



BUNTINGFORD TOWN COVID-19 POLICY DOCUMENT

Buntingford Town FC are a Chartered Standard Football Club affiliated to the Hertfordshire FA and, having read the Covid-19 Guidance on Restarting Outdoor Competitive Grassroots Football issued by the FA on 18th July 2020, has completed a Covid-19 Risk Assessment in line with the FA template and has adopted the following Covid-19 Policies.

Policy C01 – Covid Officers

The Club's Managers will be designated as Covid-19 Officers as designated by the FA Guidance on Re-starting Outdoor Competitive Grassroots Football. Managers will:

- be responsible for continually monitoring how compliance with this policy document is being observed within their squads;
- meet together regularly to review the Covid-19 risk assessment and discuss best practice in ensuring that it is implemented and to oversee the safe return to play;
- be responsible for clearly communicating all relevant guidance to their players, coaches and volunteers;
- be responsible for contacting visiting opposition team Covid Officers, prior to a fixture, to inform them of the precautions and procedures in place at Buntingford Town that they are expected to observe;
- contact opposition Covid Officers prior to away fixtures to establish what procedures are in place at their venue
- maintain registers as detailed in policy C02;
- Prepare Covid Risk Assessments for every football activity;
- ensure a safety briefing is provided before any footballing activity session. This briefing will remind both sets of players and officials about their responsibilities in complying with the Clubs Covid Code of Behaviour.

Policy C02 - Registration

Prior to any footballing activity, Managers will confirm who is attending and adapt their trainings sessions or match procedures to ensure that the appropriate guidance can be complied with.

Managers will maintain registers, collecting name, contact information and self-check confirmation on ALL participants at both training and matches.

Any participants who have not previously registered their intention to attend a training session or match with their manager will not be permitted to participate.

Note: Registers shall be stored for a minimum of 21 days in-line with the Government Recreational Team Sport Framework and collected/processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and in line with GDPR principles and only be for the purpose of NHS test and trace.

Policy C03 – Venues:

The Club, it's Managers, Players and Volunteers will comply with all and any mitigations and procedures in place at venues used for footballing activities.

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Policy C04 – Codes of Conduct:

All participants will be expected to observe the clubs codes of conduct, particularly with regards Covid-19.

If Managers observe participants failing to observe the codes of conduct they will issue them with a verbal warning, highlighting the need to observe the precautions adopted by the club.

Repeated failure to comply with the codes of conduct will result in participants being ejected from the session and suspended from footballing activities until such a time as the Club's Committee, in conjunction with the relevant Manager, decide upon an appropriate course of action.

Policy C05 – Training:

Competitive training will take place outdoors in groups of no more than 30 (including coaches).

Before and after training sessions, and during any breaks, all participants will be expected to practise social distancing, in line with Government guidelines on two metres or 'one metre plus.

Participants who have not registered to attend a training session, or who fail self-assessment health checks, will not be permitted to participate.

Spectators will not be permitted at pitchside during training sessions.

Water bottles or other refreshment containers should in no circumstances be shared. Participants will be required to bring their own drinks or refreshments, in a named container.

The sharing of equipment will be avoided where possible. Where equipment is shared, equipment must be cleaned before use by another person.

Managers adapt their trainings sessions to ensure that the appropriate guidance is complied with.

A safety briefing will be given before the commencement of any training session. This briefing will remind both and officials about their responsibilities in complying with the Club's Covid-19 Code of Behaviour

Policy C06 – Opponents:

The Club will not play matches against sides who do not comply with the relevant FA Covid-19 guidance, specifically the Club will require opposition teams to:

1. be affiliated with the Hertfordshire FA (or equivalent);
2. have appointed one or more Covid-19 Officers;
3. have adopted specific Covid-19 procedures and precautions in line with the FA Guidance.

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Policy C07 – Matches:

The Club will respect the Covid-19 modifications during matches (and training where applicable) in that:

- Pre-match handshake will not happen. Instead players will be asked to hand-sanitise before kick-off;
- Team talk huddles will not take place. Team talks can take place, as long as social distancing is observed and held outdoors where possible;
- Warm-ups/cool-downs should always observe social distancing;
- Coaches, other team staff and substitutes will also always observe social distancing on touchlines/dug-outs. Social-distancing will also be observed during interactions when a substitution is being made;
- Set plays – free kicks: coaches will encourage players to get on with the game and not unnecessarily prolong set play set-up, such as defensive walls;
- Set plays – corners should also be taken promptly to limit prolonged close marking and goal posts should be wiped down before matches, after matches and at half time.
- Goal celebrations should be avoided;
- Interactions with referees and match assistants should only happen with players observing social distancing;

A safety briefing will be given before the commencement of any match. This briefing will remind both and officials about their responsibilities in complying with the Club's Covid-19 Code of Behaviour

Policy C08 – Injuries:

Injuries during play will still be treated as participant health and safety is of utmost importance.

The Club will ensure that there is appropriate PPE in team First Aid Kits to ensure that first-aiders, or other medical personnel present, are suitably to protect themselves and others if they need to compromise social-distancing guidelines to provide medical assistance.

After contact with an injured participant, the person who has administered first aid should clean their hands thoroughly with soap and water or alcohol hand sanitiser at the earliest opportunity. This advice is applicable to all situations, regardless of whether there was close contact or social distancing was maintained. The first aider should also avoid touching their mouth, eyes and nose.

