



1. Return to Football

- The information detailed below is always subject to the Welsh Government's COVID-19 guidelines prevailing at the relevant time. The start of the 21/22 senior league season is also specifically dependent on reaching Alert Level 2 of Welsh Government's Coronavirus Control Plan.
- Detailed below are the activity timelines for Junior, Youth and Senior football:
 - o Junior & Youth football:
 - From now to 31st May: Friendly and some league competitive fixtures permitted.
 - 1st June to 6th August: Friendly fixtures permitted. No tournaments or festivals.
 - On or after 7th August: 21/22 league seasons will be permitted start.
 - o Senior football:
 - 26th April to 30th June : Friendly fixtures permitted to take place.
 - On or after 1st July: 21/22 league season will be permitted to start.

2. 2021/22 season competition information

- The FAW is working closely with all competition organisers to ensure that we are ready to start the 2021/22 season competitions at the earliest opportunity.
- To help with planning, each 2021/22 season competition will be allocated into one of three categories:
 - o Category A: Those 2021/22 season competitions that will start in July;
 - o Category B: Those 2021/22 season competitions that will start in August; and
 - o Category C: Those 2021/22 season competitions that will start in September.
- Depending on the Category assigned to a 2021/22 season competition, clubs, referees, competition organisers and the FAW, will then need to follow a specific timetable as shown below:

Competition category	2021/22 season competition start date	Deadline for teams to enter the competition on COMET	When FAW will provide COMET training to competition organisers	When FAW will provide COMET training to the clubs and referees
A	July	31 st May	May	June
B	August	30 th June	June	July
C	September	31 st July	July	August

- If you paid to enter a 2020/21 season competition which did not start, please note the following:
 - o If you have not been refunded your 2020/21 season competition entry fee by your competition organiser, then the entry fee you paid for the 2020/21 season will be rolled over to pay for the entry fee for the 2021/22 season equivalent competition.
 - o If you have already been refunded your 2020/21 season competition entry fee by your competition organiser, then you will need to pay to enter the 2021/22 season equivalent competition.
- Further details on how and when to enter 2021/22 season competitions will be shared in due course.

3. Registration of coaches on COMET for 2021/22 season

All coaches need to register on COMET. There are currently 10,337 different coaches registered on COMET, and between them, these coaches hold 12,535 different registrations. Currently all of coach registrations are valid for a maximum of one season and are all therefore due to expire on 31st May 2021.

In order to reduce workload for Clubs, and to allow us all to focus our attention on getting ready to start 2021/22 season competitions at the earliest opportunity, please note the following.

- The FAW will automatically renew all current coach registrations so that they will now expire on 31st May 2022 (and not 31st May 2021). It will mean that a club will not need to do anything to register these coaches for the 2021/22 season. ***We will renew these within the next few weeks and before they are due to expire on 31st May 2021.***

Please note however, that if a coach registration requires a DBS and/or an approved coaching qualification to perform the role, FAW will only renew the coach's registration up until the earlier of 31st May 2022 and the date upon when the DBS and/or coaching qualification expires (if earlier).

- On COMET, a coach registers in a role (e.g. "Assistant Manager"), with an age category (e.g. "U-8 – Mixed") and with a Club (e.g. "FAW FC"). When the FAW automatically renews the current coach registrations:
 - o We will retain the coach's current role e.g. if a coach is currently registered as an "Assistant Manager", the coach's automatically renewed registration for the 2021/22 season will also be as "Assistant Manager".
 - o The coach's age category for the 2021/22 season will be as per the table below.

Current coach registration age category 2020/21 season	Renewed coach registration age category 2021/22 season	Comment
U6	U7	We analysed the coach registrations of 20 large clubs over a 2 year period. The findings suggested that on average, 80% of coaches involved with the Under 6 to Under 15s age category, tend to stay with same group of players at the end of each season (i.e. U8 coach in 2020/21 season would move up to U9 coach in 2021/22 season). Based on this, we will now move every registered coach in the age categories U6 to U15 during 2020/21 season up one age category when we automatically renew their registration for the 2021/22 season
U7	U8	
U8	U9	
U9	U10	
U10	U11	
U11	U12	
U12	U13	
U13	U14	
U14	U15	
U15	U16	
U16	U16	
U18	U18	
U19	U19	
Adults	Adults	

- In summary:
 - When automatically renewing coach registrations, we will move up all current Under 6 to Under 15 registered coaches up to the next age category for the 2021/22 season.
 - All other coach registrations (e.g. Under 16, Under 18, Under 19 and Adult coaches) will retain the same age category for 2021/22 season.
- By automatically renewing current coach registrations, it will significantly reduce the workload for clubs. In respect of coach registrations, all clubs would then need to do for 2021/22 season would be:
 - To terminate the registrations of any coaches that are finishing at the end of 2020/21 season;
 - To submit registrations for any new coaches that they wish to register for the 2021/22 season (the coach registration window for 2021/22 season will open on 1st June)
 - To correct the registration details for those coaches that will either change role and/or coach a different age category to the one assumed by FAW when automatically renewing the registration for the 2021/22 season.

