

WOODSTOCK TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB COVID19 POLICY STATEMENT

WOODSTOCK TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB guidelines for resuming Football at NLS and grassroots football following the Coronavirus Pandemic.

This document is produced in association with both Government and FA guidelines to ensure safety of players, staff, officials and when allowed, spectators. The policy is also backed up by a series of individual risk assessments and supporting club policies which will be continuously reviewed and the policy updated where necessary.

Every club has been instructed to appoint a Covid-19 officer. The role of this person is to remain familiar with the most up to date FA guidance and ensure this is communicated throughout coaches, players, club officials and supporters. The appointed Covid-19 officers are Liam Walker & Harry Mundy.

Whilst many of the directives issued are legislative there are some that are advisory, which Woodstock Town have included in this policy for best practice and again, to ensure safety is at the top of the priority list.

It is also important to note that this policy/guidance has been produced to allow football to take place at venues operated or hired by WOODSTOCK TOWN FC and does not supersede any further guidance or rules put in place by competition authorities or from Oxfordshire County Council or West Oxfordshire District Council.

The following guidance is FOR ALL players, coaches, club officials, match officials, hosted by WOODSTOCK TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB.

The following document has been broken into 3 sections which will cover all of the match day protocol as directed by The FA:

**BEFORE ANY FOOTBALL ACTIVITY TAKES PLACE DURING ALL
FOOTBALL ACTIVITY
AFTER ALL FOOTBALL ACTIVITY**

It is vital that all 3 parts of this document are read by anyone visiting New Road, as they apply to all clubs returning to football and are put in place to protect everyone.

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

COVID19 is a highly infectious and dangerous disease. A resumption of contact play is only achievable if those involved create and maintain a controlled environment that minimises the threat of infection. Risk in sport cannot be completely eradicated but with caution and care, these risks can be reduced.

All those returning to competitive grassroots football must adapt the following F.A code of behaviour:

- Be aware of your own personal health. If you show any of the COVID19 symptoms you must stay at home, inform the NHS test and trace and seek medical advice.
- Be responsible. Read the guidance provided by the F.A and your club, so that you are aware of the changes to the game and what is expected of you.
- Practice good hygiene. Wash your hands regularly and before, during and after a game.
- Where possible maintain social distancing. This will not always be possible in a competitive match environment and that is acceptable. However, before and after a game you should maintain social distancing.
- Support NHS test and trace. You are likely to be asked to provide your details so that in the event of a COVID19 outbreak those potentially infected can be traced. This is to everyone's benefit so please co-operate.
- Do not spit. Spitting and the rinsing out of mouths is now a recognised risk to the health and must not be done. Avoid shouting or raising your voice if face to face with other players.

SPECTATORS

As of 1st August, spectators will not be allowed to watch the First Team or Development Team matches at New Road. As soon as this changes, this document will be updated. The committee have taken the view that WOODSTOCK TOWN will operate as if a club at Step 6 of the NLS and follow guidance accordingly

SECTION 1 BEFORE ANY FOOTBALL ACTIVITY TAKES PLACE

In line with current government guidance, all participants (players, coaches, club officials, match officials, volunteers and spectators) should self-check for symptoms of COVID19. No-one should leave home to participate in football if they, or anyone in their household has any of the following:

1. A HIGH TEMPERATURE (ABOVE 37.8C)
2. A NEW, CONTINUOUS COUGH
3. A LOSS OF, OR CHANGE TO THEIR SENSE OF SMELL
4. FATIGUE

If an individual is symptomatic and/or living in a household with a possible COVID19 infection they should remain at home and follow government guidance.

All players must submit an online or PDF COVID19 Declaration not less than 3 hours before any training session or organised match.

Travelling to the match

All participants and other attendees should follow best practice for travel, including minimising use of public transport. Participants should walk or cycle if possible.

People from a household or support bubble can travel together in a vehicle. If participants do have to travel with people outside their household or support bubble they should try to:

- Share the transport with the same people each time
- Keep to small groups of people at any one time
- Open windows for ventilation
- Face away from each other

Clean the car between journeys using standard cleaning products – including door handles and other areas that people may touch

- Ask the driver and all passengers to wear a face covering

Consider seating arrangements to maximise distance between people in the vehicle

– this may mean using more than one coach or minibus if possible, and the wearing of face coverings on coaches or minibuses

- Require regular hand sanitisation by passengers on a coach or minibus
- Limit the time spent at garages, petrol stations and motorway services
- Keep distance from other people and if possible, pay by contactless
- Wash hands for at least 20 seconds or sanitise hands often, and always when exiting or re-entering the vehicle
- When finishing the journey participants should wash their hands for at least 20 seconds or sanitise their hands as soon as possible.

Upon arrival

Upon arrival at the ground all participants will be required to adhere to the one-way systems in place and general movement around the ground, following relevant signage in place. These are also detailed in the Clubhouse Risk Assessment.

All attendees should follow best practice and wash their hands upon arrival for at least 20 seconds or sanitise immediately with the sanitiser provided, at all times observe the 2 metre social distancing guidance.

Everyone who enters the club will be required to provide their name and contact details to support the NHS test and trace. This information will be held for 21 days, in line with the government recreational team sport framework in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. We would advise that this list is prepared before arrival.

Toilets and hand sanitisers will be available and clearly signposted. Please ensure the practice of social distancing.

For matches, all players, club staff and officials will undergo a temperature check before being allowed to take part. If a temperature is too high, the participant will be asked to return to their vehicle for ten minutes before

returning for a second measure. Anyone showing over after the second attempt will be asked to leave.

Changing Rooms Before the Match

These are currently not in use. All players and officials are to arrive in kit

SECTION 3 DURING ALL FOOTBALL ACTIVITY

Social Distancing in Competitive Training

Competitive training can take place for all participants, in an outdoor setting provided this takes place in groups of no more than 30 (including coaches).

