

**FAI FUTSAL
SAFER RETURN TO TRAINING
& PLAYING PROTOCOL**

FIRST Edition 13th July 2020

**Adult Amateur Futsal
& Underage Futsal**



INTRODUCTION

- This Protocol applies to both Futsal training and the playing of Futsal matches
- This Protocol must be followed in conjunction with the updated FAI Safer Return to Training Protocol and the FAI Safer Return to Play Protocol
- The principles of risk mitigation are identical for training and for playing, please refer to **FAI Safer Return to Training Protocol** (<http://fai.ie/safer-return-to-training>)
- The primary aim is to reduce the risk of transmissibility of the COVID-19 virus to as low a level as possible
- In so doing, we will protect the Health and Safety of our players, coaches, match officials, parents, guardians, volunteers, administrators and spectators
- This Protocol must be utilised in line with all other FAI Policy documents including FAI Child Welfare and Safeguarding Policy

CONTENTS

1. KEY POINTS
2. FUTSAL SPECIFIC GUIDELINES
3. CLUB MANAGEMENT | COVID-19 COMPLIANCE OFFICERS
4. PREPARING VENUES, FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT
5. PRE-TRAINING AND PRE-MATCHES
6. WARM-UPS
7. DURING THE GAME
8. AFTER THE GAME
9. CONTACT TRACING

1. KEY POINTS

- Futsal clubs are permitted to resume full contact training and training matches between teams from the same club from July 13th
- Futsal clubs are permitted to play competitive matches from July 18th
- For clubs using a facility they rent or do not own, they should liaise with the facility owner as there is dual responsibility when it comes to ensuring all protocols are being adhered to
- Coaches, Parents/Guardians, Volunteers, Administrators and Spectators must adhere to Social Distancing of 2 metres at all times
- Practice good hand hygiene with regular hand washing and the use of hand sanitizer
- Practice good **coughing and sneezing etiquette** – <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/healthwellbeing/infectcont/sth/gl/section-3-app-3-8.pdf>
- Do not attend training/matches if you are unwell. Stay at home and contact your GP if you have symptoms suggestive of COVID-19

The symptoms include:

1. Temperature of 38C or greater
2. Sudden onset of cough or shortness of breath
3. Sudden loss of the sense of taste or smell

2. FUTSAL SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

- Maximum 50 people allowed in indoor venue (including players/coaches/Compliance Officers, etc)
- Host club, competition organiser and venue management to ensure implementation and adherence to all protocols
- Ensure venue has good ventilation
- Where 2 metres social distancing cannot be maintained, there is to be no use of changing facilities
- Ensure all touch points (including chairs/benches) are thoroughly cleaned
- At half-time changeover, ensure same chairs/benches are used by the same teams
- Stop clock (if being used) must be sanitised before and after every game
- During Roll out-in, players should not exchange bibs. Players should use the same bib at all times, when playing and on the bench
- Plan for changeover of teams after sessions so there is time to clean all common areas and surfaces – venue/ venue officer is responsible for the management of changeovers.

3. CLUB MANAGEMENT | COVID-19 COMPLIANCE OFFICERS

- It is recommended club management committees meet to review both the FAI Futsal Safer Return to Training and Playing Protocol ahead of any return to training on July 13th or thereafter
- All club meetings must adhere to 2 metres social distancing guidelines
- COVID-19 Compliance Officers should be familiar with the FAI Futsal Safer Return to Training and Playing Protocol and both the updated FAI Safer Return to Training Protocol and the FAI Safer Return to Play Protocol
- Clubs must return the FAI Safer Return to Training checklist before commencing training, available at FAI.ie
- All clubs must appoint at least one COVID-19 Compliance Officer before any return to training is implemented
- Clubs with multiple training venues will need to appoint more than one COVID-19 Compliance Officer (minimum 1 per training venue)
- The FAI will provide Role and Responsibilities Document for all COVID-19 Compliance Officers, available at <https://www.fai.ie/domestic/news/fai-safer-return-to-play-protocol>
- Clubs must confirm appointment of COVID-19 Compliance Officer(s) to FAI via the checklist
- Clubs must ensure, through their COVID-19 Compliance Officers, that all coaches, parents and players are fully aware of their responsibilities
- Clubs must continually educate players/coaches/parents/guardians/volunteers – see <https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/>
- Clubs are advised to inform their insurers of their intention to return to training

