

Club Protocol: Return to Match Play

Following the most recent updates from the UK Government, The FA and the Sheffield FA we are pleased to announce that plans have been put in place to allow our club to begin the return to Match Play in advance of the (hopefully) upcoming 2020/21 season from the 1st August.

These nationally announced guidelines will allow us to get back to playing matches at Waverley Lane, whilst adhering to all the necessary hygiene & social distancing requirements.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT ALL MANAGERS, PARENTS & PLAYERS ADHERE TO THESE RULES AT ALL TIMES FOR THE SAFETY OF THE CLUB & LOCAL COMMUNITIES

FA Guidance



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

Outdoor competitive football 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.

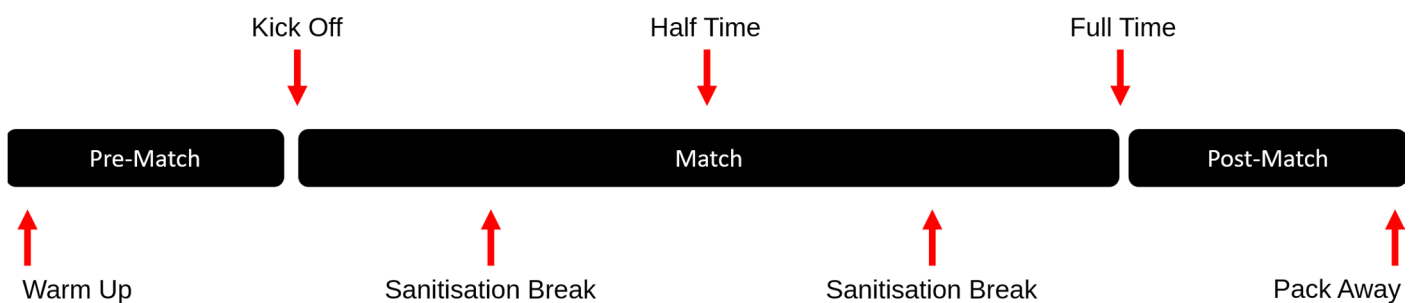
The above infographic setting out the FA's conditions for returning to contact training & match play has been posted to their social media recently. The Club Rules for Match Play below have been set out by the Club Exec Committee to interpret those conditions as best we can to try and ensure the safety of our Club and local community.

Club Rules for Managers

1. These rules for Match Play shall be adhered to for the foreseeable future by all Middlewood Rovers teams across all areas of the organisation until such time as the FA changes it's guidance for grassroots clubs. At that point, the Club will review any new guidance from the FA and adjust its Rules for Training accordingly.
2. Players should have their own station for their Match Day equipment such as water bottles and warm gear. **EQUIPMENT MUST NOT BE SHARED.**
3. **STRICTLY NO SPITTING OR CHEWING GUM.**
4. The club compound will be open for the following reasons:
 - 4.1. Manager/Coach access to equipment.
 - 4.1.1. Managers/Coaches must ensure that **ANY AND ALL** equipment and facilities that they touch are sanitised before and after use, for example:
 - 4.1.1.1. Shed Doors
 - 4.1.1.2. Café Doors (for access to defibrillator **only**)
 - 4.1.2. Managers/Coaches must make clear to Parents & Players that the only reason that they may enter the compound is to use the toilet facilities.
 - 4.1.3. This list is not exhaustive and is to provide examples only.
5. The Café & Changing Rooms will remain closed and locked at all times.
6. Toilet facilities are available. Anyone using the toilet **MUST** ensure that they sanitise any surfaces that they touch before and after use, including but not limited to:
 - 6.1. Door Handles
 - 6.2. Toilet Handle
 - 6.3. Toilet Seat
 - 6.4. Your own hands must be sanitised **BEFORE AND AFTER USE**
7. Teams should ensure that they have suitable disinfectant wipes etc along with Hand Sanitiser available in their equipment bags for the use of their players and to sanitise equipment **AT ALL TIMES.**
8. **FIRST AID** - Detailed guidance for the administration of First Aid have been provide by the FA and accompany this document. **YOU MUST READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS DOCUMENT.**
 - 8.1. There are 3 stages for you to bear in mind when administering First Aid:
 - 8.1.1. For minor knocks and scrapes, you should ask the parent to support you and attend their child under your direction.
 - 8.1.2. If a more serious injury is apparent from initial inspection, you should put on the PPE provided by the club in Pack A - mask & gloves to administer to the player.
 - 8.1.3. If a blood injury is apparent you should put on the PPE in Pack B - mask, gloves & apron to administer to the player.
 - 8.1.4. Once First Aid has been administered, the PPE should be returned to the pack and the pack resealed and disposed of in the large red bins at the end of the game. You should sanitise your hands and any other surfaces that the player may have touched.

