



Friday 13th March 2020

CWFL Statement re Coronavirus & Football

Cheshire FA and the CWFL continue to monitor the situation and follow the advice provided by the Football Association and the Government.

All CWFL Open age, Vets and Flexi games will be played as per fixtures until any guidance to the contrary is given by either the Government or the FA.

As a precautionary measure, we are **advising against handshaking**. Given the current situation, shaking hands is an unnecessary risk, and an easily avoidable one.

Individuals can choose whether they want to shake hands or not. This is entirely at the discretion of each individual player. No player or collection of players can be forced, via regulation, or any other practice (i.e. delayed Kick Off) to shake hands.

Should teams or individual players decide not to shake hands or opt for an alternative method this should be conveyed to the match referee by the team Manager and/or Captain before the teams enter the field of play.

What happens if a club is unable to field a team due to player's testing positive for coronavirus or having to self-isolate?

Clubs are advised to inform their respective league(s) or competition(s) as soon as they become aware of any of their players having to self-isolate or indeed contracting Coronavirus. The government guidelines for self-isolation should be followed.

If any club or team that is affected by the virus (i.e. has a player, coach, parent or significant other linked to the team have to go into self-isolation) can request a 7 day period of grace from the league on health grounds. It is then at the discretion of the league how this is managed. All relevant leagues and the CFA should be alerted at the earliest opportunity.

What if the Situation Changes?

We are actively monitoring Government advice in case the situation changes and additional measures become necessary. As a matter of good practice, we would recommend that Clubs adopt the same approach.

Further updates will be conveyed as appropriate.

Getting the Latest Government Advice

Read the latest information about the situation in the UK, along with guidance for what to do if you think you're at risk.

Go to [NHSUK/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) for information about the virus and how to protect yourself. Use the [111 online coronavirus service](#) to check if you need medical help.

[VISIT GOV.UK](https://www.visit.gov.uk)