



Warsash Wasps SFC

Policy, Guidance and Considerations for use of the 3G for External Hire

Updated following changes in Govt and The FA Guidance 24-03-2021

Club Secretary – Kirstie Fitzgerald
Chairman – Mike Ashley



Purpose

- This updated policy document has been produced following changes in the government regulations and The FA's revised guidance published 24-03-2021. It is also based on the experiences of Warsash Wasps teams that have already been using the 3G under the previous COVID-19 guidelines.
- As a club we have a responsibility to ensure that the 3G is safe to use by anyone hiring or playing on the facility, and that all latest practice is followed.
- The intent of the document is to :
 - Set out the WWSFC club's formal policy for hiring and use of the 3G by external bodies based on The FA guidance,
 - Ensure that the 3G facility is COVID compliant, and free from any known risk/harm to users
 - Provide a central source of information that external hirers of the 3G must be aware of and follow,
 - Explain who to contact if there are any questions or concerns
- It remains that things will continue to change as new guidance is released. This document will be revised on a regular basis to take into account the latest decisions of the Warsash Wasps SFC committee and communicated to all relevant external hirers accordingly.



Revised Guidance from The FA

“COVID-19: STEP ONE GUIDANCE ON THE RETURN OF GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL”

- As of 24th March 2021, The FA have issued revised guidance “COVID-19: STEP ONE GUIDANCE ON THE RETURN OF GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL”, which supports the first step in the Government’s Roadmap out of COVID and sees the return of grassroots football following Lockdown #3 in England.
- The main change from previous guidance is the removal of the geographic tiers and restrictions on travelling/playing games in different tiered areas
- One further additional change is that as part of step one, there can be no more than one parent per youth player in attendance at training/games to minimise crowds and reduce the risk of COVID transmission
- In short, for grassroots football teams such as Warsash Wasps SFC the guidance clarifies that:
 - Full contact football training and games can take place, in groups of no more than thirty people (including the appropriate number of coaches required)
 - As much as reasonably possible 2m physical distance should continue to be maintained during training and games (still mandatory when arriving, beforehand, during breaks, afterwards and when departing)
 - Increased hygiene practices must remain in place and due care should be taken at all times
 - Spectators must not be in groups of greater than 6 (unless from the same household)
 - For youth squads, all expected safeguarding measures must be taken
 - The FA and leagues have confirmed that the playing season can be extended until the end of June, where necessary
- The full guidance can be accessed here – [link to latest guidelines](#)



Proposed Football Steps Out of Lockdown

		STEP 1		STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4
		8 th March	29 th March	No earlier than 12 th April	No earlier than 17 th May	No earlier than 21 st June
UPDATE		Schools return, including play for school-age children as part of educational provision and wraparound care – following DfE guidance.	Outdoor grassroots football returns – following all FA guidance. No spectators. No changing rooms. No hospitality.	Indoor football for under 18s returns – subject to Government approval. Socially-distanced spectators permitted - in accordance with Government guidelines. Changing rooms can be used – following strict Covid-19 protocols. Outdoor food and drink allowed – following the rule of six or two households.	Organised indoor football returns – subject to Government approval. Socially distanced spectators permitted - in accordance with Government guidelines. Changing rooms can be uses – following strict Covid-19 protocols. Indoor food and drink allowed – following the rule of six or two households.	No legal limits on gathering. Larger events allowed.



RE-STARTING OUTDOOR COMPETITIVE GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL – SUMMARY

COVID-19 GUIDANCE



FOR CLUBS, PLAYERS, COACHES, CLUB OFFICIALS, CLUB WELFARE OFFICERS, MATCH OFFICIALS, LEAGUE OFFICIALS, VOLUNTEERS, PARENTS/CARERS SPECTATORS AND FOOTBALL FACILITY PROVIDERS – Published: 18 July 2020

This document outlines actions to be taken before, during and after all competitive grassroots football activity in England. It should be read in conjunction with the latest UK Government Covid-19 guidance available [here](#) and the more detailed guidance document produced by The FA, available [here](#).

In outdoor competitive training and matches, physical contact is now allowed, but for all other activity (e.g. warm-ups/cool-downs) the Government guidance on social distancing should be observed, read [here](#).

Should Government guidance change in response to the current Covid-19 Alert Level, The FA guidance will be updated accordingly.

