

TJFC News Update

26th March 2021

All TJFC Parents

Only 3 days left until grassroots football starts again !

As promised, we intend resuming all activities from next Monday based upon the latest UK Gov guidance which states that “formally organised outdoor sports – for adults and under 18s - can restart, but should be compliant with guidance issued by national governing bodies.”

An extract of advice received from the FA on 24th March limits spectators watching from the sidelines to one parent per player, properly socially distanced – **so for the first 2 weekends we would ask that all parents comply with this requirement.**

COVID-19: STEP ONE GUIDANCE ON THE RETURN OF GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL

EVERY PARTICIPANT MUST FOLLOW ALL FA AND GOVERNMENT ADVICE. THIS IS CRUCIAL TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF EVERYONE INVOLVED IN THE GAME, AND SO WE CAN CONTINUE TO PLAY. ANY INCIDENTS OF NON-COMPLIANCE WILL BE REPORTED TO THE RELEVANT COUNTY FA FOR ACTION. THE LATEST GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE IS [HERE](#).

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE RETURN OF OUTDOOR GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL

On Monday 29th March, as part of the next step of the Government’s roadmap out of national lockdown, outdoor sports facilities can open, and organised outdoor sport can take place. **This means that from 29th March, organised outdoor football, following all the protocols in The FA’s guidance, can take place.** Organised outdoor disability football can take place, including under national lockdown. **This guidance document applies to all outdoor youth and adult football and futsal, including all formats of the game.**

SPECTATORS

No spectators are allowed at grassroots sport as part of step one of the Government’s roadmap. This means that at this stage, no spectators are allowed at grassroots football.

PARENTS/CARERS

Where clubs and facilities can accommodate this safely, one parent/carer per youth player is permitted to be present at football activities although they must observe the relevant Government Covid-19 guidance.

UK Gov advice regarding 2 households meeting up outdoors still applies, so there is nothing to stop you enjoying a little freedom on the rest of the Sportsground - so long as it is not on the sidelines.

The Pavilion will be open every weekend, including hot food and drink to take away, as before.

Advice from the FA also includes an extension in the season until the end of June, and Leagues will resume fixtures in the next couple of weeks. TMBC has agreed to extend the season until the end of May (leaving all fixed goals used by TJFC at the Sportsground and at Longmead standing) and we have applied for use of the Sportsground during June and July.

Direct Debits

As previously advised, all DD payments for all existing members have now been suspended.

2020/2021 Season extended to the end of June 2021

Your existing membership will remain valid, but no further payment will be required.

Fiesta

As previously advised, we thought that we would need to cancel the 2021 Fiesta rather than risk problems with social distancing. However, subject to approval from TMBC, we hope to organise a scaled down event on 17/18 July by reducing the numbers on site at any time.

Future News Updates will be posted onto our website, available to view using [TJFC.co.uk/links](https://www.tjfc.co.uk/links)

Stay safe

Kind regards

Reg

Reg Spicer, Chairman, TJFC / TAJFC

TJFC News Update

25th February 2021

All TJFC Parents

Yet again, thank you all for your overwhelming ongoing support, with at least 98% continuing their membership despite the problems with Covid.

Direct Debits

As advised in my last News Update, all DD payments have now been suspended.

Your existing mandate remains valid, and monthly DD payments will resume from September unless you advise to the contrary.

A discount has also been applied for all members who pay annually to maintain parity.

2020/2021 Season

Your existing membership will remain valid, but no further payment will be required.

We had no choice but to cease all Club activities during Lockdown, but the new Roadmap now allows organised competitive sport to re-commence from 29 March and, as promised, we intend resuming all Club activities from this date based upon the latest UK Gov guidance which states, "formally organised outdoor sports – for adults and under 18s - can also restart and will not be subject to the gatherings limits (Rule of 6), but should be compliant with guidance issued by national governing bodies."

Advice from the FA includes an extension in the season until the end of June.

Fiesta

As previously advised, we agreed to cancel the 2021 Fiesta rather than risk problems with social distancing. However, subject to approval from TMBC, we hope to organise a number of mini festivals during July, thus acting responsibly by reducing the numbers on site at any time.

Future News Updates will be posted onto our website, available to view using [TJFC.co.uk/links](https://tjfc.co.uk/links)

Stay safe

Kind regards

Reg

Reg Spicer, Chairman, TJFC / TAJFC

TJFC News Update

14th January 2021

All TJFC Parents

Yet again, thank you all for your ongoing support.

Direct Debits

Following the latest UK Gov guidance which put us all in Lockdown (stay at home) until half term, your Management Committee met via a Zoom meeting last night and agreed that all monthly DD payments should be suspended following your scheduled payment in February.

