



# **Northumberland Football Leagues.**



## **Central Venue Procedure**

### **COVID-19 Guidelines.**

#### **Overview.**

From this coming weekend, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September, our 3 central venues will begin to operate again. The 3 venues are as follows:

Cochrane Park - Heaton

Amberley 3G – Killingworth

Goals – Gosforth.

Please ensure that when visiting any of these facilities you follow all instructions in addition to the following league guidelines.

Please remember we are committed to ensuring football can return in a safe and positive environment. These guidelines are to help ensure all current risks are minimal. Teams, players and spectators not following all guidelines may be asked to leave and venues will have the right to refuse future entry.

#### **Venues.**

- Each venue will have a one way in and out system, please ensure this is followed.
- Keep Left – When walking around venues please ensure you keep left where possible.
- Please do not arrive at your venue until 15 minutes prior to your game. No person will be permitted entry before this time and may be asked to leave the facility/vicinity.
- Please leave the venue immediately after the game.
- Do not gather prior to or after games in the car park, leave the vicinity as soon as possible.
- Please note there are no toilet facilities currently at Amberley Playing Field – Killingworth.

#### **Spectators.**

- Strictly 1 adult per player.
- Where possible please always wear a face covering.
- Please stand at least 1 metre apart when watching the game.
- NO SHOUTING.
- Personal hand sanitizer to be always carried for yourself/player.
- DO not attend if you or your child have any COVID-19 Symptoms.
- Collect your child and leave the facility immediately after the game.
- Please ensure you sanitize your child's hands before, at half time and end of the game. Also, during breaks in play.

## **Managers.**

- The maximum number of players able to attend on a match day is as follows:
  - U7&U8 – 8 players
  - U9&U10 – 10 Players
  - U11 Girls – 10 Players
- Maximum number of managers/coaches able to attend is 2
- Each team must fully complete an individual team sheet which also comprises a track and trace section.
- Do not arrive until 15 minutes prior to your game.
- After the game parents to collect all players immediately and leave the facility. No de-brief/team talk allowed.
- Managers/Coaches MUST wear a face covering and gloves when entering the field of play.
- Each manager MUST carry hand sanitizer.
- All footballs to be cleaned before, at half time and end of the game. Managers are responsible for ensuring they have a cleaning product for this.
- Each manager/coach to carry a whistle.
- Should a referee not be available a manager or coach will mutually agree to referee the game.

## **The Match.**

- All games will be 2 equal halves with a 5-minute interval
- NO THROW INS – In the interest of reducing handling of the football the league have introduced a temporary rule and all throw ins will be replace with a 'Kick-In'.
- No shirt/bib/goalkeeper top swapping. All players to have their own kit and individual bibs should there be a clash of colours.
- Goalkeeper gloves must not be swapped.
- Managers must ensure all players remain socially distant when off the pitch.
- Players must not celebrate on the pitch with gestures such as a 'high-5' or other physical contact.
- At the end of the game the respect handshake will be replaced with both teams facing each other at least 2 metres apart and having a 15 second 'Respect Clap'.
- Referee does NOT need to sign the team sheet.

During these uncertain times it is vital that everyone is working together. The safe return of football at central venues can only be achieved by following the guidelines with clubs, teams, managers, coaches and spectators coming together for one common goal, the safe return of football.