Club Secretaries

As a result of the recent Government announcement on Tier changes, the

League has decided to postpone all fixtures for the next 3 weekends (until

17th January) and will continue to review the situation as the Government

makes future decisions about Tier changes.

This does not mean that the League has suspended football, but first I need

to explain the situation, we find ourselves in.

Although the Government and FA guidelines state that organized U18 football

can continue at Tier 3 & Tier 4, things are a little more complicated. You

also need to consider the restrictions on crossing a Tier 4 boundary as

well.

From a League perspective we have Wiltshire Clubs in Tier 3 and Swindon,

Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire Clubs in Tier 4. But we don't

have a single Tier 3 to Tier 4 boundary, we have multiple boundaries because you are locked into a local authority area and teams are not permitted to fulfil fixtures in any other local authority area even if for example the area is at the same Tier 4 level (e.g., a Swindon team is not permitted to play a Gloucestershire team, even though both authorities are Tier 4).

Therefore, for fixtures we now have 5 pools of Clubs that could play each

other as long as they stay within their own pool.

However, there is another complication, players and coaches cannot cross

boundaries either, for both matches and training. So, for example Swindon

teams (T4) may have players living in Wiltshire (T3) or Gloucestershire

(T4), but they cannot travel to play football.

Then there is the potential issue of venues. We do not know what venues

will now be available given the new situation.

So, going forward the League has cleared the fixtures for the next 3

weekends, but we still want to facilitate our Clubs to play football if they want to and are in a position to do so. However, we are not in a position to be able to decide which fixtures can go ahead given the multiple restrictions detailed previously.

So, we are proposing that, if they wish to do so, Teams / Clubs can request a fixture for the free weekends. If you want to play and you have sufficient players available, take a look at your remaining fixtures and reach out to any Team that is in the same pool as you, contact them and see if they are in a position to also play. If they are, and you have a date & venue for the fixture then let the League know and we will move that fixture in FULL-TIME for you. If appropriate and if we have sufficient notice of the fixture, we will do our best to appoint a Referee.

It is the Club's responsibility to ensure that all Government and FA guidance is being adhered to. Please ensure that you have read all the guidance available on the FA / County FA websites, ensure that you do not have players / coaches crossing Tier 4 boundaries for matches or training, remember that the FA has all the addresses in WGS and any reported issue will be dealt with via the FA COVID-19 Compliance Breach process by the County FA.

This is not a great situation we find ourselves in, we know that there is a

broad spectrum of opinions on whether grassroots football should continue or be shutdown, we are not going to say that you need to continue to play but if you want to and can find another team to play then we will help

facilitate it.

Note:

For clarity, Swindon is defined as follows:

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Swindon/@51.580459,-1.8139826,12z/data=!4m>

5!3m4!1s0x4871460795a57d69:0x30d8b23d499a020!8m2!3d51.5557518!4d-1.7796705

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League