

19 August 2020
Via email



**To: All Step 3-6 National League System Leagues & Clubs
All Regional NLS Feeder Leagues & Clubs**

Dear Secretary,

As you all will be aware, The FA has been working closely and proactively with DCMS and the SGSA on the return of spectators for the National League System (NLS).

I am pleased to inform you that the Government has now amended their guidance on spectators which will allow, based on the information provided in this document, the gradual return of spectators at matches involving Clubs at Steps 3 and below in the NLS. In addition, Regional NLS Feeder Leagues will be permitted to welcome spectators providing the Grassroots Guidance in relation to spectators is adhered to.

We must remind all Clubs that the return of spectators is conditional on all Clubs undertaking the guidance provided, and also fans playing their part by ensuring they follow the Social Distancing measures.

Whilst it is important that the whole of the enclosed documentation is considered and adhered to, below are several key points:

- All clubs must have completed a risk assessment and clearly uploaded this on to their website before they can stage a game - **with or without spectators**. Leagues will monitor compliance that the risk assessments of their member Clubs are uploaded to their websites.
- Clubs will need to put in place measures to support NHS Test and Trace for spectators. Further details are contained within the NLS Guidance.
- **The guidance will see clubs have an initial 15% capacity for pre-season games increasing, as long as each Club is comfortable, to 30% for the start of the competitive season. At this time, this will be a percentage of the ground grading capacity at the Step the host club plays at. We will provide further guidance if this can be extended further as and when we are able. It is likely that any first review would be in October.**
- The gradual return of spectators is set out below **as a reminder, no club should permit spectators without completing and publishing their Risk Assessment:**

STAGE 1	STEP GROUND GRADING CAPACITY	STAGE 1	CAPACITY	DATES
Step 3	Min 1950	15% capacity	300	Aug 22 nd – Aug 30 th
Step 4	Min 1350	15% capacity	200	Aug 22 nd – Aug 30 th
Step 5	Min 1000	15% capacity	150	Aug 22 nd – Aug 30 th
Step 6	Min 1000	15% capacity	150	Aug 22 nd – Aug 30 th



Patron
Her Majesty The Queen
President
HRH The Duke of Cambridge KG

The FA Group
Wembley Stadium
Wembley
London HA9 0WS

Postal Address
Wembley Stadium
PO Box 1966
London SW1P 9EQ

T +44 (0) 800 169 1863
F +44 (0) 800 169 1864
W TheFA.com
Registration. 77797

CLUBS MUST NOT PROGRESS TO STAGE TWO UNLESS COMPLETED SATISFACTORY STAGE ONE

STAGE 2	STEP GROUND GRADING CAPACITY	STAGE 2	CAPACITY	DATES
Step 3	Min 1950	30% Capacity	600	Aug 31 st onwards
Step 4	Min 1350	30% Capacity	400	Aug 31 st onwards
Step 5	Min 1000	30% Capacity	300	Aug 31 st onwards
Step 6	Min 1000	30% Capacity	300	Aug 31 st onwards

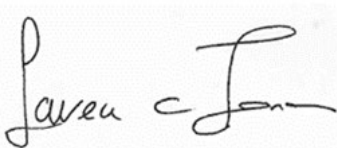
- The Capacity or ground usage may be impacted by local restrictions or, if a Club is found to repeatedly ignore the measures outlined by The FA supported by Government, The FA could ask a Club to reduce their maximum capacity.
- **Clubs must have staged a match under Stage One in order to progress to Stage Two.**

You will note that the decision was taken not to permit spectators until Saturday 22 August. Whilst we are in no doubt that Clubs will seek the return of spectators at the earliest opportunity, this affords Clubs an acceptable window in order to make any modifications to their Risk Assessments based on a spectator presence. If Clubs feel that they require more time beyond this coming Saturday in order to update these documents before admitting spectators, that is in the gift of each Club.

Leagues and Clubs of the NLS have faced significant challenges in the past but we are in no doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic has and will continue to present many challenges throughout the 20/21 season. Now is a time where the NLS leagues and clubs will need to support each other and we would ask that everyone pulls together between now and the end of May in order that we can complete the 2020/21 season

We wish you all the very best ahead of the new season.

Kind regards,



Laurence C Jones
Head of National League System

Cc: All County FA's