



Amateur Football Combination

National Respect Gold Award League 2012 Spirit of Football



www.amateurfootballcombination.com



@AmateurFC

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To: Club Secretaries, Chairs, Managers and Officials

Spirit of Football - Pre-Season Circular September 2020

Welcome to the 2020-21 Season.

Each year the AFC Spirit of Football committee writes to club secretaries, chairs, managers and officials to remind them of the league's commitment to the Spirit of Football initiative. With strong links to the FA's Respect campaign, Spirit of Football is about more than playing within the laws of the game. It is about playing competitively but within a spirit of sportsmanship and fair play. In the AFC, we expect our teams to show respect to the opposition, officials and team mates.

Showing respect to others in the game on and off the field remains vitally important this season and each side will continue to be marked for its Spirit of Football by the opposition and referee after the match. These markings are monitored closely by the league's Spirit of Football committee with particular attention given to sides with consistently low markings.

This season does of course bring extra challenges and responsibilities for everybody involved in grass roots football. In particular in following FA and government guidelines aimed at keeping all participants in the game as safe as possible. Spirit of Football this season will also very much be about showing respect to others by following the current guidelines outlined on the AFC website at <http://www.amateurfootballcombination.com/covid-guidelines.html> and as they are updated.

These include:

- Players and officials not participating or attending any training session or match if they are symptomatic or living in a household with possible or actual COVID-19 infection;
- Clubs keeping for 21 days a record and contact details of all players, officials and spectators attending any match that could if required be used for NHS track and trace;
- Social distancing remaining in place before and after the match, and in any breaks in play.
- Players not spitting and avoiding raising their voices when facing each other or match officials before, during and after games.
- All equipment being disinfected before and after play including footballs, goal posts and corner flags and sanitiser or disinfectant being available.

Things will inevitably be more complicated this season but if clubs, players and officials follow the current government and FA guidelines outlined on the website we should give ourselves as much chance as possible to have a successful and enjoyable season.

Good luck for the season.

MIKE SAINSBURY

Chair, Spirit of Football Committee