



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1074
Ein cyf/Our ref DET/03160/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

23 November 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the petition on the regulations governing the number of people allowed to gather for football matches.

The national coronavirus measures which came into force on 9 November, following the recent lockdown, means that anyone can play sport or exercise in a group of up to 30 participants outdoors or up to 15 indoors, if this is part of an organised activity managed for example by a gym, a leisure centre or a sports club. Coaches and match officials would generally be regarded as participants so the limit of 30 or 15 should include them. However, anybody who is there to organise or support the activity, if they are working or providing a voluntary service, can also attend and do not need to be considered within the limit of 30 or 15. Children under the age of 11 are also excluded from the number in the gathering.

These new measures will also allow additional tiers of sports to return to play. Sport Wales has been provided with the responsibility to consider further additions to the elite designation to enable more team sports to be played outdoors where the 30 person gathering number has previously been restrictive. This will be done in a controlled and phased way and only where clear guidance is in place by governing bodies of sport to protect all participants.

The Football Association of Wales has been invited to submit their proposals for the return of football and the FAW should continue discussions with Sport Wales.

In addition to the above there is now no limit on the number of children under the age of 18 who can participate in or facilitate an [organised sport activity](#) for the development or well-being of children, meaning more youth teams' sports can continue. The activity must be arranged and supervised by a responsible body such as a sports club, a public body, a charity or a gym or leisure centre. The number of children aged under 18 who can legally participate is constrained only by the boundaries of the setting and the need for sufficient adults to be present to supervise.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

I hope this provides more information for yourself and the committee to consider relating to the petition, and highlights that we are taking active steps to enable more team sports to take place over the coming months. However, I must stress that while we are seeking to allow more outdoor team sports to return to play, this must be managed through a phased approach to ensure we do it safely and mitigate any risk to controlling the spread of the virus.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Elis-Thomas'.

Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth

Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism