



Return to Training – FAQs

Phase 2 FAQs

Do we have to start at phase 1 if we haven't started training before 10th August?

If clubs haven't started training before 10th August they do not need to start training at phase 1 they are able to start under phase 2 protocols.

Why have we moved to groups of 15? Why is contact training now permitted?

Our phased return of football identified that phase 2 would result in larger groups training and contact training being re-introduced. Welsh Government's announcement on Friday 31st July outlined that progress against the virus was conducive for further easing of restrictions which we have reflected in amending protocols in line with our phased return of football. The amended protocols ensure we are still within the 30-person limit set out by Welsh Government for organised outdoor activity.

Why can't matches still be played?

Our phased return of football detailed in the Safer Return to Training protocol document identified that matches could not be played until phase 3 at the earliest, therefore our announcement that we can move to phase 2 is a positive step towards the return of football fixtures.

Our ability to move to phase 3 will be dependent on two key areas:

An increase in the number of people permitted to take part in outdoor activities. The current 30-person limit for outdoor activities is not conducive for the return of football fixtures at all levels when incorporating players, coaches, first aiders, officials and parents.

An increase in the number of facilities being available for fixtures to take place across the country. A number of facilities typically used for football fixtures are still closed or are unavailable.

We continue to work with Welsh Government, Sport Wales and Welsh Sports Association to achieve further developments in these areas and we hope to be able to announce the return of matches in the near future.

Why is phase 2 not starting until Monday 10th August?

Starting from Monday 10th August gives clubs time to review amended protocol document, complete a new risk assessment and share information across their network

What do I need to do as a club to return under phase 2?

- Have AT LEAST one Club COVID-19 Compliance Officer appointed
- Club Management meeting to discuss FAW Safer Return to Training phase 2 protocols
- Club COVID-19 Compliance Officers to share FAW Safer Return to Training phase 2 protocols with Players, Parents, Coaches and volunteers and facility providers (if applicable)



- Complete a NEW COVID-19 risk assessment - this does not need to be shared with FAW for approval
- **If a club checklist has already been completed, clubs do not need to complete a new one for phase 2**

COACHING ACTIVITY

Can 2 teams from the same club share 1 training area (1 pitch) even if they are different age groups

Yes, further details on this is available on the FAWs Safer Return to Training Protocol document available [here](#)

Are clubs (not that we) allowed to share a pitch during this time? Club A plays at Bangor 3G and Trains, Club B also plays and trains at Bangor - is this allowed? as in sharing the grounds or is it one training area e.g. Club A only allowed inc all there mini/juniors teams with their senior team to play at one pitch

We would want clubs to have exclusivity over a training area for the training period (i.e. 7-8pm) and not share a training area i.e. a 3G pitch with another club during that time.

We would permit multiple clubs in utilising the same facility over the course of a week provided they follow cleaning guidelines. Further guidance around suggested training timetables to ensure clubs can manage entry and exit to a training facility appropriately is available via FAWs Safer Return to Training Protocol document.

Training is 14 players and 1 coach, if you have 20 children does that mean you have to have 2 coaches present?

Yes

Can a coach move between 2 groups during the same session? Is 1 coach to 5 players a requirement or can 1 coach work with 2 or more groups of 5 players at a session?

We would encourage coaches to stay with the same group for the duration of the training session and not move between 2 groups of players to limit contact between multiple players and coaches.

Do you have to have qualified coaches for senior football?

No, senior football does not require qualified coaches to lead activity

Can a coach hold 2 sessions back to back?

Providing coaches follow hygiene and equipment cleaning standards, they can lead 2 sessions with 2 different groups.

Are groups allowed to train indoors?

No, as per Welsh Government guidelines indoor training isn't permitted.

Would it be an idea for Clubs to run a rehearsal without players present well in advance of introducing players to iron out any potential issues?

Yes, that would be good practice and would support your clubs risk assessment completion.

Do the children need to remain in a bubble of 5 for every training session or can they change groups on a weekly basis?

We would encourage them to stay with the same group for phase 1 but recognise that training numbers may dictate movement of player between training groups.

Will each coach have free access to Coach Cymru for learning resource?

Yes provided they have an FAW Courses login – if coaches do not know their FAW courses login please contact info@fawcourses.com

Is there a time limit on training sessions?



There is no time limit on training sessions but we ask clubs to be mindful that players have had a prolonged absence from training and to consider appropriate timetabling to ensure sufficient entry and exit time for training groups from the training area. Further guidance on timetabling is provided in the Safer Return to Training protocols document.

PLAYER REGISTRATION & INSURANCE

When we start training can unregistered players join in the session? Will the insurance that the FAW provide be active for the signed players?

You don't need to be registered as a player on COMET in order to take part in a club training session under phase 1 of Return to Train. Any Players who aren't registered on COMET will not be insured if they start training before they are registered on COMET. They therefore train at their own risk (in the event of injury).

