

**GROVE CHALLENGERS FOOTBALL CLUB**

**COVID-19 RISK ASSESSMENT**

**Summary Statement:**

Grove Challengers is a grassroots football club supporting the village of Grove and the surrounding Towns and Villages. It is run by volunteers, and the club has a duty of care to do everything possible to mitigate risks associated with Covid-19 to players, coaches, and the general public. This report has been produced in line with current government guidelines and also the most current and up to date advice from the FA (www.theFA.com) and all club activities must take place in line with these guidelines. If the club believes activities are not deemed to be following guidelines, training will be cancelled. This report has been updated in line with guidance released 18/07/20, and will continue to be updated in line with any changes in legislation as they happen.

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| Prepared by: | Grove Challengers Committee |
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| **Risk/Hazard:** | **Who might be affected:** | **Level of Risk:** | **Controls required** | **Additional controls/Future controls to be considered and any other information:** |
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| Arrival/Pick up of children from training | Parents, players and general public | Low | There is plenty of parking available, both at the rugby club car park and also by the layby.  Parents are asked to respect the club rules, but are responsible for their own social distancing. | If a problem occurs, parents will be reminded of the rules, and the club may consider further options:  Instigate allocated car parks per team.  Stagger training start times if there is congestion (6-7, 6.30-7.30 etc) |
| Clubhouse Facilities, both use of clubhouse and access to it by way of locks, door handles etc. | Coaches, players, spectators | Medium | Due to the difficulty to ensure cleanliness and safety, the clubhouse **must remain locked**. No entrance should be allowed into the compound except coaches for equipment  This will mean toilets must remain locked during training and matches. |  |
| Player and coach hygiene | Coaches and Players | Medium | All players and coaches must wear **clean kit**, bring their **own drinks** (No sharing allowed) and **own hand sanitiser gel**. All must wash hands shortly before attending training (at home – no hand washing facilities available at the clubhouse). | Consider asking players to wear gloves. |
| First Aid/Injuries | Coaches and Players | Medium | In the event of any serious injury, the need for medical attention supersedes social distancing. All managers have been provided with PPE (mask and gloves) and should be happy to assist.  For minor injuries, parents can take responsibility if in attendance, otherwise a designated parent or coach is responsible | Parents should be encouraged to stay, however this is not obligatory, and is at the managers discretion. If parents are not staying during training, they are required to nominate another parent or coach to be responsible and must communicate this to the manager in advance.  This is purely the coach’s decision, and may depend on your team’s manager. |

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| Public Walkways/paths and public right of way | Coaches, players and general public | Low | All parents should be aware of government guidelines around social distancing, and ensure these are respected in busy areas.  The grounds are public areas, so it is important to respect other users. Coaches must consider this when setting training areas up and ensure no walk ways are blocked. |  |
| Training | Coaches,  Players | Low | Training should take place on the named field(s) and if more than one is training, coaches should ensure adequate distance between the two.  Players should avoid touching the balls with their hands where possible, however if they do, they should use hand sanitiser at the next available opportunity.  Players should not arrive more than 10 minutes before training and leave no later than 10 minutes after. | Consider younger teams (where children will frequently forget and touch footballs with their hands) to bring their own footballs to train with. Alternatively, more frequent disinfecting with spray.  The club also may consider the use of gloves, at the moment these are at a parent’s discretion. |
| Training plans | Coaches | Low | Competitive training can now take place with up to 30 people at any one time.  Social distancing should be observed before and after, and in any breaks in play. | Covid-19 specific training plans are widely available online |
| Coronavirus symptoms | Players, Coaches | Low | Should any player or coach develop any form of symptoms prior to training, under no circumstances should they attend training and they should follow the NHS Test and Trace protocols  In the event of anyone developing symptoms during training, that individual should immediately be isolated and taken home by the parent responsible. | Please refer to standard government information on symptoms:  <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/> |
| Equipment | Coaches, players | Low | Managers’ own equipment can be used, but should be disinfected before and after use. Use of goals can be used, however cleaning should take place before and after any session.  Bibs should be washed between uses. | Ensure all cones and other equipment used are disinfected using disinfectant provided by the club.  Managers have been provided with PPE (gloves and mask) should there be a requirement to interact with a child at closer than 2 metres. |
| Training guidance | Coaches, players | Low | Further guidance to support the information above, can be found here: <http://www.thefa.com/news/2020/jul/17/grassroots-guidance-for-competitive-football-restart-in-england-170720> |  |
| Match days | Coaches, players, parents | Medium | Respect barriers should be as far as feasibly possible to avoid congestion around the pitch (around 5 metres).  When the ball goes out of play, parents should be encouraged to play the ball back with their feet and not hands, where possible.  Parents should be encouraged to social distance on the touchline, where possible.  The clubhouse will remain locked and therefore there will be no toilet facilities available. |  |
| Match day equipment | Coaches and players | Low | All goals should be disinfected prior to and after the game, as should Respect barriers and corner flags.  Match balls should be disinfected at intervals, where possible. |  |
| Match day player etiquette | Players and coaches | Low | Social distance as much as possible in between playing time, and at half time. Please avoid hand shakes after matches. |  |

FA Summary guidance:

http://www.thefa.com/-/media/thefacom-new/files/get-involved/2020/summary-of-covid-19-guidance-on-re-starting-competitive-grassroots-football.ashx

**What is the level of risk?** For each hazard, choose determine the Harm and Likelihood. Look for ‘the most likely reasonably foreseeable injury’ **not** just the worst case.

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| **H -** Harm **- *Decide How Someone Might be Harmed*** | | |
| Major | Fatality. | |
| High | Amputations; multiple serious injuries; major fractures; major burns. | |
| Moderate | Lacerations; burns; concussion; serious sprains; minor fractures. | |
| Slight | Superficial injuries; minor cuts and bruises; eye irritation from dust. | |
| **L -** Likelihood **- *How Likely is it to Happen?*** | | |
| Very Unlikely | | The hazard is very rarely experienced and exposure will seldom result in injury. |
| Unlikely | | The hazard is rarely experienced and exposure will seldom result in injury. |
| Likely | | The hazard is persistent but exposure may not always result in injury. |
| Very Likely | | The hazard is persistent and exposure will undoubtedly result in injury. |

Now use the matrix below to assess the Risk from the Harm and Likelihood for each hazard

(e.g. if Harm was ‘Moderate’ and Likelihood ‘Unlikely’ the Risk would be ‘Medium’).

**R**isk table – to calculate the risk of each hazard use the table below:

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| **Harm** | Major | High | High | V High | V High |
| High | Med | Med | High | V High |
| Moderate | Low | Med | Med | Med |
| Slight | Low | Low | Low | Low |
|  |  | Very Unlikely | Unlikely | Likely | Very Likely |
|  |  | **Likelihood** | | | |

Where

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| Low Risk | No additional controls are necessary unless they can be implemented at very low cost (in terms of time, money and effort). Actions to further reduce these risks can be assigned low priority. |
| Medium Risk | Consideration should be given as to whether the risks can be lowered, where applicable, to a low risk level, but the costs of additional risk reduction measures should be take into account. The risk reduction measures should be implemented within a defined time period. |
| High Risk | Substantial efforts should be made to reduce the risk. Risk reduction measures should be implemented urgently within a defined time period and it might be necessary to consider suspending or restricting the activity, or to apply interim control measures, until this has been completed. Considerable resources might have to be allocated to additional control measures. |
| Very High Risk | *These risks are unacceptable*. Substantial improvements in risk controls are necessary. The work activity should be halted until risk controls are implemented. If it is not possible to reduce risk the work should remain prohibited. |