



GROVE CHALLENGERS FOOTBALL CLUB

COVID-19 RISK ASSESSMENT

Summary Statement:

Grove Challengers is a grassroots football club supporting the village of Grove and the surrounding Towns and Villages. It is run by volunteers, and the club has a duty of care to do everything possible to mitigate risks associated with Covid-19 to players, coaches, and the general public. This report has been produced in line with current government guidelines and also the most current and up to date advice from the FA (www.theFA.com) and all club activities must take place in line with these guidelines. If the club believes activities are not deemed to be following guidelines, training will be cancelled. This report has been updated in line with guidance released 08/04/2021, and will continue to be updated in line with any changes in legislation as they happen. If this changes before the next review point, the risk assessment will be updated accordingly.

Parents are asked to acknowledge that they have received, read, understood and will carry out their obligations outlined in the details of this risk assessment before their child can engage in football activities at the club.

Prepared by:	Grove Challengers Committee
Date Prepared:	8 th April 2021
Date for review:	17 th May 2021
Version:	8
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Risk/Hazard:	Who might be affected:	Level of Risk:	Controls required	Additional controls/Future controls to be considered and any other information:
Arrival/Pick up of children from training	Parents, players and general public	Low	<p>There is parking available at the rugby club car park. There is adequate space to allow social distancing so no additional traffic management or one-way systems are required at this time.</p> <p>Parents are asked to respect the club rules, but are responsible for their own social distancing.</p> <p>Parents/guardians should arrive no earlier than 5 minutes before training starts and leave as soon as practicable following the end of the session.</p>	<p>If a problem occurs, parents will be reminded of the rules, and the club may consider further options:</p> <p>Instigate allocated car parks per team. Stagger training start times if there is congestion (6-7, 6.30-7.30 etc)</p>
Clubhouse Facilities, both use of clubhouse and access to it by way of locks, door handles etc.	Coaches, players, spectators	Medium	<p>Due to the difficulty to ensure cleanliness and safety, the clubhouse must remain locked on standard training and match days. No entrance should be allowed into the compound except for authorised users.</p> <p>This will mean toilets must remain locked during training and standard match days.</p>	
Player and coach hygiene	Coaches and Players	Medium	<p>All players and coaches must wear clean kit, bring their own drinks (no sharing allowed) and own hand sanitiser gel. All must wash hands shortly before attending training (at home – no hand washing facilities available at the clubhouse) and regularly sanitise their hands at training or games.</p>	
First Aid/Injuries	Coaches and Players	Medium	<p>In the event of any serious injury, the need for medical attention supersedes social distancing. All managers have been provided with PPE (mask and gloves) and should be happy to assist.</p>	<p>Parents should be encouraged to stay, however this is not obligatory, and is at the managers discretion. If parents are not staying during training, they are required to</p>

Risk/Hazard:	Who might be affected:	Level of Risk:	Controls required	Additional controls/Future controls to be considered and any other information:
			<p>For minor injuries, a parent or guardian can take responsibility if in attendance, otherwise a designated parent or coach is responsible.</p> <p>Any treatment by managers or coaches will be recorded for Test and Trace purposes.</p>	<p>nominate another parent or coach to be responsible and must communicate this to the manager in advance.</p> <p>This is purely the coach's decision and may depend on your team's manager.</p>
Public Walkways/paths and public right of way	Coaches, players and general public	Low	<p>All parents should be aware of government guidelines around social distancing and ensure these are respected at all times.</p> <p>The grounds are public areas, so it is important to respect other users. Coaches must consider this when setting training areas up and ensure no walk ways are blocked.</p>	
Training	Coaches, Players	Low	<p>Training should take place on the named field(s) and if more than one is training, coaches should ensure adequate distance between the teams.</p> <p>Players should avoid touching the balls with their hands where possible, however if they do, they should use hand sanitiser at the next available opportunity.</p> <p>Players should not arrive more than 5 minutes before training and leave no later than 5 minutes after it concludes.</p> <p>Training can only take place outdoors.</p>	<p>Consider younger teams (where children will frequently forget and touch footballs with their hands) to bring their own footballs to train with. Alternatively, more frequent disinfecting with spray.</p> <p>The club also may consider the use of gloves, at the moment these are at a parent's discretion.</p>
Training plans	Coaches	Low	<p>Competitive training may take place with up to 30 people at any one time. However, contact between players should be minimised.</p> <p>Social distancing should be observed before and after, and in any breaks in play.</p>	Covid-19 specific training plans are widely available online

Risk/Hazard:	Who might be affected:	Level of Risk:	Controls required	Additional controls/Future controls to be considered and any other information:
Covid-19 symptoms	Players, Coaches	Low	<p>Should any player or coach develop any form of symptoms prior to training, under no circumstances should they attend training and they should follow the NHS Test and Trace protocols</p> <p>In the event of anyone developing symptoms during training, that individual should immediately be isolated and taken home by the parent responsible.</p> <p>Before any training session or game, self assessments of Covid-19 symptoms must be carried out by parents before attendance and participation in that training session. The self assessment should check for any of the following symptoms of Covid-19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A high temperature (above 37.8°C); • A new, continuous cough; • A loss of, or change to, their sense of smell or taste. <p>By sending their child to training or games, the parents are confirming that a self assessment has been carried out and their child has none of the symptoms mentioned above.</p>	<p>Please refer to standard government information on symptoms:</p> <p>https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/</p>
Equipment	Coaches, players	Low	<p>Equipment can be used but should be disinfected before and after use. Use of goals is allowed, however cleaning should take place before and after any session.</p> <p>Equipment should be taken out and put away only by coaches or managers and not by players except in exceptional circumstances, such as moving larger match day goals, which require larger numbers of people to move safely. Coaches, managers and players should use hand sanitiser after handling any equipment.</p> <p>During training and games equipment handling by players should be kept to a minimum.</p>	<p>Ensure all cones and other equipment used are disinfected using disinfectant provided by the club.</p> <p>Managers have been provided with PPE (gloves and mask) should there be a requirement to interact with a child at closer than 2 metres.</p> <p>Managers and coaches will maintain a record of cleaning of equipment for review and improvement of practice. A form for recording this will be provided to managers</p>