Current position - 2020/21 season:

An individual is currently registered on COMET as **Assistant Manager** with the **Under 8's** team at **FAW FC**.

Renewed registration - 2021/22 season:

- The FAW will automatically renew this individual as **Assistant Manager** with the **Under 9's** team at **FAW FC**.
- If for example, this individual is instead going to performing the role of **Coach** with **Under 8's** team at **FAW FC** in 2021/22 season, then the club will need to make the following amendments on COMET:
 - Terminate the registration that has been automatically renewed by the FAW for 2021/22 season (i.e. **Assistant Manager – Under 9s**); and
 - Submit a coach registration for the correct role for that individual in the 2021/22 season (i.e. **Coach – Under 8s**) to the FAW for approval.

4. Registration of Club, League or Area Association officials for the 2021/22 season

All Club, League and Area Association officials have to register on COMET.

There are currently 4,231 different Club, League or Area Association officials registered as on COMET. Between them, these officials hold 5,460 different registrations.

Currently all of officials registrations are valid for a maximum of one season and are all therefore due to expire on 31st May 2021.

In order to reduce workload for Clubs/Leagues/Area Associations and to allow us all to focus our attention on getting ready to start 2021/22 season competitions at the earliest opportunity, please note the following.

- The FAW will automatically renew all current officials registrations so that they will now expire on 31st May 2022 (and not 31st May 2021). It will mean that a club/League/Area Association will not need to do anything to register these existing officials for the 2021/22 season. ***We will renew these within the next few weeks and before they are due to expire on 31st May 2021.***
- As these roles don't require a DBS or coaching qualifications, we are able to extend them all.
- On COMET, an official registers in a role (e.g. "Treasurer") and with an organisation (e.g. "FAW FC").
- When the FAW automatically renews the registrations of all officials, we will retain their current roles e.g. if an individual is currently registered as a "Treasurer", then the official's automatically renewed registration for the 2021/22 season will also be in the role of "Treasurer".
- In respect of officials registrations, all clubs/leagues/Areas then need to do is as follows:
 - o To terminate the registrations of any officials that are finishing at the end of 2020/21 season;
 - o To submit registrations for any new officials that they wish to register for the 2021/22 season (the officials registration window for 2021/22 season will open on 1st June)
 - o To correct the registration details for those officials that will perform a different role to the one automatically renewed by the FAW for the 2021/22 season.

Current position - 2020/21 season:

An official is currently registered on COMET in the role of **Treasurer** with **FAW FC**

Renewed position - 2021/22 season:

- The FAW will automatically renew this official's registration in the role of **Treasurer** with **FAW FC**.
- If for example this individual is now going to performing the role of **Secretary** with **FAW FC** for the 2021/22 season, then the club will need to:
 - Terminate the registration that has been automatically renewed by the FAW for the 2021/22 season (i.e. **Treasurer – FAW FC**); and
 - Self-approve a registration for the individual in the correct role for the 2021/22 season (i.e. **Secretary – FAW FC**)

5. Club Accreditation Programme 2021/22 Season

All junior clubs are required to be accredited to play matches.

In order to reduce workload for Clubs, and to allow us all to focus our attention on getting ready to start 2021/22 season competitions at the earliest opportunity, please note the following.

- For all new junior clubs and any junior clubs who did not successfully gain an accreditation level in 2020/21 season it will be **mandatory** that they submit a club accreditation application and be accredited (with a standard or above level) before the start of the 2021/22 season. The application window will open from 1st June until 23rd July 2021.
- For all existing junior clubs who successfully achieved an accreditation level in 2020/21 season, they will not be required to submit an accreditation application. The accreditation level achieved in 2020/21 season will be carried over for the 2021/22 season.
- For any clubs aspiring to gain a higher level of accreditation for the 2021/22 season a club accreditation application will need to be completed. The application window will be open from 1st June until 23rd July 2021.