If you are registered as a Player on COMET and training with that club then you are also covered under FAW's Personal Accident insurance scheme. However, if a registered player participates in any activity that is prohibited by the Welsh Govt and does not follow FAW guidelines, then the player would not be covered under the FAW Personal Accident Insurance Scheme in the event of injury.

Please contact, registrations@faw.co.uk for any further information on player registrations on COMET.

When does the player registration window open?

The player registration is now open.

We have been told that pan disability players will not be on comet can you confirm this please that all pan-disability players will have to register

Pan-disability players who are playing in pan-disability leagues only, do not need to register as players on COMET.

If you're an Academy Player training with last-seasons grassroots Club, is that player covered given that his registration has been terminated?

Yes

PHASED RETURN OF FOOTBALL

The First Minister said football could restart, not that training could restart. He described football as a low-contact sport and that for that reason it could restart. This seems contrary to this guidance, which is all about returning to training. It seems the FM has gone a stage further than the FAW

Our main priority as a Governing Body is to ensure that football isn't the reason we see an increase in new Covid-19 cases and obviously a 2nd wave, which will undoubtedly put an unnecessary burden on the NHS. The FAW's/FAWT's return to training protocols are there as a guidance to ensure we all do as much as we can to stop the spread of this virus.

Our phased approach will allow players, coaches, staff & volunteers to resume football safely and gradually considering players haven't played for 4 months. It would be irresponsible of us to promote an immediate return to fixtures competition to prevent unnecessary injuries and support players return to football safely. This may not be the case if the process was accelerated too quickly. As highlighted in previous questions, there are also other factors that currently prohibit the return of football fixtures.

FUNDING

How we will be able to pay for all the cleaning stuff to keep everyone safe and clean, PPE



The Be Active Wales Fund, administered by Sport Wales, is available to support ALL clubs with additional equipment to meet our guidelines to return to training.

For more information on the Be Active Wales Fund, click [here](#)

WALKING FOOTBALL

Walking football rules are strictly non-contact. We play 4 a side, sometimes 5. are we allowed to resume? we have a risk assessment completed and a register of players contact details. The 3G pitch owners are happy for us to restart

Will there be any guidelines on Walking Football? I know this is a vulnerable group

Our guidelines are specifically related to Return to Training as part of our phased return of football. Walking football groups can adopt our guidelines to support their return to training but should check with their insurance and facility providers to confirm whether they are able to return. As was highlighted during the webinar, players should decide whether they feel comfortable to return to train given their own individual circumstances and should check with their GP if they have any medical issue.

FIRST AID & MEDICAL

Can players train if they have asthma or any respiratory issue?

Players should seek advice from their GP or medical professional if they are concerned about returning to train.

If we need more first aiders, is there going to be an online basics course?

We can't currently book a first aid course. Is there going to be any courses available soon?

Even though we have first aid trained volunteers some of them will have lapsed or are about too?

The first aid course has not been available, what do we do in that situation?

What if your FAW first aid has expired and was booked on but COVID blocked it, but have a first aid from work would still ok

Following guidance issued by the accredited awarding body for our FAW First Aid Award, Agored Cymru, we are unable to deliver our Award in the current climate. This centres around the practical nature of the course and competency assessment required for all candidates completing this Award. It is for these reasons that all candidates will need to attend in person opposed to exploring 'online' alternatives.

Therefore, all courses due to be held within the suspension period will be rearranged as a priority as soon as it is safe to do so. Certificate extensions have been provided for Coaches due to expire in 2020 – 2023.

In relation to adhering to phase 2 Return to Train guidelines:

For each club training area (i.e. per group of 30 people), a minimum of 1 FAW qualified first aider (or approved equivalent) that has a valid DBS will need to be present

This is an amendment to existing club accreditation regulations related to clubs providing a first aid qualified person per age group team/squad

Therefore, if clubs have multiple age groups training at the same time on the same training area – only 1 qualified first aider is required to be present

If clubs are using multiple training areas, a qualified first aider is required for each training area



For further support and information in relation to FAW Trust Club Accreditation Criteria and approved qualifications, please visit our website www.FAWTrust.cymru or directly on the following link - <https://www.fawtrust.cymru/grassroots/clubsupport/club-accreditation/accreditation-criteria/>

I assume clearer guidance will be provided in terms of First Aid provision?

Yes, a First Aid guidance document is available [here](#)

What PPE does FAW suggest that clubs need. e.g. disposable gloves, face shield, ordinary face mask. Do FAW have a preferred supplier for these items - as you can imagine these are going to be a popular item for all clubs, as well as additional cost to clubs.

We would advise clubs to look at purchasing face masks, gloves and disposable aprons for first aiders. The FAW doesn't have a preferred supplier but support is available through the Be Active Wales Fund to purchase these items.

COVID-19 COMPLIANCE OFFICER, COACH REGISTRATION & INSURANCE

How can we register coaches if COMET isn't open?

Coach registration has been open and available on COMET since 22nd June.

