



Malpas & District Junior Football Club



Grounds: Malpas Sports Club, The Oxhays, Wrexham Road, Malpas, Cheshire
Bishop Heber High School, Farndon Community Field
www.malpasfc.co.uk

Dear Parents and Players

“Local Lockdowns”

This letter is in response to the decision by Welsh Government to declare Local Lockdown arrangements in NE Wales as part of measures to contain a steep rise in the rate of COVID-19 infections in the community.

Malpas & District JFC recognises the contribution that players that cross the border from Wales make to the Club and its teams. Unfortunately one of the consequences of a local lockdown is that movement in and out of certain geographies is prohibited from 6pm on 1st October 2020 and in this case this means that players living in Wrexham County Borough Council will not be able to travel into Cheshire to take part in football activities delivered by the Club. This is clearly not a situation that anyone at the Club is happy about and we are truly sorry that it means that several of our young players will miss out on opportunities to train and play matches with their friends and teammates.

It is appreciated that there will be different views on this but just as with shops and face masks or pubs and curfews, the Club has no option but to comply with the strict guidance that it is required to follow. When grassroots football was given Government approval to re-start, it was based on compliance with the FA's Detailed COVID-19 Guidance on Restarting Competitive Grassroots Football. The revisions of this guidance direct clubs to follow Government and / or Local Authority Guidance when responding to a local lockdown scenario. Failure to adhere to the guidance places young people, their families, coaches and the Club at risk, as it is the only means by which grassroots football has been able to continue in the face of COVID-19 infections. It would place the Club in breach of its policy framework and insurance cover.

The specific guidance / FAQs for Wrexham County Borough can be accessed through the following link, and includes sections on team sports, which confirm that although sports can continue within the County Borough at this time, borders cannot be crossed in order to do so.

<https://gov.wales/wrexham-county-borough-lockdown-frequently-asked-questions#section-51694>

As a result, the Club must ask that those players living in Wrexham County Borough / NE Wales do not attend training or matches for the time being. The lockdown measures are set for a minimum of 2 weeks and will be kept under review.

This is not the kind of decision that those of us who organise grassroots football wish to take but I hope you can appreciate that this pandemic is bigger than the Club and bigger than football and we must respond accordingly to keep people safe and give everyone the best opportunity of getting back to doing the things they enjoy as soon as possible, which can only be done by taking every opportunity and following every instruction given to control this virus.

I am truly sorry for those boys who will not be able to join us over the next couple of weeks or so, please be assured that as long as they wish to play for Malpas & District JFC, their places will be reserved and they will be welcomed back with open arms when they are able to return.

Sincerely

Andrew Harradine



Malpas & District Junior Football Club

Grounds: Malpas Sports Club, The Oxhays, Wrexham Road, Malpas, Cheshire
Bishop Heber High School, Farndon Community Field, Farndon Primary

www.malpasfc.co.uk