The individual teams will decide the appropriate ratio of coaches to participants, following the relevant FA safeguarding policy outlined in safeguarding guidance notes

Sessions might include multiple groups of 30 but only if they can be appropriately socially distanced from each other.

In all settings before and after the session, and in any breaks, all participants should practice social distancing, in line with Government guidelines of two metres or 'one metre plus'.

Any spectators at training sessions (including parents and carers) must be restricted to discrete six- person gathering limits and spread out, in line with wider government guidance, ensuring space for officials, coaches and substitutes.

Social Distancing Around Matches

Competitive match play is now permitted, however, in all settings before and after matches all participants should practice social distancing

COVID19 modifications in matches

Pre-match handshake should not happen. Instead players will be asked to hand-sanitise before kick-off.

Team talk huddles should not take place. Team talks can take place as long as social- distancing is observed.

Warm-ups/cool downs should always observe social distancing.

Coaches, other team staff and substitutes are allowed, but must always observe social distancing on touch lines/dug outs. Social distancing must also be observed during interactions when a substitution is being made.

Set plays free kicks/corners: referees and coaches should encourage players to get on with the game and not unnecessarily prolong set-up, such as

defensive walls, to limit the prolonged close marking. Goal posts should be wiped down before matches, after matches and at half time.

Goal celebrations should be avoided

Interactions with referees and match assistants should only happen with players observing social distancing.

Small-sided football should be modified to provide more regular hygiene breaks in activity. Players should be discouraged from touching boards at any time, with tackling against boards discouraged. Referees should consider stopping play when this happens.

Social distancing during breaks (e.g. half time)

During breaks and half-time, all participants must remain socially distanced. Coaching staff and substitutes should for example, spread out and avoid sharing a dug out or bench if social distancing cannot be observed. Water bottles or other refreshment containers should in no circumstances be shared. Participants are advised to bring their own drinks or refreshments, in a named container. After activity participants must maintain government mandated social distancing for social interaction. This will include the use of the changing rooms or showers if required, and clubhouse facilities participants congregate in afterwards.

Use of Equipment

The sharing of equipment must be avoided where possible. Where equipment is shared, equipment must be cleaned before use by another person. Participants should take their kit home to wash it themselves, rather than have one person handling a large quantity of soiled materials. Where this is not possible each person handling the soiled kit must wash their hands and sanitise immediately after, and appropriate arrangements made for the cleaning of the kit.

Ball transfer

The nature of football means that the ball is not frequently handled. When the ball goes out of play it should not be retrieved by non-participants and should be retrieved using the feet rather than the hands where possible. Where there are breaks in the game if throw-ins or handling has occurred the ball should be disinfected.

Shouting

There is an additional risk of infection in close proximity situations where people are shouting or conversing loudly. This particularly applies indoors (e.g. inside clubhouses) and when face to face. If possible, players should therefore avoid shouting or raising their voices when facing each other during, before and after games. This is included within The FA's Code of

Behaviour

Everyone should refrain from spitting. If you need to sneeze or cough, you are encouraged to do so into a tissue or upper sleeve and advised to avoid touching your face. Ensure any tissues are disposed of in a sealed bin as soon as possible.

Club members who are drinking in the clubhouse (if and when this opens) or in the outdoor areas should not handle any footballs.

Treatment of Injuries

WOODSTOCK TOWNS appointed first-aiders will follow the FA's First Aid Guidance.

Injuries during play should still be treated, as participant health and safety is of utmost importance.

In all cases but particularly where medical treatment is needed, the best form of protection is through rigorous cleaning, personal hygiene and regular hand hygiene. An increased frequency of cleaning and disinfection of all surfaces and equipment, using standard household cleaning and disinfection products, will be recommended as per The FA's supporting medical guidance.

If a participant gets injured, a member of their household can assist if present and appropriate, but others (including match officials and teammates and coaches) will still need to socially distance unless a life or limb-threatening injury necessitates compromising guidelines to provide emergency care.

Where there is a first-aider or other medical personnel present, they should be equipped with the appropriate PPE (including face coverings) to protect themselves and others if they need to compromise social-distancing guidelines to provide medical assistance.

After contact with an injured participant, the person who has administered first aid should clean their hands thoroughly with soap and water or alcohol hand sanitiser at the earliest opportunity. This advice is applicable to all situations, regardless of whether there was close contact or social distancing was maintained. The first aider should also avoid touching their mouth, eyes and nose.

Physios or their equivalent or anyone who is administering any form of treatment, should keep a record of each participant they have come into contact with for NHS test and trace purposes. Further information for those who may need to act as a 'first responder' role in a sports setting can be found here. If a participant becomes COVID19 symptomatic during the activity, they should immediately remove themselves from the session and return home as quickly as possible.

If WOODSTOCK TOWN have a welfare/first aid room available, however those wishing to use it should wait outside until called in by the physio.

Players That Leave the Field (Sub or Sending Off)

Any player who is subbed or sent off, should return to the changing rooms immediately to get showered (if applicable) and changed.

SECTION 3 AFTER ALL FOOTBALL ACTIVITY

Hands should be washed at the earliest opportunity and personal equipment should be wiped down with disinfectant.

Changing Rooms After the Game

As already covered, participants should take their own non playing kit home to wash it themselves.

All match kit is to be washed immediately at temperatures above 60 degrees.

After matches, participants and attendees must maintain government mandated social distancing for social interaction. The kitchen service will be for drinks only. No food is available at this time.

Whilst the current restrictions are in place, the club are unable to provide post-match food for preseason friendlies.

Payment of Fees

Where possible, payment of fees, such as match official fees should be made by bank transfer. This can also be arranged before the start of the game.