BEFORE ACTIVITY

- 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. You should stay home and follow the latest **Government guidance**.
- Clubs/facility providers should appoint a Covid-19 officer and conduct a thorough **risk assessment** before re-opening or re-starting competitive activity. They should also follow current **'NHS test and trace'** protocols, such as keeping an attendance register.
- Personal hygiene measures should be carried out by everyone and hand sanitisers brought and used at the training/match venue.
- The sharing of kit and equipment should be avoided, but where equipment is shared, it must be cleaned before use by another person.
- Goal posts and corner poles should be wiped down before matches, after matches and at half time.
- Follow Government guidance for travel, including minimising use of public transport.
- Active participants should arrive changed and ready to take part.
- Youth team coaches should re-acquaint themselves with all safeguarding policies and procedures.
- Meet-up times should be adjusted to avoid time spent congregating at a venue.
- Use of clubhouses, hospitality facilities, changing rooms and toilets must adhere to **Government guidance**.

Anyone who is deemed vulnerable in respect of Covid-19 is reminded to follow the Government's guidance, only returning to football when it's right for them to do so.

DURING TRAINING & MATCH PLAY

- Competitive training can take place for all participants, in an outdoor setting provided this takes place in groups of no more than 30 (including coaches).
- Competitive match play is permitted, with social distancing in place before and after the session, and in any breaks in play.
- The sharing of kit and equipment should be avoided and participants should bring their own drinks or refreshments, in named containers.
- When the ball goes out of play, it should not be retrieved by non-participants and should be retrieved using the feet rather than the hands where possible.
- Participants must not spit and should avoid shouting or raising their voices when facing each other, as detailed in The FA Covid-19 Code of Behaviour.
- Set plays: players are encouraged to avoid unnecessarily long set-up or close marking. Other modifications apply to specific situations, such as goal celebrations being discouraged. Read more in The FA's more detailed guidance [here](#).
- Youth football coaches are encouraged to limit persistent close proximity of participants during match play and training.
- Observing rigorous hygiene standards, injuries can be treated. See full guidance [here](#).
- Spectator groups should be limited to six people per group and spread out in line with wider **Government guidance**.
- Match fee payments should be cashless – consider using **The FA Matchday App**.
- Small-sided football should include more regular hygiene breaks in activity and players discouraged from touching or tackling against boards.

AFTER ACTIVITY

- Hands should be washed at the earliest opportunity and personal equipment should be wiped down with a disinfectant.
- Unless absolutely necessary, participants should take their kit home and wash it themselves, or by family members. Post-activity showers should be taken at home.
- Everyone must continue to maintain **social distancing** including in any facilities where groups of people congregate (e.g. clubhouses).
- Everyone should leave following the traffic-flow system the club or facility provider has put place.
- Anyone who becomes infected after training/matches should report this to the **NHS test and trace system**.

DISCLAIMER:

This guidance is for general information only and does not constitute legal advice, nor is it a replacement for such, nor does it replace any Government or PHE advice; nor does it provide any specific commentary or advice on health-related issues. Affected organisations should therefore ensure that they seek independent advice from medical practitioners, or healthcare providers, prior to implementing any re-opening plan, as required. Independent legal advice

should be sought, as required and depending on your, or relevant circumstances. While efforts have been taken to ensure the accuracy of this information at the time of publication, the reader is reminded to check the Government website to obtain the most up-to-date information regarding social distancing and any other Government measures.



WWSFC 3G HIRE COVID-19 Measures

Hirers of the Warsash Wasps 3G will only be permitted to use the facility providing The FA Guidance is met and the following additional WWSFC club measures are accepted:

- Max Numbers - A maximum of 30 people can be involved in officially organised football training sessions, including the coaches and hirers. All hirers must comply with the current Government Regulations regarding the number of people from different households that can meet up outside.
- Football Activities – Full contact football is now permitted, however where possible sessions and activities should be planned to maintain 2m social distancing wherever reasonably possible. Players should be encouraged from coming within 2m of other players during drills and games where achievable – especially before and after activities
- Groups – A maximum of two hiring groups will be allowed on the 3G and therefore on the Wasps site at any one time (if the 3G is split into two pitches, otherwise only one group at a time). Hiring times will be separated to ensure that enough time is given for the previous group to depart the site.
- Equipment – all equipment (balls, cones, etc) must be washed/wiped clean/sanitised before every hiring session. Hirers and players are to be advised to avoid touching equipment with hands throughout sessions (except the GK who should wear their own sanitised gloves). Players should be reminded to avoid touching goals, gates, doors, etc as well. Balls should be re-cleaned during breaks as much as practical.
- Medical/First Aid Kits – An up to date well stocked first aid kit must be visible and available at all sessions. Additionally these must now include plenty of hand sanitiser, several pairs of disposable first aid gloves and face masks for use in emergencies.

