GUIDANCE NOTES NO:

6.4

FOOTBALLS STAYING HOME ONLINE PROCEDURES

FOR COACHES/MANAGERS

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The FA
FOR ALL

FOOTBALLSSTAYINGHOME – ONLINE PROCEDURES FOR COACHES/MANAGERS

As a coach it's important to keep appropriate boundaries in your digital space

Whilst **FOOTBALLSSTAYINGHOME** there's a great opportunity for coaches/managers to keep in touch with players and other coaches, by providing training ideas, tips on keeping fit and skills challenges online. As a coach/manager, it's really important to keep appropriate boundaries in your digital space.

Please ensure you continue to apply the principles of your code of conduct and remember that as a coach/manager even when encouraging players/coaching online you remain in a 'relationship of trust[1]'. Follow the procedures outlined below to help keep you and those you are supporting safe online.

SETTING UP

- Always work with groups, ensure you are inclusive when engaging with players;
- Wherever possible involve a second coach/manager or club official;
- All sessions online must be observable and interruptible;
- Where players are aged under 18, communications must go to parents/carers to accept or decline the player's participation. Invites must not be sent directly to an under 18 – in line with The FA's **'Digital communications with children[2]'.** Always use the parent/carer contact information ordinarily utilised by the club;
- Are there any individual player circumstances which may mean their involvement may not be possible? How might you ensure they still feel included as part of the team/club?

THE ENVIRONMENT WHEN USING VIDEO FACILITIES

- The setting for the background should be in a neutral area, avoiding anything inappropriate being heard or seen. Some apps may offer customisation of avatars, usernames and customised virtual backgrounds. What you may use for personal use may be inappropriate to represent your club – so think about this and make any changes, before contacting anyone;
- Do not host the session from a bedroom;
- The background must not be blurred or obscured;
- Coaches/managers and players must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household. Ideally other members of the household should not be in view when running your session(s).

SESSION CONTENT

- The purpose of the session and what it will involve must be clearly outlined to all involved;
- All communication provided must have an educational or supportive purpose, or both;
- Language must be professional and appropriate. Please ensure any family members or others in the background also behave appropriately, if it is not possible for them to be out of view, and for them not to be heard during the session;
- Under no circumstances should any part of the session be recorded as this may create a potential risk of hacking by child sex offenders accessing recordings of sessions. The National Crime Agency (NCA), the NCA has identified the potential for an increase in online child sexual abuse during the Covid-19 pandemic;
- The session should be kept to a reasonable length of time, or the streaming may prevent the family 'getting on' with their day.

Guidance Notes 1.7 – **The FA's Relationship of Trust Statement**
Guidance Notes 6.2 – **Digital communications with children**

The Football Association
Wembley Stadium
London HA9 0WS
T: +44 (0)800 169 1863
F: +44 (0)800 169 1864
W: TheFA.com