9. SANITISATION BREAKS

- 9.1. During Matches you must ensure that regular sanitisation breaks take place at approximate 20 to 25 minute intervals, or at the approximate halfway point of each half – for example, in a 20 minute half, the break should take place around 10 to 12 minutes into the half. For a 40 minute half the break should take place at approximately 20 to 25 minutes into the half.
- 9.2. During the sanitisation break players must remain socially distanced and thoroughly sanitise their hands. **Goalkeepers must sanitise their gloves.**
- 9.3. All shared equipment **MUST** be sanitised before restarting, including but not limited to:
 - 9.3.1. Goals
 - 9.3.2. Footballs
- 9.4. Sanitisation should therefore take place following the below pattern:
10. Managers must ensure that **ALL EQUIPMENT USED** is sanitised before returning to storage, ready for the next team to use.
11. **AT ALL TIMES** assume that the person you are talking to has the virus but no symptoms. Likewise, at



all times assume that the person who handled the things you need to touch also had the virus but no symptoms and behave accordingly.

12. Each age group manager is responsible for taking a Self-Certification Register on arrival.
 - 12.1. All players & spectators must report to the Manager/Volunteer responsible for the register and confirm that they are not displaying any COVID-19 symptoms before joining the session.
13. **NO SELF-CERTIFICATION = NO PARTICIPATION.**
14. Managers should send a copy of their Self-Assessment Register to the club COVID Officer at the end of their session for collation. You should retain your original copy for 21 days.
15. With respect to opposing teams, their manager is responsible for ensuring that the same process has been followed. You are not required to keep a copy of their data (primarily for GDPR/Safeguarding compliance) but you are required to confirm in writing (text message is fine) that they have taken a Self-Assessment register on the day of the game. **YOU MUST CONFIRM THIS BEFORE THEY ARRIVE AT THE GROUND.**

16. CAR PARKING



16.1. Managers, Coaches & other club volunteers should park in the overflow car park unless it is already full.

16.2. Managers are responsible for informing parents & opposition which section of the car park they should be using on arrival to avoid any confusion on Match Days.

Club Rules for Parents/Carers

1. Parents are asked to ensure that their children are made aware of the rules for match play in the current climate – this is purely to help ensure a smooth running game and to set their expectations fairly for the next few weeks.
2. All players and spectators are required to complete a **COVID-19 SELF ASSESSMENT DECLARATION**. The data provided will be held in trust by the team Manager for a minimum of 21 days and a maximum of 60 days. All data will be destroyed no later than the 60th day from the date of the match.
3. This data will only ever be shared with NHS Test & Trace should the need arise.
4. All parents **MUST** ensure that they and their child have their own hand sanitiser with them.
5. All parents **MUST** undertake the **COVID-19 Self-Assessment** for **ALL PARTICIPANTS** (their child, themselves if a coach or volunteer etc) **before leaving home**.
6. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD YOU ATTEND AN ACTIVITY AT THE CLUB IF ANY OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD IS DISPLAYING ANY OF THE BELOW SYMPTOMS:**
 - 6.1. A high temperature (over 37.8c)
 - 6.2. A new continuous cough
 - 6.3. A sore throat
 - 6.4. Loss or change in normal sense of taste or smell
 - 6.5. Feeling generally unwell
 - 6.6. Have been in close contact or living with a known or suspected case of COVID-19 in the previous two weeks
7. The Club is duty bound to retain the self-certification information provided for a minimum of 21 days as detailed in the FA Guidance documents. This is in accordance with current Data Protection and GDPR regulations.
8. This data will only ever be shared with NHS Test & Trace should the need arise.

