

GRASSROOTS/COMMUNITY FOOTBALL — RE-INTRODUCTION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



VERSION ONE

Scottish Football's Joint Response Group announced on 20 April the creation of a number of sub groups to investigate the '**Operational steps necessary to restart football**'.

With the announcement on 21 May 2020 of the COVID-19 Framework for Decision Making 'Scotland's route map through and out the crisis', the Scottish FA Grassroots Sub Group will work with internal and external stakeholders, including the Scottish Government to plan for the restart of football when safety measures allow. In line with Scottish Government guidelines and Scottish Football's Joint Response Group ALL football in Scotland remains suspended until at least 10 June. When football does resume, it seems beyond question that additional measures will need to be put in place.

The Grassroots Sub Group was established to ensure when government guidelines permit that processes are in place to allow football under the jurisdiction of the Non Professional Game Board to restart.

The Grassroots Sub Group is working towards the creation of a framework to help support the re-introduction of community grassroots football and training.

While that work is being carried out, a '**Frequently Asked Questions**' document has been created to answer ongoing questions and queries regarding grassroots football.

Can I register my team/club/league?

YES

Affiliated National Associations/Leagues (where relevant) have opened the registration process, which will enable teams/clubs/league to follow relevant process, if they are in a position or wish to start the registration process.

The links below will take you to the relevant information for the Affiliated National Associations.

- [Scottish Youth FA](#)
- [Scottish Women's Football](#)
- [Scottish Amateur FA](#)
- [Scottish Junior FA](#)
- [Scottish Welfare FA](#)
- [South of Scotland League](#)
- [East of Scotland League](#)
- [Scottish Schools FA](#)
- [Scottish PARA Football](#)

Can I sign and register players?

YES

You will be able to register your players through the process relevant to the Affiliated National Association/League.

Can I add a new official to my club/team/league and how would the official complete a PVG application?

YES

You will be able to add a new official to your club/team/league by following the normal process for the relevant Affiliated National Association/League, and if you are in a position to complete all the requirements.

Club officials who require a PVG to comply with requirements of their respective Affiliated National Association/League must adhere to the normal process and there will be absolutely no flexibility in terms of membership of the scheme for all regulated roles.

While we understand the difficulties this may cause for recent applicants, wellbeing and protection is of paramount importance and under no circumstances will we relax our important safeguarding measures, which are there to protect children and vulnerable adults. The Grassroots Sub Group will continue to update on this area to provide more guidance as the circumstances change to enable the PVG process to be undertaken once again.

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Will my club/league have insurance?

In line with Scottish Government guidelines and Scottish Football's Joint Response Group ALL football in Scotland remains suspended until at least 10 June. When football does resume, it seems beyond question that additional measures will need to be put in place.

If you have any question regarding club/team/league insurance, please contact your relevant Affiliated National Association/League.

Will clubs be able to participate in friendly, league matches or internal club match play activity?

NO

In line with Scottish Government guidelines and Scottish Football's Joint Response Group ALL football in Scotland remains suspended until at least 10 June. When football does resume, it seems beyond question that additional measures will need to be put in place.

You will be advised by your Affiliated National Association/League when this suspension is lifted.

The Scottish FA have created a Grassroots Sub Group that will be tasked with working with internal and external stakeholders to produce a framework to support the re-introduction of match play activity. The framework will be in consultation and follow the advice of the Scottish Government related to COVID-19.

Once the club has registered players will it be possible to conduct a training session?

NO

In line with Scottish Government guidelines and Scottish Football's Joint Response Group ALL football in Scotland remains suspended until at least 10 June. When football does resume, it seems beyond question that additional measures will need to be put in place.

You will be advised by your Affiliated National Association/League when this suspension is lifted.

The Scottish FA have created a Grassroots Sub Group that will be tasked with working with internal and external stakeholders to produce a framework to support the re-introduction of training and match activity. The framework will be in consultation and follow the advice of the Scottish Government related to COVID-19.

Will the clubs be able to conduct community football activity e.g. Soccer Centres, Futsal, Walking Football, PARA Football?

NO

In line with Scottish Government guidelines and Scottish Football's Joint Response Group ALL football in Scotland remains suspended until at least 10 June. When football does resume, it seems beyond question that additional measures will need to be put in place.

You will be advised by your Affiliated National Association/League when this suspension is lifted.

The Scottish FA have created a Grassroots Sub Group that will be tasked with working with internal and external stakeholders to produce a framework to support the re-introduction of match play, training and community football activity. The framework will be in consultation and follow the advice of the Scottish Government related to COVID-19.

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Will the clubs/leagues be able to arrange festivals with other local clubs?

NO

In line with Scottish Government guidelines and Scottish Football's Joint Response Group ALL football in Scotland remains suspended until at least 10 June. When football does resume, it seems beyond question that additional measures will need to be put in place.

