



COVID-19 Risk Assessment

Downham Town Football Club

Memorial Playing Field,

Lynn Road

Downham Market,

Norfolk,

PE38 9QE

This document outlines the precautions taken to ensure the safety of our youth players, spectators and staff in all activities related to grassroots football. It is updated periodically in line with the guidance provided by both the FA and the government.

Version Details	Date	Author
Version 1 – Created for temporary relocation of youth football from Rouses Lane and 2021 restart of grassroots football	29th March 2021	DTFC COVID Officer

8 Simple Steps to Stay Safe at the Memorial Field

Hand sanitiser to be provided by responsible team manager and used by all players at the beginning, during and at the end of the activity
NHS track and trace QR codes to be displayed at the entrance gate and used by all parents attending. Hand Sanitiser also available at gate
When using the car park, drivers are asked to be considerate of others to allow sufficient opportunity to socially distance when exiting/entering vehicles
<p>No Spectators until at least 12th April (Government guidance pending). For safeguarding reasons one parent/guardian may be present at training or matches</p> <p>After confirming Step 2 of Government Roadmap: 2m social distancing to be observed at all times. Spectators to observe rule of six and not gather in groups more than six unless part of a support bubble. Where possible, the respect barrier will be set up in a zig-zag to encourage appropriate behaviour</p>
<p>Football to be changed and sanitised regularly. Footballs not to be handled where possible</p> <p><i>At matches: should a ball go out of play it should not be retrieved by spectators unless using feet only</i></p>
<p>Goals to be sanitised before activity begins and after it finishes</p> <p><i>At matches: goals also to be sanitised at half time</i></p>
<p><i>At matches: Public toilets are available on site in the car park. Please observed social distancing and limit to one person at a time - sanitiser to be available at pitch entrance</i></p>
<i>No refreshments will be available for the remainder of the 2020/21 season</i>

Introduction

As an affiliated club organising and hosting grassroots football activities we have a legal duty to take reasonable care to avoid acts or omissions which are a reasonably foreseeable risk.

This risk assessment has been created to identify the significant hazards and risks that could result in someone being harmed with a particular emphasis on those risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. It includes, where appropriate the identification of suitable mitigation measures that shall be followed by all associated with grassroots football activity at our club.

Given the constantly evolving nature of the public health crisis, this risk assessment will be reviewed regularly and our mitigation measures updated in line with current government and FA guidance.

In this unprecedented time, we are grateful of feedback from our members, guests and all those associated with our grassroots football activities that will help us to continuously improve.

Our Approach

In creating this risk assessment, we have followed the 'Key Steps' published by the FA and subsequently by the Mid Norfolk Youth League. Specifically, we have:

1. Kept up to date with Government and FA guidance.
2. Contacted our insurance provider and confirm that we are covered to undertake activities in the current public health crisis.
3. Completed a thorough risk assessment as detailed in the remainder of this document and implemented a process to regularly review the content and mitigations. This assessment has been reviewed and approved by the club secretary who has signed this current version. Subsequent versions will be approved in a similar way.
4. Updated Club policies where appropriate.
5. Briefed all DTFC youth staff on the content of this risk assessment including the committee, youth team coaches and managers, first aiders, welfare teams, volunteers, officials and players. This document will be shared with visiting teams before any match.
6. Taken steps to ensure that activity will not be undertaken if the club has any concerns about the safety of club officials and/or participants.

Key Guidance Points

Below is our response to the key guidance notes outlined by the Mid Norfolk Youth League:

Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A maximum of 30 people can partake in any organised sporting event. • Our facility is fully compliant with current government legislation and guidance. The club house will remain closed to visitors and non-club staff • We have appointed a designated COVID-19 club co-ordinator – [Allan Boardman, Allan.boardman@icloud.com]. This person will be responsible for recording contact details of all participants on their team and supply to NHS Track & Trace upon the event of an outbreak. • Goal posts, corner flags and footballs will be wiped down before, during (half time) and after a match. • First aiders to wear mask and gloves where social distancing can't be followed. • Match fee payments including for officials will be cashless where possible i.e bank transfer
Participants and visiting clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants for both home and visiting teams will provide names and contact details prior to activities taking place – we also have NHS track and trace QR codes on site for ALL to use upon arrival • Players, coaches and officials will be advised to arrive changed and shower at home. • All participants are required to supply their own hand sanitiser, which is to be used, before, at half time and after the scheduled football match. • Players will be informed that spitting and shouting should be avoided, as the main mode of transmission of the virus is in respiratory secretions.
Spectators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spectators are required to 'log-in' using the official NHS Test & Trace App - QR codes will be displayed around the pitch and at the refreshments tables • Spectator groups will be requested to limit their size to 6 people per group and spread out around the pitch. Signs will be displayed along the pitch and the barrier zig-zagged to remind spectators of this • Refreshments will be provided in disposable cups by team members wearing mask and gloves. Spectators to be informed prior to the match to bring loose change for refreshments to reduce the amount of money exchanged

Health Check Guidance

Participants, staff and spectators are requested to undertake a Covid-19 self-screen prior to attending any of our activities. The table below provides a checklist for doing so as a useful guide:

EACH PARTICIPANT SHOULD SELF-SCREEN PRIOR TO ARRIVAL AT TRAINING TO ENSURE THEY DO NOT HAVE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS (CONFIRMED BY A PARENT FOR THOSE UNDER AGE 18), AS THESE ARE POTENTIAL INDICATORS OF COVID-19 INFECTION.		CHECK NEGATIVE	CHECK POSITIVE
A high temperature (above 37.8°C) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some clubs may include on-site temperature checking of participants as part of their SOP, this is more relevant to clubs who employ medical staff. 		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A new continuous cough.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shortness of breath.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A sore throat.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Loss of or change in normal sense of taste or smell.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feeling generally unwell.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Persistent tiredness		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Been in close contact with/living with a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19 in the previous two weeks.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Finally, are you or anyone in your household/bubble self-isolating whilst waiting for a test or test results for Covid-19?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

All parent/guardians to confirm negative COVID check to team manager prior to attending organised activity.