It is the 3G lead hirer's responsibility to make sure that all measures are met at each training session, without exception



WWSFC 3G HIRE COVID-19 Measures

Continued...

- First aid – qualified first aiders can now attend to situations requiring intervention if necessary (i.e. parents not available) and providing that the following PPE is used a) Disposable gloves, b) medical grade face mask, c) Face visor or goggles, and d) a disposable apron. If a first aid intervention is required then a record of this must be made and recorded along with the track and trace records.
- Hygiene - All hirers and players must sanitise their hands on arrival at the site, at every break and again once the session has finished. An identified “hand wash station” will be in place at the ground. Managers, coaches and players are required to purchase and bring their own hand sanitiser and paper towels for players and coaches. All rubbish and used paper towels must be collected up into a plastic/bin bag and either disposed of at home, or placed in the main bin by the site entrance. Small site bins will be unavailable for the foreseeable. Disinfectant should be available to wipe and clean equipment (balls, goal posts, etc) regularly and after each session.
- Track and Trace Records – Hirers must keep a record of who has attended football sessions, including coaches and anyone else that has been present at the session (parents, etc). These records must be kept for a minimum of 21 days should the authorities need to make contact. **This is a critical requirement.**
- Safeguarding – all standard and appropriate safeguarding measures must be taken by hirers if any players under the age of 18 are included in the football sessions. Warsash Wasps cannot help in this provision, and takes no responsibility for doing so.

It is the 3G lead hirer’s responsibility to make sure that all measures are met at each training session, without exception



WWSFC 3G HIRE COVID-19 Measures

Continued...

- Drinks breaks – All players should have a clearly named and identifiable drinks bottle. These should be left with the player's hand sanitiser in a clearly marked and distanced zone (e.g. marked by cones outside the 3G). Hirers must ensure that players only stay within their defined zone during breaks, briefings, etc without exception
- Avoiding congregation – players, especially those in younger age groups, have a tendency to want to congregate with other players at training, especially in periods of inactivity (when not directly involved in a drill, during breaks, before and after training, etc). Players should be reminded to avoid this repeatedly throughout training, and measures should be taken to prevent it (clearly marked break zones, staggered breaks, etc)
- Spitting – Spitting and coughing are significant causes of infection transmission. Please encourage and remind players and coaches to avoid spitting during training sessions
- Shouting – Shouting, especially in close proximity to others, should be discouraged by all participants
- Left items – any items left at training are to be removed from site or put in the bin by the vacating hirer at the end of each session and not left around as they usually are (bottles, bags, trainers). Anything found by the club committee on site will be thrown out immediately
- Spectators – No spectators are to be in attendance at adult training or adult fixtures (there are some exceptions for youth safeguarding)

It is the 3G lead hirer's responsibility to make sure that all measures are met at each training session, without exception



New Road Site

- The club are not intending to make any major alterations to the New Road site or 3G to accommodate social distancing requirements for training during COVID-19
- A New Road site risk assessment is being completed that will identify any changes that need to be made. Signage will also be deployed at the site making clear the key principles to followed by anyone accessing the site
- Feedback is welcome from managers/coaches if they think simple and effective measures could be put in place to assist everyone in dealing with the current situation – please pass ideas and thoughts to the DoF
- As usual, common sense and courtesy is expected from everyone accessing and attending the site
- It is the hirer of the 3G's responsibility to make sure that the guidance and restrictions for site usage are adhered to at all times
- Social distancing must be respected at all times, including entry to and exit from the site.
- Please give thought to the following:
 - Keys, locks, gates – how are you going to handle these and maintain hygiene (gloves, wipes, hand sanitiser, etc)?



Club Contacts

- For all Warsash Wasps 3G Hire related matters, in the first instance please direct questions or concerns to the WWSFC Secretary:

Kirstie Fitzgerald

07713 399992

kirstiewwsfc@gmail.com

- For other club matters the usual contacts should be used:

Chairman

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