



'Ability is nothing without opportunity'

SHROPSHIRE JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

www.shropshirejuniorleague.co.uk

The FIRST

F.A CHARTER STANDARD FOOTBALL LEAGUE

(Established 1974)

Affiliated to the Shropshire Football Association. (AFL No. SHR9447)

President: Jim Mitchell Chairman: Mike Hames Treasurer: Rob Orme

All correspondence to the General Secretary: Mrs. Jan Butler. 2.The Glebelands. Myddle. Shrewsbury. SY4 3RU.

Tele (M) 07984 549304 Email: sjflsecretary@btinternet.com

SJFL OPEN STATEMENT - END OF SEASON 2019-20:

With The Football Association closing down all grassroots football for the foreseeable future in March 2020, Shropshire Junior Football League (SJFL) has complied with all aspects of their guidance with the coronavirus pandemic. This has obviously been of great disappointment to all member clubs, managers, coaches and players alike. Along with the fixture programme this has also meant the cancellation of six Charity Cup Festivals, the Charity Cup finals at Market Drayton Town FC - a partnership event with The FA Heads Up Campaign to raise awareness to mental health issues in young people, along with the League and Consolation Cup Finals at Ludlow Stadium and the Charity Cup and U16 cup finals at The New Saints FC.

I can now confirm that the SJFL Competition for season 2019-20 is null and void and there will be no 'Determining Championships'. This is the first time that such a decision has had to be made since the league was formed in 1974, with the exception of Foot and Mouth in 2001 when the match programme was null and void but the league was able to complete its cup competitions. In reaching this decision the league has given an undertaking to Shropshire FA that when grassroots football reopens the league will provide financial assistance and assurances to all member clubs for the ensuing season (2020/21). These will require further discussion by league management, but I can outline these as follows:

- * The league will provide financial assistance to clubs through a package based on a residual value of non-expenditure *(subject to end of season audit of the Statement of Accounts)*.
- * The league will obligate to SCORY Rule.2 (L) for next season's divisional structure. *(moving teams to the appropriate divisions for next season is especially important in youth football as teams don't stay in divisions next season where they are well above or well below their abilities)*
- * The league will recognise winners in the Respect 'We Only Do Positive Awards. These will include the Futsal Respect Festival Awards and the Georgia Williams Trust Respect Awards. *(the league has already rewarded respect winners with the STITC Respect monthly match-day vouchers and will advise how the other respect awards can be made)*
- * The league will honour its financial commitment to the 'Charity Fund' and present donations to those charities already nominated/accepted esp. PRISM (mental health charity) which was going to be "The Heads Up" campaign at the SJFL Charity Cup Finals at Market Drayton Town FC. *(format of presentations how/when to be advised)*
- * League will hold an AGM *(date and probably email vote by proxy - tbc)* with SFA acting as independent auditor *(detail to follow)*
- * The league will keep clubs informed of any changes to FA Guidance as to when grassroots football reopens and any initiatives available to assist leagues and clubs accordingly. *(cont)*

*Working in partnership with: The Georgia Williams Trust. Shrewsbury Sports Village. Shrewsbury Town STITC. Kidz in Focus. .
Working in Association with: Shropshire Schools & Colleges F.A. Shropshire FA .*





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Although grassroots football is currently closed, SJFL was fortunate in being able to complete its twelfth consecutive Futsal Respect Festival in 2020, between January and March, at Shrewsbury Sports Village and again this year to include WE ONLY DO POSITIVE – KICK IT OUT event. On Sundays, Futsal was dedicated to mini-soccer teams in the development age groups (U7-U10) and 61 teams enjoyed a match programme each Sunday over the nine weeks of the festival. A Mid-Week Futsal programme was also organised for U11 and U13 teams with 16 teams competing in trophy events on Wednesday and Friday evenings

Please read about SJFL Futsal 2020 at <https://shropshirejuniorleague.co.uk/sjfl-futsal2020/>

Following the success of SJFL winning the FA National Award for 'We Only Do Positive Respect Award 2019 - <https://shropshirejuniorleague.co.uk/fa19-grassroots-football-awards/> - the league was determined to continue this important campaign as an integral part of the SJFL Futsal Respect Festival. On Sunday 23rd February the day was given to 'We Only Do Positive – Kick It Out' and Rainbow Laces "Make Sport Everyone's Game" the FA Campaign to help eradicate racism not just from football but everyday life.

Please follow the link to SJFL KIO 2020 at <https://shropshirejuniorleague.co.uk/sjfl-kio-futsal2020/>

Throughout this period, The FA has taken Government advice with the priority being the health and wellbeing of all and The FA, SFA and SJFL will continue to work closely with the grassroots game during this time. The FA are in regular communication with the Government and the situation within English football at all levels remains under regular review.

SJFL will post further updates on the league's website at <https://shropshirejuniorleague.co.uk/sjfl-coronavirus-statement-fa-announcement/> and Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SJFLofficial/>

Shropshire FA have created a bespoke FA Charter Standard Support and Guidance page for Leagues & Clubs to access with information including Legal Advice, FAQ's during COVID-19 and other useful links. Please follow the link at <http://www.shropshirefa.com/news/2020/apr/07/support-for-leagues-and-clubs-during-covid19>

Best regards, keep safe and keep well.

MIKE HAMES

Mike Hames
Chairman
Shropshire Junior Football League
<https://shropshirejuniorleague.co.uk/>

April 2020

STOP PRESS: The FA have today announced a £15 discount on team affiliation for season 2020/21 based on number of teams affiliated in 2019/20 and Insurers will also be offering a 16% discount. Financial assistance will also be given to clubs who have taken 'Asset Transfer' of grounds/pitches. Mandatory changes to SCORY: All player registration to be completed on WGS and the size of football for U10s (min-soccer) is now size.3. *(More details to follow).*

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