

Chester and Wirral Football League

Back to Football

Season 2020/21



Awareness Information for Clubs, Players, Managers, Coaches and Match Officials

Introduction

The Chester and Wirral Football League would like to welcome all teams new and old to the new season. It is essential that everyone associated with the league play their role to ensure that football is played in a safe environment during these challenging times.

The CWFL has produced this awareness information to assist all concerned but it should be noted that everyone must adhere to current Government COVID-19 and Football Association guidance.

This information will focus on what is required before season kicks off, match preparation, playing the match, after the match and paying the match officials.

Players, match officials, managers and coaches need to be mindful of the current COVID-19 environment that games are being played and it is essential to show RESPECT to each other before, during and after the game.

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Before Season Kicks Off

Clubs

- It is essential that clubs decide if they are in a position to play competitive football based on the Government and FA guidance.
- Assign a COVID-19 officer who will be responsible for having club oversight of adherence to Government and FA guidance.
- Communicate processes to all players, coaches, managers and club volunteers to ensure familiarity with new requirements.
- If you are responsible for your own ground, display signage at the entrance and around the ground to promote good hand hygiene and social distancing.
- Consider entry and exit procedures, maybe a one-way system.

Before Season Kicks Off

Players

- As a player, please support those who are trying to provide a safe re-introduction to football and following the relevant guidance.
- Make yourself aware of the measures being taken to provide a safe environment, if you are not happy with the arrangements that have been made, you should remove yourself from that environment
- If you have an additional disability or medical needs, please ensure that you have discussed this specifically with your club and coach.
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Before Season Kicks Off

Match Officials

- Make sure you have bought additional equipment due to the COVID-19 such as but not limited to, face coverings if travelling to games on public transport, your own water bottle with your name/initials labelled on it.
- If you have an additional disability or medical needs, please ensure that you have discussed this specifically with GP or other medical professional to ensure that you are medically fit to officiate during these difficult times .

Pre-Match Preparation

Clubs

- A record of all club personnel including players, coaches and any medical staff, must be retained by each club for any match played. This information should be retained by the club and the players names entered onto Full Time. Anyone attending a match is only required to give a name and contact number.
- If the match is being played in a public venue then the ‘casual spectator’ that stops for 10-15 minutes does not need to have their details recorded.
- Any kit worn by players must be retained and laundered by them and returned to club for next game.
- Changing facilities must remain closed however access to toilet facilities must be provided.
- Hand sanitising facilities to be made available for participants in advance of match.
- All equipment including footballs, goal posts and corner flags to be sanitised before and after use.
- Social distancing guidance should be adhered to when not on the field of play. Substitute area to be arranged to allow for social distancing.
- Please ensure that first aid kits are stocked with appropriate PPE to support treatment of injured player (only if the injured player cannot self-treat) including gloves and mask.
- Coaches should be familiar with all safety and hygiene arrangements and communicate them to players and other coaches.
- Coaches should remind anyone intending to attend the match venue that, if they are showing symptoms of COVID-19 infection, or have been in contact with someone displaying symptoms or diagnosed with Covid-19 within the last two weeks, they should not attend and should seek medical advice.
- Before each match, you should ask all participants if they have displayed and covid-19 symptoms per government guidance.

Pre-Match Preparation

Players/Match Officials

- If you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are displaying any of the symptoms detailed in the Government guidance you must not attend the match.
- If a member of your household has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or is displaying symptoms you must not attend the match.
- Do not car share on the way to or from matches with anyone outside your household where possible.
- Practise good hand hygiene always.
- Players/Match Officials should arrive at the ground in your kit as dressing rooms will not be available.

During Matches

Players

- Refrain from spitting or clearing of nasal passages; if you need to sneeze or cough, do so into a tissue and put the tissue into a bin and if you do not have a tissue, use the crook of your elbow.
- Ensure that you bring your own water bottle and it is clearly recognisable as yours.
- The manager/coach, substitutes and spectators should be encouraged to maintain social distancing at all times when not on field of play, including the technical area and on the side line.
- No physical goal celebrations.
- No handshakes between players and match officials.
- If you suffer an injury, you will be encouraged to self-treat where appropriate. If player requires first aider or medical personnel they should be equipped with appropriate PPE.
- If you become symptomatic during the match, you should immediately remove yourself from the match and return home as soon as possible. NHS guidance on further management of symptoms should be followed.
- When the ball goes out of play it should be retrieved by foot (kicking) not by hand, preferably by someone involved in the match to reduce the number of people having contact with the ball.
- Players should not surround the match officials.

During Matches

Match Officials

- Refrain from spitting or clearing of nasal passages; if you need to sneeze or cough, do so into a tissue and put the tissue into a bin and if you do not have a tissue, use the crook of your elbow.
- Ensure that you bring your own water bottle and it is clearly recognisable as yours.
- If you become symptomatic during the match, you should immediately remove yourself from the match and return home as soon as possible. NHS guidance on further management of symptoms should be followed.
- No pre or post handshakes between players and match officials.
- If the Referee is providing the flags to 'club assistants' then he/she must make sure that they are cleaned as soon as possible after the match with antibacterial wipes or spray.

After Game

Players/Match Officials

- No post match handshakes
- Do not congregate on the pitch or side lines and leave the ground quickly
- Take all your own litter with you and dispose of correctly
- Ensure that social distancing guidance continues to be adhered to.
- Follow any exit signs in place.
- Wash/sanitise your hands as soon as possible after the match.
- Each player is required to retain their own playing kit after the game and launder it at home. Playing kits can be expensive so please ensure you take proper care of this and return to club for next game.

Paying Match Fees

- Match fees should be paid directly to the match day coordinator in an envelope. The correct monies are to be given wherever possible

The CWFL would like to thank all clubs and match officials for ensuring that the game of football is played in a respectful and in a safe manner during these challenging times.

It should be noted that this communication is an awareness to all clubs and match officials but each team is responsible for ensuring that their players and officials are aware of the FA and Government guidelines in participating in football during these challenging times.

Match officials are also responsible for making themselves aware of the FA and Government guidelines in participating in football during these challenging times.

Each Match day Coordinator will have the following equipment at his or her disposal.

Battery Operated Non-Touch Head Thermometer

Hand Sanitizer

Disinfectant Spray

Disinfectant Wipes

A copy of these guidelines

All teams should also provide the above as required.