9. When spectating we ask you to **ensure that you remain 2 metres away from other parents and do not congregate in groups of 6 or more people – this is for your safety and to help protect the club and local community.**
10. **TOILETS** – The club toilet facilities will be available but under certain conditions as detailed below. If a child requires to toilet facilities **YOU MUST** accompany them to ensure that the facilities are sanitised properly:
 - 10.1. Anyone using the toilet **MUST** ensure that they sanitise any surfaces that they touch before and after use, including but not limited to:
 - 10.1.1. Door Handles
 - 10.1.2. Toilet Handle
 - 10.1.3. Toilet Seat
 - 10.1.4. Your own hands must be sanitised **BEFORE AND AFTER USE**
11. **SIBLINGS & ADDITIONAL SPECTATORS** – Wherever possible, please do not bring siblings or additional spectators to Matches. If it is unavoidable to bring younger/older siblings with you we ask that you ensure that they remain by your side and socially distanced from other spectators **AT ALL TIMES.**
12. **FIRST AID**
 - 12.1. Under certain circumstances, as set out by the FA, you may be asked by your age group manager to attend to your child on the pitch, accompanied by them. This is directly due to the updated FA First Aid guidelines to help reduce the transmission of COVID-19. You should only enter the field if invited and follow the instruction of your age group manager.
 - 12.2. Should the circumstances require it, your age group manager will don appropriate PPE and administer First Aid.

General Notes

1. **IF YOU OR ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD IS SYMPTOMATIC OR LIVING WITH A POSSIBLE OR ACTUAL COVID-19 INFECTION YOU MUST NOT PARTICIPATE OR ATTEND. YOU SHOULD FOLLOW THE UK GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES: <https://bit.ly/3ijHv7v>**
2. The additional conditions detailed in this document are specifically to allow us to return to Match Play from socially distanced training. The club reserves the right to suspend individuals or teams who do not adhere to these rules from entering the Waverley Lane facility.
3. Players should only attend matches if parents/carers are comfortable for them to do so.
4. **IT IS A CLUB POLICY THAT NO PLAYER WILL BE PENALISED OR FIND THEIR PLACE AT THE CLUB IN DANGER IF THEIR PARENTS ARE NOT COMFORTABLE WITH THEM ATTENDING MATCHES AT THIS TIME – WE UNDERSTAND THAT EVERY FAMILY'S CIRCUMSTANCES ARE UNIQUE TO THEM.**
 - 4.1. For example, if a family has elderly relatives who are shielding that live with them they should not feel any pressure for their child to attend matches until such time as the pandemic has passed and things return to a more normal state.
5. **CAR PARKING** – On Match Days the main car park will be divided into two distinct sections, depending on the pitch on which your match is taking place. Please ensure that you follow the signposts on-site to help us minimise contact in and around the facility.

Middlewood Rovers JFC

Club Ambassador – Billy Sharp (Sheffield United FC)



6. Whilst the club will make every effort to ensure that activities are appropriately planned to observe social distancing measures are in place and will also endeavour to provide additional hygiene facilities such as hand sanitiser etc. **We ask that everyone attending the sessions makes every effort to help us to do this.**
7. Please remember that all of our coaches, managers and club officials are volunteers and will be providing these sessions to try and give all our children some of their normality back. Please help us to keep everyone as safe as possible by acting responsibly in and around the club at all times.
8. The available guidance from the National FA states that grassroots leagues can restart from September. At this moment in time we are awaiting guidance from our league, The SDJSFL, as to precisely when that will happen and what it will look like. As soon as we have more information this will be passed to you via your age group managers and our social media channels.
9. The COVID Officer for Middlewood Rovers JFC is: Richard Asquith | 07896 661 756 | richasquith@gmail.com

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter – we really appreciate how difficult the last few months has been for everyone and we're looking forward to seeing the children back playing football as soon as possible. Your support in observing these rules over the next few weeks is gratefully received!

Kindest Regards,

Richard Asquith

Club Secretary

Chris Dennison

Club Chairman

Melanie Lagden

Club Welfare Officer