You will be advised by your Affiliated National Association/League when this suspension is lifted.

The Scottish FA have created a Grassroots Sub Group that will be tasked with working with internal and external stakeholders to produce a framework to support the re-introduction of match play and festival activity. The framework will be in consultation and follow the advice of the Scottish Government related to COVID-19.

Will I be consulted on the process to re-start grassroots football?

YES

We fully understand that this is a challenging time for everyone involved in grassroots football and that clubs, teams, players and volunteers are keen to get back to participation in the sport. The Grassroots Sub Group are working in conjunction with the other sub groups, **sportscotland** and the Scottish Government to plan for the best way forward for the reintroduction of all aspects of grassroots football. The group will follow the advice of the Scottish Government and respond accordingly; however, if you feel there is a question not answered within this document please get in contact via your relevant Affiliated National Association/League.

Will further guidelines or advice be produced?

YES

We will be meeting on a regular basis, and when required, following updates on the guidance from the Scottish Government and Scottish Football's Joint Response Group. The group will endeavour to provide periodic updates and will circulate these to all stakeholders. The group will ensure that the FAQ, frameworks and guidance is circulated and would ask that all stakeholders regularly check the Scottish FA website and the Affiliated National Association social media channels.

What guidelines will be in place to ensure facilities meet government regulations recommendations?

The Scottish FA will work in partnership with Scottish Government, **sportscotland** and other external stakeholders to produce guidelines and advice that will enable clubs to follow the correct recommendations when arranging footballing activity.

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What football activity will I be able to undertake in relation to the Scottish Governments Phase One of COVID-19 Framework for Decision Making 'Scotland's route map through and out the crisis'?

In line with Scottish Government guidelines and Scottish Football's Joint Response Group ALL football in Scotland remains suspended until at least 10 June. When football does resume, it seems beyond question that additional measures will need to be put in place.

No formal organised football should be undertaken at the present time although people who wish to informally practice outdoors with one other person or members of their household should follow Scottish Government guidance on health, physical distancing and hygiene.

Information on Scottish Government's approach to managing COVID-19 is available at www.gov.scot

The Scottish FA Grassroots Sub Group will work in partnership with Scottish Government, **sportscotland** and other external stakeholders to produce further guidelines and advice that will enable clubs/teams/leagues to follow the correct recommendations in accordance with National Government advice.

Will I be able to book my regular facility let?

NO

In line with Scottish Government guidelines, football facilities are not available for use for football activity. Once the government restrictions change, the Scottish Football Joint Response Group will provide updates and recommendations for clubs/teams/leagues on the usage of facilities for football activity.

The group advise that all clubs/teams/leagues stay in contact with their local facility provider over the letting process, however, as within guidance of the Scottish Football Joint Response Group no football activity can take place in any facility.

Will I be able to arrange a First Aid course for myself or the club/league?

We are looking into alternative first aid solutions and will update accordingly.

Will I be able to undertake Scottish FA Coach Education?

YES

The Scottish FA have been developing online Scottish FA Coach Education Course to help support coaches with further information available via <https://www.scottishfa.co.uk/football-development/coaching/>

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I understand that after completion of a Level 1 course, I need to complete Continuous Coach Development (CCD) to keep my certificate/ qualification active. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I will have less of a chance to attend CCD events?

The validity of all Scottish FA coaching certificates and UEFA licence diplomas held with the Scottish FA will be extended for a further year. This will be applied automatically to each person's Coach ID record on Scottish FA Live, but will not be visible on your account until December 2020.

Certificate/qualification due to expire:	Certificate/qualification expiry extended to:
31 Dec 2020	31 Dec 2021
31 Dec 2021	31 Dec 2022
31 Dec 2022	31 Dec 2023
31 Dec 2023	31 Dec 2024

This benefit does not apply to certificates/qualifications already expired on 31 Dec 2019 or prior.

I understand that after successful completion of a UEFA Licence course, I need to complete Continuous Professional Development (CPD) to keep my qualification active. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I will have less of a chance to attend CPD events?

The validity of all Scottish FA coaching certificates and UEFA Licence diplomas held with the Scottish FA will be extended for a further year. This will be applied automatically to each person's Coach ID record on Scottish FA Live, but will not be visible on your account until December 2020.

For those of you completing a UEFA Licence course in 2020, you will now have until 31 December 2023 to attend 15 hours of accredited CPD events, and extend your qualification by a further three-year period.

Licence due to expire:	Licence expiry extended to:
31 Dec 2020	31 Dec 2021
31 Dec 2021	31 Dec 2022
31 Dec 2022	31 Dec 2023
31 Dec 2023	31 Dec 2024

This benefit does not apply to license qualifications already expired on 31 Dec 2019 or prior.