

Football Holiday Courses restart w/c 27th July

Introduction

From 27th July we will be returning to a full day programme and in groups of 12 with one coach. Following new guidance issued by the FA for the return of outdoor competitive grassroots football, CACT will be adding a competitive element to our current adapted holiday courses.

CACT understands that the risk of Covid-19 is very concerning with the outcome of contracting the virus being very serious for many people. It is vital that CACT makes the necessary changes to its programmes, ensuring to the best of our abilities the safety of attendees, staff and members of the public. Below is our plan which will allow us to provide adapted football holiday course sessions. This plan ensures that CACT continues to follow government guidelines.

CACT is looking to provide this opportunity for young people in response to what over recent weeks has been a noticeable increase in sporting activity taking place in public areas. We have noticed that at times, this has involved large numbers of young people congregating. We have also had to stop large groups entering our community pitch who were attempting to climb over the fence. We feel the better option is to open the facility for limited periods therefore facilitating and overseeing the safe use of our pitch by young people.

Session Logistics

CACT's priority is to provide a safe and managed environment allowing children to return to football over the coming weeks. CACT are offering a full days provision to children aged 4-15 so they can access an area of the CACT community pitch. The pitch will be split in to areas with 12 young people being assigned to each of the coned off areas, a maximum of 75 children per session. We will have 7 staff on site, 1 floating head coach and 6 coaches coaching with a maximum of 12 children in each group.

CACT staff will meet the parents in the Fooks Cray Rugby club car park 15 minutes prior to their allocated time slot. The car park will operate a car flow and drop off point so parents don't need to leave their vehicle. Temperature checks will be taken and hands will be sanitised. After this children will be allocated a group which will be colour coded and be clearly identified on the grass area in front of the car park. The coaches will then escort the young people in a staggered fashion to the Community pitch. In their groups the coaches will start by filling up the far side of the pitch first with the last area nearest the gate to be the last to be filled so there isn't a crossover of people. Children will be told to strictly restrict their movements to their designated area. CACT coaches will monitor this throughout and ensure children stay in their designated area which will be colour coded.

There will be strictly no pay of the days and the gate at Foots Cray will be closed 15 minutes after the session has started. CACT toilets will be open and children will go in and use the toilets one by one, the head coach will fully clean the toilet area after use and toilet breaks will be in their designated groups, no one can go from another group at the same time. CACT staff to clear the site and clean the relevant equipment. Structured sessions will be delivered by CACT coaches who will focus on ensuring social distancing is maintained throughout the sessions by all players and staff. CACT staff will observe sessions at all times from a distance ensuring all restrictions are followed. Spectators will not be allowed onsite ensuring there is not a gathering outside of the pitch. Parents/carers dropping young people off will be asked to leave the site and return at the collection time.

CACT staff highlighted to work on the session will be provided with online training prior to the sessions. The training will cover the session logistics/requirements along with health and safety and risk assessments. CACT staff will sign to acknowledge they are competent to deliver the requirements of working on this session following this training. CACT Football Development team are using all 8 of its full time staff to deliver these sessions to ensure all requirements are implemented and any need for de-escalation with young people is done so using the right approach. CACT management staff will be on standby to further support the sessions in the event of staff sickness.

Equipment

Equipment will be colour coded to only be used in the corresponding colour coded designated area of the pitch. This colour coding will help CACT staff and attendees ensure that equipment is not shared. Equipment provided will be cleaned in between each session. Children will only be able to use CACT provided equipment. Bags and belongings will be left in a safe area marked on the pitch and will be monitored by CACT staff. Attendees will be asked to bring healthy fluids and lunch with them which will be allowed to the designated pitch areas.

First aid/Injuries

CACT staff all hold their first aid and safeguarding qualifications. Fully stocked first aid kits will be on site. First aid will be administered where required. If first aid is required, 1 CACT staff member will enter the area but will ask the young person who is not injured to move away to a safe distance. In the event of a serious injury the emergency services will be called immediately. Due to the non-contact and non-competitive nature of the sessions we expect the level of injuries to be very low.

Comms/Marketing

CACT will produce comms and marketing for the session via various media channels. The marketing will focus heavily on getting the message across that these sessions will be safe and will always be heeding government guidelines ensuring young people and staff will remain socially distanced throughout their attendance. CACT sees this as a responsible approach to facilitating young people engaging in activity during these current times. Public perception is important and CACT will ensure our guidelines and messaging is clear to avoid negative comments.

Partner consultation

CACT is moving forward with this venture with the full consultation of key partners and stakeholders. Discussions have been held with The Premier League, The Football Foundation, London FA and both Greenwich and Bexley councils. We are also in consultation with the local Police to ensure they are fully aware of the plans as they move forward.

The CACT community pitch is situated on the site of Foots Cray Rugby club adjacent the CAFC training ground. CACT will provide this detailed plan along with the appropriate risk assessments to both CAFC and Foots Cray Rugby club for their agreement prior to the sessions starting.

The above changes and restrictions we feel will allow for the safe use and reopening of the community pitch. Bulleted below are the main points which have also been captured in the attached risk assessment.

Main points for Football Holiday Courses at CAFC Training Ground, Footscray Rugby Club, Footscray Road, SE9 2EL

- CACT pitch to be divided up into areas
- Must pre book via CACT website or over the phone
- 12 players will be allocated to one coach and one of the areas of the pitch
- Players must remain in their allocated area
- Regular equipment cleaning
- CACT Coaches will deliver structured & game based sessions in their group of 12 only
- CACT coaches will manage all aspects of safety while young people are on site
- A minimum of 5 CACT coaches to work on the sessions
- Game/ match based sessions will take place in the groups of 12 only
- Young people will be encouraged to focus their training around fitness, dribbling, passing, shooting and finishing.

- No spectators are allowed on site unless they are required to administer medication in a medical emergency
- If young people are later than 15 minutes they will not be able to join in the session
- CACT toilets will be made available during the day but only for one person at a time, toilets will be cleaned after use
- Parents will be asked to arrive 15 minutes before their session starts
- Parents will be asked to pick up via the drop off point in Footscray car park
- Arrival and departure lanes will be put in place by CACT staff to keep young people apart as they enter and leave the site