No action is required on your part, as I will automatically suspend all DD payments during March - August (inclusive). Your existing mandate will remain valid, and monthly DD payments will resume from September unless you advise to the contrary.

Members who pay annually will receive a discount next season to maintain parity.

2020/2021 Season

We have had no choice but to cease all Club activities until such time as restrictions are relaxed. However, we will take prompt action to resume activities wherever possible, including extending our season into May/June/July/August.

Your existing membership will remain valid, but no further payment will be required.

Fundraising

As you know, the 2020 Fiesta had to be cancelled, and we have also agreed to cancel the 2021 Fiesta rather than risk problems with social distancing. The Fiesta is our main fundraising event and (together with reduced DD income) I would estimate that Covid will have reduced our net income by approximately £75k by end August 2021. Net expenses will probably be reduced by approximately £15k during the same period. Despite this, we are confident that we will be fit for purpose (including up-front costs for 2021/2022) as soon as we are able to resume activities.

Welfare issues

If you are experiencing any welfare issues for any reason please contact our welfare officer Alison Roberts (alison.roberts70@hotmail.co.uk) in confidence.

Future News Updates will be posted onto our website, available to view using [TJFC.co.uk/links](https://www.tjfc.co.uk/links)

Stay safe

Kind regards

Reg

Reg Spicer, Chairman, TJFC / TAJFC

TJFC News Update

6th January 2021

All TJFC Parents

Yet again, thank you all for your ongoing support during the past few weeks.

Following the latest UK gov guidance which put us all in Lockdown (stay at home) until half term, your Management Committee has no choice but to cease all Club activities until such time as restrictions are relaxed. This reflects the advice that all schools will close, and that the FA has suspended all grass roots football until further notice. Should the position alter for grass roots football we will take prompt action to resume activities wherever possible, including extending our season into May/June.

Your Committee also agreed (prior to lockdown) that all members should receive at least one month's membership free, to be applied in the last scheduled DD payment. Given the latest lockdown, this will be increased to two month's membership free (generally applied at the beginning of March /April / May depending on age group).

Unless restrictions are relaxed, the Pavilion will be closed until half term and mid-week training will not resume until after half term.

You can, of course, cancel your DD at any time – but please note that you would then need to re-apply for membership, subject to space being available. If you are experiencing any welfare issues for any reason please contact our welfare officer Alison Roberts (alison.roberts70@hotmail.co.uk) in confidence.

Future News Updates will be posted onto our website, available to view using [TJFC.co.uk/links](https://www.tjfc.co.uk/links)

Stay safe

Kind regards

Reg

Reg Spicer, Chairman, TJFC / TAJFC

TJFC News Update

31st December 2020

All TJFC Parents

Yet again, thank you all for your ongoing support during the past few weeks.

This note is just to confirm that in the light of the current environment we will not be opening the clubhouse this weekend and will not start midweek training next week as planned, even though it is permitted under the current Govt /FA guidelines.

The Club will communicate a revised start date on Thursday 7th Jan once we have had the opportunity to assess all the relevant factors and I hope you can understand this conservative yet prudent approach at this stage.

Future News Updates will be posted onto our website, available to view using [TJFC.co.uk/links](https://tjfc.co.uk/links)

Stay safe

Kind regards

Reg Spicer, Chairman

TJFC News Update

3rd December 2020

All TJFC Parents

Firstly, thank you all for your ongoing support during the past few weeks. An unsolicited email received from one of our parents said it all :-

To: ali launder <ali.launder@gmail.com> Date: Mon, 9 Nov 2020 at 12:09

Subject: Re: Lockdown - TJFC

Thank you for this email.

My son has been with the club since he has been old enough to join the club. I can not praise the coaches and admin teams who make it all happen enough, TJFC is a fantastic club and we are delighted to be a part of it. Each adult genuinely cares about teaching the kids and their welfare. Thank you. We are happy for our DD payments to continue as is.

Best regards,

..... (Mum)

Tier 3

We now know that Kent has been placed into Tier 3 at least until 16th December, which has caused numerous problems since travel into and out of Tier 3 areas are effectively banned and most of our Leagues have decided to postpone all fixtures until January 2021

Outdoor organised sport, however, is allowed to continue - and we therefore plan to resume post-lockdown friendlies and training from Saturday onwards, so we are fit and ready for League fixtures when they resume. To do so, we would ask you all to fully comply with the Social distancing requirements laid down by UK Gov which adopt the Rule of 6 "bubble" approach.

