



SAFER RETURN TO PLAY FAQ FOR ALL CLUBS

DO WE NEED TO HAVE A COVID-19 COMPLIANCE OFFICER AT EVERY GAME?

A home team's COVID-19 Compliance Officer must attend every home fixture, check that the FAI Safer Return to Play Protocol is observed and maintain a full record of attendance for contact tracing purposes. The away team COVID-19 officer is not compelled to attend the fixture but must be provided with a list of the travelling attendees to keep on record for contact tracing purposes.

WHAT HAPPENS IF WE DO NOT HAVE A COMPLIANCE OFFICER PRESENT FOR A HOME GAME?

If the Match Official feels that they, the players, or coaching staff are at risk in proceeding with the fixture, they are not compelled to officiate the fixture. Otherwise, the Match Official should proceed with the fixture, in agreement with both teams, and report the matter to the League thereafter. The League can then address the matter directly with the club in question.

ARE TEAM PHOTOGRAPHS ALLOWED?

No, team photographs are strictly prohibited. HSE guidelines and the FAI's Safer Return to Play Protocol state that 2 metres social distancing is strictly adhered to wherever possible.

WHAT ARE THE GUIDELINES FOR SPECTATORS WHO WISH TO ATTEND GAMES?

Attendances at all outdoor sporting activities are subject to HSE Guidelines with the current maximum limit set at 200 to include all players, coaching and medical staff, match officials, match operations staff, club officials and spectators. Clubs must ensure that spectators strictly adhere to the 2 metres social distancing rule.

The home team's COVID-19 officer must ensure that their team's attendees register their contact details on entering the venue. These details are to be kept on record for four weeks for contact tracing purposes.

The away team must supply a list of all those travelling to their own COVID-19 Compliance Officer for contact tracing purposes. Spectators are expected to take personal responsibility for 2 metres social distancing when they attend games.

HOW DO WE ENFORCE PROTOCOLS AND HSE GUIDELINES AROUND GAMES?

It is the responsibility of the club's COVID-19 officer to ensure that all criteria around fixtures in the FAI's Safer Return to Play Protocol are met. All attendees are expected to comply with the Protocol procedures and are reminded of their personal responsibility in this regard.

IS A CLUB ALLOWED TAKE CONTACT DETAILS FROM MINORS UNDER GDPR?

Current government guidelines allow a club's COVID-19 officer or other officials to gather the contact data required for contact tracing purposes. This information must be retained for four weeks for contact tracing purposes. Please refer to the HSE Guidelines, available and regularly updated here

<https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/>

WHAT IF A CLUB MEMBER COMES INTO CONTACT WITH A SUSPECTED COVID-19 CASE?

Whilst awaiting testing outcome of a suspected case, the following are possible considerations for a club to decide on:

- I. A club stops all activities whilst awaiting the outcome of a COVID-19 test of the suspected case

or

- II. A club stops all members of the same training group / team / pod from attending the club whilst awaiting the outcome of a COVID-19 test of the suspected case

Please also refer to the HSE Guidelines, available and regularly updated here

<https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/>

SHOULD WE INFORM ALL CLUB MEMBERS IF A CLUB MEMBER COMES INTO CONTACT WITH A SUSPECTED COVID-19 CASE?

Inform the club's COVID-19 Compliance Officer first if a member reports coming into contact with a suspected COVID-19 case. The Compliance Officer must inform the HSE who are responsible for risk assessment and contact tracing. The privacy of the individual must be respected in all regards in this instance. The HSE will take responsibility for all contact tracing if a positive test is returned.

Please also refer to the HSE Guidelines, available and regularly updated here

<https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/>

WHAT HAPPENS IF A CLUB MEMBER INFORMS THE CLUB OF A POSITIVE TEST FOR COVID-19?

The privacy of the individual must be respected at all times. The HSE are responsible for contact tracing in the event of a positive test. The club's COVID-19 Compliance Officer may be contacted by the HSE who will advise on next steps.

Please also refer to the HSE Guidelines, available and regularly updated here

<https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/>

WHAT HAPPENS IF A PLAYER DISPLAYS SUSPECTED SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 DURING A GAME?

A player suspected of a new onset of COVID-19 must be given a face mask and must be isolated immediately from the rest of the attendees.

Contact must be made with a parent/guardian of any underage player who is suspected of contracting COVID-19. Any adult player suspected of contracting COVID-19 must be advised to contact their GP as soon as possible

CAN A PLAYER WHO HAS BEEN ABROAD ON HOLIDAYS OR WHO HAS MOVED TO IRELAND FROM ABROAD PLAY FOR OUR CLUB?

HSE and Government guidelines must be adhered to by all players. Any player coming into Ireland from a country not on the Government's Green List must restrict their movements for 14 days after arrival. During the 14 day period, the player is not allowed to train or play with their club. They are free to resume training and playing after the 14 days.

All Protocol documents and other information are available at www.fai.ie

HSE guidelines are available here <https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/>

Please address any queries to covidchecklist@fai.ie

