



ROYCE RANGERS F.C.

ESTABLISHED 1974

TO PROMOTE FOOTBALL SKILLS, FAIR PLAY,
AND FRIENDSHIP

F.A. CHARTER CLUB STATUS AWARDED 2005

F.A. COMMUNITY CLUB STATUS AWARDED 2012

COVID 19 – BACK TO TRAINING / GAMES AND A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

We can now confirm that the UK Government approved the FA plan for the return of outdoor competitive grassroots football on Friday 17 July 2020. As a result, Royce Rangers Football Club now have the opportunity to return to football training and prepare for the start of the new season. As part of this, we've been working hard over recent weeks to risk assess and prepare guidelines for the safe return of grassroots football and following Government approval and Landlord support, these can now be published.

Football activity can take place with necessary modifications in place to mitigate the transmission risk of COVID-19. As a club we have agreed a phased return to competitive football activity as follows:

- Until 31 July – When ready, your coaches can begin competitive training, with the overall group size (inclusive of coaches) being limited to 30 people (these numbers are not negotiable). Please also understand that the location for training for the next few weeks will be the grassed area next to the main car park at the showground. This is to ensure that the actual playing surface has the most amount of time possible to repair and be ready for our new season. Coaches will advise age groups on when (day and times) they are able to train but it is absolutely imperative that the procedures below are followed for all training and games, regardless of where they take place. **Coaches will have been advised that the main field remains out of bounds for the time being.**
- From August – Competitive matches can begin, for example pre-season fixtures, festivals and small sided football competitions. **We will be looking to use the main field at some point during August**
- From September – Grassroots leagues and FA Competitions can commence.

Clubs, players, coaches, match officials, league officials, volunteers, parents/carers, spectators and football facility providers should read our full guidelines, which are accessible below (or as Annexes), in addition to the latest Government guidance on COVID-19.

A return to competitive football can only happen once we have completed the necessary risk assessments and comprehensive plans are in place. A summary of key points to consider from our guidelines are listed for ease below:

- **Everyone should self-assess for COVID-19 symptoms before every training session or match. If you are symptomatic or living in a household with possible or actual COVID-19 infection you must not participate or attend.**

- Royce Rangers FC must ensure that their facility is compliant with current Government legislation and guidance related to COVID-19. We reserve the right to exclude anyone who does not wish to join with this safe practice.
- Competitive training is now permitted, with groups limited to a maximum of 30 people, including coaches.
- Competitive match play is permitted, with social distancing in place before and after the match, and in any breaks in play.
- Players and officials should sanitise hands before and after a game as well as scheduled breaks throughout a game or training session. We would also ask that all players bring hand sanitiser with them as part of their kit as we will only have limited hand station facilities.
- Ball handling should be kept to a minimum with most contact via a boot and the ball disinfected in breaks of play.
- Youth football coaches are encouraged to limit persistent close proximity of participants during match play and training.
- Goal celebrations should be avoided.
- Equipment should not be shared, and goalkeepers should ensure they disinfect their gloves regularly in breaks in training or matches and thoroughly afterwards. Where possible, coaches should only handle equipment in training.
- Where possible, players, coaches and officials should arrive changed and shower at home. Use of changing and shower facilities must follow government advice on the use of indoor facilities. At present, this means that the Royce changing facilities will remain closed.
- Participants should follow best practice for travel including minimising use of public transport and walking or cycling if possible. People from a household or support bubble can travel together in a vehicle.
- Royce Rangers will need to keep a record of attendees at a match or training session, including contact details, to support NHS Test and Trace. Again, this is non-negotiable and we would ask for parent support in ensuring that these sheets are completed correctly.

James Kendall, Director of Football Development at The FA, said: “We're delighted that the Government has given the go-ahead for competitive grassroots football to return. The past few months have been some of the most challenging times not just for football, but across society, and today's news will be welcomed by the grassroots football community all over the country. Now that we are able to look ahead to the new season, it's crucial that we continue to do all we can to follow safety measures, both as advised by the government and specifically for football. I would encourage anyone returning to competitive grassroots football to take the time to read this guidance, prepare thoroughly and to adopt our recommended approach to phasing football back in. I would also like to thank you for playing your vital part in helping our great game to get going again.”

Ian Razzell, Chairman of Royce Rangers Football Club said: The committee and coaches are equally pleased for all our members that the glorious game can now start again. However, we remain very clear that training and games must only continue with all of the

risk assessments and routine safety procedures in place and would ask all of the Royce family to support us during this difficult time.

Annexes:

- A: Royce Rangers C19 Risk Assessments and Guidance
- B: FA guidance on re-starting
- C: C19 FAQs
- D: C19 – summary of guidance
- E: Outdoor restarting guidance
- F: C19 First Aid guidance