

17.03.2021 Club Statement – Restarting Football

SWCFC & SWPSG Joint Statement for coaches, players, other volunteers & parents

Hi everyone,

We hope you are well and looking forward to the prospect of football restarting in two weeks' time. The County Football Associations are waiting for the FA centrally to make a formal statement to confirm that the 29th March will be the restart date in line with current expectations - and this in turn hinges on a Government (DCMS) statement which is expected on 22 March. So until then, all we can do is plan based around the assumption that it will indeed be the 29th – though we are very hopeful. This would be great news after the enforced break!

The precise dates for training and matches to restart will vary by team - and coaches will be in touch on that - but broadly we are aiming to restart training in w/c 29 March and expecting matches (where these are happening) possibly from 3-4 April, with most more likely to start from 10-11 April.

The COVID protocols we developed previously will remain in place. Full details on these protocols can be found here:

- SWCFC: <https://swcfc.club/restart-football/>
- SWPSG FC: <http://www.psgfc.co.uk/advice-information/>

Assuming we get the green light, we expect SWCFC Mini Soccer and SWPSG Wildcats for Reception and Year 1 will restart on 3 April.

We are in touch with the various leagues our teams compete in and the current state of play is as follows:

- **Royston Crow League mini leagues** will continue as normal as they are non-competitive and will play as many games as they can. No scores are recorded so there are no league tables.
- **Cambs Mini Soccer League (CMSL)** has not made a final decision yet.
- **Royston Crow League Colts** matches are null and void. We expect there will be round robin friendly matches in groups of perhaps six teams – so five matches each – until the end of the season.
- **Cambs Colts League** is the same as CMSL.
- **Eastern Junior Alliance League** has an emergency meeting on Monday night but look set to restart on 4 or 11 April and aim to complete their leagues.
- the **Thurlow Nunn Youth League** is null and void. TNL will be playing a few friendlies in April and May, likely to be 4 or 5 games.
- **Cambridgeshire Women & Girls League** will resume on April 10th, (with the option to schedule matches April 3rd) and will be extended to the end of June in order to complete the season

We also wanted to give an update on **facilities**, and some exciting news on progress:

- work on the **#MyCommunity3G project at Saffron Walden County High** which we have been developing and fundraising on for so long is about to start. Initial site preparation has been done and the main construction work will start at the school on

Monday 22nd March. We expect construction to be complete by early August. We are actively working now on slot allocation for the new pitch and will be in touch on that in due course. The main thing though is that this is now happening(!) and we will soon have a £1.1million state of the art 3G pitch to use, and a 50 year agreement with our partners at the County High.

- we also have some progress to report on the **Lime Avenue pitches**. Saffron Walden Town Council issued a statement last week saying talks with Persimmon Homes have progressed positively and, while there will still be details to finalise, the main issues were close to agreement. This is now expected to mean temporary changing rooms being built in the next 3-4 months, and - we hope - the opportunity to use the pitches from the start of season 2021-22.

- we are also about to make a **major purchase of new grounds maintenance equipment** (namely a tractor and related attachments) which we think will make a real difference to our grass pitches at a range of our venues. The Football Foundation have provided a major grant to support this and it is another great step forward.

- we are also **continuing to invest in other improvements**, such as new permanent goals which will be coming to Wimbish Recreation Ground. In the medium term we also intend to do further work at **Herbert's Farm** to level the pitches - for which we now have planning permission. This will be pursued when club resources allow.

Thanks to everyone for their continuing efforts and support.

Yours,
Martin Johnson

SWCFC Chairman (on behalf of SWCFC and SW PSG)

