

AFC MANSFIELD COVID-19 PROCEDURE

Introduction

The following procedure covers the AFC Mansfield site and is designed to reduce the possibility of contact with COVID-19. It will commence from the 1st. August 2020 when matches behind closed doors will be allowed to restart and encompasses the period from 1st. September when paying spectators will then be allowed into the ground.

Consideration has been given to the wellbeing of players, officials, and spectators and wherever possible gives two-metre social distancing, but at all times maintains a minimum of one metre as per Government guidelines.

It covers entry to the ground, navigation within it and includes all essential facilities such as toilets and refreshments. To accomplish the procedure objective there is ample sanitation provision at designated points in the ground and signage for a one-way system operational within the site. To facilitate adherence, stewards will be strategically placed to advise and police its implementation to retain the one-metre social distancing.

Entrance to the site

The main entrance off Second Avenue which provides access to the site will be fully opened on match days; this will provide sufficient access for entrance and exit whilst maintaining the one-metre rule

Parking

There is ample parking available in the Arena car park. In the interest of safety parking within the site could be suspended if necessary until such times as COVID-19 procedures are deemed unnecessary.

Entrance to the Ground

The ground will be entered by everyone through the turnstiles and gate to the side of the turnstiles and exited in the same way. Additional gates will be opened at the end of the match as required. This will maintain the one-metre rule, social distancing will be maintained and will avoid potential crowd congestion. At all times a one-metre social distancing will be maintained, this will be achieved with the help of one-metre spacing signage up to the entrance to cope with peak periods. Sanitation stations will be positioned at the entrance to the ground.

Navigation within the ground

Within the ground we will operate a one-way system (see to ensure that one-metre social distancing is maintained at all times. As previously stated this will be achieved by signage and policing by designated stewards.

Toilets

Access to the toilets during the period of the COVID-19 Procedure will be accessed by the entrance to the Arena, thus eliminating the need for any unauthorized personnel to enter the clubhouse. Hygiene will be paramount, sanitation stations will be available and numbers limited to maintain social distancing. A steward will be on hand to control this area. Automatic hand dryers are situated in the toilets and disposal paper towels will be provided if required on request.

Refreshments

On match days a limited refreshment service will operate, this will be at Bully's Snack Bar next to the changing pavilion via the external serving hatch. Disposable tableware will be used to reduce contact to a minimum and a sanitation station will be located in this area. One-metre markings will ensure that it is maintained and the queueing area will be positioned to ensure that persons using the one-way system will always be able to do so whilst maintaining the one-metre rule.

Changing Rooms

Changing rooms are marked out into one-metre sections and can accommodate 8 people at any one time. Only one person is allowed in the toilet area at any one time. Currently showers are not to be used, but this will be reassessed in the near future.

Players and Officials

On arrival at the ground all players and officials will be directed to the changing rooms. Once inside they will have their temperature recorded to ensure it falls within the acceptable limits. Anyone whose temperature gives cause for concern will be asked to leave the site in the interest of the safety and wellbeing of those whose temperature meets the guidelines given by the Government. Once the temperature check has been completed, the changing rooms will be deemed all clear to access/exit.

Sanitations

Prior to all games the exterior fencing, goal posts, corner flags and balls will be sanitized by the spraying of disinfectant. Goalposts and corner flags will be resprayed at half time and the balls as and when required to conform with the FA directive. All areas accessed by players/officials and spectators will also be sanitized prior to match days.

Emergency Evacuation

In the event of an emergency evacuation the ground has three exits all accessible within the one-way system without infringing on the one-metre rule.

Players Bench

During the behind closed doors fixtures an area will be used in two segregated sections which will provide a space for the teams to assemble to maintain a one-metre social distancing.

The AFC Mansfield nominated COVID-19 coordinator and medical advisors have been nominated and in addition a number of the Club's committee members are being trained to act as ground stewards on match days when a minimum of three will be used.

Conclusion

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure this procedures success, it is recognized that the situation is fluid and will need constant monitoring and, where necessary, updating. This could be through changes in Government of the FA's directive, or where shortfalls occur when put into practice. The Club however feel the framework is in place to provide a clean and as far as possible safe environment for everyone visiting the Forest Town Arena.