

SPORT

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NATIONAL League yet to decide on a conclusion



Wealdstone do not yet know if they will be promoted or if they will have to play another season in the National League South

Picture: MontImageMedia

Govt give sport June green light

SUPPORTERS MAY HAVE TO WAIT FOR A VACCINE



Sport could be back by next month. Picture: PA Wire

TOP-LEVEL sport in England could restart behind closed doors from June 1, but spectators may not be able to attend venues until a vaccine is found. The Government's road map for exiting the lockdown, imposed to limit the spread of coronavirus, was published on Monday afternoon, setting out the conditions under which various activities can be safely carried out.

Step two of the road map, which cannot begin any earlier than June 1, includes "permitting cultural and sporting events to take place behind closed-doors for broadcast, while avoiding the risk of large-scale social contact".

This will only be possible though if sufficient progress is made in limiting the spread of the virus between now and then, but the document entitled 'Our Plan to Rebuild: The UK Government's Covid-19 Recovery Strategy' says that "organisations should plan accordingly".

It is less clear when supporters will be able to return to venues.

The document talks about venues such as cinemas and hairdressers reopening in step three - no earlier than July 4 - but states: "Some venues which are, by design, crowded and where it may prove difficult to enact distancing may still not be able to reopen safely at this point, or may be able to open safely only in part."

"Nevertheless, the Government will wish to open as many businesses and public places as the data and information at the time allows. "In order to facilitate the fastest possible reopening of these types of higher-risk businesses and public places, the Government will phase and pilot reopenings to adopt the new Covid-19 secure guidelines."

Stones wait for decision

By Ryan Gray

THE National League board is yet to make a decision on how promotion and play-off issues will be determined, with clubs across its three divisions still waiting for answers, including top of the league Wealdstone.

The 2019-20 campaign was cancelled on April 22 after the suspension of all football due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The National League then asked clubs to vote on whether the current season should be scrapped after the outbreak of Covid-19 saw all fixtures suspended.

After it was confirmed that a 'clear majority' of clubs had voted to cancel the season immediately, the National League board wrote to clubs in the National League and National League North and South at the end of last week to consult with clubs over how to decide play-off issues.

A letter sent out to clubs seen by the *Harrow Times*, read: "The National League board received responses from a total of 65 clubs (out of 68)."

The letter also claimed there was a mix

of responses from clubs either in favour of postponing or cancelling the play-offs.

The letter added: "The board has reviewed and discussed the responses but has not yet proceeded with a decision either to cancel or postpone the play-offs in any division as they are awaiting further information and guidance from the FA and the EFL which may well inform that decision."


"The Board may also require further legal advice and will review any decisions made concerning government restrictions."

This leaves Wealdstone's future uncertain, as they sit three points clear at the top of National League South, with games in hand on all of the six teams immediately beneath them.

It is understood that the National League is waiting to see how the Football League acts before making a decision.

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