4. PREPARING VENUES, FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT

- A COVID-19 Risk Assessment must be carried out by all clubs in advance of any resumption of training and/or facility reopening
- For clubs using a facility they rent or do not own, they should liaise with the facility owner as there is dual responsibility when it comes to ensuring all protocols are being adhered to
- FAI Risk Assessment Template can be found here – FAI Risk Assessment Template (insert hyperlink)
- The Risk Assessment must be reviewed regularly and kept up to date at all times
- The Risk Assessment must be in line with any Government updates to the Roadmap for the Reopening of Society and Business
- Use separate entrance and exits (if possible) to the court and main building
- Where 2 metres social distancing cannot be maintained, there is to be no use of changing facilities
- No shower facilities can be used until further notice
- Water fountains must not be used

4. PREPARING VENUES, FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT

- Sanitary facilities should be accessible for players and coaches
- Sanitary facilities should be thoroughly cleaned before the first and after the last training session at the venue and before and after matches
- Hand sanitiser and cleaning products should be available in the sanitary facilities for use during training sessions and matches
- All equipment – including goalposts and chairs/benches – must be sanitised before and after each training session or match
- Players and coaches must bring their own hand sanitiser
- Clubs are advised to have additional hand sanitiser in place and observe strict hand hygiene measures
- COVID-19 Signage must be clearly visible throughout the facility
- COVID-19 Signage is available to download from FAI.ie

5. PRE-TRAINING AND PRE-MATCHES

- Clubs should arrive as close to start of training or kick-off time as is feasible
- All players should travel to training/matches in line with HSE Guidelines
- Players should arrive to training/matches in their gear
- Players should bring their own labelled, food and water
- Seal them in a plastic bag
- On arrival, observe and obey the COVID-19 signage
- Players and Coaches should observe 2 metres social distancing where possible (warm-ups, meetings, team-talks)
- No hand greetings are permitted (handshakes, fist pumps, high fives)
- Spectators must adhere to 2 metres social distancing at all times
- The coordination of pre-match protocol i.e. team sheet, equipment check, coin toss should be discussed and agreed upon the Match Official's arrival to the court.
- Have 2 match balls for the game, one can be sanitised as the game continues

6. WARM-UPS

- Observe 2 metres social distancing at all times where possible (pre-match activities)
- Practice good coughing and sneezing etiquette
- No hand greetings are permitted (handshakes, fist pumps, high fives)
- Only consume liquids and food from your own labelled supplies
- Use hand sanitizer before and after you have completed the warm-up
- No spitting is permitted
- Pre-training and pre-game team meetings must take place on the court and must not last more than 10 minutes

7. DURING THE GAME

- Coaches, Parents/Guardians, Volunteers, Administrators and Spectators must adhere to Social Distancing of 2 metres, where possible
- Practice good coughing and sneezing etiquette
- Use hand sanitizer at half time and before the commencement of the second half
- No hand greetings are permitted (handshakes, fist pumps, high fives)
- No spitting is permitted
- Spectators must adhere to 2 metres social distancing at all times
- Substitutes must adhere to 2 metres social distancing during warm-ups
- Substitutes must adhere to 2 metres social distancing on the bench.
- Ball sanitising by officials at all major stoppages (at the end of 1st half/ time-outs)
- Face covering should be considered by coaches, table officials, and all other support/club staff Any staff/club member involved with floor cleaning after a player falls on the ground should wear masks and be mindful to wash hands immediately at half-time and full-time.
- The cleaning of any blood/mucus/other should be in adherence with HSE guidelines

8. AFTER THE GAME

- Players and Match Officials must adhere to 2 metres social distancing at the final whistle and when exiting court and venue
- No hand greetings are permitted (handshakes, fist pumps, high fives)
- Practice good coughing and sneezing etiquette
- No spitting is permitted
- Spectators must adhere to 2 metres social distancing at all times
- Post-game team meetings must be held on court and must not last more than 10 minutes
- Use hand sanitizer after the game
- Wash your hands when you get home

9. CONTACT TRACING

- Contact tracing is a key component to all activities around the game
- The COVID-19 Compliance Officer will keep a register of **ALL** Players, Match Officials, Coaches, Parents/Guardians, Volunteers, Administrators and Spectators attending the match
- Spectators must register with contact details on arrival at the venue and the registration sheet must be kept by the COVID-19 compliance officer
- Each club is responsible for providing its own COVID-19 Compliance Officer with a list of players and staff for every game, home or away
- This will include name and contact details
- This register is best kept electronically and be updated continually

**FAI FUTSAL
SAFER RETURN TO TRAINING &
PLAYING PROTOCOL**

FIRST Edition 13th July 2020

**Adult Amateur Futsal
& Underage Futsal**

