

League Secretary's Report 2019-2020 Season

When the season kicked off back in September no-one could have envisaged the challenging times that lay ahead and that the DFL 2019-20 season would be rendered null and void and, as such, no promotions or relegations would be taking place as per FA guidelines.

Here we are in July and, although as a committee we are busy preparing for the 2020-21 season, none of us know when the season will begin or, indeed, in what format.

However, and quite rightly, everything will be done correctly, following FA guidelines, to ensure that when you can finally get back out on the pitch and play it will be done correctly and, most importantly, safely.

Everyone's health, safety and wellbeing is the most important thing and whilst I know that all our lives have been changed due to Coronavirus, together we will get there and re-adjust to the "new normal".

We are receiving frequent updates from the FA and I would urge you all to check the DFL website regularly as Mike Pomeroy is doing an excellent job keeping it updated.

You will see from the League Constitution that we are in a position to reinstate a Division 5, which is really positive. As we get more clarity about grassroots football and when we can return we will have a clearer idea on the upcoming season and the potential for League Cups, if time allows.

So whilst we await guidance on when football can resume please take a couple of minutes to refresh yourselves with the following points:

- Each team can request a maximum of two free Saturdays in a season providing a minimum of 6 weeks' notice has been given to me.
- Once club secretaries have received the fixture bulletin, with appointed match officials, from Nicky Speed, DFL General Secretary, any games not played due to any reason other than weather will be referred to the Discipline Committee.
- If a game needs to be called off due to weather/pitch conditions and you are the home team it is your responsibility to inform the opposition, match official, Jon Fancy and me that the game is off.
- Results are to be phoned/texted in to me no later than 1 hour after the game has finished.
- Please make sure that if any club contact details change you notify Nicky Speed with the updates.
- If/when you are made aware that your home facilities are not available due to other events/matches etc please let me know as soon as you do.

All I think that there is left for me to say is a big thank you to you... the clubs. As always you have been helpful, understanding, pro-active and willing.

Stay safe and look after one another.

Jeanette