Managers will be requested to place a line of cones 3 meters from the sideline, at 3 metre intervals, and we would ask each household bubble to stay in one space **behind** the row of cones. Some pitches will be treated as unavailable, to ensure that you are not placed at risk by others standing behind you, but in all other respects play will continue as if lockdown never happened. The Pavilion will be open for all with a password and face mask for hot food and drinks to take away, and toilets will be open.

Young'uns

Young'uns will also resume on Saturday, and we would ask all Parents to bring suitable clothing to ensure their children are kept warm and dry during periods when they are not playing. In the past we have moved Young'uns indoors after half term, but this is not possible at present.

Mid Week Training

Tonbridge School and Judd have agreed that we may resume mid-week training, and we will be extending training into the Christmas holidays at both (your Manager will advise applicable times).

Monthly DD payments

As previously advised, the Club's cash flow is heavily loaded to the start of the season but I can now report that these initial expenditures have all been paid.

This has been helped by your ongoing support, and also by a Gift Aid refund of over £10,000 which has only been made possible via your voluntary donations.

As promised, we will review the DD situation in the New Year and, if necessary, reduce the number of payments taken this season.

Membership Cards

Whilst writing, it is worth noting that we have registered TJFC with Easyfundraising (having minimised the marketing emails it normally generates), and would suggest that you follow the 2 links below if you would like to participate.

[TJFC Easy Fundraising](#) and [TJFC Easy Fundraising Donation Reminder](#)

As a trial, 3 of your Committee members have raised £15 between them in just a few weeks. With 1500 parents, this could prove very valuable. It costs you nothing, but **all** funds raised will be used to provide member discounts on kitchen prices. To this end, all members will receive a TJFC membership card (which we suggest that parents hold for safekeeping) in the next few weeks.

Future News Updates

Future News Updates will be posted onto our website, available to view using [TJFC.co.uk/links](https://www.tjfc.co.uk/links)

Stay safe

Kind regards

Reg Spicer, Chairman

TJFC News Update

6th November 2020

TJFC Parent

This note is just to advise that as part of the UK government's COVID lockdown policy all grassroots football is included in the 4 week break.

The respective leagues are currently rescheduling fixture calendars to catch up on the planned schedule before the end of the season, and the Club plans to extend mid-week training into the holiday periods wherever possible.

To date, we have either suspended monthly direct debits or reduced the amount payable by those who pay annually to maintain parity. However, as the Club's cash flow is heavily loaded to the start of the season with equipment, kit purchases and advance pitch hire, we have decided to review the situation in the New Year and will, if necessary, reduce the number of payments taken this season.

This method will help us to reduce the significant administration of stopping and then re-starting direct debits. Your Committee deserve a huge vote of thanks for their work in implementing a Covid safe environment, and I hope that you will agree to support them by allowing them to concentrate on getting us up and running again as soon as the lockdown is over.

You can, of course, cancel your DD at any time – but please note that you would then need to re-apply for membership, subject to space being available. If you are experiencing any welfare issues for any reason please contact our welfare officer Alison Roberts (alison.roberts70@hotmail.co.uk) in confidence.

Thank you for your continued support.

Stay safe

Kind regards

Reg

Reg Spicer, Chairman, TJFC / TAJFC

TJFC News Update

8th May 2020

Your Management Committee has met via a Zoom video meeting, to discuss steps necessary to ensure the safety of our members post lockdown.

The Pavilion will be opened as soon as clear definition on social gathering has been defined by the Government, but we assume that training will be phased throughout the weekend to ensure that there are not too many people on site at the same time.

Including parents (who are TJFC members under our Constitution), we have well over 2,000 members, and sadly we have been advised that at least one has passed away due to Covid. Our deepest condolences go to the family concerned. When we get back, we will ask all concerned to join with us in a minute's silence as a mark of respect, even if this is actioned in small groups for social distancing purposes.

Use of the Pavilion will need to be very limited, to ensure we comply with the rules.

On the plus side,

- We will register all teams ready for next season. To do so, we will be sending out links asking parents to review and update player details
- All monthly DD's have been suspended, and will not re-start until play is resumed.
- Those who decided to pay annually this season will see their payments reduced next season to ensure parity with those paying monthly.
- Managers will be asked to define new kit requirements, and Macron has agreed to book production of 200 new shirts for delivery by end August.
- When we re-open, managers can collect medals and trophies for presentation to their players.
- Managers will be requested to collect all kit needing replacement, and return to the pavilion ready for use by others.
- We are also asking all those who haven't signed up for Gift Aid to do so. A link will be sent to appropriate parents in the next few weeks.

Hope to see you all again soon.
Stay safe

Reg