



Closing the 2019-2020 season

Following the suspension of grassroots football by the FA and their subsequent decision ratified in April that all affiliated football at grassroots level be terminated for this season, the League found itself in an unprecedented situation alongside other leagues up and down the country, and has had to decide on how to close the season in a manner that is both fair and consistent for all teams involved in the League.

This decision has been taken under SCORY/SCOR 6.(D) where the Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce these Rules and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition, and the areas to be reviewed were:

Development matches (Under 7 to Under 11 age groups)
Trophy Events (Under 8 to Under 11 age groups)
Competitive divisional matches (Under 12 to Under 21 age groups)
Cup competitions which had not been completed.

The following details how the OMYFL has decided to close the season.

Development Matches (Under 7 – Under 11 age groups)

As the season has been declared as over by the FA Board, any remaining development matches will not be played and will be listed as cancelled on Full-Time.

Trophy Events (Under 8 – Under 11 age groups)

As with development matches, the season is now over so there is no time left to play these events. This means that the Spring Trophy Events for Under 9 through to Under 11 have been cancelled. The postponed part of week 2 of the Under 8 Spring Trophy Event has been cancelled as well.

Competitive divisional matches (Under 12 to Under 21 age groups)

The options given to the OMYFL by Oxfordshire FA, for matches where points are awarded, were as follows:

- 1) Void all results with no promotion or relegation (but we can use the current tables as a guide for next season)
- 2) Work out final tables on a points-per-game (PPG) basis dividing points earned by games played (remaining unplayed matches would be cancelled)
- 3) Work out final tables by declaring all unplayed games as 0-0 draws

Obviously, the League would have preferred that divisions were settled on the pitch rather than in a committee meeting and that teams could be rewarded for their hard work during the part of the season that was played.

However, having looked at the implications of options 2) and 3), it was found that there were too many instances where teams might be disadvantaged by concluding the divisions using either method and that, in a number of instances, several divisions had played only 75% or less (15 out of 27 divisions) of the scheduled matches and some teams had played only 50% of their fixtures.

Under these circumstances, it was decided that the only viable option to end the OMYFL 2019-2020 season is to void all remaining unfinished competitions with no automatic promotion or relegation. However, the positions and performances of the teams in played matches will be taken into account when drawing up the constitution of divisions for the 2020-2021 season, and that clubs will be consulted about this as we move forward as part of the normal process of drafting the divisions for the new season.

We appreciate that some may be upset/unhappy about this situation, particularly players after all their hard work, and it is not a decision that we wanted to make, but in the end we had to close the season and this was the only option we had available that did this in a fair and consistent way. Oxfordshire FA have been informed of this decision and have given their approval.

Cup competitions which have not been completed

In line with OFA advice, we will be deferring a decision about ending the remaining Cup Competitions until later in the summer/early autumn to see if there is a chance of playing them once it is safe to do so, but only for those that are at semi-final or final stage. The OFA are doing the same with their County Cup Finals.

At the moment, we have completed 11 Cup Competitions, 7 are at semi-final stage and 13 at Final stage. Unfortunately, the two additional Cups (Spring Premier and Spring Championship) for the Under 15s are at group stages, so these competitions will be cancelled and no further matches played.

It is still possible that the remaining Cup Competitions will not happen and we will confirm either way over the summer. Should they be played, they will be open only to players that were registered with the appropriate teams as of the end of the 2019-2020 season.

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