training/matches must follow social distancing rules and all adults must wear a mask. This is to ensure everyone’s safety.
* Spectator groups will be limited to six people per group and spread out in line with wider Government guidance.
* No parents/guardians are permitted on to the designated training area, football pitch whilst being used.

**What we have to do after activity**

**Managers Guidance**

* Hands should be washed at the earliest opportunity and personal equipment should be wiped down with a disinfectant
* Unless absolutely necessary, participants should take their kit home and wash it themselves, or by family members. Post activity showers should be taken at home.
* Everyone must continue to maintain social distancing including in any facilities where groups of people congregate (e.g. clubhouses).

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**Finally**

**Anyone who becomes infected after training/matches should report this to the NHS test and trace system and Beacons Football club, so that we can follow the correct track and trace protocols and advise people who may have come in contact with the individual in question, this will then enable them to self-isolate/get tested themselves and reduce further transmission or illness.**

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me and I can’t wait to see everyone back at Beacons Football Club.

Yours Sincerely

Nick Ricketts

Beacons Football Club Secretary