

**HUDDERSFIELD & DISTRICT MACRON JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**LEAGUE GUIDANCE ON RESUMPTION OF LEAGUE FOOTBALL UNDER CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTIONS.**

As you are all aware the HJFL restarts this weekend for the 2020-21 season while we are still under various restrictions due to the Coronavirus.

There has been a great deal of discussion and comments flying around in various What’s App groups, and the like, so we thought we would clarify the position as it is seen from a League and common-sense point of view, before we commence matches.

The main issue is the varying guidance form the Government, Local Government (Councils) and the Football Association.

The Government guidelines are now ‘the rule of 6’ for everyone but organised sporting events are exempt. So, this means football matches can go ahead as normal but any spectators and people not actively involved in the match must be social distanced and in groups no larger than 6.

The Football Association basically align with the Government advice and say matches can go ahead with full team numbers as per rules; they still uphold the 30 person limit for training though.

The Local Councils also totally reflect the Government view except for Kirklees; therefore; any matches taking place in Bradford, Leeds, Calderdale, Wakefield or Barnsley can be conducted under the relevant Government and FA Guidance. So, keep spectators away from the pitch with the normal respect barriers and ensure people don’t congregate in groups larger than 6.

For Kirklees they are still insisting on the 30 person limit being applicable to each match not just training although we are contacting them to see if the 30 limit can be raised slightly so full squads can be kept pitchside during games; this would probably mean a total number of about 36.

They are also saying spectators should be away from the pitch near a clubhouse or similar if available or in cars if not. If there are areas away from the field such as a clubhouse social distancing should be maintained and groups of 6 as for all other areas.

As a League we feel the 30 person limit can be managed by the teams involved which should really only impact 11 v 11 matches anyway. We would recommend in this instance a number of substitutes are kept away from the field to keep numbers down to 30. Both teams should, as per League and SCORY rules, be able to field their full quota of substitutes if available.

As most matches are played on public pitches that are open to the general public as parks etc, we feel it is very difficult to insist everyone keeps away from the pitch if they are using the park/grounds. We would recommend if at all possible, to use respect barriers distanced further from the pitch and try to get these people to social distance as per the Government guidelines in groups no more than 6.

Every ground/park/club is different in the number of pitches, facilities/car parking etc. so we can’t recommend just one size that fits all but are sure if a common-sense approach is taken all the matches can go ahead.

We would also just like to reiterate that the 30 restriction is purely for matches taking place in Kirklees not specifically for Kirklees teams. If a Kirklees team is playing away out of Kirklees the Local Authority guidance where the game is being played takes precedence.

Because of this is Clubs feel they cannot adequately manage games at their home grounds we would recommend switching the fixture if the opposition is outside Kirklees where matches can take place more normally.

Finally we would like to add we want all teams to try and get matches played and kids back to playing football like they want to do.

We can understand ad appreciate teams may have to postpone games due to positive tests in squads & being in isolation and have a form on the website for this.

We don’t want teams just deciding not to play without any valid reasons, in the majority of areas restrictions are not going to stop games going ahead as planned.