



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

COVID-19 Safety Policy 2023/24

The purpose of the COVID-19 Safety Policy is to outline the steps that will be taken by the Club to safeguard players, parents / spectators and coaches whilst engaged in organised football activity. The COVID-19 Safety Policy sets out the over-arching considerations and actions that were put in place from the 2019/20 Season, following and during the COVID-19 Pandemic to keep everyone involved in the Club's football-related activities, safe. The Policy is designed to come into place should another pandemic be confirmed or if local public health conditions suggest it is appropriate to actively manage junior football in the face of viral infections. This Policy should be read in conjunction with other updated 23/24 Policies (listed below) and the current FA's COVID-19 Detailed Guidance for restarting (if appropriate)

The Club will follow all required guidance from UK Government, Public Health England and the FA, which may change during the 23/24 Season. This will overlay and interact with the Club's existing policy framework, which remains in place.

From the 2021/22 Season – the Club will retain all COVID-19 measures within its policy framework. The majority of steps demonstrate good practice and protect players, coaches, spectators not only contributing to overall public health and safety but supporting resilience of the football squads to be available for selection.

The Club introduced a traffic light system from the 2021/22 season. This will relate to the UK Government and FA Guidance and take into account local levels of infection, however it is a decision of the Club when and if to move to a different status.

RED	All UK Government, FA and Club COVID-19 measures and all policies must be implemented in FULL.
AMBER	Extra vigilance is required – social distancing, hygiene and COVID-19 self-assessment mandatory. PPE must be used for provision of First Aid
YELLOW	No formal guidance applies but coaches should take reasonable care in reducing the risk of infection and are encouraged to use positive discretion in applying the Club's Risk Assessment and good practice measures from the policy framework relating to social distancing, hygiene and COVID-19 Self Assessment. PPE is strongly recommended for First Aid. Players and parents must, as a minimum, sign a commitment at start of the season, agreeing to check & report COVID-19 symptoms before training and matches and adhere to Club Policies and Government / FA Guidance.
GREEN	COVID-19 no longer requires specific response.

For the 2023/24 Season the rating is GREEN

An example of the key Club measures at RED level is provided below.

COVID-19 and Club Administration

- The Club will ensure that it is affiliated to the appropriate County FA and holds membership for the Leagues it intends to compete in.
- The Club will appoint a specific COVID-19 Officer - Andy Harradine
- The Club will ensure that appropriate insurance cover is in place for the 23/24 Season with clear position on cover for COVID-19 related matters.

- All Club and Team Risk Assessments and Emergency Plans will be revised to include all necessary risks and mitigations to reduce the impact of COVID-19.
- For the 23/24 Season, the Club will require explicit 'COVID-19 Aware' consent from all players and parents before commencing involvement in football activity.
- The Club will be responsible for appropriate sharing of data in support of local Test, Track, Protect (or similarly named) Public Health measures. The Club's (GDPR) Data Protection Policy will be updated for this purpose.
- The Club will maintain accurate records at all age groups for attendance at matches and training.
- The Club will maintain accurate records of any COVID-19 infections.
- The Club will maintain accurate records for the regular cleaning of equipment.
- The Club will provide appropriate / recommended PPE to protect Coaches, volunteers and players (if required).
- The Club will provide any appropriate signage required to maintain COVID-19 Safe activity.
- The Club will communicate all policies and any subsequent changes, to players, parents / spectators and coaches / volunteers and record acknowledgement from all parties. All policies and guidance notes will be published on the Club website.
- The Club will take necessary steps to reduce cash-payments during the 23/24 Season where practicable.
- The Club reserves the right to require players, parents / spectators and coaches / volunteers to wear face coverings in certain circumstances.

COVID-19 and Match Days / Training

- The Club will follow and duly enforce any Match Day regulations or requirements put in place by the FA and Leagues.
- Personal player equipment will be issued for the duration of the season, there will be no sharing of player equipment or kit during matches or training.
- The Club will require players to self-assess prior to each match or training session as per FA Guidance and will require written confirmation that players are symptom-free prior to commencement.
- The Club will require players, parents / spectators and coaches to adhere to social distancing guidance set out by the UK Government, Public Health England, FA and Leagues at ALL times before, during and after matches.
- The Club also requires players, parents / spectators and coaches to follow any local guidance issued by host venues (match day and training).
- Records of player presence / involvement in matches and training will be kept throughout the 23/24 Season.
- The Club will take necessary steps to enable the disinfecting of balls and other equipment during before, during and after sessions with records kept.
- Players, coaches, parents / spectators will comply with published guidance on issues such as shouting, handshakes, management of the ball and equipment.
- The sharing of lifts has always been treated as an exception, with notification to the Club Welfare Officer required. Any lift sharing should follow published guidance relating to "bubbles" and "wearing of masks".
- For the 22/23 Season – no parents / spectators will be permitted to enter the MUGA facility at Bishop Heber High School unless there is a medical emergency.

COVID-19 & Code of Conduct

For the 23/24 Season the Club's Code of Conduct will act to support compliance with COVID-19 Safe measures, guidance and regulations. Wilful breaches of new COVID-19 related measures, guidance and regulations will be treated as a disciplinary issue.

Related Policies

Health & Safety Policy 23/24

Safeguarding Children Policy 23/24

Club Welfare Officer Match Audit Checklist 23/24

Malpas & District JFC (GDPR) Data Protection Policy & Privacy Statement 23/24

Code of Conduct 23/24

Travel, Trips and Tournaments Policy 23/24

Policy Acknowledgement Sign-Off 23/24

Signed: Andrew Harradine – Chairman

Hannah Adamson – Club Welfare Officer

Date: 1st September 2023

Review: 31st August 2024

