



# Our positions on the readmission of supporters

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Should the overall situation in society permit, supporters are to be allowed back to football matches from the start of the **2020-21 season**. The German Football League (DFL) and German Football Association (DFB) have issued **guidance for clubs** in this respect, on the basis of which they are to develop their own **hygiene concepts**. As far as we know, varying progress has been made in this area. Clubs are increasingly announcing how they intend to proceed with the **sale of season tickets** for next season and respond to the "**low ground capacity**".

Below we set out our **positions** on the readmission of supporters:

## 1. Acknowledgement of the contradictions between health protection, leisure activity, and fan culture

The contradictions between health protection, leisure activity, and fan culture cannot be resolved. Nevertheless, they have to be taken into account in the public and internal debate. Health protection measures have taken precedence over personal interests for some time. As much as we would like it, going to a football game is not a fundamental right (yet), which is why it is legitimate to restrict it for a certain time for health protection reasons. On the other hand, we are witnessing a variety of reopenings (also in the leisure sector) made possible because new **social interaction rules** have become established. This is why football must also have the opportunity to open up to the **public** again. It is already evident, however, that rules such as social distancing and potential singing bans are incompatible with the free **expression of fan culture**. Going to football as we know it will therefore not be possible for the foreseeable future.

## 2. Common principles for the top three divisions

The DFL and DFB guidance lacks any **overarching provisions**. To avoid a patchwork of different approaches, we call on the clubs to formulate **common guidelines** at the DFL assembly and on the 3. Liga Committee. These guidelines should not lead to supporters being treated unequally, which is why we have come out in favour of **readmitting away fans**. Clubs and governing bodies must ensure that no **data collected** is passed to the security agencies. This can be done by the



proactive integration of data protection officers in all processes and the temporary introduction of health officers, who are kept structurally and functionally separate from safety and security officers. New surveillance technologies may not be introduced through the back door of health protection. As much regulation as necessary, as little as possible, must be the guiding motto.

### 3. Equitable distribution of tickets

Clubs must guarantee the equitable **distribution of match tickets**. Well-off supporters should not have an advantage over less well-off fans in the return to the stadium. All fans must be treated **equally** and irrespective of their financial capability. Special attention must be paid to disadvantaged groups. Participation in any ballots may not be made contingent on a waiver of refund or similar rights. As ground capacities can vary greatly depending on the location, local forms of **equitable distribution** must be found. This is possible only with the involvement of fans and supporter organisations.

### 4. Involvement of fans and supporter organisations

Fans and supporter organisations must be incorporated in all processes for the readmission of the public as a matter of necessity. Supporters can contribute important knowledge on the viability of hygiene concepts in the stands. The **involvement of fans** will bring added value to the development, testing, and implementation of **local concepts**. The success of hygiene concepts is significantly dependent on the degree of spectator **acceptance**. Ultimately, however, it is up to individual fans and supporter groups to decide whether they are willing and able to go along with this form of match-going.

### 5. Binding reversal of Covid-related safety measures after the pandemic

Clubs and governing bodies must commit to reverse any amendments to ground regulations, ticketing terms and conditions, and additional health protection **measures** due to the Covid situation once the regulatory restraints have been lifted. We call on clubs to make binding decisions in this respect. All measures instituted must be **proportionate**, in particular with regard to the **protection of personality and civil rights**.