Visiting teams to undertake their own checks and, if in doubt, ask players/parents not to attend.

Detailed Risk Assessment

Area of risk	Risk rating (RAG)	Solution/migration	RAG rating after solution	Review date/action
Cross-contamination of playing kit	Orange	Players to arrive in kit and wash at home.	Green	Ongoing
A large number of unplanned spectators at a game	Orange	Until at least 12th April, no spectators allowed except for safeguarding. After 12th April (following Government confirmation of Step 2), spectators to observe rule of six. When multiple matches on the same day, site to be set up to manage crowds and maintain separation through the use of one-way systems where possible and balancing team/spectators either side of pitches.	Green	Ongoing-game by game.
Spread of the virus through playing equipment	Orange	Equipment to be cleaned prior to activities and handling of equipment during activity kept to a minimum	Green	Fortnightly
Spread of the virus through playing kit	Green	All players are expected to arrive in clean kit	Green	Close
Spread of the virus through spitting/shouting	Red	Players will be advised that spitting is prohibited. Whilst shouting cannot be controlled, celebrations will be limited	Orange	Ongoing-game by game.
Spread of the virus through body contact (Matchplay, shaking hands etc...)	Red	Pre match handshakes will not happen. Players will be asked to hand sanitise. Contact during play can't realistically be stopped but players will try to avoid face to face contact.	Orange	Ongoing-game by game.
Spread of the virus through drinking bottles	Orange	All players to provide and use their own drink. Drinks to be kept in a separate area per team	Green	Ongoing-game by game.
Participant travel to games	Green	Travel to limit the number of players per vehicle if possible	Green	Close
Administering first aid	Orange	First aiders to wear gloves & mask for close proximity aid. Where concerned, parent/guardian asked to assist	Green	Ongoing-game by game.
Not able to respect 1m+ social distancing in changing facilities	Red	Players to arrive changed and shower at home after games. No changing facility will be available	Green	Ongoing-game by game.
Use of shared shower/toilet facilities	Orange	There are no shower facilities. Public toilet on site	Green	Close

Area of risk	Risk rating (RAG)	Solution/migration	RAG rating after solution	Review date/action
Access to playing venue	Green	Memorial Field has sufficient parking for normal match days. Where multiple matches are to be played on the same day, additional parking will be provided on field adjacent to car park	Green	Close
Match participant displaying COVID-19 Symptoms prior to activity	Red	Match participants to self screen prior to matches using guidance provided. Anyone displaying symptoms shall report it and not attend	Green	Ongoing-game by game.
Match participant has sudden onset of COVID-19 symptoms during activity	Red	Players will be asked to leave immediately, and all other players and spectators informed of the situation to seek testing	Orange	Ongoing-game by game.
Participant displays COVID-19 symptoms after activity	Red	Records of participants will be kept for each activity. All participating will be informed to seek testing	Orange	Ongoing-game by game.
PPE for giving First aid	Orange	First aiders to have access to appropriate PPE (mask & gloves). Where concerned, parent/guardian to be invited to assist	Green	Fortnightly
Goal celebrations-these should be avoided at all times.	Orange	Players to be briefed before the game to limit group goal celebrations	Green	Ongoing-game by game.
Goalkeepers should disinfect their gloves regularly	Orange	Goalkeepers to bring their own gloves and ensure they are regularly cleaned/disinfected. Coaches to check that goalkeepers have been doing so	Green	Ongoing-game by game.
Making match fee payments.	Orange	Payments, including to match officials to be cashless where possible	Green	Ongoing
Risk of contamination through purchase of food/drink	Orange	Tea and coffee to be served in disposable cups, dispensed wearing gloves and masks. Only prepackaged food/snacks to be sold. All goods to be sold outside and the clubhouse to remain closed to all but staff	Green	Ongoing-game by game.
Handling of cash for food/drink purchase	Orange	Refreshments will not be provided for the remainder of the 2020/21 season	Orange	Ongoing-game by game.

UK Government Roadmap

On 22nd February 2021, the UK government outlined the roadmap for a gradual return to schools, sports, leisure venues and shopping etc.

At the time of this update, the current plan has confirmed that grassroots football can begin from 29th March - further guidance from the FA can be found at the following website:

https://link.service.thefa.com/u/nrd.php?p=ztfeZe80Ss_955_1055144_1_5&ems_l=1391813&d=NzQ3NTQ5NDg%3D%7CenRmZVplODBTcw%3D%3D%7C

We anticipate that the measures above will be sufficient and will review this risk assessment following further guidance.

Large spectated events cannot begin until 17th May. We will plan our summer tournament in accordance with further guidance received at this time. We will use the above as a guide however we expect to see changes such as the sale of food and beverages.