



Württembergischer
Fußballverband e.V.

Coronavirus situation in the current risk areas

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear soccer fans,

Last Friday we reached out to you in view of the alarming increase in the number of infections in our territory. We pointed out – once again – the importance of hygiene concepts and strict compliance with the regulations contained therein.

We know from numerous scientific studies that the risk of infection on the field during the games is negligible. Although there is undoubtedly always intensive, close contact between players during the course of the game, the time windows involved are fortunately so short that there is no significant risk of infection.

However, a major hazard exists whenever players, coaches, supervisors and club officials are in close proximity to each another for prolonged periods, particularly in enclosed spaces. I therefore once again urge you to do everything in your power to **avoid these situations**. This applies above all to **changing** and **showering** after the game, and also to any subsequent **social gatherings**. Time and again we have witnessed a failure to maintain a safe social distance on the **substitute benches**. Please take responsibility for your players, coaches and supervisors! If a safe distance cannot be maintained despite all efforts, **mouth and nose protection (face masks)** must be worn.

Currently, we are in the fortunate situation that amateur soccer can still be played in front of **spectators** and the existing numerical restrictions are in most cases no problem. However, the **mandatory social distance of at least 1.5 m** also applies in this case. When people **stand close together** for 90 minutes or longer, the risk of infection increases dramatically. Which is why it is so important to keep reminding spectators about this via the club's stewards, even if this is not a particularly pleasant task. And any spectators who persistently refuse to comply must be **removed from the premises**.

Of course, we also understand the importance of soccer as a community experience. In the current situation, however, we must all play our part and make many sacrifices – and not only in sports. If doing so enables us to maintain game-day operations and avoid another cancellation of the season, it will be worth it. Negligence will have consequences for the health of all athletes, for the clubs and for us as an association. To prevent this, we will pay increased attention to non-compliance and, if necessary, respond with sanctions. Please help us to ensure it doesn't come to this!

Sincerely,

Frank Thumm
(Chief Executive Officer)