



WEL WYN GARDEN CITY PANSHANGER FOOTBALL CLUB

Moneyhole Lane Playing Fields, Sylvan Way,
Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, AL7 2RT
www.panshangerfc.co.uk



COVID GUIDANCE & ACTIVITY CONSENT

On Friday 17 July 2020 the UK Government approved the FA plan for the return of outdoor competitive grassroots football. In order to comply with new FA rules and guidance, Panshanger FC are implementing a number of changes to procedure to ensure we operate safely. We now require the full cooperation and support from coaches, players, spectators and parents / carers.

Below is a summary of the guidance from the FA. Full details can be seen by clicking on this [link](#). **There are further details in the following pages.**

RE-STARTING OUTDOOR COMPETITIVE GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL – SUMMARY COVID-19 GUIDANCE



FOR CLUBS, PLAYERS, COACHES, CLUB OFFICIALS, CLUB WELFARE OFFICERS, MATCH OFFICIALS, LEAGUE OFFICIALS, VOLUNTEERS, PARENTS/CARERS SPECTATORS AND FOOTBALL FACILITY PROVIDERS – Published: 18 July 2020

This document outlines actions to be taken before, during and after all competitive grassroots football activity in England. It should be read in conjunction with the latest UK Government Covid-19 guidance available [here](#) and the more detailed guidance document produced by The FA, available [here](#).

In outdoor competitive training and matches, physical contact is now allowed, but for all other activity (e.g. warm-ups/cool-downs) the Government guidance on social distancing should be observed, read [here](#).

Should Government guidance change in response to the current Covid-19 Alert Level, The FA guidance will be updated accordingly.

BEFORE ACTIVITY

- 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**.
- Clubs/facility providers should appoint a Covid-19 officer and conduct a thorough **risk assessment** before re-opening or re-starting competitive activity. They should also follow current **'NHS test and trace'** protocols, such as keeping an attendance register.
- Personal hygiene measures should be carried out by everyone and hand sanitisers brought and used at the training/match venue.
- The sharing of kit and equipment should be avoided, but where equipment is shared, it must be cleaned before use by another person.
- Goal posts and corner poles should be wiped down before matches, after matches and at half time.
- Follow Government guidance for travel, including minimising use of public transport.
- Active participants should arrive changed and ready to take part.
- Youth team coaches should re-acquaint themselves with all safeguarding policies and procedures.
- Meet-up times should be adjusted to avoid time spent congregating at a venue.
- 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.

DURING TRAINING & MATCH PLAY

- 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.
- The sharing of kit and equipment should be avoided and participants should bring their own drinks or refreshments, in named containers.
- 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.
- 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.
- Set plays: players are encouraged to avoid unnecessarily long set-up or close marking. Other modifications apply to specific situations, such as goal celebrations being discouraged. Read more in The FA's more detailed guidance [here](#).
- 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. See full guidance [here](#).
- Spectator groups should be limited to six people per group and spread out in line with wider **Government guidance**.
- Match fee payments should be cashless – consider using **The FA Matchday App**.
- Small-sided football should include more regular hygiene breaks in activity and players discouraged from touching or tackling against boards.

AFTER ACTIVITY

- 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).
- Everyone should leave following the traffic-flow system the club or facility provider has put place.
- Anyone who becomes infected after training/matches should report this to the **NHS test and trace system**.

DISCLAIMER:

This guidance is for general information only and does not constitute legal advice, nor is it a replacement for such, nor does it replace any Government or F&E advice, nor does it provide any specific commentary or advice on health-related issues. Affected organisations should therefore ensure that they seek independent advice from medical practitioners, or healthcare providers, prior to implementing any re-opening plan, as required. Independent legal advice

should be sought, as required and depending on your, or relevant circumstances. While efforts have been taken to ensure the accuracy of this information at the time of publication, the reader is reminded to check the Government website to obtain the most up-to-date information regarding social distancing and any other Government measures.

THANK YOU! NOW LET'S GET OUR GREAT GAME GOING AGAIN – SAFELY.



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Here is a summary

- Everyone must self-assess for Covid-19 symptoms before every training session or match. Do not leave home if you or someone you live with has any of the following; a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, a loss of, or change to your sense of smell or taste. In this situation you must stay at home and follow the latest Government guidance.
- Although activities are resuming, other preventative measures are still in force and you must follow Government guidance for travel, including minimising use of public transport.
- Personal hygiene is important with everyone bringing personal hand sanitiser and water/drinks, clearly named, for use at the training/match venue.
- Changing facilities are considered a high-risk environment, therefore, players should arrive in match kit.
- **A register of all activity attendees must be completed and signed on arrival by managers/coaches.** This is to support the NHS track and trace process if subsequent infection is reported and we will hold this data on file for 21 days after the activity.
- **For players under 16 we require the respective parent/carer to remain present at all times during the session (following social distancing guidelines) to assist should the child require assistance (e.g. first aid from an injury).**
- **Club first aiders will be equipped with basic PPE, but this is strictly for emergency use only. Parents/Carers are required to tend to their child for non-emergency minor injuries.**
- **All spectators must continue to observe the 2m social distancing requirements and cooperate fully with the coach should they require assistance.**
- In addition to our existing Code of Conduct, chewing gum, smoking, vaping and spitting are now strictly prohibited by anyone.
- Social distancing must be maintained by players when not on the field of play.



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- Goal celebrations in close proximity to other players are strongly discouraged until further notice.
- Handling of the ball should be kept to a minimum.
- Hands should be sanitised/washed regularly during and after activity.
- The club must be informed immediately if anyone subsequently develops symptoms within 14 days of any of our activities.
- Any player who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 must have proper medical clearance from their doctor before rejoining any activities.

We now require your agreement and consent before you can take part in future football activities. For players under 16 this consent must be provided by the child's parent/carer. By completing the form below you are confirming that you have read and understood the activities being offered and agree with the measures the club has put in place to manage any risks, including its Covid-19 measures in line with current Government guidance. A copy of the club's risk assessment can be found [here](#). If a player has any specific medical conditions it is vital the parent / carer ensures the coach is made fully aware and this is discussed with them, and the club welfare officer if necessary, to jointly agree how this is managed.