Risk/Hazard:	Who might be affected:	Level of Risk:	Controls required	Additional controls/Future controls to be considered and any other information:
			Bibs should be washed between uses by the user of that bib, wherever possible. If bulk collection of bibs or similar equipment is unavoidable, the manager collecting it should sanitise their hands once the bibs are bagged up.	alongside the Test and Trace attendance register.
Training guidance	Coaches, players	Low	Further guidance to support the information above, can be found here: https://www.thefa.com/news/2021/apr/08/grassroots-football-update-step-two-20210408	
Match days	Coaches, players, parents	Medium	<p>Respect barriers should be as far as feasibly possible to avoid congestion around the pitch (around 3-5 metres).</p> <p>When the ball goes out of play, parents should be encouraged to play the ball back with their feet and not hands, where possible.</p> <p>Parents or guardians attending should be encouraged to social distance on the touchline, where possible, and maintain the Rule of Six or two households.</p> <p>The clubhouse will remain locked and therefore there will be no toilet facilities available.</p> <p>An NHS QR Code for the venue will be available outside the clubhouse and at each pitch side being used for a game, for spectators, coaches and officials to check-in using the NHS Covid-19 app.</p> <p>A safety briefing for both sets of players and officials will be provided before the game.</p>	For attendees without smart phones, an ability to take a manual record of their attendance will be provided, on request.
Match day equipment	Coaches and players	Low	All goals should be disinfected prior to and after the game, as should Respect barriers and corner flags.	

Risk/Hazard:	Who might be affected:	Level of Risk:	Controls required	Additional controls/Future controls to be considered and any other information:
			Match balls should be disinfected at intervals during the game, where possible.	
Match day player etiquette	Players and coaches	Low	Social distance as much as possible in between playing time, and at half time. Players should sanitise their hands before a game and as soon as possible afterwards. Handshaking, team huddles and goal celebrations should be avoided to minimise close contact.	
Training sessions or matches at other locations	Coaches	Low	Whilst at other venues for either training or matches, coaches must adhere to relevant risk assessments and requests associated with these locations.	
Handling of payments	Managers, coaches, parents, officials	Low	Wherever possible, payments should be made in a cashless manner.	
Lack of awareness or understanding of behaviour expected	Managers, players, coaches, volunteers	Low	FA Code of Behaviour circulated to all players, managers, coaches and volunteers within the club. Risk assessment shared with all stakeholders and published on the club website.	
Travel to and from training and games	Players, parents	Low	Car sharing can take place for those transporting players under the age of 18, but social distancing should happen where possible, wearing face masks during the journey is advised and opening a window slightly to allow circulation of air is advised, as well as checking that no-one has COVID symptoms before travelling, as per clarification received from the Oxfordshire FA.	

FA Summary guidance:

<https://www.thefa.com/news/2021/apr/08/grassroots-football-update-step-two-20210408>

What is the level of risk? For each hazard, choose determine the Harm and Likelihood. Look for ‘the most likely reasonably foreseeable injury’ **not** just the worst case.

H - Harm - <i>Decide How Someone Might be Harmed</i>	
Major	Fatality.
High	Amputations; multiple serious injuries; major fractures; major burns.
Moderate	Lacerations; burns; concussion; serious sprains; minor fractures.
Slight	Superficial injuries; minor cuts and bruises; eye irritation from dust.
L - Likelihood - <i>How Likely is it to Happen?</i>	
Very Unlikely	The hazard is very rarely experienced and exposure will seldom result in injury.
Unlikely	The hazard is rarely experienced and exposure will seldom result in injury.
Likely	The hazard is persistent but exposure may not always result in injury.
Very Likely	The hazard is persistent and exposure will undoubtedly result in injury.

Now use the matrix below to assess the Risk from the Harm and Likelihood for each hazard (e.g. if Harm was ‘Moderate’ and Likelihood ‘Unlikely’ the Risk would be ‘Medium’).

Risk table – to calculate the risk of each hazard use the table below:

Harm	Major	High	High	V High	V High
	High	Med	Med	High	V High
	Moderate	Low	Med	Med	Med
	Slight	Low	Low	Low	Low
		Very Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely	Very Likely
		Likelihood			

Where

Low Risk	No additional controls are necessary unless they can be implemented at very low cost (in terms of time, money and effort). Actions to further reduce these risks can be assigned low priority.
Medium Risk	Consideration should be given as to whether the risks can be lowered, where applicable, to a low risk level, but the costs of additional risk reduction measures should be take into account. The risk reduction measures should be implemented within a defined time period.
High Risk	Substantial efforts should be made to reduce the risk. Risk reduction measures should be implemented urgently within a defined time period and it might be necessary to consider suspending or restricting the activity, or to apply interim control measures, until this has been completed. Considerable resources might have to be allocated to additional control measures.
Very High Risk	<i>These risks are unacceptable.</i> Substantial improvements in risk controls are necessary. The work activity should be halted until risk controls are implemented. If it is not possible to reduce risk the work should remain prohibited.