**WEARSIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

 **Sunday 26th July 2020**

**Held via Zoom Video Conference at 1.00pm.**

**Present:** Peter Maguire (Chairman), Kevin Harrison (Secretary), Frank Thompson,

Dave Copeland, Helen Pollard, Joe Partridge, Keith Simpson, Kevin Gibson,

Kevin Oliver, Kieran Downey, Malcolm Langley, Phil Tye, Emma Collins, Mick Grant.

**Apologies:** George McKitterick, Kevin McKitterick, Marshall Lawson.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 1.00pm, which was called to discuss the start of the season

and implications of Covid19.

The meeting was informed that the FA have given the go ahead for leagues to commence their fixtures for the 2020/21 season from September and Kevin reported that he will be putting out fixtures from 2nd September 2020. The FA have mandated that all clubs should have a nominated COVID Officer and need to complete a Risk Assessment of their facilities. Kevin has put together a sample as a guide and will be circulating it to all clubs.

Discussions then took place and it was proposed that the following suggestions, recommendations should be applied by clubs to comply with the Risk Assessment:-

* **Changing Rooms** - Each club must determine via their own risk assessment if they will be able to use their changing rooms during the current pandemic. If numbers are to be limited in their changing rooms, **priority must be given to the away team to use them.** The match officials will need to be notified prior if there will be no changing facilities for them. The league secretary needs to be informed if changing facilities cannot be used at all so that he can inform all clubs in the division.
* **Team Sheets** - These should **not be physically handed over** to either the referee or the club. Instead a photo should be taken of the sheet and emailed / text / or use WhatsApp to send to both the club and the referee.
* **Payments to Match Officials** - In the committee’s view, paying officials by electronic means is not viable in most cases due to the reluctance of both the club and officials to provide bank details. If both club and match officials agree prior to the game to do it that way that is fine. The committee suggested that monies be sanitised and placed in a plastic bag before being handed to officials.
* **Refreshments -** It should be the responsibility of every club / player/ match official to provide their own drinks. The league has therefore decided to **suspend the need to provide refreshments before / during / after games until further notice.**
* **Game Confirmation** - When confirming the game, it is important for the home team to indicate to the away team and match officials of any particular circumstances at their ground.
* **Respect Handshake** - There is to be **no respect handshake** and players should not come out together behind the referee.
* **Car Parking** - Clubs to give priority for parking spaces for Match Officials (& Assessor) and the away team if social distancing is not practical.
* **Travelling to Games** - Clubs to follow the Government/FA guidance issued regarding social distancing and face masks etc. as detailed in the Risk Assessment provided.

To comply with Test and Trace the names and contact details of all attending the ground are required to be recorded.

Peter informed the meeting that, as far as he was aware, at present no supporters are allowed into grounds yet and he will be contacting Durham FA Secretary John Topping to seek clarification. He will also be attending a meeting on 4th August 2020 with Sunderland City Council regarding pitch allocations and find out their latest instruction from the FA.

**A.O.B.**

* **Defibrillators** - Phil asked those committee members representing clubs that had loaned out their defibrillators if they had been returned yet. He will be contacting all other clubs.

Being no other business, the meeting closed at 1.40pm.