Do we have to register a compliance officer via comet?

No, just via the club checklist which is available [here](#). Clubs will only be able to identify one COVID-19 Officer via the checklist, the lead officer however they can appoint as many COVID-19 Officers and Operational Leads as they wish within the club.

Does the dbs need to be through FAW? Should DBS certs should also be in place for all clubs with a disability section as they may have vulnerable adults?

Yes DBS' need to be completed through the FAW and individuals working with vulnerable adults need to have a valid DBS check.

Are coaches only with confirmed registration on COMET, insured? We have a few pending.

Only coaches confirmed on COMET will be insured

Is the Club Covid-19 Compliance Officer insured by the FAW?

The Club COVID-19 Compliance Officer will be insured as part of the club's public liability insurance.

There will clearly need to be Risk Assessment for leagues (Junior Leagues mainly) if they run fixtures from central locations but does the guidance include the need for a League Covid-19 Compliance Officer?

Yes, further guidance around league protocols will be released in due course

Can the COVID-19 compliance officer for clubs still complete their other voluntary roles?

Yes

Do all clubs have to have a covid 19 compliance officer before resuming training?

Yes, clubs will need a COVID-19 Compliance Officer in place before resuming training. This will need to be confirmed via the Club Checklist.

Does the Club COVID-19 Compliance Officer need to be present at all training sessions?

A Club COVID-19 Compliance Officer or Operational Lead would need to be present at all training sessions. We would advise clubs to appoint more than 1 Club COVID-19 Compliance Officer and/or a network of Operational Leads to devolve responsibilities across the clubs. Operational Leads can be club coaches or team helpers.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Do we need to complete a risk assessment for each team or just 1 risk assessment for the club? Will the FAW be providing all clubs with a risk assessment template with regards to bringing back training?



You would need to complete a risk assessment for the club at each training venue your club uses. A template and guidance document will be available [here](#)

Will there be a section for clubs to use to risk assess the staff of the club to ensure they are ok to resume training - or would this be part of the overall risk assessment?

This could form part of an overall risk assessment for the club or you could use the template to complete a separate risk assessment for staff and volunteers.

Will FAW confirm that a club can return to training on submitting and completing documentation.

Clubs will not be formally approved to return to training by the Area Association, FAW or FAW Trust. Once clubs successfully complete the club checklist they would be eligible to return to training. Clubs should remember that their insurance cover is based on adhering to governing body guidelines.

FACILITY, EQUIPMENT AND CLEANING

What is FAW recommendations on the toilets usage at club facilities - currently public toilets are closed should clubs keep them closed?

Do we as clubs require hand sanitisers around the ground? Or can parents ensure to bring them for their child and senior players provide their own? Should we also ensure to get hand sanitisers for the club buildings such as toilets, ref room, toilets (even though we have a sink), canteen and changing rooms in preparation?

Guidance on toilet facilities and hand sanitisers are provided in the Safer Return to Training protocols available [here](#)

Is there a recommended alcohol-based cleaning agent or hand washing solution? Will there be detailed guidance on sanitisation?

Guidance on cleaning products are provided in the Safer Return to Training protocols available [here](#) by signposting to [Government guidance on cleaning in a non-healthcare setting](#)

Are there any restrictions in place if we only use a council field to train? If using council facilities for outdoor training can we utilise public toilet facilities?

You would need to contact your facility provider in advance of returning to train to check this.

If there are full size two pitches running parallel to each other are you still limited to max 30 people? even if they are separated and screened from each other?

In this instance, you would be permitted to have 60 players and coaches across the 2 training areas based on our guidelines of 30 players and coach per training area. You would need to consider how you manage entry to and exit from the facility to limit contact between players.

Will the FAW be providing clubs with PPE & Temperature measuring equipment?

These items will be eligible for clubs to apply for through the Be Active Wales Fund.

PARENTS

With mini and junior who have parents dropping them off, are they permitted to social distance off the pitch at a designated area? How do we control parents attending training session? Can they spectate from the sidelines? Is there any specific guidance relating parents who typically want to watch juniors training (outside training areas) as well as pick ups and drop offs etc?

Guidance on parent roles are provided in the Safer Return to Training protocols available [here](#)

Would you recommend to have all parents on hand through sessions just in case a first aid issue arises?

All parents should be contactable during the sessions in case of a first aid issue but as per guidelines they shouldn't be spectating on training sessions and congregating on the side of training areas.

OTHER

We normally don't return to training till mid-August. Do we wait to closer to the date before sharing with players committee?



We would encourage documents to be shared with club members as soon as possible in order for them to familiarise themselves with likely protocols that will be in place when they return.

Will documents be available in Welsh?

Yes training protocol, risk assessment and club COVID-19 Compliance Officer documents will be available in Welsh

How do we access previously recorded webinars, as they haven't been shared as previously suggested?

All webinars previously delivered have been shared with attendees. If you haven't received access, please contact info@fawtrust.cymru