



ABBOTS YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

RISK ASSESSMENT – COVID-19

1. Abbots Youth Football Club acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person who has been entrusted to its care and is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all members. A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any club football activity. We subscribe to The Football Association's (The FA) Safeguarding Children – Policy and Procedures and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.
2. We acknowledge that every child or young person who plays or participates in football should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from poor practice and abuse. Abbots Youth Football Club recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.
3. This risk assessment document forms an addendum to the club's Safeguarding Children Policy. Despite the changed circumstances the club will continue to implement The FA's safeguarding requirements. Anyone involved in activity directly with children (anyone aged under 18) must have an in-date DBS Check, is responsible for ensuring the environment is safe and should have completed some FA safeguarding training.

This document is intended to operate alongside existing club policies and codes of conduct for players, parents and spectators respectively.
4. Insurance
Abbots Youth confirms that the relevant insurance provisions (public liability and personal accident cover) are in place and that there is suitable cover for training sessions and other football activities taking place during the Covid-19 pandemic.
5. Consent
 - Abbots Youth Football Club confirms that all participants under the age of 18 have written parental consent to participate in the activity. This has been actioned either through email communication and online form completion.
 - All parents have been informed about the current government and FA guidance and the measures being taken to manage the risks involved.
 - Through the registration process the club have endeavoured to maintain emergency contact details for participants and relevant medical information.
6. Parental responsibilities
 - Self-screening
Parents are encouraged to screen their child prior to arrival at the training/match venue for the following symptoms:
 - A high temperature (above 37.8°C)
 - A new continuous cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - A sore throat
 - Loss of or change in normal sense of taste or smell
 - Feeling generally unwell
 - Been in close contact with/living with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 in the previous two weeks.
 - Current FA guidance advises that for U18 football only one parent/carer per youth player is permitted to be present at football activities.
 - Parents are encouraged to maintain social distancing when observing any training sessions or matches.
 - Parents should ensure that their child has their own water bottle, hand sanitiser and any necessary medication (e.g. inhaler). All items belonging to their child should be labelled with their name and should not be used by anyone else.

7. Coaches' responsibilities

- All activity leaders/coaches have read and understood the current guidance from the FA (<https://www.thefa.com/news/2021/mar/24/fa-guidance-for-return-to-grassroots-football-20210324>).
- Coaches will ensure the ratio of coaches to children is appropriate – FA safeguarding guidance recommend the following ratios:
 - For 4 to 8 years: one adult to every 6 children (1:6)
 - For 9 to 12 years: one adult to every 8 children (1:8)
 - For 13 to 18 years: one adult to every 10 children (1:10)
- All activity leaders/coaches will keep a register of anyone attending sessions, to help manage 'NHS test and trace', if an infection is reported to someone present.
- Coaches will plan each training session or activity and ensure that they are structured to ensure that Government guidance is followed.
- For some age groups coaches may place pitch markings or cones to ensure that social distancing is maintained.
- Coaches will check that each participant has completed the self-screen check list before attending and if so, that the self-screen checks were negative for all participants. Any participants who answer 'yes' to one or more of the questions, will not take part in the activity and will be told to return home.
- Players will be informed that spitting should be avoided, as the main mode of transmission of the virus is in respiratory secretions. In addition, coaches will encourage players not to use chewing gum.

8. Injuries

If a participant gets injured, a member of their household can assist if present and appropriate, but others (including match officials and teammates and coaches) will still need to socially distance unless a life- or limb-threatening injury necessitates compromising guidelines to provide emergency care.

9. Facilities

Abbots Youth does not have any of our own club facilities but we will seek to ensure that all venues used by the club will seek to comply with the FA guidelines, specifically in relation to the following considerations:

Arrangements required to maintain social distancing such as signage, markings to remind

people of social distancing, measures to reduce congestion at entrances and exits, access to and from toilet facilities, and one-way systems in/out.

10. Equipment

Abbots Youth will make best efforts to ensure that equipment is cleaned between uses, e.g. footballs, cones, goalposts and bibs.

The sharing of equipment will be limited where possible and it will be handled as little as possible by as few people as possible.

11. Any concerns of questions regarding safeguarding and Covid-19 risk management should be addressed to

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RISK ASSESSMENT COMPLETED BY:

NAME: Tim Denyer

CLUB ROLE: Chairman

SIGNATURE: pp. *Tim Denyer*

DATE: 25th March 2021

RISK ASSESSMENT COMPLETED BY:

NAME: Gordon Wilson

CLUB ROLE: Welfare Officer

SIGNATURE: 

DATE: 25th March 2021