



Media Release

Reminder on current use of school football pitches

Stirling Council is issuing a reminder to communities on the rules for using Council pitches under the current national Covid-19 restrictions.

The First Minister announced a new strategic framework on Tuesday, 23 February, which features plans to change the rules on outdoor exercise and meeting up outdoors in the coming weeks.

However, the existing Scottish Government and Scottish Football Association (SFA) regulations mean the local authority's school pitches are currently **only open for the outdoor, non-contact training of U12s, subject to a number of strict conditions**, which include:

- Adherence to SFA guidance on maximum numbers
- Coaches must be registered by the SFA
- Limitations on the duration of each session
- Requirement for [Pre-booking with the Council](#) so staff can attend and ensure necessary safety procedures are adhered to, such as the sanitising of equipment between sessions
- A suitable Risk Assessment for the activity taking place
- The sessions take from Monday to Friday between 6pm-10pm (3G pitches can also be booked on a Saturday and Sunday on request).

Complaints have been made to the Council following the unauthorised use of school pitches for football coaching, which has been advertised on social media.

It is important to highlight that our pitches are open only for physical activity for children under 12 as long as all guidelines are followed and [bookings are made properly](#) via the Council.

It is vital that coaches wanting to put on sessions adhere to the guidance, which is there to keep people safe during the ongoing pandemic.

Those who flout the rules will be reported to our Environmental Health Teams and the appropriate authorities.