



## UPDATE

### Guidance for parents/guardians

#### Return to football activity

- Each club will have to decide when it's right for them to return based on factors such as the ability to comply with NI Executive guidance; be aware of the protocols and processes within your child's club and what is expected of you and your child and if in doubt, or you're not comfortable about your child(ren) returning to football, there's no pressure to do so
- Discuss how the return will look with your child to ensure that they are familiar with what will be asked of them

#### In advance of returning

- As we progress through the NI Executive five step plan, there will be changes in football activity including the introduction of new arrangements and unfamiliar restrictions; please support those who are trying to provide a safe re-introduction to football in line with the guidance and you can do this by following the guidance provided by the Irish FA and also the measures introduced by the club/venue as well as ensuring your child is familiar with what is expected of them
- Make yourself aware of the measures being taken to provide a safe environment; if you are not happy with the arrangements that have been made, then you should remove your child from that environment
- If your child has additional disability or medical needs, please ensure that you have discussed this specifically with the club and coach; you can then agree how/if these needs can be met within current NI Executive guidance
- As you will undoubtedly already know, young children are more likely to struggle to maintain social distancing; please continue to do your best to help your child recognise what social distancing means, looks and feels like – this could be related to relevant arm spans or standing jumps for example
- In line with NI Executive guidance on travel, you or another adult from the family should travel with the child to the venue; consider all other forms of transport before using public transport and no car-sharing with anyone outside your household

#### During sessions

- Some facilities may have one way or parking systems in place; find out what these are in advance and comply with all guidance
- Ensure that your child practices good hand hygiene; wash/sanitise hands before all activity
- Remind your child that they should refrain from spitting or clearing of nasal passages; if they need to sneeze or cough, do so into a tissue and put the tissue in the bin or use the crook of their elbow
- Ensure that your child brings their own water bottle that is clearly recognisable
- If your child gets injured, you, or a member of your household can assist them if present; clubs and coaches will ensure all efforts are made to maintain social distancing and allow player to self- treat and, where this cannot be achieved, they should have appropriate PPE to support with this including gloves and face masks

### **After sessions**

- Do not congregate; collect your child and leave the venue quickly
- Ensure that social distancing guidance continues to be adhered to
- Follow any exit systems in place at the venue
- Remind your child to wash/sanitise your hands as soon as possible after the session
- If you have any safeguarding concerns, you can access the Irish FA Safeguarding policy including reporting mechanisms here <https://www.irishfa.com/irish-fa-foundation/grassroots-and-youth-football/safeguarding>