Policy C09 – Match Day Kit:

The Club will seek to minimise the need for one person to handle a large quantity of soiled materials by providing all registered players who have paid the subs with a training kit comprising T-shirt, shorts and socks. Shorts and socks will match those used for match kits to minimise the need to change at a venue prior to a fixture.

Individuals should take their own kit home to wash it themselves.

The Club will issue and collect match shirts before and after matches and arrange for it to be cleaned. Each person handling it must wash or sanitise their hands immediately after.



BUNTINGFORD TOWN COVID-19 CODE OF CONDUCT

Covid-19 is a highly infectious and dangerous disease. A resumption of contact play is only achievable if those involved create and maintain a controlled environment that minimises the threat of infection. Risk in sport cannot be completely eradicated but with caution and care these risks can be reduced.

All those returning to competitive grassroots football for Buntingford Town must abide by the following code of behaviour.

Be aware of your own personal health.

If you show any of the Covid-19 symptoms you must stay at home, inform NHS Test and Trace and seek medical advice

In line with current Government guidance, all participants (players, coaches, club and match officials, volunteers, spectators etc.) will be expected to check for symptoms of Covid-19 prior to leaving their homes.

No-one should leave home to participate in football if they, or someone they live with, has any of the following:

- A high temperature (above 37.8°C);
- A new, continuous cough;
- A loss of, or change to, their sense of smell or taste

Any participants who are symptomatic and/or living in a household with a possible Covid-19 infection will not be allowed to participate and should remain at home and follow Government Guidance.

Any participants who have been asked to isolate by NHS Test and Trace because they are a contact of a known Covid-19 case, must not participate in footballing activities.

Participants shall be expected to confirm to the relevant team manager, upon arrival, that they have carried out a self-check and have not been asked to self-isolate and this shall be recorded in the Register.

Be responsible.

Read the guidance provided by The FA and this document so that you are aware of the changes to the game and what is expected of you. This will include things like being prepared to wash your own kit, bringing your own labelled water bottle and being aware of changes to meet-up times.

All participants and other attendees should follow best practice for travel, including minimising use of public transport. Participants should walk or cycle if possible. People from one household or support bubble can travel together in a vehicle – no other sharing of a vehicle will be acceptable.

Participants who share vehicles to travel to a training session or match will not be allowed to participate.

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Where possible, players and coaches must arrive changed and shower at home. The Club will provide all registered players who have paid the subs with a training kit comprising T-shirt, shorts and socks. Shorts and socks will match those used for match kits to minimise the need to change at a venue prior to a fixture.

Each participant shall bring their own water bottle and their own hand sanitiser, both clearly marked with their name. They must not share these with anyone else.

Practise good hygiene.

Wash your hands regularly and before, during and after a game.

Players will be asked to hand-sanitise before kick-off and during any drinks breaks.

Where possible maintain social distancing.

This won't always be possible in a competitive match environment (for example when tackling an opponent) and that is acceptable. However, before, and after a game you should maintain social distancing.

Before and after training sessions and matches, and during any breaks, all participants will be expected to practise social distancing, in line with Government guidelines on two metres or 'one metre plus.

All participants must remain socially distanced during breaks in play, with spaced areas for equipment and refreshment storage for each individual including officials and substitutes. Coaching staff and substitutes, should, for example, spread out and avoid sharing a dug out or bench if social distancing cannot be observed. Players and officials should also observe social distancing during sin-bin instances.

Water bottles or other refreshment containers should in no circumstances be shared. Participants are advised to bring their own drinks or refreshments, in a named container.

Support NHS Test and Trace.

You're likely to be asked to provide your details so that in the event of a Covid-19 outbreak those potentially infected can be traced. This is to everyone's benefit so please cooperate.

Team Managers will maintain registers, collecting name, contact information and self-check confirmation on ALL participants at both training and matches.

Note: Registers shall be stored for a minimum of 21 days in-line with the Government Recreational Team Sport Framework and collected/processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and in line with GDPR principles and only be for the purpose of NHS test and trace.

Any participants who have not previously registered their intention to attend a training session or match with their manager will not be permitted to participate.

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Do not spit.

Spitting and the rinsing out of mouths is now a recognised risk to health and must not be done. Avoid shouting or raising your voice if face to face with other players.

Everyone should refrain from spitting.

If you need to sneeze or cough, you are encouraged to do so into a tissue or upper sleeve and advised to avoid touching your face. Ensure any tissues are disposed of in a sealed bin as soon as possible.

After the game.

Be aware that other users may be waiting to use the facilities. Changing rooms and showers are likely to be closed and any socialising must follow the Government's guidance on social distancing.

After activity participants must maintain government mandated social distancing for social interaction. This includes in any available changing rooms, showers, and any clubhouse facilities or other venue participants congregate in afterwards

Finally:

Thank you in advance for playing your vital part in helping our great game get going again. By observing Government guidance and the football-specific protocols, let's work together to ensure the transition back to competitive grassroots is as smooth and safe as possible.

Declaration:

I confirm that I have read and understood Buntingford Town's Covid-19 Code of Conduct.

Participants Signature: _____

Participants Name: _____ Date: _____